



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**
9-11 September 2008
Tokyo, Japan

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

**WCPFC/NC4/04 (Rev. 2)
12th August 2008**

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 Welcome

The Chair (Mr Masanori Miyahara, Japan) will open the Fourth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC4) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) at 10:00am on Tuesday, 9th September 2008. He will welcome delegations of WCPFC members, cooperating non-members and participating territories (CCMs) and observers.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

The Chair will introduce the Provisional Agenda, WCPFC-NC4/03. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission will apply *mutatus mutandis* until such time as the NC adopts its own Rules of Procedure (Rule 31).

According to the Rules of Procedure, the Committee will be asked how it wishes to deal with any supplementary items that were circulated at least twenty days before the opening of the meeting.

1.3 Meeting arrangements

The Chair will invite NC4 to review the Indicative Schedule (WCPFC-NC4/05) noting logistical arrangements in place to support the meeting, proposed meeting times and any social engagements.

AGENDA ITEM 2. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1 Report from the 8th ISC

The NC4 will review the meeting report of the 8th Meeting of the International Scientific Committee (ISC), especially the status of stocks of highly migratory species in the North Pacific Ocean. The NC4 will consider and make recommendations as appropriate to the Commission on conservation and management measures with respect to the following:

- Northern Pacific bluefin
- North Pacific albacore
- North Pacific swordfish

2.2 Report of the Fourth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC4)

The NC4 will review the meeting report and issues arising from the Fourth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC4) as they relate to the Northern Committee.

2.3 Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks

2.3.1 Northern Pacific bluefin

As the NC3 agreed, conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin will be considered at the NC4. The ISC Bluefin WG met twice after the NC3, first for data preparatory, and second for stock assessment, purposes. The Committee will review the stock assessment and the information on member's actions taken with respect to effort controls and data collection.

2.3.2 North Pacific albacore (CCM-2005-03)

The Committee will review the actions and/or considerations made by members in relation to effort control and biological reference points including maintaining spawning stock biomass (SSB) within the range of its historical fluctuation. The results of the ISC Albacore WS inter-sessional held in 2008 will be drawn upon to assist the deliberations of the Committee.

2.3.3 North Pacific swordfish (CMM-2006-03)

Issue relating to the southern stock of swordfish (no transfer of fishing effort for swordfish to the areas north of 20°N in the Convention area) remains in place. The SC4 conclusions relating to the assessment of South Pacific swordfish will be available to support discussion of fishery status and conservation and management considerations for North Pacific swordfish.

2.4 Conservation and management measures for other species

2.4.1 Bigeye and yellowfin tuna (CMM-2006-01)

WCPFC3 adopted Conservation and Management Measure-2006-01 (CMM-2006-01) for bigeye and yellowfin tuna. 'Other commercial fisheries' referred to in the Measure are identified as fisheries other than longline and tropical (20°N-20°S) purse seine and which include: hand-line, pole and line, purse seine fisheries north of 20°N or south of 20°S, ring net, troll and unclassified fisheries, but excluding artisanal fisheries and those fisheries taking less than 2000 tons of bigeye and yellowfin. NC3 is invited to review the implementation of the provisions of paragraph 1 and 2 of CMM-2006-01 in the area north of 20°N and make further recommendations to the Commission, if necessary, on conservation and management matters in the Pacific Ocean north of 20°N.

2.4.2 Sharks (CMM-2006-05)

WCPFC3 adopted CMM-2006-05 which will become binding on 1 January 2008. The Measure encourages CCMs to implement the IPOA-Sharks, advises on its implementation and requires CCMs to take specific measures to ensure retained catches

of sharks on vessels greater than 24m in overall length are fully utilized. The ratio of fin weight to body/carcass weight, as specified in the Measure, was reviewed at SC 4 and considered valid for most shark species taken in WCPO tuna fisheries. NC4 will receive reports from CCMs on the implementation of CMM-2006-05 in the Convention Area north of 20°N and consider issues associated with its full implementation from 1st January 2008.

2.4.3 Seabirds (CMM- 2007-04)

NC2 agreed Members of the Northern Committee would undertake a range of mitigation activities, on a voluntary basis, until specific seabird bycatch mitigation measures have been adopted for the Convention Area, including north of the 20°N. WCPFC3 adopted CMM-2006-02 in December 2006. This measure, *inter alia*, encourages CCMs to implement the IPOA-Seabirds and report on its implementation. It also requires CCMs to implement the mitigation measures described in Table 1 of the Measure north of 23°N, in relation to large scale longline vessels of 24m or more in overall length, no later than 30th June 2008, pending the adoption of minimum technical specifications for these measures at WCPFC4. By 1 January 2007, CCMs are to initiate a process to ensure that their vessels will be able to comply with CMM 2007-04 by the deadlines specified in that Measure. CCMs are also to submit to the Commission, by 30th November 2007, the specifications of the mitigation measures listed in CMM 2007-04 that their fishing vessels will be required to employ. NC4 will receive reports from NC CCMs on the implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds and CMM2007-04, as well as the status of introducing the mitigation measures to their fleets as required by the Measure.

2.5 Working Group on Striped Marlin

On the basis of a recommendation from NC3, WCPFC4 at Guam in December 2007, tasked the NC with convening a Working Group to examine a range of issues relating to, *inter alia*, fisheries for striped marlin and means to reduce its incidental by-catch. This was established with a view to developing a draft Conservation and Management Measure for striped marlin for consideration at SC4. NC4 will be updated on the activities of the WG and consideration of issues associated with striped marlin at SC4 and discuss future work priorities in relation to striped marlin.

2.6 Regional Observer Programme

At WCPFC4 in December 2007, the Commission adopted a Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme (CMM 2007-01). Annex C of CMM 2007-01 requires that, at its 2008 annual session, the Northern Committee consider the implementation of the ROP adopted by the Commission by vessels fishing for fresh fish in the area north of 20° degrees north. At its 2010 annual session, the Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on implementation options for the ROP on vessels fishing for fresh fish in the area north of 20° north.

AGENDA ITEM 3. DATA

3.1 Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks

The NC3 discussed issues relating to the coverage and quality of data for fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean. NC4 will review developments in relation to data coverage for individual fisheries and stocks and discuss means to address data gaps that have been identified.

AGENDA ITEM 4. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

4.1 Work Programme for 2009-2012

The Committee will review its proposed Work Programme adopted at NC3. The Work Programme will be revised to describe activities and funding requirements for the period 2009-2012 so that it aligns with the Work Programme of the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 5. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

5.1 ISC

The Committee is invited to consider further efforts to strengthen the relationship between the NC and ISC.

5.2 IATTC

The Committee will consider cooperation with the IATTC in relation to the assessment of northern stocks and conservation and management measures that have either been adopted, or may be adopted in the future, for northern stocks. The Committee may also consider formal and informal mechanisms for the exchange of scientific information between the ISC, IATTC and WCPFC.

5.3 Review of interim arrangements for scientific structure and function

The Commission selected the Marine Resources Assessment Group Ltd (MRAG) in April 2008 to conduct an independent review of the Commission's interim arrangements for Science Structure and Functions. MRAG will attend the NC4, present a progress report and consult with the NC participants on arrangements to support science in the WCPFC.

AGENDA ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

6.1 Administrative arrangements for the Committee

6.1.1 Secretariat functions and costs

NC1 agreed to use the catch of the northern stocks for the calculation of members' contributions to the work of the Northern Committee. NC2, while generally welcoming continued efforts for effective functioning of NC, could not reach the consensus on the Japan's revised proposal on the Secretariat function of the Committee. The proposal by Japan to establish secretariat services for the NC was deferred to the NC4. NC4 is invited to further discuss the issue.

6.1.2 Rules of Procedure

Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure provide that, subject to the provisions of the Convention, each subsidiary body of the Commission may formulate and submit to the Commission for approval such rules as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of its functions. NC2 considered two

papers relating to this item (WCPFC/NC2/14 and WCPFC/NC2/15). It was agreed that Appendix A of the WCPFC/NC2/15 would serve as a basis for further discussion. Each Committee member was requested to submit its comments on this item to the Secretariat by 31 October 2006. It was not possible to complete work in respect of this item at WCPFC3. As NC3 deferred further discussion to a future session, NC4 is invited to further consider this matter.

6.2 Next meeting

The date and place for the Fifth Regular Session of the NC will be agreed.

6.3 Other business

The NC will discuss any other business.

6.3.1 Driftnet fishing on the high seas in the Convention Area

The United States requested the additional of this item more than 30 days in advance of the Session.

AGENDA ITEM 7. REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

7.1 Adoption of the report of the Fourth Regular Session of the Northern Committee and recommendations to the Commission

The Northern Committee will adopt the Report of its Fourth Regular Session. It will make every effort to adopt its report by consensus. If every effort to achieve consensus has failed, the report will indicate the majority and minority views and may include the differing views of the representatives of the members on all or any part of the report.

AGENDA ITEM 8. CLOSE OF MEETING

8.1 Closing of the meeting

The meeting is scheduled to close at 1700 h on Thursday, 11 September 2008.