



NORTHERN COMMITTEE
Third Regular Session
11-13 September 2007
Tokyo, Japan

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

WCPFC/NC3/04
11th June 2007

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 Welcome

The Chair (Mr Masanori Miyahara, Japan) will open the Third Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC3) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) at 10:00am on Tuesday, 11th September 2007 and welcome delegations of WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-members, participating territories (CCMs) and observers.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

The Chair will introduce the Provisional Agenda, WCPFC/NC3/02. The Rules of Procedure adopted at WCPFC1 in December 2004 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 NC3 to review the Provisional Schedule (WCPFC/NC3/05) 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 7th ISC

The NC3 will review the meeting report of the 7th Meeting of the International Scientific Committee (ISC), especially the status of stocks of highly migratory species in the North

Pacific. The NC3 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 Third Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC3)

NC3 will review the meeting report and issues arising from the Third Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC3) as they relate to the Northern Committee.

2.3 Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks

2.3.1 Northern Pacific Bluefin

NC2 stressed the importance of improving collection of data on Pacific bluefin tuna including data from entire area of distribution for better assessment of this stock. The Committee requested ISC to provide a preliminary review on the status of the stock in 2007 and complete assessment in 2008 for consideration on management actions. The Committee also requested its members, pending the reports from ISC, to provide information at its 2007 meeting on the actions they have taken in response to the available 2006 scientific advice on Pacific bluefin. The Committee will review at its 2008 meeting both the stock assessment and the information on member's actions.

2.3.2 North Pacific Albacore (CMM-2005-03)

NC2 reviewed the CMM for North Pacific albacore, which was adopted in 2005. The Third Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC3), on the recommendation of NC2, endorsed the continuation of this Measure with no amendment. NC2 requested members of the Committee to submit information on implementation of this CMM, in particular on effort control and data provision, for the review by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC). NC3 will review information submitted in respect of this CMM noting that the Second Regular Session of the TCC did not have an opportunity to review the implementation of this Measure. NC3 will consider on the continuation of this CMM, with amendments if necessary.

2.3.3 North Pacific Swordfish (CMM-2006-03)

NC2 agreed that, if the Commission adopted measures for the southern stock of swordfish at its meeting in 2006, the Committee would recommend that the following paragraph be included in the CMM so that such adoption will not adversely affect the northern stocks of swordfish.

“CCMs shall not shift their fishing effort for swordfish to the area north of 20 N in the Convention area.”

NC3 is invited to note the inclusion of this sentence in CMM-2006-03 adopted at WCPFC3 and may wish to consider developing a CMM for swordfish in the area north of 20°N for recommendation to the Commission.

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 recommendation to the Commission, if necessary.

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 and advise on its implementation and requires CCMs to take specific measures to ensure retained catches of sharks are fully utilized for vessels greater than 24m in overall length. The ratio of fin weight to shark weight, as specified in the Measure, will be reviewed at SC3. NC3 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-2006-02)

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 and 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 2006-02 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 2006-02 that their fishing vessels will be required to employ. NC3 will receive reports from NC Members on the implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds and CMM 2006-02, as well as the status of introducing the mitigation measures to their fleets as required by the Measure.

2.5 Status of striped marlin as a northern stock

NC2 recommended that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Commission and the Chair of the Scientific Committee develop a proposal for the inclusion of striped marlin in the species to be covered by the work of the Northern Committee. NC3 will consider the advice and recommendations of SC3 on this issue. If appropriate, NC3 will provide a recommendation to the Commission in respect of the inclusion of striped marlin as a “northern stock”.

AGENDA ITEM 3. DATA

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

NC2 received a report of the 6th meeting of ISC, which was held in March 2006. The ISC noted that assessments of some stocks were conducted with limited information. The ISC informed the Committee that in order for it to make significant progress on its assigned work, further cooperation, including improved data submission associated with the stocks in question, would be necessary. NC2 encouraged all members of the Commission to provide all available data they may hold relating to northern stocks to the Secretariat. NC3 will review data relating to northern stocks that has been provided to the Secretariat since NC2, including that made available to the ISC, and consider recommendations as appropriate to address outstanding gaps.

AGENDA ITEM 4. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

4.1 Work Programme for 2008-2011

The Committee will review its Proposed Work Programme adopted at NC2. The work programme will be revised to describe activities and funding requirements for the period 2008-2011 so that it aligns with the work programme of the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 5. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

5.1 ISC

Recalling that the MoU between the ISC and WCPFC was approved by WCPFC3, NC3 is invited to consider efforts to further strengthen the relationship. This item may also be taken up under Agenda Item 5.3.

5.2 IATTC

The MOU between the WCPFC and IATTC was signed on 15 December 2006. The first formal consultation between the two Secretariats was convened at Cancun, Mexico, 24th June 2007. Members of both organisations present in Cancun for the 74th Meeting of IATTC were invited to participate in the consultation. NC3 is invited to consider the report of the consultation.

5.3 Proposed review of interim arrangements for scientific structure and function

Japan submitted a proposal on the review process in relation to the composition of a steering committee, nomination of reviewers, costs, etc. to WCPFC3. The Commission, noting the need for the review to be cost effective and independent, requested the SC to re-examine the terms of reference for the review of the Commission's science structure and functions, and to report on the results of the review to WCPFC4. NC3 is invited to consider the outcomes of SC3's review of the terms of reference and provide advice and recommendations in respect of the role and function of the Northern Committee and the ISC (as a provider of scientific advice on the northern stocks) in the proposed review.

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, which is to outsource those services through a contract with an appropriate institution. Japan will report on the dispatch of its expert to support the function of the WCPFC Secretariat in this regard and also report on the progress on its work on estimation of necessary cost and possible functions. NC3 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. NC3 is invited to further consider this matter.

6.2 Next meeting

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

6.3 Other business

The Northern Committee will discuss any other business.

AGENDA ITEM 7. REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

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

The Northern Committee will adopt the Report of its Third 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, 13 September 2007.