



NORTHERN COMMITTEE

Third Regular Session

11-13 September 2007

Tokyo, Japan

**REVISED JAPANESE PROPOSAL ON THE FUNCTION AND BUDGET
OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE OF WCPFC
THROUGH A CONTRACT WITH NRIFSF**

WCPFC-NC3-05

9 August 2007

Paper prepared by Japan

1. Nature of the Northern Committee

Role:

The Northern Committee is established to make recommendations on

- 1) the implementation of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission for the area north of 20°N, and
- 2) the formulation of measures in respect of stocks which occur mostly in this area (northern stock; northern Pacific bluefin, northern albacore and the northern stock of swordfish).

Member:

Members of the Northern Committee shall be members situated in the Convention area north of 20°N and members fishing in that area. Current members: Canada, China, Cook Islands, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei and the United States of America.

Decision-making:

The Committee shall adopt recommendations to the Commission by consensus.

Cost:

Any extraordinary cost incurred for the work of the Committee shall be borne by the members of the Committee. It was agreed at the 1st Committee meeting that the members' contribution should be calculated by the same formula as the Commission

using the catch data of northern stocks. An example is provided in the attachment 2.

2. Effective Functioning of the Committee

To perform its role effectively, the Committee should be complemented (or supported) by an administrative function for:

a) Coordination of Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures

Some Conservation and Management Measures require the Northern Committee to monitor and report to the Commission of the status of northern stocks in coordination with ISC, SC and other scientific bodies.

b) Data Management

The Northern Committee should establish and manage a database for catch and effort data, and other scientific data relevant to northern stocks. It is expected that the ISC database will be used under MOU between the Commission and the ISC, which was signed on May 2007

c) Coordination of Scientific Activity

Scientific activities on northern stocks by members and/or other organizations could be further facilitated through effective coordination by the Committee.

d) Others

- Collection and report of practices of other organizations relevant to the Committee's activities

The Committee may need a report of practices by other organizations to consider and establish its recommendations on conservation and management measures

- Preparation and operation of meetings of the Committee
- Transaction of the Committee's official communications
- Other necessary coordination among members of the Committee to achieve the objectives of the Convention

3. Revised Proposal by Japan

Japan proposes the following framework to enable the Committee to perform its functions efficiently and effectively at a minimum cost;

- a) As was expressed at the Informal Consultation for the Northern Committee in September 2005, Japan is prepared to host annual meetings of the Committee.

Japan is willing to bear the costs for the meeting rooms and necessary equipments, when it is held in Japan.

- b) The Commission enters into a contract on behalf of the Committee with the Fisheries Research Agency of Japan (National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, NRIFSF) pursuant to Paragraph 5 of Article 9, which is located in Japan and is currently managing a database for ISC.

Paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention provides that the Commission may enter into contractual arrangements with relevant institutions to provide expert services necessary for the efficient functioning of the Commission and to enable it to carry out effectively its responsibilities under the Convention. To effectively carry out the function described in 2 above, administrative skill as well as scientific and technical knowledge/experiences relating to tuna and tuna-like species are necessary. Japan thus suggests that, the Commission enter into a contract on behalf of the Committee with the NRIFSF.

The services the NRIFSF to provide to the Committee will be decided based on the consultation between the Commission and the NRIFSF. The revised estimate indicates that a contract would cost 100,000 US dollars per year if the NRIFSF is required to provide function described in 2 above (Attachment 1). Estimated contributions by each member calculated in accordance with the formula agreed at the 1st Northern Committee meeting is shown in Attachment 2.

As suggested at the 2nd Northern Committee, Japan has dispatched an expert, Dr. Ziro Suzuki, to the Secretariat from June 2007 to assist its work to prepare for the Northern Committee meeting. The cost of contract in Attachment 1 may change in future based on the result.