



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
SIXTH REGULAR SESSION**
7-10 September 2010
Fukuoka, Japan

**Summary of issues arising from the Independent Review of the
Commission's Transitional Science Structure and Functions**

WCPFC-NC6/WP-05

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with the outcomes of the Final Report of Working Group II at the Inaugural Session of the Commission in December 2004, an independent review of the Commission's transitional science structure and functions was contracted out to Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG, UK) in 2008.
2. An interim Report was presented to the Fifth Regular Session of the Commission at Busan in December 2008 and, on the basis of additional comments subsequently submitted to the consultants by CCMs, a Final Report was received in May 2009.
3. This document summarizes key recommendations from the independent review, with outcomes as agreed and adopted at SC5 and SC6. Reference document is WCPFC-SC5-2009/GN-WP-08 (Summary of issues arising from Independent Review).

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE
COMMISSION'S TRANSITIONAL SCIENCE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS**

Recommended Item	Response from SC5
I. DATA CUSTODIANSHIP	
1) Data gaps	1) SC5 supported.
2) Data management and confidentiality	2) SC5 supported.
3) Data custodianship service	3) SC5 supported.
3b) Three-year service agreement with SPC to secure resources	3b) SC5 supported.
3d) Incorporation of ISC data into the WCPFC holdings	3d) Addressed and reported in SC6 summary report agenda item 9.1.c
II. SCIENCE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS	
4) Process of project contract a) Update guidelines for SC work programme b) Improve the level of advertising, funding and scope of candidate projects	4) Addressed and adopted.
5) Quality of scientific advice available to the Commission a) Implement periodic external peer review process b) Develop a standard procedure for CCMs to undertake duplicate assessments c) Maintain transparency by posting research inputs and outputs on website d) Develop a strategy to maximize the use of science knowledge of the SPC-OFP and other existing or potential contractors e) SPC to continue training of talented individuals from developing CCMs to enhance their full participation in the scientific activities of the Commission	5) a) Addressed and reported in SC6 summary report agenda item 13.2 b) Recommendation not accepted by SC. c) SC5 supported. d) By posting on the Commission's website. e) SC5 supported.
6) International Scientific Committee (ISC) a) Amend MOU to allow for ISC work to be requested by the SC b) To support robust science within the ISC i) Additional review by the SC and external peer review ii) For transparency, promote wider participation in ISC's assessment activities, and sufficient funding iii) SC and NC, with funding support, request ISC of validation work on key ISC assessments c) Improve support to ISC	6) a) While non-ISC Members support this amendment, most ISC Members wanted to discuss this at WCPFC6. b) MOU to be reviewed at WCPFC7 i) ii) iii) c)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Promote ISC officers' attendance at SA-SWG to present their assessments ii) On-time submission of ISC documents to SC iii) Allow sufficient time for SC to review ISC's assessments and advice d) To promote harmonization of the Commission's science functions, the SC's research plan should include the ISC's work plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) SC noted it's feasible but cost implications here. ii) Recommend to ISC to post ISC's working papers on the ISC website. SC noted that ISC working papers require authorization by authors. iii) SC thought it feasible but need to adjust meeting time table with a suitable time gap between meetings. d) SC recommends that the SC work plan and the ISC work plan reference each other.
<p>7) Restructuring the SC process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To clarify the role of SC and ISC in advising NC, the SC, as the statutory WCPFC body, should take the lead in endorsing the scientific work done by the Commission's Science Services Provider and SWGs, and providing advice to the NC and Commission, even if this advice is a simple endorsement of the advice of other bodies such as the ISC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The SC Chair introduces the SC report to NC ii) The ISC Chair presents and provides technical explanation to NC in a non-confrontational way between SC and ISC b) Specialist Working Groups and related processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Strengthening Stock Assessment Preparatory Workshop (SAPW) by the WCPFC taking ownership of that activity with appropriate funding support ii) Incorporate the BI-SWG and ME-SWG into SAPW iii) Revise the Terms of Reference of the SAPW to include provision for agreement on data inputs, model runs and the setting of an appropriate timetable iv) Identify risks and seek solutions to address such risks when SAPW is expanded v) Promote the participation of ISC and IATTC in the SWGs to promote coordination of ocean-wide assessments and include northern stocks in the agenda of the SAPW 	<p>7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Commission to decide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) SC supported. ii) SC supported. b) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Generally support SAPW, strongly support to remain as an informal meeting, including relevant biological and methodological papers. SPC will facilitate the workshop ii) Incorporate relevant biology and methods papers into SAPW iii) Revised TOR as Attachment L of SC6 Summary Report. iv) Inclusion of presentations within the SC of significant issues as identified in the SAPW. v) Funding considerations.

<p>c) Consider other workshops on species not included in the main SPC-OFP work programme</p> <p>d) Allocate significantly more time to SA-SWG to thoroughly review all assessment-related outputs from SPC-OFP, ISC and CCMs</p> <p>e) Restructuring of the SWGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Have an annual meeting for EB-SWG and SA-SWG only ii) Have biennial or occasional meetings for the FT-SWG and ST-SWG iii) BI-SWG and ME-SWG to be absorbed into SAPW (or SA-SWG) or have occasional meetings iv) Less formal process of the SWG meetings, including no national representation and more intensive involvement of experts <p>f) Establish an Ad-hoc Group on Socio-economic Issues which identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) socio-economic issues and how they might be addressed ii) types of information and analyses required to generate appropriate management advice iii) availability of expertise within the CCMs and/or potential service providers to undertake the necessary work 	<p>c) Generally support, perhaps as a special session within SC or as standalone workshops. Other bycatch species could be included as a special session into SC.</p> <p>d) Considered adequate for present schedule, re-consider with regard to work schedule.</p> <p>e) Alternative idea not reflected in consultancy report was adopted. Have one continuous SC session structured thematically, chaired by individual conveners.</p> <p>Secretariat, Chair, Vice-Chair and Conveners to plan details of new thematic structure intersessionally and post agreed plan on Commission's website.</p> <p>Review of new SC structure reported under Agenda item 13.3 of SC6 Summary Report</p> <p>f) Consider items as special sessions of i)-iii) as interest arises.</p>
III. IMPLEMENTATION	
<p>8) Implementation of the recommendations a) Develop a work plan for the implementation of these recommendations.</p>	<p>8) a) No work plan required as all matters have been addressed.</p>