



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

13-24 August 2007
Honolulu, United States of America

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

WCPFC-SC3-2007/03

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting will open at 08:30 on Monday, 13 August 2007.

1.1 Welcome address

The Chair will welcome delegations of the WCPFC Members, cooperating non-members and participating territories (CCMs) and observers to the Third Regular Session of the Scientific Committee.

1.2 Election of Vice-Chairman

The Scientific Committee will confirm Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee.

1.3 Adoption of agenda

The provisional agenda for the Third Regular Session of the Scientific Committee was prepared and distributed on 15 May 2007 in accordance with Rule 1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

Any member of the Commission, the Chairman, or the Executive Director may, at least thirty days before the date fixed for the opening of a regular session request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. A request for the inclusion of a supplementary item on the provisional agenda shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the proposed supplementary item, which will be communicated to all CCMs and observers at least twenty days before the opening of the session.

1.4 Meeting arrangements

The Chair will outline the procedural matters including the time schedule for the meeting and any in-house arrangements.

After the conclusion of Agenda Item 2, the plenary will be adjourned to allow the six Specialist Working Groups (SWG) to carry out their work.

1.5 Reporting arrangements

Scientific Committee Report

The Scientific Committee will adopt a Summary Report and a ~10-page Executive Summary that will focus on addressing the requests from the Commission. Relevant text under Agenda Items highlighted with an asterisk (*) in the Summary Report will be incorporated in the Executive Summary. The Executive Summary may also include a brief summary of research plans, findings or conclusions on the stock status, reports and recommendations as directed, or on its own initiative (paragraph 2, Article 12 of the Convention).

The Scientific Committee will appoint lead and supporting rapporteurs, who will be assigned to specific agenda items.

Specialist Working Group Reports

The Specialist Working Groups will each produce a full report and a 1-page summary that will be incorporated into the Summary Report of the Scientific Committee.

Each full SWG report will include an overview of papers considered by the SWG (to be provided by the authors) including a summary of subsequent discussion, findings, advice and recommendations for the Scientific Committee. Each SWG report will append its agenda, a list of working papers, and a list of relevant acronyms and abbreviations used. All presenters will provide a concise (1–2 paragraph) summary of their paper in electronic form to the convenor of their SWG before their presentation.

Each SWG 1-page summary will be incorporated directly into the main Scientific Committee report and include: details of the number of papers reviewed, the topics discussed and details of Scientific Committee agenda items on which the SWG has provided advice to the Scientific Committee.

Each SWGs will appoint lead and supporting rapporteurs, who will be assigned to specific agenda items.

Reporting Procedure

The SWGs convenor and participants will be asked to review draft SWG reports throughout the first week of the Scientific Committee. The reports should be cleared under the supervision of the relevant convenors. Convenors will present a summary of their SWG reports to the plenary at the start of the second week of the Committee. The Scientific Committee will accept each report as a record of the work of the Scientific Committee through its SWGs. Editorial corrections and/or clarification may occur, if necessary, after the Scientific Committee meeting.

1.6 Intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee

The Chair will report on intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 2 REVIEW OF FISHERIES

2.1 Overview of Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) fisheries

A presentation will be made describing the fisheries for highly migratory species in the WCPO region. The Scientific Committee will be invited to ask questions and provide comments.

2.2 Overview of Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fisheries

A presentation will be made describing the fisheries for highly migratory species in the EPO region. The Scientific Committee will be invited to ask questions and provide comments.

2.3 Fishery reports from Members, Participating Territories and Cooperating Non-Members (CCMs)

CCMs will be given the opportunity to make a short presentation, no more than 3 minutes, highlighting recent changes and developments in their fisheries as described in Part 1 of their Annual Report to the Commission. A short number of questions will be allowed.

Summaries of a maximum of one-half page (provided by authors) and key issues raised in subsequent discussion will be incorporated into the Scientific Committee report.

It will be assumed that all reports have been read prior to the meeting. The use of PowerPoint or other visual presentations is discouraged due to time constraints.

2.4 Reports from regional fisheries bodies and other organizations

Regional fisheries bodies or other organizations in attendance will be able to make a brief (3 minutes) presentation on their key issues in relation with the science issues of the Commission. Such presentations need to be arranged with the Chair before the opening of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3 SPECIALIST WORKING GROUPS (SWGs)

Biology SWG, Ecosystem and Bycatch SWG, Fishing Technology SWG, Methods SWG, Statistics SWG, and Stock Assessment SWG

SWG conveners will open their meetings in accordance with meeting schedules. Each SWG will respond to the requests from the Commission as the highest priority.

3.1 Reports of SWGs

The SWGs will make every effort to finalize their reports by consensus. Respective reports should include text that can be considered by the Scientific Committee for incorporation into the Summary Report of the Scientific Committee, particularly as discussion relates to Scientific Committee Agenda Items marked with an asterisk (*).

3.2 Acceptance of the reports of the SWGs, including advice and recommendations

The Scientific Committee will accept the SWG reports as part of the Summary Report of the Scientific Committee meeting. Once accepted, any recommendations from each SWG will form the basis of Scientific Committee deliberations under the relevant agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM 4 STATUS OF THE STOCKS AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

The Scientific Committee will review information on the status of the stocks, in particular information relating to Conservation and Management Measures adopted by and requests from the Commission.

4.1 WCPO bigeye tuna

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of the WCPO bigeye tuna stock.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and results of projections.
- In accordance with paragraph 4 of the Conservation and Management Measure-2005-01, the Scientific Committee will identify levels of fishing effort to ensure that the bigeye stocks will remain at an agreed level above B_{MSY} ;
- Provide information to the Commission on the level of discard rates in the WCPO tuna fishery (provided by SPC-OFP and CCMs), especially skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna, and associated reasons for discards, and provide to the Commission any findings to mitigate fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna associated with discards;
- Review reports from the SPC OFP and CCMs on the catch level of bigeye in other commercial fisheries and provide advice, if necessary, to the Commission on the impact of the catch from other commercial fisheries on the bigeye stock.

4.2 WCPO yellowfin tuna

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of the WCPO yellowfin tuna stock.

The Scientific Committee will also consider, if necessary, any findings from the work of the ME-SWG on yellowfin tuna comparing Multifan-CL and Stock Synthesis 2.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and results of projections;
- In accordance with paragraph 4 of the Conservation and Management Measure-2005-01, the Scientific Committee will identify levels of fishing effort to ensure that the yellowfin stocks will remain at an agreed level above B_{MSY} ;
- Provide information to the Commission on the level of discard rates in the WCPO tuna fishery (provided by SPC-OFP and CCMs), especially skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna, and associated reasons for discards, and provide to the Commission any findings to mitigate fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna associated with discards;
- Review reports from the SPC OFP and CCMs on the catch level of yellowfin in other commercial fisheries and provide advice, if necessary, to the Commission on the impact of the catch from other commercial fisheries on the bigeye stock.

4.3 WCPO skipjack tuna

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of the WCPO skipjack tuna stock.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider last year's advice and finalize, as appropriate, statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and results of projections;
- Provide information to the Commission on the level of discard rates in the WCPO tuna fishery (provided by SPC-OFP and CCMs), especially skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna, and associated reasons for discards, and provide to the Commission any findings to mitigate fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna associated with discards.

4.4 South Pacific albacore tuna

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of the South Pacific albacore tuna stock.

The Scientific Committee will also consider, if necessary, any findings from the work of the ME-SWG on South Pacific albacore comparing Multifan-CL and Stock Synthesis 2.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and results of projections; and
- Advice in relation to any conservation and management measures and resolutions adopted by the Commission.

4.5 North Pacific albacore

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of North Pacific albacore.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and results of projections.

4.6 Southwest Pacific swordfish

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of the swordfish stock in the southwest Pacific.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The CMM-2006-03 will be reviewed in 2008. However, the Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and results of projections.

4.7 Southwest Pacific striped marlin

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will review research to reduce uncertainty with regard to the status of striped marlin stocks and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of the Pacific striped marlin stock in the southwest Pacific.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and results of projections to protect the long-term sustainability and economic viability of the fisheries for striped marlin in the Southwest Pacific.

4.8 North Pacific striped marlin

The Scientific Committee will consider and provide a recommendation to the Commission on the inclusion of North Pacific striped marlin as a “northern stock” in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the Northern Committee.

4.9 Other northern stocks

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status of other northern stocks, especially Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific swordfish, and their recent trends in abundance.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize for the subsequent consideration of the Northern Committee and the Commission management advice and recommendations provided from the SWGs particularly in relation to stocks of Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific swordfish.

4.10 Other stock assessment and management-related matters

a. Review of the reference points

The Scientific Committee will be invited to comment on the consultancy of “Investigation of alternative stock status reference points” and provide advice, if any, to the Commission to seek for the Committee’s further deliberation on this issue, including identification of the Commission’s appropriate target and limit reference points.

b. Information flow of Northern Stocks

The Scientific Committee will consider ways to deal with northern stock assessments of the ISC. That is, will the SC consider ISC as the same level of SA-SWG?

AGENDA ITEM 5 BYCATCH MITIGATION

The EB-SWG and other relevant SWGs will provide relevant data and information available to the Scientific Committee for its consideration on this Agenda Item.

5.1 Seabirds*

The Scientific Committee will review CMM-2006-02 and update this measure, based on any findings from CCM's research to further develop and refine measures to mitigate seabird bycatch including mitigation measures for use during the hauling process and any new information on new or existing mitigation measures or on seabird interactions from observer or other monitoring programmes.

The Committee will provide to the Commission an updated suite of mitigation measures, specifications for mitigation measures, or advice and recommendations for areas of application for the adoption of minimum technical specifications for mitigation measures.

The Scientific Committee will also estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the WCPF Convention applies, based on all available information provided by CCMs on interactions with seabirds, including by-catches and details of species.

5.2 Sharks*

The Scientific Committee will provide advice on the implementation and effectiveness of the CMM-2006-05, any alternative measures applied under paragraph 11 of the measure, and the application of any additional measures for the management of shark stocks in the Convention Area, as appropriate.

The Committee will recommend to the Commission the key shark species that CCMs will be required to report annually to the Commission on, and a dedicated shark research programme to support stock assessment of shark species that rank highly in the Ecological Risk Assessment, in cooperation with other RFMOs. Alternative methods of analysis other than stock assessment will also be explored.

The Committee will also review the specification of the ratio of fin weight to shark weight and recommend any appropriate revisions to the Commission for its consideration.

5.3 Juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna*

In response to the control of sets on FADs for the purse seine fishery (CMM-2005-01, paragraph 15), the Scientific Committee will review research outcomes to reduce the by-catch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, especially:

- The review, by the Commission's Science Service Provider, of spatio-temporal aspects of catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna caught in association

with fish aggregating devices (FADs) and refined analyses of potential management options that the Commission might adopt in order to reduce such catches, including cooperation with other RFMOs to identify appropriate mitigation measures;

- The research of CCMs into acoustic selectivity to avoid juvenile bigeye and yellowfin as well as research into the vertical distribution and residence time of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna on FADs; and
- Relevant information (relevant to mitigation based on gear and operational modes) being collected by CCMs through observer programmes and port sampling and submitted to the Commission in order to assess the impacts of FADs and other technological aspects on catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin.

In addition, the Scientific Committee will review the outcomes of the industry-associated research, as described in paragraph 7, CMM-2006-01, to reduce juvenile bigeye and yellowfin from fishing on FADs and provide advice to the Commission any mitigation measures including FAD associated measures.

5.4 Turtles*

The Scientific Committee will review and provide to the Commission any compiled existing information, if available from CCMs, on sea turtle interactions to develop a more complete picture of the effectiveness of the various sea turtle by-catch mitigation strategies.

The Committee will review and provide to the Commission the results of sea turtle research undertaken by CCMs on the effectiveness gear and methods to avoid or reduce interactions with sea turtles, particularly circle hooks, and other measures in mitigating interactions with sea turtle.

The Committee will review and compile mitigation measures that when applied can substantially reduce sea turtle interactions in fisheries covered by the Convention while maintaining viable target species catch rates. The compiled measures will be provided to the TCC3 for the development of technical specifications for each measure and to the Commission for the possible adoption of specific sea turtle interaction mitigation measures at its annual Session in 2007.

5.5 Ecological Risk Assessment

The Scientific Committee will consider and give comments on the outcome of the ERA workshop held prior to the SC3 on data needs, methods and models, case studies, and any other relevant aspects of the topic, including its relation to other established scientific methods for generating fisheries management advice (e.g. stock assessment). The Scientific Committee will consider a draft research plan to support ecological risk assessment, in the broader sense of ecosystems-based management, for recommendation to the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 6 DATA AND INFORMATION

The ST-SWG and other relevant SWGs will provide relevant data and information available to the Scientific Committee for its consideration on this Agenda Item.

6.1 Regional Observer Programme

The Scientific Committee will consider the outcomes of the work of the IWG and provide recommendations concerning the priorities and objectives of the regional observer programme and others covered in paragraphs 39-41 of the Executive Summary of the SC2.

6.2 Data confidentiality, security, and dissemination

Taking into account the advice of the ST-SWG, the Scientific Committee will review and refine, if necessary, AHTG [Data] report and make recommendations to the Commission for further consideration at WCPFC4. The Committee's consideration of this will include "Rules and Procedures for the Access to and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission", as refined by the ST-SWG.

The Scientific Committee will also review comments from ST-SWG on draft Information Security Policy of the Commission and provide advice and recommendations, if any, to the Commission for its finalisation.

6.3 Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Project (IPDCP) update and review

The IPDCP Steering Committee meeting will be held in the margins of the first week of the Scientific Committee. Membership of the Steering Committee includes Indonesia, the Philippines, donors, the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, the SPC OFP, interested CCMs and the Secretariat.

The Scientific Committee will review the Steering Committee Chair's summary report and provide advice and recommendations for subsequent consideration by the Commission.

6.4 Tagging initiatives

SPC-OFP will provide details of progress on Phase I of the tagging program. The Steering Committee meeting for Phase II of the tagging program will be held in the margins of the first week of the Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee will review the Steering Committee Chair's summary report and provide advice and recommendations, if any, for subsequent consideration by the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 7 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

7.1 Review of existing MOUs

The Scientific Committee will review the existing MOUs with other RFMOs and agencies, and recommend any modification for the update and refinement of the MOUs.

7.2 Development of new MOUs*

The Scientific Committee will review draft MOUs with the following organizations as endorsed by the WCPFC3.

- a. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)**
- b. Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)**
- c. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)**
- d. Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR),**

7.3 Other cooperative activities

- a. Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (FAO-CWP)**
- b. Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FAO-FIRMS)**

AGENDA ITEM 8 CONSIDERATION OF THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

8.1 Special Requirements Fund

a. Review of 2006/2007 activities

The Scientific Committee will review relevant 2006/07 intersessional activities for capacity building of developing States and participating territories supported by the Special Requirements Fund.

b. Advice and recommendations to the Commission*

The Scientific Committee will provide advice and recommendations in relation to existing activities and proposed new initiatives for the Special Requirements Fund.

8.2 Other matters

The Scientific Committee will consider any WCPFC related issues raised by Developing States and Participating Territories

AGENDA ITEM 9 FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

9.1 Strategic Research Plan 2007-2011 for Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will review the progress of the Strategic Research Plan 2007-2011 and update the plan, if necessary, for further implementation.

9.2 Review of 2007 Work Programme

The Scientific Committee will review the progress of the 2007 Work Programme and consider the termination or carry over of each programme.

9.3 2008 Work Programme and budget and 2009 Provisional Work Programme and indicative budget

The Scientific Committee will recommend a programme of work and associated budgetary requirements for the Committee and individual SWGs for 2008 and a provisional work programme and an indicative budget for 2009. The Scientific Committee will describe research background in detail to each work programme and assign responsibility, if necessary, for their implementation (including any prioritization required as part of the service agreement between SPC and the Commission) and consider processes for progressing work programme items intersessionally.

AGENDA ITEM 10 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

10.1 Rules of Procedure

The Scientific Committee may consider any inter-sessionally revised draft rules of procedures for the Scientific Committee.

10.2 Independent review of the Science Structure and Function of the Commission

As requested by the Commission, the Scientific Committee will re-examine the terms of reference, reviewing process in relation to the composition of a steering committee, nomination of reviewers and costs for the Review of the Commission's Science Structure and Functions for adoption at WCPFC4. The Committee will also consider any intersessional progress of this Review, if any, for further consideration by the Commission.

10.3 Future operation of the Scientific Committee

Based on the experiences of previous Scientific Committees and feedback from the Commission and other subsidiary bodies, the Scientific Committee will consider the future operation of the Scientific Committee including the use of Specialist Working Groups and the reporting of the Scientific Committee meeting.

10.4 Review of Part 1 of the Annual Report to the Commission

The Scientific Committee will review Part 1 of the Annual Report in light of its relationship with Part 2, including any consistencies (such as reporting periods and submission times).

10.5 Next meeting*

Members are invited to propose a time and venue for the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11 OTHER MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM 12 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

12.1 Adoption of the Summary Report and Executive Summary of the Third Regular Session of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will adopt the Summary Report of its Third Regular Session and its Executive Summary.

AGENDA ITEM 13 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting is scheduled to close at 17:00 h on Friday, 24 August 2007.