



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

13-24 August 2007
Honolulu, United States of America

**INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
[For SC3]**

WCPFC-SC3/GN IP-4

WCPFC Secretariat

1. SCIENCE SERVICES

The SPC-OFP has conducted the Commission's science services in accordance with Annex I of the MOU 2007 between the WCPFC and the SPC. It includes 1) data management, statistical analyses and related services; 2) stock assessment and related analytical services; 3) research services, and 4) other advisory services. The SPC-OFP produced a total of about 26 papers, mostly related with assigned science services. It also provided a broad area of other advice services for the Secretariat's intersessional activities.

2. INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM (IWG-ROP)

According to the decision by the Commission at Apia meeting in 2006, the Intersessional Working Group on Regional Observer Programme was established in early 2007, consisting of members' representatives. The Commission also endorsed a budget of \$55,000 for holding one physical meeting of the Intersessional Working Group to focus on finalizing the Regional Observer Program which was not occurred so far due to some members' opposition.

The Secretariat has prepared in consultation with experts a draft observer programme and circulated for comments from members. The IWG's progress report will be introduced in the Plenary.

3. PREPARATION OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

The Secretariat has produced 14 meeting documents for the third Scientific Committee meeting. A total of about 133 meeting documents were prepared for the third Scientific Committee meeting and posted on the WCPFC website.

4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

For the cooperation with other organizations, the Secretariat has represented some of fisheries science-related meetings, including:

- Eastern Indonesia Tuna Fishery Data Collection Workshop;
- CPUE Standardization Workshop and Bycatch Consortium;
- Working Group-5 meeting of the CLimate Impacts on Oceanic TOP Predators (CLIOTOP);
- The IATTC Stock Assessment WG and FAO Capacity Workshop;
- The 1st WCPFC-IATTC Consultative Meeting; and
- The 7th Plenary of the International Scientific Committee on Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC).

5. RECRUITMENT OF OBSERVER PROGRAM CORDINATOR

The Secretariat recruited Observer Program Coordinator, Karl Staisch, in February, this year. He has been leading the Intersessional Working Group on Regional Observer Programme.

6. INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES DATA COLLECTION PROJECT (IPDCP)

The Commission supported Philippines for the continuity of data collection and Indonesia for the hosting of the first IPDCP activity in Indonesia - Data Collection Workshop. As the ED clarified, the data gap in the Philippines and Indonesia has been the critical source of uncertainty in tuna stock assessment in the WCPO. Therefore, the Commission expressed its strong recognition of importance by supporting the Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Project December last year. With this support, a Preliminary Research on Data Collection Project was initiated in Indonesia since June this year.

7. INDEPENDENT CONSULTANCIES

- The publication of Handbooks for the Identification of Yellowfin and Bigeye Tunas;
- Investigation of alternative stock status reference points;
- Supply of TDR (Time-Depth Recorder) and hook timers to the regional observer programmes;
- Development of a Regional Tuna Tagging: Phase 2 proposal;
- Further development of the Ecological Risk Analysis including Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis;
- Turtle/Seabird interactions and fishery overlaps;
- Development of a draft list of fields of data that observers should collect for longline and purse seine (with SPC-OFP)
- Drafting of objectives and priorities for data to be collected by observers for fisheries other than purse seine and longline, (with SPC-OFP), and
- Finalization of Information Security Policy.