



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

7-18 August 2006  
Manila, Philippines

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**COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

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**WCPFC-SC2-2006/GN WP-6**

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

**Introduction**

1. Article 22 of the Convention requires the Commission to collaborate with other relevant intergovernmental organizations particularly those with related objectives and which can contribute to the attainment of the objective of the Convention. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) are identified as organizations, among others, that the Commission may enter into relationship agreements with for the purposes of collaboration, cooperation, consultation and avoiding duplication.

2. A summary of the status of relations with other organizations was presented to the first regular session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC1), 5-9 December 2005 and also to the second regular session of the Commission, 12-16 December 2006. The report presented information on developments in relation to:

- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC),
- the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA),
- the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR),
- the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO),
- the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC),
- the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),
- the Commission for the Conservation for Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT),
- the Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); and
- the International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC).

Draft agreements with CCSBT, ISC and SPC were tabled at those meetings. Following discussion during TCC1 it was recommended that relations be established with the International Monitoring,

Control and Surveillance Network (MCS Network) and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC).

### **Current status**

#### *The Secretariat of the Pacific Community*

3. Based on Article 13 of the Convention, the Secretariat negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community relating to collaboration between the two organizations and the provision of data management and scientific services to the Commission. A draft of this MoU was considered at the first regular session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC1) and the second regular session of the Commission (Comm2). The MoU, including details of the financial arrangement to support the MoU, was finalized and signed following the adoption of the budget to support the implementation of the MoU by Comm2 (Attachment A). Available financial support for the MoU will be exhausted at 31 December 2006.

4. Agenda Item 9 of the second regular session of the Scientific Committee invites the Scientific Committee to adopt a program of work for 2007 and a provisional work program for 2008. In considering the program of work, the Scientific Committee is invited to prepare advice and recommendations to the Commission in relation to the requirements for scientific services from the SPC-OFP beyond December 2006.

#### *The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency*

5. Since the second regular session of the Commission the Secretariat's of FFA and the WCPFC have commenced work on a draft MoU (Attachment B).

6. The Scientific Committee is invited to provide comments, advice and recommendations in relation to the proposed MoU between the WCPFC and the FFA.

#### *The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources*

7. Although regular exchanges on technical matters occur between the two secretariats no progress has been made on developing a formal arrangement for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with CCAMLR during 2006.

#### *The UN Food and Agriculture Organization*

8. Although arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with FAO have not been formalized, as is provided for at Article 22 of the Convention, relations have been strengthened since the first regular session of the Scientific Committee. Consultation and collaboration have involved data issues, particularly in relation to the Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS) and the Coordinated Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP), science and regulatory matters.

#### *Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (t-RFMOs)*

9. The Secretariat is actively engaged in an initiative of the Secretariat's of the regional fisheries management organizations with a principle interest in tuna to promote collaboration, information exchange and consultation ([www.tuna-org.org](http://www.tuna-org.org)). The sixth meeting of the

secretariat's of tuna-RFMOs was held at New York in May 2006 (summary report presented at Attachment C).

10. At the initiative of Japan, a meeting of the world's five tuna RFMOs will take place at Kobe, Japan in January 2007. Available information for this meeting is presented at Attachment D.

11. The Scientific Committee is invited to provide advice on scientific data and other scientific matters of interest to the WCPFC that could be considered for discussion among tuna RFMOs at the Kobe meeting.

#### *The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission*

12. The Final Report of the Preparatory Conference (WCPFC/PrepCon/48) notes that the Seventh Session of the Participatory Conference had decided to “*appoint a small group to work with IATTC to develop guidelines to give full effect to Article 22, paragraph 4, of the Convention, with respect to the need to avoid duplication of management measures and to promote consistent management measures throughout the migratory range of stocks that occur in areas covered by the two Conventions*”.

13. The inaugural session of the Commission in December 2004 noted this recommendation, among others at paragraphs 86 and 87 of the Final Report of the Preparatory Conference, but provided no further advice on how the recommendation was to be operationalized.

14. The first regular session of the Scientific Committee recommended consultation, collaboration with IATTC be progressed with the following priorities:

- Exchange of data;
- Shark stock assessments; and
- Collaboration on Pacific-wide stock assessments including through a possible Pacific-wide tagging proposal.

15. Informal Discussions towards the Establishment of the WCPFC Northern Committee held in Tokyo in September 2005 suggested collaboration between IATTC and the Commission on shared interests in the North Pacific be progressed.

16. A draft MoU developed by both Secretariat's was considered at the 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IATTC at Busan, Korea in late June 2006. A copy of the draft MoU, incorporating comments from the IATTC Meeting, is appended at Attachment E.

17. The Scientific Committee is invited to provide comments, advice and recommendations in relation to the proposed MoU between the WCPFC and the IATTC. The MoU will be presented, with a similar request for comments, advice and recommendations, to TCC2.

#### *The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission*

18. Informal dialogue is maintained with the IOTC principally through the tuna-RFMO network. There are no developments to report in respect of the development of a formal arrangement for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with IOTC during 2006.

#### *The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna*

19. As reported to TCC1 and Comm2 a MoU was negotiated with the CCSBT Secretariat in late 2005 (Attachment F). Following Comm2 the respective chairman of both Commissions signed the MoU.

*The International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas*

20. Regular dialogue is maintained with the ICCAT directly and through the tuna-RFMO network. There are no developments to report in respect of the development of a formal arrangement for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with IOTC during 2006.

*International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)*

21. The first regular session of the Northern Committee, which met at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia in December 2005 considered the relationship between WCPFC, ISC and IATTC to be of significant importance and urged that a MoU between ISC and the Commission be concluded for adoption by the Commission in 2006.

22. The interim Secretariat for the ISC and the Secretariat developed a draft MoU which was considered at the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ISC at La Jolla, USA in March 2006 (Attachment G). The ISC recommended the MoU be referred to the next regular session of the WCPFC Northern Committee (NC2) prior to forwarding to the Commission for consideration and adoption.

23. The Scientific Committee is invited to provide comments, advice and recommendations in relation to the draft MoU between the WCPFC and the ISC. The MoU, as amended by SC2, will be presented, with a similar request for comments, advice and recommendations, to NC2 before forwarding to Comm3 at Apia, Samoa in December 2006.

**New initiatives**

24. TCC1 recommended that the Commission seek to establish mutually beneficial relations with:

*North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission*

25. There have been no developments to report in relation to this Commission since Comm2.

*International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (MCS Network)*

26. The Secretariat opened discussions with the MCS Network in May 2006. The Network has expressed an interest in observing TCC2 in September.

*PICES*

27. The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), an intergovernmental scientific organization, was established in 1992 to promote and coordinate marine research in the northern North Pacific and adjacent seas. Its present members are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. It has sent an invitation letter for the WCPFC's participation in its annual meeting 2006. The Secretariat has responded that funding and staffing constraints prevent participation in 2006 but that it looked forward to close cooperation in future years.

### **Issues for the Scientific Committee**

28. The Scientific Committee is invited to provide advice and recommendations concerning relations with the organizations referred to above and other organizations with which mutually beneficial relationships should be explored.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY  
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN  
AND  
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereinafter referred to as “the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission” or “the Commission”) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (hereinafter referred to as “the SPC”):

**Recognising** that the Commission is required to, *inter alia*:

- adopt measures to ensure long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks in its Convention Area and promote the objective of their optimum utilization;
- ensure that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area, particularly small island developing States, and taking into account fishing patterns, the interdependence of stocks and any generally recommended international minimum standards, whether subregional, regional, or global;
- assess the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks;
- adopt measures to minimise waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, pollution originating from fishing vessels, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species (hereinafter referred to as non-target species) and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species and promote the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques;
- protect biodiversity in the marine environment;
- take measures to prevent or eliminate over-fishing and excess fishing capacity and to ensure that levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of fishery resources;
- collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, *inter alia*, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort, as well as information from national and international research programs;
- establish a committee (the Scientific Committee) to ensure that the Commission obtains for its consideration the best scientific information available through review of research results, encouraging and promoting cooperation in scientific research and assessing status of target or non-target stocks of interest;

- establish a committee (the Technical and Compliance Committee), that is required to collaborate with the Scientific Committee in providing advice and making recommendations to the Commission on conservation and management measures; and
- establish a committee (the Northern Committee) to make recommendations on the implementation of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission for the area north of the 20° parallel of north latitude and on the formulation of such measures in respect of stocks which occur mostly in this area;

**Noting** also that the Commission:

- may engage the services of scientific experts to provide information and advice on the fishery resources covered by its Convention and related matters that may be relevant to the conservation and management of those resources;
- may enter into administrative and financial arrangements to utilize scientific services for this purpose; and
- in order to carry out its functions in a cost-effective manner, shall, to the greatest extent possible, utilize the services of existing regional organisations and shall consult, as appropriate, with any other fisheries management, technical or scientific organisation with expertise in matters related to the work of the Commission;

**Recognising** that the SPC, through the work of its Oceanic Fisheries Programme (hereinafter referred to as “the OFP”), seeks to:

- ensure that regional and national fisheries management authorities in its region of competence have access to high-quality scientific information and advice on the status of, and fishery impacts on, stocks targeted or otherwise impacted by regional oceanic fisheries;
- ensure that regional and national fisheries management authorities within its region of competence have access to accurate and comprehensive scientific data on fisheries targeting the region’s resources of tuna, billfish and other oceanic species including non-target species; and
- improve the understanding of pelagic ecosystems in the western and central Pacific Ocean, with a focus on the western tropical Pacific;

**Noting** also that the OFP, in pursuing these objectives, has, over a long period of time:

- developed and maintained a comprehensive database of catch, effort, size composition and other biological data from the oceanic fisheries of the western and central Pacific Ocean;
- conducted biological and ecological research on the target and non-target species impacted by the fisheries and their ecosystem;
- conducted regular stock assessments and associated analyses for highly migratory stocks of interest;
- provided a forum for the exchange of knowledge of oceanic fisheries in the western and central Pacific Ocean through the precursor to the Scientific Committee, the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish, and thus has an established international and regional network of scientific collaborators; and
- assisted SPC member countries that are also Members of the Commission in the management of oceanic fisheries through the implementation of fishery monitoring and data management systems, the provision of scientific advice and the provision of national capacity building;

**Have agreed as follows:**

**General Co-operation**

The Commission and the SPC agree to establish and maintain co-operation in respect of matters of common interest to the two organisations. In particular, the Commission and the SPC will:

- v. encourage reciprocal participation in relevant meetings of each organisation;
- vi. encourage the collaboration of national scientists in the scientific work undertaken by, or on behalf of, the Commission;
- i. actively and regularly exchange relevant meeting reports, information, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest, up to the limits allowed by the information-sharing policies agreed by each organization's members; and
- vii. consult on a regular basis to enhance co-operation and minimise duplication.

**Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission by the SPC OFP**

The SPC OFP will provide scientific services, in cooperation with other scientists, as appropriate, including those from Members of the Commission, as agreed and detailed in annual<sup>1</sup> Service Agreements, which shall be considered Annexes to this MOU. Services may include, *inter alia*, the following:

- v. data management services, including, as appropriate, the collection, compilation and dissemination of fisheries data according to agreed principles and procedures established by the Commission, data processing, and database development and maintenance, taking full account of the procedures and policies of both organisations relating to the confidentiality, disclosure and publication of data;
- vi. data summaries and analyses that the Commission may routinely require to carry out its functions;
- vii. other data summaries and analyses that the Commission may require from time to time;
- viii. regional stock assessments of key target and non-target species;
- ix. scientific evaluation of potential management options;
- x. scientific advice in relation to the implementation of the Commission's vessel monitoring system, regional observer programme or other initiatives relating to fishing gear and technology, as appropriate; and
- xi. design and implementation of biological, ecological or stock assessment research programmes requested by the Commission, including collaborative research programmes with other regional fishery management organisations.

**Provision of Assistance to Commission Members**

In support of Article 30 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, the SPC will provide assistance to its Pacific Island Members to enhance their participation in the work of the Commission. Assistance may include, *inter alia*:

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<sup>1</sup> The first such Service Agreement shall cover an 18 month period, from 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2006. Service Agreements shall be annual thereafter.



- i. assistance in monitoring the fishing activities of national fleets and foreign fleets fishing within Pacific Island exclusive economic zones;
- ii. assistance in data management, and in particular in satisfying the data reporting obligations to the Commission;
- iii. auditing of national fishery monitoring and data management systems;
- iv. assistance in the interpretation of scientific information being provided to the Commission;
- v. scientific advice for the management of national fisheries consistent with the objectives of the Commission; and
- vi. assistance in the implementation of management measures adopted by the Commission.

### **Financial Support**

The Commission will provide financial support for the provision of scientific services and for the provision of assistance to Commission members as agreed in the Service Agreements.

In respect of scientific services, it is recognized that the SPC OFP, through its regular work programme, already undertakes a considerable portion of the scientific work required by the Commission. Initially, it is expected that the Commission will fund only the work required for the provision of scientific services that is additional to the SPC OFP's regular work programme. However, as the Commission's financial base becomes established, the Commission will assume, over a time-frame and according to a formula to be mutually agreed, a greater responsibility for the full range of scientific services provided by the SPC OFP in support of the work of the Commission.

In respect of assistance to Pacific Island Commission Members, such assistance will normally be provided by SPC funding sources, or from the Commission's Special Requirements Fund, subject to procedures agreed by the Commission governing the use of that Fund and to the Commission's strategy for capacity building and operationalizing Article 30 of the Convention. Where assistance is to be funded from the Commission's Special Requirements Fund, this shall be included in the Service Agreement. In special circumstances, assistance may also be requested for non-Pacific Island Commission Members. Such assistance will be funded by the Commission (in which case it will be detailed in the Service Agreement) or directly by the countries concerned.

### **General Administrative Arrangements**

- i. This MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of the responsible representatives of both Parties.
- ii. This MOU may be modified by written consent of the responsible representatives of both Parties. The modified MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of such consent.
- vii. If any dispute should arise between the Parties on the operation of this MOU, the Parties will make every effort to resolve the dispute themselves, or if necessary, by utilizing a mutually-acceptable arbiter.
- iii. Either Party may terminate this MOU by providing written notice to the other of its intention to withdraw from the MOU. Termination shall be effective on 31 December of the year in which such notice is given, or 90 days following such notice, whichever is later. Upon termination of the MOU, any uncommitted funds provided for scientific services and assistance shall be refunded to the Commission.

- iv. A full review of the terms and operation of this MOU and its Annexes will be conducted in concert with the review of the scientific functions of the Commission, to be completed by 30 June 2007, and subsequently every three years.

**Signature**

Signed on behalf of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community:

Andrew Wright  
Executive Director, WCPFC

Lourdes Pangelinan  
Director General, SPC

20 December 2005

**ANNEX I**

**Agreement for the Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission and Assistance to Members by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community**

**Period Covered by this Agreement**

The period covered by this Agreement is 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2006.

**Scientific Services to be Provided**

The scientific services to be provided to the Commission by the SPC OFP during the period of this Agreement are as follows:

Description of Service	Timing
<i>Data management, statistical analyses and related services</i>	
Incorporate data provided by Commission Members under the Commission’s data provision policy (e.g., annual catch estimates, operational-level logsheet data, size data, etc.) into existing databases and facilitate access of Commission secretariat staff to those data as appropriate.	Jul 2005 – Dec 2006
Produce estimates of annual catches by species and gear type (SC 1 working paper).	Jul 2005
Produce and publish on the Commission’s web site the Tuna Fishery Yearbook 2004, containing annual catch estimates by gear type, flag and species.	Dec 2005
Provide estimates of annual catches for 2002–2004 broken down by vessel flag, EEZ, and archipelagic waters (for use in determining the catch component of the Commission’s assessed contributions).	Oct 2005

Produce estimates of annual catches by species and gear type (SC 2 working paper).	Jul 2006
Post public domain catch, effort and size data on the Commission's web site at agreed level of resolution.	Jul 2006
Produce and publish on the Commission's web site the Tuna Fishery Yearbook 2005, containing annual catch estimates by gear type, flag and species.	Dec 2006
Provide estimates of annual catches for 2003–2005 broken down by vessel flag, EEZ, and archipelagic waters (for use in determining the catch component of the Commission's assessed contributions).	Oct 2006
Participate in the Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Project and the compilation of information on the tuna fisheries of Vietnam.	Jul 2005 – Dec 2006
Examination of the relationship between observer coverage rates and the accuracy and reliability of estimators of catches by purse seine fleets (SC 2 working paper).	Jul 2006
Review scientific aspects of observer programmes, such as objectives, coverage rates, sampling protocols and standards for data collection forms (SC 2 working paper).	Jul 2006
Examine sampling protocols for sampling purse-seine catches to identify possible sources of bias in species composition data (SC 2 working paper).	Jul 2006
Participate in an <i>ad hoc</i> task group to develop draft rules and procedures to govern the security and confidentiality of data collected and held by the Commission or its data managers.	Jan – Dec 2006
<b><i>Stock assessment and related analytical services</i></b>	
Undertake full stock assessments for bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack and South Pacific albacore tuna (SC 1 working papers).	Jul 2005
Undertake an evaluation of potential management options as specified in WCPFC 1 Resolution 1 (SC 1 working paper).	Jul 2005
Undertake analyses of operational-level catch and effort data to improve the standardisation of effort and the construction of indices of stock abundance (SC 2 working paper).	Jul 2006
Further development of stock assessment models, including the investigation of alternative regional structures for the yellowfin and bigeye assessments, and the investigation of alternative movement parameterizations (SC 2 working paper).	Jul 2006
Undertake full stock assessments for those target species as determined by the	Jul 2006

Commission (SC 2 working papers).	
Undertake evaluations of management options as specific by WCPFC 2 (SC 2 working papers).	Jul 2006
<b>Research services</b>	
Develop a proposal for a Regional Tuna Tagging Project for review by SC 2 (SC 2 working paper).	Jul 2006
<b>Other advisory services</b>	
Provide advice, as requested, on scientific aspects of the design and implementation of the Commission's vessel monitoring system and regional observer programme.	Jan – Dec 2006
Provide advice, as appropriate, during the planning and implementation of the independent review of the Commission's scientific services scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 2007.	Jan – Dec 2006

### **Assistance to Commission Members**

The SPC OFP will provide services to its membership to assist them to fulfill their responsibilities as Commission members. These services include assistance in the implementation of fishery monitoring programmes, data management systems and the provision of scientific advice for EEZ-based management. The majority of these services will be provided from existing SPC OFP funding sources. However, several proposals were made by SC 1 regarding support for science and data needs to be considered for funding from the Commission's Special Requirements Fund. The proposals that involved SPC OFP were:

- Conduct a workshop on methods used in regional stock assessment and the interpretation of stock assessment results;
- Support for regional observer training with a focus on Commission standards and requirements; and
- Support for 3 attachments to SPC headquarters for training in stock assessment and/or fisheries statistics and analysis.

### **Financial Support to be Provided by the Commission**

The financial support to be provided by the Commission to the SPC OFP for the above services and assistance is as follows:

Item	Cost basis	USD
Data management and stock assessment services	2 full-time equivalent scientific posts for 18 months	372,000
Research services – tagging proposal	Consultancy contract	20,000
Assistance to members – stock assessment workshop	Travel and subsistence costs	40,000

Assistance to members – observer training	Partial salary support for trainer	40,000
Assistance to members – SPC attachments	Travel and subsistence costs (3)	10,500
<b>Total Commission funding</b>		<b>482, 500</b>

**Schedule for Payments**

The schedule of payments shall be as follows:

31 December 2005 (or before)	USD	127,500
31 March 2006 (or before)	USD	100,000
30 June 2006 (or before)	USD	100,000
30 September 2006 (or before)	USD	100,000
31 December 2006 (or before)	USD	55,000

**Bank Details for Payments**

Name of Bank: Banque de Nouvelle-Caledonie

Address: 25 av Henri Lafleur Victoire, Noumea, New Caledonia

Account name : Secretariat General de la Communaute du Pacifique

Account Number : 14889 00081 01461716025 31

Andrew Wright  
Executive Director, WCPFC

Lourdes Pangelinan  
Director General, SPC

20 December 2005

**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE SECRETARIATS OF  
THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY  
AND  
THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION**

The Secretariats of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

**Recognising** the complementary relationship between FFA and the WCPFC in respect of their responsibilities and activities in supporting the development, conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

**Recalling** that the function of the FFA as provided for in Article VII of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention is, *inter alia*, to seek to establish working arrangements with relevant regional and international organisations;

**Further recalling** the FFA mission as defined by its Strategic Plan 2005-2020 is to support and enable its members to achieve sustainable fisheries and the highest levels of social and economic benefits in harmony with the broader environment;

**Acknowledging** that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean is to ensure, through effective management, the long term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

**Further noting** Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean which requires the WCPFC to cooperate with other organizations including the FFA;

**Desiring** to put in place an arrangement to support the implementation of Article VII(e) of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention and Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean,

The FFA and the WCPFC Secretariats record the following understandings concerning consultation, collaboration, co-operation and efforts to minimise duplication:

1. The FFA is the lead agency with responsibility for advising and supporting its members on the development and implementation of policies for the conservation and management of stocks of highly migratory species within the areas under the national jurisdiction of its members;
2. The WCPFC is the lead agency for coordinating conservation and management arrangements between FFA members and non-FFA members and for the development and implementation of policies relating to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the high seas within the WCPFC Convention area;
3. In order to maximise the effectiveness of their scientific, compliance and policy activities, FFA and WCPFC agree to exchange information relating to their activities and programmes of work on highly migratory fish stocks, associated and dependent species in the Pacific Islands region, subject to arrangements concerning the confidentiality of information held by each organisation on behalf of its members, at no cost to either party unless specifically agreed

4. In an effort to harmonize activities, avoid duplication and make efficient use of available resources, FFA and WCPFC agree that the following activity areas of mutual interest will be the focus of consultation, coordination and collaboration:

- vessel monitoring systems;
- vessel registries;
- observer programmes;
- port State Schemes;
- procedures for verifying transshipment;
- compliance and compliance reporting;
- data, and data reporting and formats;
- procedures for boarding and inspection of vessels on the high seas;
- catch, fishing capacity and fishing technology;
- capacity building, especially in relation to the SIDS Special Requirements Fund;
- economic issues associated with regional tuna fisheries;
- meeting arrangements; and
- activities with other organisations.

5. WCPFC and FFA agree to meet at least once-annually at a venue and time that minimises the cost of participation, for the purpose of consulting on activities of mutual interest, exchanging information and exploring opportunities for coordination and collaboration.

6. Where necessary and by mutual agreement any meeting can review this MOU and agree upon amendments to take effect upon signature by the Director-General of the FFA and Chair of the WCPFC.

This MOU is effective upon signature by both parties.

Either party may terminate this MOU by giving twelve (12) months' notice in writing.

Signed and duly dated:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Feleti P. Teo  
Director-General  
Forum Fisheries Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Glen Hurry  
Chair  
Commission for the Conservation of Highly  
Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and  
Central Pacific Ocean Ok

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

**6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SECRETARIATS OF TUNA REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS**

**New York, USA – 21 May 2006**

Attendance:

Robin Allen (Chair) - Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)  
Driss Meski – International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)  
Brian Macdonald – Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)  
Drew Wright – Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)  
Sachiko Tsuji – Food and Agriculture Organisation

**Item 1. Appointment of Chairman and Rapporteur**

Robin Allen was appointed chairman and Brian Macdonald as rapporteur.

**Item 2. Adoption of Agenda**

The attached agenda was adopted.

**Item 3. FIRMS**

The meeting discussed the on-going amendments to FIRMS by the FAO agreed to continue to solicit FAO to stabilize the product, make faster practical progress and to spend less time in perfecting protocols.

Participants also discussed the partner descriptions in FIRMS. Of particular concern at this time was apparent FAO efforts to draft different descriptions to that provided by the FIRMS partners.

It was agreed that as originally incorporated in the agreements with the FAO, the view of the tuna RFMOs was that the descriptions provided by the partners would be the responsibility of the relevant RFMO.

The meeting noted that IATTC had already conveyed this view to the FAO. Other RFMO agreed to respond in similar terms to that of the ICCAT response.

**Item 4. Trade/Catch Documentation**

ICCAT outlined the outcome of its April 2006 meeting on trade documentation, which was judged to have been more productive than a previous meeting convened to discuss this matter. The meeting was advised that the focus of the ICCAT meeting had been statistical documentation rather than catch documentation. ICCAT indicated that some differences have emerged between its members particularly in the context of statistical documents being used to control and manage quotas. The matter will now be discussed at the ICCAT annual meeting later in 2006.



The issue of harmonization was not discussed at the ICCAT meeting in April 2006. However the meeting noted the tuna RFMO Secretariats should continue to work on the matter and noted that Australia had developed a harmonized model trade document, which might be used as a template for further activity.

The WCPFC indicated the matter had been raised at its last annual meeting in December 2005. Japan had proposed a trade document similar to that being used by the other RFMOs. However, this was not agreed as other members preferred to develop a catch documentation scheme.

The CCSBT advised that it was possible that it would be asked to develop a catch document scheme in the light of recent catch reporting difficulties, which are to be discussed at a Special Meeting of the CCSBT in July 2006. The CCSBT advised that in preliminary thinking on the matter, it was considering an electronic system of real time reporting direct to the Secretariat. The CCSBT was looking at the CCAMLR model for some guidance but felt the CCAMLR system was a little too cumbersome and complicated for the structure of the SBT fishery. The CCSBT agreed to share developments with the other RFMOs. The meeting noted that the data inputs required of such a system would be manageable for a RFMO such as the CCSBT where the membership comprised developed countries with industrial fleets. This would not be the case for RFMOs with members from developing countries. ICCAT observed that such countries already consider data requirements to be excessive.

FAO will be holding a meeting in Santiago, Spain in the week commencing 29 May 2006 where catch documentation will be discussed. ICCAT will be attending that meeting and will report matters of interest to the other tuna RFMOs.

## **5. Positive/Negative Vessel Lists**

IATTC outlined the current situation on its activities to develop a common vessel list of authorised fishing vessels from the vessel lists of the various tuna RFMOs. This list currently includes vessels authorized by ICCAT, IATTC, SPC and IOTC and includes 17,000 vessels of which about half appear to be duplicated.

It was agreed that the ICCAT list would be developed into a global tuna RFMO vessel list to include authorized vessels from ICCAT, IATTC, CCSBT, WCPFC, IOTC and the FFA. WCPFC advised that its list was under development and the FFA list could be regarded as a proxy for some of the eventual WCPFC list. It was also agreed that the tuna RFMO authorized vessel list would be placed on a combined tuna RFMO website to be organized by ICCAT. The list would be maintained by IATTC.

The participants noted that other organizations were undertaking work to develop a global list of fishing vessels, including the FAO, ICUN and the High Seas Task Force. The participants agreed that the tuna RFMOs would assist these developments where possible and would utilise their work to improve the tuna RFMO list where possible, such as the development of unique vessel identifying code.

## **6. Proposed Common Website**

ICCAT presented a proposal for a common website for the tuna RFMOs, which would hold general information and links to the five tuna bodies.

It was agreed to support the website financially, which would be maintained by ICCAT. The cost was estimated at about €25 per month.

## **7. Gear and Vessel Codes**

The FAO advised that it and the CWP had been developing new gear and vessel codes in order to produce a unique coding system with harmonized codes. In this context some codes have been deleted and/or amalgamated.

FAO indicated that tuna RFMOs now made up one third of the CWP members and that it was preferable if these bodies were to direct any recoding effort for their fisheries.

FAO will place this matter on the agenda for the next CWP meeting and participants agreed that their organizations would work together in that forum in relation to the codes for tuna fisheries.

## **8. International Observers – Implementation of ICCAT Recommendation on Transshipment.**

CCSBT advised that its Secretariat had been asked to develop a discussion paper on an international observer program for the SBT fishery and sought advice from other RFMOs on their experiences.

The discussion focused, in particular, on the practical difficulties including issues such as deployment, cultural affinity, cost, safety and the risk of collusion with fishing interests.

It was noted that alternatives to observer programs should be considered if the difficulties were judged to be particularly onerous. Such measures included VMS, catch documentation and port unloading monitoring.

ICCAT outlined its recent activities in relation to its Commission's decision to place observers on transshipment activity. The ICCAT Secretariat developed a program and has now been asked to implement that program. The cost is estimated at €1.5 million. ICCAT indicated that its Secretariat cannot undertake the task and it is intended to contract the task to a third party provider. A copy of the ICCAT tender document was provided to the other RFMOs on a confidential basis for information.

## **9. Other Business**

The WPFC briefed the meeting on discussions with the chair of the UNSFA Review Conference.

The participants discussed the difficulties they are experiencing with non-payment of contributions by members. This was seen as a major problem, which is threatening the operational viability of their RFMOs. It was agreed that the chairman would raise this matter at the UNSFA review conference.

as of 20 April, 2006

## Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs (Information Paper)

As supported by the 26th meeting of the Committee of Fisheries of FAO (COFI) held in March 2005, Japan will host a joint meeting of tuna RFMOs with FAO technical cooperation.

### 1. Date

22 (Mon) to 26 (Fri) January, 2007

### 2. Venue

International Conference Center Kobe, Kobe, Japan  
(URL: <http://www.kcva.or.jp/>)

### 3. Participants

#### (i) Secretariats of tuna RFMOs

- Secretariats of all the tuna RFMOs (WCPFC, IATTC, IOTC, ICCAT and CCSBT) are invited to participate in the Meeting.
- They will be requested to give presentation (including submission of papers for distribution) at the Meeting on the current situation and challenges they are facing.
- It is requested for each RFMO to arrange necessary budget to attend the Meeting.

#### (ii) Members, Cooperating Non-Members of RFMOs (in case of WCPFC, including Territories referred to in Article 43 of the Convention).

- All the Members, Cooperating Non-Members of RFMOs and Territories participating WCPFC are requested to participate in the Meeting. Notification to attend the Meeting should be made directly to the Fisheries Agency of Japan.
- Cooperating Non-Members, not currently Member of any RFMOs, are Indonesia (IOTC), Guyana and Netherlands Antilles (ICCAT). Territories participating WCPFC are Tokelau (NZ), French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna (France).
- An invitation letter to each country will not be dispatched.

#### (iii) FAO

FAO will be requested to give presentation (including submission of papers for distribution) at the Meeting on the current situation of the cannery market and the overview of the stock status of the tuna resources in the world.

#### (iv) Observers

- IGOs and NGOs which have the observer status at any RFMOs and never been rejected to be observers of any other RFMOs are able to attend the Meeting as observers.
- Application to attend the Meeting should be made through the relevant RFMO to the Fisheries Agency of Japan. Japan might ask other RFMOs to provide relevant records concerning the observer status of each RFMO.

### 4. Agenda and Expected Outcome

- Major issues to be discussed will be i) review of the current situation of RFMOs and markets and ii) consideration of actions to improve management of tunas such as coordination of measures adopted by RFMOs and capacity control.
- It is expected to adopt an Action Plan and Recommendation to further harmonize tuna conservation and management measures among RFMOs.
- Draft Agenda together with Draft Action Plan and Recommendation will be distributed through RFMOs before the Meeting.

## **5. Arrangement of the Meeting**

- Preliminary schedule of the Meeting is attached. The Meeting shall elect one Chair and two Vice-Chairs. Japan will contact with FAO and chairs of RFMOs concerning the possibility to nominate capable persons as facilitators for discussions on each of major issues.
- At the meeting, statement may be given in English, French, Spanish and Japanese.
- Any documents prepared for the Meeting will be available at least in English.
- Draft Agenda and Draft Action Plan and Recommendation will be available in English, French and Spanish. The Secretariat will not be able to translate or print documents brought to the Meeting by participants. Documents related to the work of the Meeting will be distributed by the Secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the documents are submitted.
- The Meeting will produce one official report, which will contain the Action Plan and Recommendation, the list of participants and the document list. No verbatim report will be produced of any part of the Meeting proceedings.
- Fisheries Agency of Japan will play the role of a secretariat of the Meeting with FAO technical cooperation.

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**Resources Management Department**  
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**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY  
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN  
AND  
THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (hereafter IATTC):

**RECOGNISING** that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** that the objective of the Antigua Convention for the strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (Antigua Convention) is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by that Convention;

**UNDERSTANDING** that both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention have provisions to address the conservation of non-target, associated or dependent species which belong the same ecosystem as the target species;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention calls upon the WCPFC to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations, including the IATTC;

**NOTING** that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention also provides that, where the WCPFC Convention Area overlaps with an area under regulation by another fisheries management organization, the WCPFC shall cooperate with such other organization in order to avoid the duplication of measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by both organizations;

**AWARE** that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention further calls upon the WCPFC to cooperate with the IATTC and to initiate consultation with the IATTC with a view to reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance, for fish stocks that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention calls upon the IATTC to cooperate with subregional, regional, and global fishery organizations and arrangements and, as appropriate, establish relevant institutional arrangements such as consultative committees, in agreement with such organizations or arrangements, with the goal of promoting the achievement of the objective of the Antigua Convention;

**NOTING** that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention also provides that, where the Convention Area overlaps with an area under regulation by another fisheries management organization, the IATTC shall

cooperate with such other organization in order to ensure that the objective of the Antigua Convention is reached;

**AWARE** that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention further provides that the IATTC shall strive to agree with another organization with an overlapping area on the relevant measures to be taken, such as ensuring the harmonization and compatibility of the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the other organization, or deciding that the IATTC or the other organization, as appropriate, avoid taking measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by the other organization;

**CONSCIOUS** of the fact that there is a geographical area that falls within the purview of both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention;

**AWARE** that there are stocks and species covered by both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention that migrate through areas that are within the purview of both Conventions;

**DESIROUS** to put into place arrangements and procedures to make possible the cooperation called for by the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention, and to enhance the conservation and management of species which are covered by the two Conventions;

**NOW THEREFORE** the **WCPFC** and the **IATTC** record the following understandings:

## **1. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The WCPFC and the IATTC agree to establish and maintain consultation, cooperation and collaboration in respect of matters of common interest to the two organizations, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- i. exchange of data and information, in a manner consistent with the information-sharing policies of each Commission;
- ii. collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including Pacific-wide stock assessments;
- iii. conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest.

## **2. MANNER OF COOPERATION**

**Cooperation between the Secretariats of the WCPFC and the IATTC** shall include:

- i. reciprocal participation in relevant meetings of each organization, including those of each organization's subsidiary bodies;
- ii. information-sharing about stocks and species of mutual interest;
- iii. development of processes to promote harmonization and compatibility of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance; and
- iv. active and regular exchange of relevant meeting reports, information, research data and results, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest.

### **Consultative Meeting**

To facilitate the effective development and implementation of cooperative measures, the WCPFC and the IATTC agree to establish a consultative meeting between the Secretariats to be known as the WCPFC-IATTC Consultative Meeting. The purpose of the Consultative Meeting will be to review and enhance the cooperation between the WCPFC and the IATTC. The Consultative Meetings shall be open to all interested members of both Commissions and be supported by appropriate staff of both Commissions.

**3. MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to modification and amendment by mutual consent of both Commissions.

**4. TERMINATION**

Either Commission may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months' notice of intention to terminate to the other Commission.

**5. SIGNATURE**

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission:

.....  
Chairman, WCPFC

.....  
Director, IATTC  
Date:

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA  
AND  
THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION**

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

Recalling that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of southern bluefin tuna;

Further recalling that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean is to ensure, through effective management, the long term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

Recognising that under the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna CCSBT claims competence over southern bluefin throughout its migratory range;

Recognising further that under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean WCPFC has competence to regulate southern bluefin tuna within its area of jurisdiction as a highly migratory stock;

Noting Article 12 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna which requires the CCSBT to collaborate with other inter-governmental organisations which have related objectives to, among other things, obtain the best available information including scientific information to further the attainment of the objective of the Convention and seek to avoid duplication with respect to the work of the other organizations;

Further noting Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean which requires the WCPFC to cooperate with other organizations, including specifically, CCSBT, in order to avoid the duplication of measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by both organizations;

Recalling paragraph 86 (a) of the Final Report of the Preparatory Conference for the Establishment of the Commission for the Conservation of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean of 7 December 2004, which recognises the need to establish an understanding between WCPFC and the CCSBT clarifying that, because CCSBT has competence with respect to southern bluefin tuna throughout its migratory range, the WCPFC recognizes that CCSBT is the appropriate body to develop and implement southern bluefin tuna conservation and management measures;

Desiring to put in place an arrangement to implement Article 12 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna and Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean,

The CCSBT and the WCPFC record the following understandings:



(a) that the CCSBT is the appropriate body to develop and implement southern bluefin tuna conservation and management measures;

(b) that the CCSBT will provide a report each year to the WCPFC covering the stock assessment for southern bluefin tuna for that year; and the latest catch data classified by ocean, gear and catching country;

(c) that the WCPFC will provide a report to the CCSBT each year detailing the catches of southern bluefin tuna by vessels fishing for highly migratory species within the WCPFC Convention area by flag and gear;

(d) that the CCSBT and the WCPFC agree to:

- exchange data and scientific information on annual basis;
- exchange information on fisheries management on annual basis;
- cooperate in investigations and studies of mutual interest;
- grant permanent reciprocal observer status at meetings; and
- to consider methods of recognising each others conservation and management measures

This MOU is effective upon signature by both parties.

This MOU does not alter the obligations of members of either body to comply with the management and conservation measures of those bodies.

Revisions to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be made by mutual consent of both the parties, by the issuance of a written notification, signed and dated by both parties, prior to any changes being performed.

Either party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving twelve (12) months' notice in writing.

Signed and duly dated:

**\_\_original signed by\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_

Yoshimi Suenaga

Chairman

Commission for the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_original signed by\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_

Glenn Hurry

Chairman

Commission for the Conservation of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT**  
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN**  
**THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY**  
**MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**  
**AND**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES**  
**IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN**

Recognizing that, *inter alia*, the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereinafter referred to as “the WCPF Commission”):

- Adopts measures to ensure long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and promote the objective of their optimum utilization;
- Ensures that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area, particularly small island developing States, and taking into account fishing patterns, the interdependence of stocks and any generally recommended international minimum standards, whether subregional, regional, or global;
- Assesses the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks;
- Collects and shares, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, *inter alia*, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort, as well as information from national and international research programs;
- Establishes a committee, which shall be called the Northern Committee, to make recommendations on the implementation of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission for the area north of the 20 parallel of north latitude and on the formulation of such measures in respect of stocks which occur mostly in this area;
- Enters into administrative and financial arrangements as required to utilize scientific services for the purpose of providing information and advice on the fishery resources covered by its Convention and related matters that may be relevant to the conservation and management of those resources and, in order to carry out its functions in a cost-effective manner, shall, to the greatest extent possible, utilize the services of existing regional organizations and shall consult, as appropriate, with any other fisheries management, technical or scientific organization with expertise in matters related to the work of the Commission; and
- Establishes a committee (the Scientific Committee) to ensure that the Commission obtains for its consideration the best scientific information available through review of research results, encouraging

and promoting cooperation in scientific research and assessing status of target or non-target stocks of interest.

Recognizing that the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “the ISC”):

- Enhances scientific research and cooperation for conservation and rational utilization of the species of tuna and tuna-like fishes which inhabit the North Pacific Ocean during a part or all of their life cycle;
- Creates the scientific groundwork, if at some point in the future, it is decided to create a multilateral regime for the conservation and rational utilization of these species in this region;
- Establishes a central database to support the scientific research of the ISC and continues to consider establishing a permanent Secretariat;
- Establishes subsidiary Working Groups to perform the significant scientific work of the ISC.

The Commission of the WCPFC and the ISC, the participants to this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), have therefore reached the following understanding.

#### **Part I: Provision of Scientific Advice**

- The Northern Committee may request from the ISC scientific information and advice regarding fish stocks (generally those stocks occurring mostly north of the 20° parallel of north latitude; see Annex 1) for response prior to each meeting of the Northern Committee. This formal request will be transmitted expeditiously to the ISC. The Commission will, if requested, provide data necessary for the scientific analysis to be conducted by the ISC.
- The ISC will provide requested scientific information and advice in accordance with this MOU one (1) month before the annual meetings of the Northern Committee. ISC will also provide the requested scientific information and advice to the Commission and the Scientific Committee. This scientific information and advice will follow the standard presented in Annex 2 for standard (recurring) requests or as mutually agreed upon for special requests (see also Part III below).
- The ISC will provide its normal Committees and Working Group reports, prepared under the Rules and Procedures for the Conduct of the ISC Committee and Subsidiary Bodies, including relevant background reports, directly to the Northern Committee, the Commission, and the Scientific Committee.
- ISC scientific information and advice will be presented at the annual meeting of the Northern Committee and the Scientific Committee, and may be presented to the Commission by the Chair of the ISC, or a designate, and advisors from the ISC Working Groups, as appropriate. The participation costs of the ISC Chair, or designate, and advisers from the ISC Working Groups will be borne by the Member Governments of the ISC Chair and Working Group advisors.

#### **Part II: Framework for Mutual Cooperation**

Participants to this MOU will:

- Encourage reciprocal consultations and regular contacts on matters of common interest regarding scientific research on highly migratory tuna and tuna-like resources;
- Regularly exchange relevant meeting reports, information, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest; and
- Routinely exchange fishery data, in accordance with the rules and procedures for data confidentiality adopted by each organization, to minimize duplicative data collection efforts and enhance fishery monitoring and stock assessment through the use of common data sources.

The Executive Director of the Commission, or designate, including the Chair of the Northern Committee and Chair of the Scientific Committee, will be invited to observe the plenary meetings of the ISC and its Working Groups. The Chair of the ISC, or designate, will be invited to observe the annual meetings of the Commission and meetings of the Northern Committee and Scientific Committee, as well as other subsidiary bodies, as appropriate. The costs of participation will be borne by each Organization respectively.

### **Part III: Finance**

- ISC will provide its normal reports and the reports of its Working Groups, as well as standard (recurring) scientific information and advice, without cost to the Commission.
- The Commission will pay, as mutually decided, costs for special scientific advice requested by the Commission.

### **Part IV: General Administrative Arrangements**

- This MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of the responsible representatives in both the Commission and ISC.
- This MOU may be modified by written consent of both Commission and ISC and signed by the responsible representative in each organization. The modified MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of both the responsible representatives of the Commission and ISC.
- If any dispute should arise between the Commission and ISC on the operation of this MOU, both will make every effort to resolve the dispute themselves, or if necessary, by utilizing a mutually decided arbiter.
- Either Commission or ISC may terminate this MOU by providing 30 days written notice to the other of its intention to withdraw from this MOU. Upon termination of the MOU, any funds provided for special, typically non-recurring, scientific advice shall be refunded to the Commission (see Part III above).
- A full review of the terms and operation of the MOU and its Annexes will be conducted as soon as practicable after the first full 12 months of operation following its signature by the Commission and the ISC and subsequently every three years.

### **Part V: Signature**

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair  
Commission for the Conservation and  
Management of Highly Migratory Fish  
Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific

Chair  
International Scientific Committee for  
Tuna and Tuna-like Species  
in the North Pacific

## ANNEX 1

### **Provisional list of species and/or stocks in the North Pacific for which the Northern Committee may request standard (recurring) advice from the ISC:**

- North Pacific Albacore
- Pacific bluefin tuna
- Swordfish and other billfishes
- By-catch (fish and non-fish) species

Other species may be added to the list with the mutual written concurrence of the Participants to this MOU.

## ANNEX 2

### **Standard (recurring) advice required from ISC by the Northern Committee:**

For tuna and tuna-like species that occur primarily in the North Pacific, the ISC will report annually to the Northern Committee of the WCPFC on:

1. Performance of the monitored fisheries
2. Progress in stock assessment research and future needs
3. Status of stocks
4. Advice on conservation measures
  - a. Management measures needed
  - b. Evaluation of the effectiveness of existing measures

Any additional ISC tasks needed to support WCPFC will be delineated in annual service agreements established at the outset of each year and in accordance with Part III.