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A SUMMARY OF REQUESTS TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FROM WCPFC-2
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Paper prepared by

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Task	Basis
Bigeye and yellowfin tuna assessments	<p>From WCPFC-2 (Att D – paras 2 and 4)</p> <p>“2. <i>These measures will be reviewed annually and may be adjusted, considering the advice of the Scientific Committee concerning fishing mortality levels associated with maintaining the bigeye and yellowfin stocks at or above BMSY in accordance with Article 5 in the Convention.</i>”</p> <p>“4. <i>The Scientific Committee, at its second meeting, shall identify levels of fishing effort to ensure that the bigeye and yellowfin stocks will remain at an agreed level above BMSY.</i>”</p>
South Pacific albacore	<p>From WCPFC-2 (para 33)</p> <p>“33. <i>In relation to the Measures on North Pacific albacore and South Pacific albacore, it was agreed that the Commission would review these decisions at the Third Regular Session in 2006. The Commission instructed the Scientific Committee to give priority to developing a stock assessment for South Pacific albacore for consideration in this review. Pending the results of this review, and any additional advice provided by the Scientific Committee, Members, Cooperating Non-members and participating territories (CCMs) were urged to exercise restraint with respect to increased fishing for this stock in the Convention Area.</i>”</p>
North Pacific albacore	<p>From WCPFC-2 (Att. F – para 5)</p> <p>“5. <i>The Northern Committee shall, in coordination with International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean and other scientific bodies conducting scientific reviews of this stock, including the WCPFC Scientific Committee, monitor the status of North Pacific albacore and report to the Commission on the status of the stock at each annual meeting, and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary for their effective conservation.</i>”</p>
Southwest Pacific swordfish	<p>From WCPFC-2 (para 46)</p> <p>“46. <i>The Commission agreed to defer consideration of swordfish management measures for the south-west Pacific until the Third Regular Session of the Commission in 2006, and requested the Scientific Committee provide additional advice on the status of the south-west Pacific swordfish stock at this meeting to enable the Commission to take a decision. The Commission urged all Members to exercise reasonable restraint in expanding fishing effort on the south-west Pacific swordfish stock, particularly with respect to establishing a catch history in anticipation of the adoption of conservation and management measures. The Commission asked interested Members to meet informally and discuss the issue in February in New Zealand.</i>”</p>
Purse-seine closures	<p>From WCPFC-2 (Att D – para 11)</p> <p>“11. <i>In order to achieve the overall reduction in catch and effort required for bigeye and yellowfin tuna, in accordance with advice and recommendations received from the Scientific Committee, the Executive Director shall work with CCMs during 2006 to develop a proposal for consideration at the Third Session of the Commission that is consistent with the IATTC arrangements that allow for a system of temporary purse seine closures.</i>”</p>
Turtle program	<p>From WCPFC-2 (para 37)</p> <p>“37. <i>In relation to the Resolution relating to sea turtles, it was agreed that the Commission, through the Scientific Committee and Technical and Compliance Committee, should develop a program that includes: research and development of gear and bait alternatives, promotion of the use of available bycatch mitigation technology, promotion and strengthening of data collection programs to obtain standardized</i></p>

	<p><i>information to develop reliable estimates of the bycatch of seas turtles, biological research on sea turtles, including the identification of migration routes or other areas of spatial or temporal importance, industry education, development and promotion of safe handling techniques and other techniques to improve sea turtle conservation. This program will take into account the sea turtle conservation efforts undertaken in other international organizations, in particular the IATTC.”</i></p>
Turtle mitigation and other research	<p>See above and WCPFC-2 (Att. J – paras 5 and 6)</p> <p><i>“5. The Commission urges CCMs to:</i></p> <p><i>i. Undertake research trials of appropriate-size circle hooks in commercial pelagic longline fisheries.</i></p> <p><i>ii. Undertake research and trials on the use of circle hooks in recreational and artisanal fisheries;</i></p> <p><i>iii. Require longline vessels flying their flags to carry on board and, when sea turtle interactions occur, employ the necessary equipment (e.g. de-hookers, line cutters, and scoop nets) for the prompt release of incidentally caught sea turtles.</i></p> <p><i>6. The Commission shall consider measures related to the use of circle hook gear technology in longline fisheries at its annual Session in 2006, taking into account the results of research and trials.”</i></p>
Seabird monitoring and mitigation	<p>From WCPFC-2 (para 36)</p> <p><i>“35. In relation to the Resolution on seabirds, the Commission agreed that the Scientific Committee should take the practical steps necessary to improve recording and monitoring of seabird interactions, including species involved and rates of total mortality in the Convention Area. The Technical and Compliance Committee should monitor the progress of CCMs in applying this resolution and report to the Commission and develop relevant strategies for the further consideration of the Commission.</i></p> <p><i>36. The Commission agreed that the Scientific Committee, in consultation with the Technical and Compliance Committee, should: investigate seabird mitigation measures applied and being tested by other RFMOs, particularly those of the Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources; investigate the utility of implementing compatible measures; and recommend specific seabird mitigation measures for consideration at the Third Regular Session of the Commission.”</i></p>
Seabird mortality	<p>From WCPFC-2 (Att. G – para 3)</p> <p><i>“3. CCMs shall provide the Commission with all available information on interactions with seabirds, including incidental catches and details of species, to enable the Scientific Committee to estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the WCPF Convention applies.”</i></p>
Turtle data collection	<p>From WCPFC-2 (para 38 and Att. J – paras 7 and 8)</p> <p><i>“38. The Commission requested that the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Scientific Committee, centralize bycatch and observer data to obtain better estimates of total catch and mortalities of sea turtles by fisheries targeting highly migratory fish species covered by the Convention within the Convention Area. The Scientific Committee is requested to take practical steps necessary to improve monitoring and reporting of sea turtle interactions in the Convention Area, including the development of data standards and specifications and reporting requirements.”</i></p> <p><i>“7. The Commission urges cooperation with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in order to share data on sea turtle bycatch and to develop and apply compatible bycatch reduction measures given the migration patterns of many species of sea turtles.</i></p> <p><i>8. As the Commission develops its regional observer program and considers improving observer coverage in the Convention Area, existing observer programs should be reviewed to ensure that the appropriate information on sea turtle interactions is being collected (e.g. species identification, fate and condition at release, relevant biological information and gear configuration.)”</i></p>

Catches of bigeye and yellowfin by other gears	From WCPFC-2 (Att. D – para 20) <i>“The second meeting of the Scientific Committee will review the catch of bigeye and yellowfin in other commercial fisheries in the Convention Area and provide advice to the Commission so that conservation and management measures can be developed.”</i>
Mitigations measures for juvenile BET and YFT around FADs	From WCPFC-2 (Att. D – para 15) <i>“Beginning in 2006, the Scientific Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee shall undertake to explore and evaluate mitigation measures for juvenile bigeye and yellowfin taken around FADs, in cooperation with other RFMOs, and present the results annually to the Commission. This work shall continue on an annual basis..”</i>
New Chair	WCPFC-2 (para 28) <i>“28. The Commission noted that, as the Chair of the Scientific Committee would fall vacant early in 2006, a new Chairperson would be appointed at its Second Regular Session. In the interim it was agreed that Dr Harley would work with the Secretariat to prepare for the Second Regular Session of the Committee.”</i>