



**THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND
CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

**WCPFC-SC-2005/07
03rd August 2005**

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF
THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting will open at 08:30 on Monday, 8 August 2005.

The Chair (Dr. SungKwon Soh, Korea) will open the meeting and welcome delegations of the WCPFC Members and observers. Participating Members and observers will be introduced, as will the new Executive Director of the WCPFC, Mr Andrew Wright.

1.1 Welcoming address

The Chair will introduce the dignitaries below who will welcome the meeting.

Lourdes Pangelenin, Director General of SPC and Mr. Eric Babin, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, New Caledonia will make the welcome addresses.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

The provisional agenda (WCPFC-SC-2005/02) will be briefly reviewed and any addition of items to the agenda, any deletions of items from the agenda, or any changes to the order of agenda items that are required will be made. It would be useful if representatives could forward any additions, deletions or changes to ordering of agenda items before the start of the meeting.

1.3 Meeting arrangements

This item may be moved after item 1.6 as a last item of this opening session.

The Chair of the meeting will outline the procedural matters. The organization of the meeting and in-house arrangements will be announced.

1.4 Appointment of SWG Convenors

The following SWG Convenors, subject to the approval of the SC, will be appointed for the duration of the SC 1 meeting.

Methods SWG – John Sibert
Statistics SWG – Tim Lawson
Biology SWG – Chi-Lu Sun
Stock Assessment SWG – Naozumi Miyabe and Max Stocker
Ecosystem and Bycatch SWG – Paul Dalzell
Fishing Technology SWG – Dave Itano

During the course of each SWG meeting, recommendations on future Convenors for all the SWGs will be made and provided to the SC Plenary for endorsement under the Agenda Item 11.2. Current convenors will be responsible for the process of selecting and recommending future convenors based on a broad consultation among their participants. Future convenors will prepare and conclude relevant works of each SWG session, and hold office for a period of two years at least. Recommendations on co-convenors or vice-convenors may also be made where appropriate.

1.5 Process for SWG and SC reports

The timeframes, methods and formats for the SWG and SC reports will be outlined. A draft SC report template will be circulated early at the meeting for comment. The report will need to focus on the requests made by the Inaugural Commission meeting.

Each SWG will produce two reports, a full report and a summary statement. The summary statement will be incorporated directly into the main SC report. The full SWG report will be appended to the SC report. The summary report will be at a similar level of detail to that included in the PrepCon Scientific Coordinating Group reports. The full SWG reports will cover their adopted agenda. In as much detail as possible and include the SWG agenda, a list of participants, a list of working papers and a list of relevant acronyms and abbreviations used. Members will be invited to consider the following process for the SWG and SC reports as proposed below.

The format and depth of each SWG report will be somewhat in-between the familiar SCTB Executive Summary and the full SCTB report. The SWG reports will include short summaries of working papers, key discussions on the papers, any recommendations required for the Commission and others (e.g. the Technical and Compliance Committee) in a concise manner. Draft reports should be finalised, reviewed by participants, and cleared under the supervision of the relevant convenors. All SWG reports will be adopted at the SC plenary meeting. However, editorial corrections and/or the input of factual information may occur (only if necessary) after the SC meeting.

It is standard practice in many other RFMOs for the Commission to only refer to the Scientific Committee report, and not the reports of technical working groups. In these same organisations it is also standard practice for the technical working group reports to be appended to the Scientific Committee report. This provides for transparency and additional detail if required. Therefore, most of the core substance from the SWG works should be cited in the main text of the SC report. For this insertion, all convenors need to attach summaries of their reports when individual SWG reports are cleared and adopted on 15 August – using a similar style of the SCG report during the PrepCon period.

The Scientific Committee will adopt the process for the SWG and SC reports.

1.6 Terms of Reference for SWGs

The Scientific Committee will review and adopt draft terms of reference for the SWGs for use at each SWG meeting. The process of reviewing and adopting TORs in the plenary, prior to the SWG meeting, will clarify the individual roles of each SWG. During the meeting of the SWGs and later in the meeting during report adoption the SC will need to consider suggested changes to the SC 2/SWG terms of reference when making recommendations to the Commission. Modification of the terms of reference will likely be required soon after the Commission meeting so that the SC 2 meeting can complete requests from the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 2 REVIEWS OF FISHERIES

This agenda item is intended to provide an overview for participants of changes in fisheries in the region over the last year

2.1 Overview of WCPO fisheries

An overview presentation will be made describing the fisheries in the region and Members will be invited to give questions and comments.

2.2 Overview of EPO fisheries

An overview presentation will be made describing the fisheries in the region and Members will be invited to give questions and comments.

2.3 Fishery reports from members and observers

Members and observers will, subject to having provided a written report with a summary in it, be given the opportunity to make a short presentation (no more than 10 minutes) describing changes and developments in their fisheries in the last year. Summaries and key discussions will be incorporated into the SC report.

2.4 Fishery reports from regional fisheries organisations

This is an opportunity for any regional fisheries organisations that has not yet presented a report to make a brief presentation. Such presentations need to be arranged with the Chair well in advance of the start of this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 3 SPECIALIST WORKING GROUPS

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

3.1 Adoption of agenda

The Specialist Working Groups will review the SWG provisional agendas. Any addition of items to the agenda, any deletions of items from the agenda, or any changes to the order of agenda items that are required will be made at each SWG session.

It would be useful if representatives could forward any proposed additions, deletions or changes to ordering of agenda items to the SWG Convener prior to the start of the SWG meeting.

3.2 Review of available information

The Specialist Working Groups will review and discuss working papers, other information available and any requests from the Commission. Each SWG agenda should cover relevant items of the SC agenda, especially related with SC agenda item 4-7 and 9. The SWG report should explicitly reflect meeting outcomes related with those items if necessary. Each SWG should prepare a summary of the SWG report, similar to the format in the Scientific Coordinating Group report, which will be cited or inserted into the SC report - under this agenda item.

The following list of PrepCon documents is likely to be useful for discussion of the SWGs:

1. Approaches to Meeting the Science and Data Needs of the Commission (February 2002);
2. WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.9, Review of ecosystem and bycatch issues for the Western Central Pacific;
3. WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.10, Review of data standards, technical capabilities and data sharing policies for the Western Central Pacific;
4. WCPFC/PrepCon/15, Review of data standards for the Western and Central Pacific Region;
5. WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.16/Rev.1, An investigation of technical capabilities and data security and confidentiality policies for the Western and Central Pacific Region; and
6. WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.16/Add.1, Capacity of Pacific Island Countries and Territories to meet the likely data requirements of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

3.3 Future work programme

The Specialist Working Groups will consider and make recommendations for specific work plans for 2006 and the medium term. Specifically they will consider research priorities, planning and coordination, associated costs and possible avenues for funding and achieving the work, including non-monetary contributions. Discussions and reports should cover relevant issues related with the SC agenda item 8 - 10.

3.4 Advice to the Scientific Committee

The Specialist Working Groups will identify any advice that needs to be considered in the SC plenary. The SC will make consolidated advice and/or recommendations based on SWG advice. Therefore, the SWGs will make reports and recommendations as directed, or on its own initiative, on scientific matters within their mandate concerning the conservation and management of and research on target stocks or non-target or associated or dependent species in the Convention Area.

3.5 Adoption of report

The Specialist Working Groups will make every effort to adopt their reports by consensus. If every effort to achieve consensus has failed, the report will indicate the majority and minority views, where possible name the members associated with the minority views and may include the differing views of the representatives of the members on all or any part of the report.

AGENDA ITEM 4 STATUS OF THE STOCKS

This agenda item will highlight outcomes of the Specialist Working Groups and most statements will be cited from the Specialist Working Groups' reports.

4.1 Bigeye

Stock status to be determined similarly to the last SCG report.

Management implications to be highlighted similarly to the last SCG report.

4.2 Yellowfin

Stock status to be determined similarly to the last SCG report.

Management implications to be highlighted similarly to the last SCG report.

4.3 Skipjack

Stock status to be determined similarly to the last SCG report.

Management implications to be highlighted similarly to the last SCG report.

4.4 South Pacific albacore

Stock status to be determined similarly to the last SCG report.

Management implications to be highlighted similarly to the last SCG report.

4.5 Other species

Species to be addressed under this agenda item will need to be identified by the Convener of the Stock Assessment SWG and the Chair of the Scientific Committee. Stock status to be determined similarly to the last SCG report. Management implications to be highlighted similarly to the last SCG report.

4.6 Advice to the Commission

The Specialist Working Groups will develop general advice based on the statements of stock status as described in item 4.1-4.5 above. This sub-item will emphasize risk analysis of the individual species and provide background information for the following agenda item 5. However, elements to be consolidated here will need to be explicitly provided by the relevant SWGs.

AGENDA ITEM 5 MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

5.1 Estimates of sustainable catch levels and sustainable effort levels for bigeye, yellowfin and South Pacific albacore

The Scientific Committee will review the assessments of the SWGs on sustainable catch and effort levels for bigeye, yellowfin and South Pacific albacore. It will develop scientific advice for the Commission to adopt necessary measures on catch and/or effort levels. The advice will be based on the statements of the relevant assessments of the SWGs and will specifically address the Resolution on Conservation and Management Measures adopted at the inaugural Commission meeting.

5.2 Five and ten year projections for bigeye and yellowfin

The Scientific Committee will review assessments on five and ten year projections of total biomass and spawning stock biomass for bigeye and yellowfin tuna under: 2003 catch and effort levels, and possible scenarios of changes in catch and effort (i.e. separate analysis of catch limits and effort limits) in the Convention Area for the purse seine, longline and other surface fisheries which have a major impact on bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna (both separately and combined); including the effects on the stocks of possible time/area closures by fishing method for bigeye and yellowfin tuna. It will develop scientific advice for the Commission to adopt necessary measures on these issues. The advice will be based on the statements from the relevant assessments of the SWGs.

5.3 Effects on stocks of measures to mitigate catch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin

The Scientific Committee will review assessments on the effects on the stocks of measures to mitigate the catch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin including controls on setting on floating objects. It will develop scientific advice for the Commission to adopt necessary measures on these issues. The advice will be based on the statements from the relevant assessments of the SWGs.

5.4 Estimates of the mortality of non-target species

The Scientific Committee will review assessments on the estimates of the mortality of non-target species with an initial focus on seabirds, turtles and sharks provided by the SWGs. It will develop scientific advice for the Commission to adopt necessary measures on these issues. The advice will be based on the statements from the relevant assessments of the SWGs.

5.5 Additional analyses required

Any additional analyses that may be required and that can be feasibly completed in a short time frame will be reviewed and if appropriate requested for incorporation into the SC 1 report. An important consideration in determining whether to proceed with additional analyses is that the SC 1 report must be circulated as an approved final version by the end of September at the latest.

In addition, Para 4(c), Annex II of WCPFC/Comm.1/8 (Measures to address impacts of large-scale tuna fishing vessels so as to ensure compatibility between measures applied outside areas of national jurisdiction and measures being applied by coastal states to manage fishing by such vessels within their zones) also needs to be addressed both at the SA SWG and SC, and in Agenda Item 7. However, if the SA-SWG is not able to numerically cover this issue, the SC will have no basis to discuss this matter at this meeting.

Ultimately this matter will require some analyses but it may be premature for SC 1. These issues should be highlighted to the Commission.

5.6 Advice to the Commission

The Scientific Committee will consolidate all management information under this agenda item and develop advice to the Commission. Any additional science based management information that has arisen during the SC 1 meeting will be summarised and advice for the Commission formulated.

AGENDA ITEM 6 DATA

6.1 Scientific data to be provided to the Commission

The Scientific Committee will review the Statistics SWG report and prepare advice to be provided to the Commission on immediate data collection requirements including operational level, data standards and ways to improve data quantity, quality and coverage. Members will be invited to consider Section III (Advice on data standards and other data related issues) of Annex IV, WCPFC/PrepCon/45 and review any draft advice on those elements developed by the Statistics SWG (see Working Paper ST WP-2).

6.2 IPDCP Review

The Scientific Committee will review the Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Program and prepare advice on its future. Considering the importance that our advice to the Commission is accurate and highly reliable, this item attracts significant priority. A former chairman of the PrepCon IPDCP Steering Committee will make a presentation on the status of the project, including implementation and funding, and will present draft recommendations concerning the IPDCP in Working Paper ST WP-2. Potential donors will have the opportunity to make announcements, should they wish to do so.

For further information, refer to the Proposal for monitoring the catches of highly migratory species in the Philippines and the Pacific Ocean waters of Indonesia. Prepared by the Oceanic Fisheries Programme, Secretariat of the Pacific Community Noumea, New Caledonia dated December 2003. 40 p. Also refer to Annex IV of WCPFC/PrepCon/38 (Report of the meeting of the Indonesia and Philippines data collection steering committee). The Scientific Committee will consider recommendations from WG II of the PrepCon (WCPFC/PrepCon/45) with respect to the Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Project (IPDCP) and make any advice on this matter to the Commission:

- (a) The Commission adopt the Project and assume responsibility for its management as soon as possible;
- (b) The Commission transfer those funds from the PCOF that have been contributed for the Project to the Special Requirements Fund of the Commission;
- (c) the Commission establish the IPDCP Steering Committee to monitor project activities and developments in regard to funding, and to report thereon to the Scientific Committee; and
- (d) Commission members and potential members contribute, as soon as possible, the balance of the funds required to implement the Project.

6.3 Rules and procedures for the management and dissemination of Commission data

The Scientific Committee is to discuss draft rules and procedures to govern the security and confidentiality of scientific data and other information collected and held by the Commission. Members will be invited to consider a draft recommendation to the Commission on “Principles and procedures for the dissemination of scientific data by the Commission” and an appendix on “Data security procedures followed by the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme” presented in Working Paper ST WP-2. The Scientific Committee will make a recommendation to the Commission on how to proceed with these matters.

6.4 Observer data requirements

The Scientific Committee will review recommendations provided from the Statistics SWG meeting and prepare advice on observer data required and the sampling protocols to be used by observers, including resulting recommendations on observer coverage required. A draft recommendation to the Commission on “Scientific aspects of observer programmes”, including the primary scientific objectives of observer programmes, target coverage rates, sampling protocols, and standards for data collection forms are presented in Working Paper ST WP-2. Data requirements identified by the other SWGs (e.g. biological data that could be collected by observers in support of the work of the Biology SWG) also need to be incorporated into this advice.

The SC will review its advice from Agenda Item 6 to highlight any elements that need cooperation with the TCC in the regional observer programme.

6.5 Cooperation with Technical and Compliance Committee on data issues

The Scientific Committee will consider how to validate and verify fishery data so that the TCC can consider the methods to implement this issue. For information, WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.10 can be a reference paper for discussion.

6.6 Advice to the Commission

All data-related advices from sub-item 6.1-6.4 will be consolidated and reflected in the SC report. Additional advice, if any, will be considered and recommended to the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 7 TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

It is proposed to delete Agenda Item 7 and consider the matters previously under this agenda item under revised Agenda Items 6 and 12.

AGENDA ITEM 8 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

8.1 Scientific Committee work programme for 2006

The Scientific Committee will develop a 2006 work programme. Members will be invited to consider a draft work programme developed and proposed by the SWG convenors and other relevant experts during the meeting.

8.2 SWG work programmes for 2006

The Scientific Committee will review all work programmes across the SWGs and finalize SWG work programmes for 2006.

8.3 Research priorities, research planning and coordination

Annex II of the Final WG II report to PrepCon 7 requests members, including observers, to communicate with the Secretariat regarding their intentions to carry out self-initiated research activity to be presented to the Scientific Committee at a future date.

WCPFC/PrepCon/38 includes six priorities that were identified during the PrepCon:

- | better characterisation of current catch and catch composition from Indonesia, Philippines, and for Vietnam as they impact on the stocks in the Convention Area;
- | reconstruction of early catch history (catch, effort, size composition) for all fisheries;
- | further development of methods to standardise effort, including the better use of vessel operational details, environmental data and archival tagging data;
- | ongoing efforts to reduce uncertainty in assessments, through improved data inputs, sensitivity analysis and simulations;
- | evaluation of possible regime shifts/changes in productivity and development of improved/alternative estimates of recruitment where possible; and
- | large scale tagging experiments for the main target tuna species in the WCPO.

And the following draft priority criteria for evaluating proposals were developed:

- | will the project address management needs/uncertainty in stock status;
- | urgency;
- | feasibility;
- | cost-effectiveness;
- | potential for capacity building; and
- | special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area, particularly small island developing States.

Members will be invited to review the deliberations made by the PrepCon on this sub-item. The Scientific Committee will review all work programmes of the SWGs and SC, prioritise them, and consider how to coordinate work programmes. Each SWG is supposed to provide recommendations on the issues of research priorities, planning and coordination.

8.4 Development of a medium term research plan

The Scientific Committee will review any development of a medium term (2007-2009) research plan that will be provided by the SWGs. Members will be invited to provide advice on their medium term research plans.

8.5 Advice to the Commission

The Scientific Committee will provide advices to the Commission on its future work programme. The advice will include some comments on interaction with other research programmes (e.g. the GLOBEC CLIOTOP project, see paragraph 30, WCPFC/PrepCon/41) and how best for the WCPFC to benefit from such interactions.

AGENDA ITEM 9 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

One reference paper will be “Capacity of Pacific Island Countries and Territories to meet the likely data requirements of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission” (WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.15/Add.1). In relation with paragraph 23 of WCPFC/PrepCon/38, FFA may be invited to present any proposal if they wish.

9.1 Requirements of small island developing states and territories with respect to data

The Scientific Committee will consider any recommendation on a long-term strategy for building fisheries data collection and analytical capacity in developing States and territories. It will review any proposal on this issue and make advice to the Commission.

9.2 Requirements of small island developing states and territories with respect to scientific research

The Scientific Committee will consider any recommendation on a long-term strategy for improving scientific research capacity in developing States and territories. It will review any proposal on this issue and make advice to the Commission.

9.3 Advice to the Commission

The Scientific Committee will develop advice for the Commission on recent developments under this item.

AGENDA ITEM 10 BUDGET AND FINANCE

10.1 Implications of Scientific Committee proposals

The Scientific Committee will review budgetary implications related with funding for participation of the SIDS, work programmes of the SC based on indicative estimates provided from the SWGs, any costs related with scientific services necessary for the Commission's work and any other costs. Budget may be categorised by 2006 and medium term (2007-2009) for standing items. Members will be invited to prioritise budget items if necessary.

Possible avenues for funding research including non-monetary contributions and external funding mechanisms should be considered where appropriate.

10.2 Advice to the Commission

The Scientific Committee will advice to the Commission on its draft budget for 2006 and medium term estimates for future work programmes. Elements of the summary budget table will be Expenditure, Reference, and Budget Requested. Detailed specifications will be appended, if needed.

AGENDA ITEM 11 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION

11.1 Rules of procedure

The Scientific Committee will consider, if available, a draft of its rules of procedure and make recommendations to the Commission. If no draft is available, the Scientific Committee will consider the need to set up an intersessional group to develop Rules of Procedure. It will also consider whether separate rules of procedure for the Specialist Working Groups are needed.

11.2 Appointment of Vice-Chair and SWG Convenors

The Scientific Committee will consider terms and conditions of the Vice-Chair for the Scientific Committee. It will appoint a Vice-Chair for the Scientific Committee and recommend him or her to the Commission.

11.3 Terms of Reference for the independent review

An independent review of the transitional science structure and function of the Commission should be carried out two years after entry into force of the Convention, or earlier if required, to determine the effectiveness of the science structure and to recommend changes as appropriate. The Scientific Committee will consider terms of reference for the independent review to be undertaken in 2006. Members will be invited to provide elements for the terms of reference for the independent review.

11.4 Future operation of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will consider the future operation of the Scientific Committee and the Specialist Working Groups. Members will be invited to give any proposal for the efficient and better functioning of the Scientific Committee and SWGs. The need of six SWGs will also be reviewed.

11.5 Advice to the Commission

The Scientific Committee will consolidate all advises considered under this agenda for the Commission to review the transitional structure and functioning of the Scientific Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 12 OTHER MATTERS

12.1 Cooperation with the Technical and Compliance Committee

The Scientific Committee will advise the Technical and Compliance Committee in regard to any issues arising during the meeting that may be relevant to the work of the TCC. This agenda item will be used to identify those issues, which may concern observer programmes, the provision of data to the Commission, fishing gear and technology, and recommendations on conservation and management. Specific issues that require consultation with the TCC under Articles 12.2(f), 14.2(c) and 14.2(f) of the Convention will be highlighted.

For future consultations with the TCC that are required under the various Articles of the Convention, the Scientific Committee may appoint one representative to consult with the TCC on behalf of the Scientific Committee. Members will be invited to consider issues to consult with, including the priorities and objectives of the regional observer programme.

12.2 Advice to the Technical and Compliance Committee

The Scientific Committee will provide advice to the TCC on observer programme and data validation and verification and any other relevant matters.

12.3 Cooperation with the IATTC and other international organisations

The Scientific Committee will consider areas of scientific co-operation with other related RFMOs, in particular with the IATTC. The IATTC will be invited to provide their perspective on this matter. In this regard, Working Paper ST WP-2 presents a draft recommendation on the “Exchange of tuna fisheries data between IATTC and WCPFC”, and the text of the “Agreement on the Exchange of Tuna Fisheries Data Between IATTC and SPC” is presented in an appendix.

12.4 Next meeting

Members are invited to propose next meeting time and venue. The Scientific Committee will also consider terms and conditions for hosting the Scientific Committee meeting. Members are also invited to consider the need of having an *ad hoc* SWG meeting to provide a guideline as required prior to the assessments undertaken in 2006 (see Annex II, WCPFC/PrepCon 38).

This item may be shifted to Agenda Item 11 (SC Administration).

12.5 Other business

This item may be used to raise any other matters not previously identified in the agenda, and which do not require immediate substantive action by the Scientific Committee.

One item identified is an FAO project that is of interest to the WCPFC. The FAO representative at the meeting will be invited to make a short presentation on the project.

12.6 Advice to the Commission

The Scientific Committee will advise on any specific issues for the Commission to consider.

AGENDA ITEM 13 REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

13.1 Adoption of the report of the first regular session of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will adopt the Report of the First Meeting. It will make every effort to adopt its report by consensus. If every effort to achieve consensus has failed, the report will indicate the majority and minority views and may include the differing views of the representatives of the members on all or any part of the report.

AGENDA ITEM 14 CLOSE OF MEETING

14.1 Closing of the meeting

If time is available, members are invited to give short closing remarks. The Chair (Dr. SungKwon Soh, Korea) will close the meeting and farewell delegations of the WCPFC Members and observers.

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