



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE  
FIFTH REGULAR SESSION**  
7-10 September 2009  
Nagasaki, Japan

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**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

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**WCPFC/NC5/04  
5<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING**

**1.1 Welcome**

The Chair (Mr Masanori Miyahara, Japan) will open the Fifth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC5) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), 7-10 September 2009. He will welcome delegations of WCPFC members, cooperating non-members and participating territories (CCMs), the WCPFC Secretariat and observers.

**1.2 Adoption of agenda**

The Chair will introduce the Provisional Agenda, WCPFC-NC5/03. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission will apply *mutatus mutandis* until such time as the Northern Committee adopts its own Rules of Procedure (Rule 31).

According to the Rules of Procedure, the Committee will be asked how it wishes to deal with any supplementary items that were circulated by any member of the Commission, the Chairman, or the Executive Director at least thirty days before the opening of the meeting.

**1.3 Meeting arrangements**

The Chair will invite NC5 to review the Indicative Schedule (WCPFC-NC5/05) noting logistical arrangements in place to support the meeting, proposed meeting times and any social engagements.

**AGENDA ITEM 2. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

**2.1 Report from the 9th ISC**

The NC5 will review the meeting report of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Scientific Committee (ISC), especially the status of stocks of highly migratory species in the North Pacific Ocean. The NC5 will consider relevant issues arising from the ISC9 and make recommendations as appropriate to the Commission on conservation and management measures with respect to the following:

- Northern Pacific bluefin

- North Pacific albacore
- North Pacific swordfish

## **2.2 Report of the Fourth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC5)**

The NC5 will review the meeting report and issues arising from the Fifth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC5), Port Vila, Vanuatu, 10-21 August 2009 as they relate to the Northern Committee.

## **2.3 Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks**

### **2.3.1 Northern Pacific bluefin**

The NC4 and WCPFC5 could not reach agreement with draft CMM for Pacific bluefin tuna (Attachment H of the Report of the NC4) with one CCM registering a reservation in respect of the draft measure drafted during NC4. The Committee will review stock assessment and other information relating to the conservation and management action of members with respect to effort controls and data collection. WCPFC5 agreed that CCMs are requested not to increase the level of fishing mortality on Pacific bluefin in 2009 on a voluntary basis and tasked the NC to work toward developing a draft CMM for Pacific bluefin for consideration at WCPFC6.

### **2.3.2 North Pacific albacore (CCM-2005-03)**

The Committee will review the actions and/or considerations made by members in relation to effort control and biological reference points including maintaining spawning stock biomass (SSB) within the range of its historical fluctuation (Attachments K and J of the Report of the NC4). NC4 had proposed an interim management objective for North Pacific albacore which states that spawning stock biomass should be maintained above the level represented by the average of the lowest 10 years in the stock's 40-year data history. The NC5 will consider the need for management action in 2009 recalling that, during NC4, the Committee was advised that the ISC plans a new assessment in 2010.

### **2.3.3 North Pacific swordfish (CMM-2008-05)**

At WCPFC5, the Commission adopted a revised measure for swordfish (CMM 2008-05) which retains provisions of CMM 2006-03 relating to no transfer of fishing effort for swordfish from the South Pacific to the areas north of 20°N in the Convention Area). The ISC has scheduled an assessment of the North Pacific swordfish stock that will be available to support NC5 discussion of the status of the fishery and conservation and management considerations.

## **2.4 Conservation and management measures for other species**

### **2.4.1 Bigeye and yellowfin tuna (CMM-2008-01)**

WCPFC5 adopted Conservation and Management Measure (CMM-2008-01) for bigeye and yellowfin tuna. 'Other commercial fisheries' referred to in the Measure are identified as fisheries other than longline and tropical (20°N-20°S) purse seine and which include: hand-line, pole and line, purse seine fisheries north of 20°N or south of 20°S, ring net, troll and unclassified fisheries, but excluding artisanal fisheries and those fisheries taking

less than 2,000 tons of bigeye and yellowfin. NC5 is invited to review the implementation of the provisions of paragraph 39 of CMM-2008-01 in the area north of 20°N and make further recommendations to the Commission, if necessary, on conservation and management matters for yellowfin and bigeye stocks in the Pacific Ocean north of 20°N.

#### **2.4.2 Sharks (CMM-2008-06)**

WCPFC5 revised CMM-2006-05 to extend the measure to all vessels and encourages CCMs to implement the IPOA-Sharks, report annual catch and fishing effort for key shark species identified by the Scientific Committee and fully utilize retained catches including a requirement to have on board fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks on board. . NC5 will receive reports from CCMs on the implementation of CMM-2008-06 in the Convention Area north of 20°N and consider issues associated with its full implementation from 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

#### **2.4.3 Seabirds (CMM- 2007-04)**

NC5 will receive reports from NC CCMs on the implementation of CMM 2007-04, as well as the status of introducing the mitigation measures to their fleets as required at paragraph 10 of the Measure for the area north of 23°N.

### **2.5 Working Group on Striped Marlin**

On the basis of a recommendation from NC3, WCPFC4 at Guam in December 2007, tasked the NC with convening a Working Group to examine a range of issues relating to, *inter alia*, fisheries for striped marlin and means to reduce its incidental by-catch. This was established with a view to developing a draft Conservation and Management Measure for striped marlin for consideration at SC4. Pending resolution of on-going discussion concerning the status of striped marlin as a northern stock SC4 advised that the fishing mortality rate should be reduced from the current level (to 2003 or before) (SC4 Summary Report, para 188). In reviewing the progress of the working group, NC4 acknowledged that little progress had been made. This issue will be further considered by informal working groups and ISC9 and the outcomes reported to NC5 to support discussion on future work priorities in relation to striped marlin.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3. REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (CMM-2007-01)**

WCPFC4 adopted a revised Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme (CMM-2007--01). Annex C of CMM 2007-01 provides that fishing vessels used exclusively to fish for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees North shall be accorded the following considerations, *inter alia*:

- i) At its 2008 annual session, the Northern Committee shall consider the implementation of the ROP adopted by the Commission by vessels fishing for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees North.

The Fourth Regular Session of the Northern Committee agreed to establish an intercessional email working group, under the convener (Japan) of the group to seek an applicable measure in implementing the ROP in the area. NC5 will receive a report from the informal working group and discuss the implementation of the ROP for fishing vessels fishing fresh fish in the area north of 20°N.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4. DATA**

### **4.1 Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks**

The NC4 discussed issues relating to the coverage and quality of data for fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean. Information gaps in biology and vital statistics such as abundance index were noted during the NC4. Those gaps will be discussed in the ISC9 and NC5 will review developments in relation to data coverage for individual fisheries and stocks as well as biological gaps and discuss means to address data gaps that have been identified.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

### **5.1 Work Programme for 2010-2013**

The Committee will review its proposed Work Programme adopted at NC4. The Work Programme will be revised to describe activities and funding requirements for the period 2010-2013 so that it aligns with the Work Programme of the Commission.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **6.1 ISC**

NC4 noted a number of issues raised by the SC4 related to data and coordination between the ISC and the SC. The NC4 requested that the ISC develop, in consultation with the WCPFC Secretariat, a process to address the issues as follows:

- 1) explore the potential benefits of improving both northern and southern albacore stock assessments through exchange of stock assessment experiences for Pacific albacore and through collaboration between scientists currently working on the assessments;
- 2) explore procedures for coordinating efforts to close data gaps and for data access to reduce uncertainties in assessments; and
- 3) consider ways to align its data standards and processes with those adopted for the Commission.

### **6.2 IATTC**

Noting that WCPFC and the IATTC have had a Memorandum of Understanding in place since December 2006, the Committee will consider means to further strengthen cooperation with the IATTC in respect of northern stocks. The outcomes of the 80<sup>th</sup> Session of IATTC, San Diego, USA, 8-12 June, as they relate to Northern Committee matters, including the proposed Agreement on the Exchange of Data and any relevant conservation and management measures in effect in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, will be the focus of NC4 discussion.

### **6.3 Review of interim arrangements for scientific structure and function**

The Commission selected the Marine Resources Assessment Group Ltd (MRAG) in April 2008 to conduct an independent review of the Commission's interim arrangements for science structure and function. MRAG attended the NC4, presented a progress report and consulted with the NC participants on arrangements to support science in the WCPFC. The NC5 will review the final report from the MRAG as it relates to the structure and function of the Northern Committee and the relationship between the Northern Committee and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS**

### **7.1 Administrative arrangements for the Committee**

#### **7.1.1 Secretariat functions and costs**

NC1 agreed to use the catch of the northern stocks for the calculation of Northern Committee members' contributions to the work of the Northern Committee. NC2, while generally welcoming continued efforts for effective functioning of NC, could not reach consensus on a revised proposal by Japan's on Secretariat functions for the Northern Committee. The proposal by Japan to establish secretariat services for the NC was deferred to the NC5. NC5 is invited to review the outcome and discuss two specific funding requests for northern species research to WCPFC5 and voluntary contribution from NC members.

#### **7.1.2 Rules of Procedure**

Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure provide that, subject to the provisions of the Convention, each subsidiary body of the Commission may formulate and submit to the Commission for approval such rules as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of its functions. NC2 considered two papers relating to this item (WCPFC/NC2/14 and WCPFC/NC2/15). It was agreed that Appendix A of the WCPFC/NC2/15 would serve as a basis for further discussion. Each Committee member was requested to submit its comments on this item to the Secretariat by 31 October 2006. It was not possible to complete work in respect of this item at WCPFC3. As NC4 deferred discussion to a future session, NC5 is invited to further consider this matter.

### **7.2 Next meeting**

The date and place for the Sixth Regular Session of the NC will be agreed.

### **7.2 Other business**

The NC will discuss any other business.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8. REPORT TO THE COMMISSION**

### **8.1 Adoption of the Summary Report of the Fifth Regular Session of the Northern Committee and recommendations to the Commission**

The Northern Committee will adopt a Summary Report of its Fifth Regular Session. It will make every effort to adopt its Summary Report by consensus. If every effort to achieve consensus has failed, the Summary 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 Summary Report.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9. CLOSE OF MEETING**

### **9.1 Closing of the meeting**

The meeting is scheduled to close in 10 September 2009.