



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FIFTH REGULAR SESSION**
10-21 August 2009
Port Vila, Vanuatu

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

WCPFC-SC5-2009/GN-IP-01

Date: 29 July 2009

SCIENCE SERVICES

1. The SPC-OFP provided science and data management services in accordance with Annex I of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) executed between the WCPFC and the SPC in 2006 and refined each year to accommodate a schedule of work for each calendar year. The components of the service agreement include: 1) data management, statistical analyses and related services; 2) stock assessment and related analytical services; 3) management analyses and CMM performance monitoring; 4) ecological risk assessment; 5) research services, and 4) other advisory and technical services. In addition to providing *ad hoc* advice and support throughout the year in relation to activities such as the administration and further development of the website (particularly in respect of data reporting and mitigation), preparations for the Inter-sessional Working Group for the Regional Observer Programme (IWG-ROP), the IPDCP, and by-catch mitigation-related work, the SPC-OFP produced 38 papers, reports or data summaries for SC5.

The 3rd INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM (IWG-ROP)

2. The 3rd IWG-ROP was held in Guam, 17-21 March 2009. The IWG produced ten recommendations for future actions in relation to developing various standards for data collection, placement of observers, observer training process, etc. The meeting report is on the Commission's website and the SC5 will have an opportunity to review the work of the IWG-ROP in relation to data management hosting and costing options, data fields contained in the FAD Form, and the definition of a FAD set.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

3. The Secretariat published electronic and hard copy versions of the Summary Report of the Fourth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, 11-22 August 2008. Hard copies were distributed to all CCMs.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

4. The Secretariat was represented at the following science-related meetings during the last 12 months:

- WCPFC stock assessment planning workshop hosted by the SPC at Noumea, New Caledonia, 6-9 April 2009;
- Workshop on the Implementation of a Logbook Programme for the Fisheries of Indonesia: Review of issues and considerations (Indonesia, IOTC and SPC/WCPFC) at Jakarta, Indonesia, 18-20 May 2009;
- West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project Inception Workshop, Cebu, Philippines, 3-4 July 2009;
- The 9th Plenary of the International Scientific Committee on Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) and working group meetings at Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei, 8-20 July 2008; and
- Second Meeting of Tuna RFMOs, 28 July to 3 July, 2009, San Sebastian, Spain.

IPDCP AND THE WPEA-OFM PROJECT

5. The Third Eastern Indonesia Tuna Fishery Data Collection (EITFDC-3) Workshop was held at Manado, Indonesia, 15–17 January 2009. The workshop adopted ten recommendations for future actions, including revision of sampling protocols, upgrading of measuring tools, quarterly port sampling summary report, further review of port sampling, and promoting cooperation with stakeholders. In May, a visit was made to Bitung port to review progress of the pilot port sampling with revised sampling protocols, and future work was identified. In 2009, the IPDCP will be continued and expanded to WPEA-OFM Project funded by GEF and co-financing agencies, which include Vietnam in addition to the existing two countries. An Inception Workshop for the WPEA OFM was conducted in early July 2009.

OTHER WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

- Formulation of the WPEA OFM including national tuna fisheries profiles;
- Independent review of the Commission's science structure and functions – review was considered at ISC9 and will be considered at SC5;
- Review of catch attribution under charter or similar arrangements – to be reported to SC5;
- Review of high seas purse seine effort data – to be reported to SC5;
- Review of guidelines for sea bird by-catch mitigation – to be reported to SC5;
- Information assimilation for FAD monitoring and management – to be considered at SC5;
- Publication: Competency Based Training Standards – on-going;
- Revised stock assessment on southern swordfish – final report provided to SC5;
- Refinement of bigeye parameters – progress report will be presented at SC5;
- Biology of South Pacific albacore – progress report will be presented at SC5;
- Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP) –Steering Committee meeting on 15th August and a plan for a review workshop on tagging project;
- Underwater video for spatial distribution of tunas around floating objects – results will be presented at SC5;
- Seminar on reference points – ME-SWG will convene the seminar;
- Purse seine species composition –progress report will be presented at SC5;
- CPUE standardization using Bayesian technique – results will be presented at SC5
- Cause of data gaps study – final reports will be considered at SC5.