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KOBE II MANAGEMENT AND MCS RECOMMENDATIONS

WCPFC7-2010/23
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Paper prepared by Secretariat

Issue:

1. Two KOBE II meetings focused on Management and MCS in 2010. The recommendations from these workshops were discussed and responses developed at SC6 and TCC6.

Advice and Recommendation:

2. WCPFC7 is invited to review and approve the SC6 responses for onward transmission to the KOBE Committee.

3. Workshop on RFMO Management of tuna fisheries

Key themes

- a. The long-term profitability of all tuna fisheries is linked to their sustainability and proper management, and all RFMOs should ensure that all stocks of tunas are maintained at sustainable and optimal levels through science-based measures.
- b. Overcapacity is a symptom of broader management problems, and in developing solutions we need to ensure that we deal with both the problem of overcapacity and the longer-term management issues.
- c. In some areas a high proportion of the world's tuna resources are harvested from the waters of developing coastal states. For some of these countries and many small island developing states they are their only tradable resource, and developing coastal States seek a better return for access to tuna resources. Providing developing coastal States with the assistance to better manage, utilise and trade and market these resources will increase the economic return. In this context, developed fishing countries should work with developing coastal States to build industries that provide a better return, including as appropriate reducing and restructuring fleets.
- d. Rights in RFMOs and under international law come with associated obligations, and these must be honoured by all member and cooperating non-member countries.
- e. Tuna sashimi markets are now world-wide, not just in Japan; e.g. USA, EU, China, Chinese Taipei, and Korea.

- f. Fish-aggregating devices (FADs) increase the catches in purse-seine fisheries for skipjack tuna, but FAD fishing for skipjack also captures juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, lowering the longterm catch rates of those species.
- g. Rights already exist in most tuna fisheries, e.g. participatory rights in RFMOs, allocations in some RFMOs, and states' rights under international law.
- h. Some participants stated that now is not the time to build further purse seiners, unless industry can secure long-term access rights in partnership with developing coastal States.
- i. The issues relating to overcapacity and overfishing in tuna RFMOs do not change; hopefully the players now understand that they must act.

4. Recommendations Regarding the Management Workshop

Recommendations	Response	Comments
<i>RFMOs should, as a matter of urgency:</i>		
1. Develop publicly available authorised and active vessel ¹ lists for all gears. These lists will include small-scale fishing vessels that are capable of catching significant amounts of fish under the competency of tuna RFMOs.	Agree in principle	
2. Encourage secretariats to continue their work on the global list of tuna vessels, including the assignment of a unique vessel identifier.	Agree in principle	
3. As appropriate, RFMOs include only vessels on their active vessel ¹ register in any scheme for reducing capacity by eliminating vessels.	Agree in principle	
4. Review existing capacity against the best available scientific advice on sustainable levels of catch and implement measures to address any overcapacity identified.	Agreed	Capacity should be reviewed and attempts made to address overcapacity issues
5. Each tuna RFMO consider implementing where appropriate a freeze on fishing capacity on a fishery by fishery basis. Such a freeze should not constrain the access to, development of, and benefit from sustainable tuna fisheries by developing coastal States.	Agreed	Capacity should be reviewed and attempts made to address overcapacity issues
6. All RFMOs establish strong requirements for the provision of accurate data and	Agreed	SC (SPC) may provide comments on CCM's data

¹ The definition of 'active vessel' is to be determined by individual RFMOs

information to secretariats so that the status of tuna stocks can be accurately assessed. All RFMO members and cooperating non-members should make a firm commitment to provide these data on a timely basis, and it should be cross-checked with market, landings and processing establishment data under the competency of tuna RFMOs.		provision. The SC may consider a plan for the cross-checking of available data.
7. Develop a consistent enforceable regime for sanctions and penalties, to be applied to RFMO members and non-members and their vessels that breach the rules and regulations developed and implemented by RFMOs.	Agreed	Refer to TTC for consideration as appropriate when data agreements have been breached
8. Ensure that the effectiveness of all conservation and management measures is not undermined by exemption or exclusion clauses.	Agree in principle	
9. Ensure that all conservation and management measures are implemented in a consistent and transparent manner and are achieving their management goals.	Agree in principle	
10. Review and strengthen their MCS framework to improve the integrity of their management regime and measures.	Agree in principle	
<i>RFMOs should, in the medium term:</i>		
11. Develop measures of capacity and, in the absence of an agreed capacity definition, adopt the FAO definition “The amount of fish (or fishing effort) that can be produced over a period of time (e.g. a year or a fishing season) by a vessel or a fleet if fully utilised and for a given resource condition.”	Agreed	The FAO definition will be used in the interim until the Commission develops its own definition for “capacity”.
12. Ensure that all stocks maintained at sustainable and optimal levels through science-based measures.	Agree in principle	
13. Review and develop management regimes, based <i>inter alia</i> on the concept of fishing rights for fisheries under the RFMOs’ competence.	Agree in principle	
14. Consider using right-based management approaches and other approaches as part of a ‘tool box’ to address the aspirations of developing states, overfishing, overcapacity and allocation.	Agree in principle	

15. The tuna RFMOs should ensure a constant exchange of information with regard to the capacity of fleets operating within their zones as well as the mechanisms to manage this capacity. Kobe III will provide an opportunity for the tuna RFMOs to provide an update on progress with these issues.	Agree in principle	Secretariat to report on progress at regular intervals
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5. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE KOBE II WORKSHOP ON MCS

The participants in the Kobe II Workshop on MCS held in Barcelona, Spain from June 3-5, 2010 recommended the following to tuna RFMOs, and requested that such RFMOs report on their actions towards these recommendations at the Kobe III Meeting scheduled for 2011:

Recommendations	Response	Comments
VMS		
1. Where they do not already exist, establish standards for the format (see attached ICCAT format as an example), content, structure and frequency of VMS messages; and	Agreed	
2. Ensure there are no gaps in geographic coverage in regional VMS programs, and all relevant vessel types and sizes participate in VMS programs while on the high seas.	Agreed	NW quadrant coverage
Transshipment		
1. Cooperate with other tuna RFMOs to standardize transshipment Declaration forms so that they use, to the maximum extent possible, the same format and include the same required data fields, as well as develop minimum standards for the timeframes by which such Declaration are submitted to RFMO Secretariats, flag States, coastal States and port States.	Agreed	
2. Establish that advance notifications much be provided to the relevant tuna RFMO Secretariat for those high seas transshipment activities that are permitted by that RFMO's measures (for example, 36 hours in advance of the transshipment operation taking place)	Agreed	

Observers		
RFMOs are encouraged to support the establishment of regional observer programs which could be built on existing national programs. It is the responsibility of each RFMO to clearly establish the purpose and scope of the information collected by its regional observer program, such as whether it will be used to support scientific or monitoring functions, or both, and then define the specific observer tasks and duties appropriate for that particular purpose and scope.	Agreed	
There are specific aspects of observer programs that could benefit from the development of minimum standards or procedures that if utilized by tuna RFMOs could promote comparable observer-generated data.	Agreed	
1. Where appropriate and practical, subject all gear types in high seas fishing operations to observer coverage while adopting a minimum of 5% coverage as an initial level. Observer coverage rates should be evaluated and may be adjusted depending on the scope and objectives of each observer program or particular conservation and management measures.	Agreed	
2. Where appropriate, develop agreements such that RFMO-authorized high seas observers can operate effectively in the various ocean basins covered by other RFMOs with a view to avoiding duplication of observers. Such observer programs will provide required data to the RFMO in whose area the fishing operations take place.	Agreed	Ensure our standards are regarded as the Minimum to be utilized.
3. Exchange information and examples of the standards developed in each program. These should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Training material and procedures; b. On-board reference materials; c. Health and safety issues; d. Rights, and responsibilities of vessel operators, masters, crew and observers; e. Data collection, storage and dissemination including where appropriate between RFMOs; 	Agreed	

f. Debriefing protocols and procedures; g. Reporting formats – especially for target and by-catch species; h. Basic qualifications and experience of observers.		
Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS)		
1. Establish or expand the use of CDS to fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species and sharks not currently covered by an existing CDS and to which current conservation and management measures apply, taking into account the specific characteristics and circumstances of each RFMO.	Agreed	
2. Ensure compatibility between new or expanded CDS and existing certification schemes already implemented by coastal, port and importing States	Agreed	
3. Develop a common/harmonized form for use across RFMOs and the use of electronic systems and tags to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and utility of a CDS.	Agree in principle subject to further discussion	
4. Take into account fish caught by purse seine fisheries and delivered to processing plants when implementing an expanded CDS.	Agreed	
5. Consider a tagging system for fresh and chilled products to improve the implementation of new or expanded CDS.	Agree in principle subject to further discussion	
6. Develop a simplified CDS form to cover catches by artisanal fisheries that are exported (see Appendix 3, EU form that could serve as an example).	Agreed	
7. Provide technical assistance and capacity building support to assist developing countries in implementing existing CDSs and any expanded CDS, including ensuring that capacity building funds that currently exist in RFMOs can be used for this purpose.	Agreed	
Port State Measures		
1. Encourage RFMO Members to consider signing and ratifying the FAO Port State Measures Agreement at their earliest	Agreed	

opportunity.		
2. Where they do not already exist, where appropriate, adopt port State control measures that are consistent with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, and that take into account the specific characteristics and circumstances of each RFMO.	Agreed	
Data		
When useful to support scientific and MCS purposes, cooperate with other tuna RFMOs to develop protocols for exchange data, including provisions for data confidentiality	Agreed	