



2ND WCPFC-IATTC CONSULTATIVE MEETING

TUMON, GUAM (USA)
6 DECEMBER 2007



REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Issues arising from the first consultative meeting
4. Review of areas for collaboration:
 - a. Data and information
 - b. Scientific research
 - c. Conservation
5. Other business
6. Date and place of next meeting
7. Close of meeting

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The second Consultative Meeting between the IATTC and the WCPFC was held at Tumon, Guam (USA) on Thursday 6 December 2007. The meeting was opened by the WCPFC Vice-Chair, Mr Liu Xiabing, who had been asked by the two secretariats to chair the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to inform members of current and future areas of potential collaboration between the two Commissions and collect comments from participants and observers. The meeting reviewed Document CONS2-2007-02, a draft potential Program of Work promoting collaboration between the two organisations that might be subsequently considered by the two Commissions.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The agenda was adopted.

ISSUES ARISING FROM THE FIRST MEETING

3. The WCPFC Executive Director, Andrew Wright, noted that the first consultative meeting had been quite short, resulting in incomplete discussion on the issues for consideration. Mr Wright said that the first consultative meeting had conducted an initial review of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organisations and the MOU's provisions. There had been initial exchanges on potential areas of collaboration, including exchanges of scientific and fisheries data and data relating to vessel records and IUU vessels. The biology-related issues discussed had included tuna tagging, bigeye tuna stock assessment, pan-Pacific bigeye tuna biology and ecological risk assessment. In conclusion, Mr Wright noted the positive input to the WCPFC's scientific work resulting from the IATTC's participation at the Third Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee at Honolulu, Hawaii, in August 2007.

4. The IATTC Director, Guillermo Compeán, noted the importance of developing the relationship between the two organisations at the Commission and Member level, as well as between the two Secretariats. He further noted the importance of institutionalizing cooperation because of the shared nature of the resources. Dr Compeán mentioned the need for equivalent conservation and management measures in the western and central Pacific (WCPO) and the eastern Pacific (EPO), and for fostering cooperation and respect among all regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs). In conclusion,

Dr Compeán commented that the participation of each organisation's members as observers at their respective meetings can contribute to the work of both organisations.

REVIEW OF AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

5. This item consisted of a review of the draft Program of Work between the IATTC and the WCPFC, set out in [Document CONS2-2007-02](#).

a. Data and information

6. Dr Compeán introduced Document CONS2-2007-02 (Annex A), noting the long history of interchange of scientific data between the IATTC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). He noted the possible use of the MOU as a means of facilitating data exchange between the IATTC and the WCPFC. Dr Compeán did not foresee any problems with data exchange as long as it was subject to the confidentiality rules of each Commission.

7. In concurring with Dr Compeán's remarks, Mr Wright noted the need for a protocol or process to facilitate information exchange, especially for those vessels operating in both Convention Areas. He noted the recent positive work on this matter in the WCPFC, specifically Appendix 3 of the WCPFC Rules and Procedures for the Protection of, Access to and Dissemination of Data (WCPFC4-2007/12) that relates to information exchange between the WCPFC and other RFMOs. While noting the long history of interchange of scientific data between the IATTC and the SPC, Mr Wright commented that these data are not available to the WCPFC. He suggested that this issue could be considered by the respective Commissions.

8. Dr Compeán stated his preference for the separation of scientific information and information related to conservation and management. He stated the need for discussion on the sharing of other data, such as IUU vessel lists, that are a subject of concern for the IATTC. He noted the difference between the rules of each organisation in relation to preparation of IUU vessel lists, and expressed his interest in the development of comparable rules in both organisations, that may lead to the future development of a common IUU vessel list.

9. Mr Wright explained that, under the current WCPFC IUU listing procedures (CMM-2006-09), the WCPFC Secretariat is required to liaise with the flag State of the vessel concerned. If the vessel was authorized by an IATTC member state, there will be consultation between the two secretariats. Mr Wright noted that CMM-2006-09 is currently under review by the WCPFC. He stated the need for the two secretariats to consult with each other in the early stages of the IUU listing preparation.

10. The European Union suggested that, while recognising the importance of IUU vessel lists and the mutual recognition of such lists, a grace period is required between the listing of a vessel by one RFMO before the listing of the same vessel by another RFMO. Several other observers associated themselves with these remarks.

11. Dr Compeán expressed the need for a common format for IUU vessel lists since each RFMO has different conservation measures. The opportunity exists to develop mutually compatible procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of fisheries within the MOU.

12. The IATTC Chair, Mario Aguilar, noted that many IATTC members wish to see that the level of data quality in both organisations is comparable. They would also like to see compatible IUU listing procedures in both organisations, and in this regard, they are interested in the current process to amend CMM-2006-09.

b. Scientific Research

13. Mr Wright, in noting the wide range of issues related to scientific research between the WCPFC and IATTC, focused on two – progress with tuna tagging in Papua New Guinea, including the planned extension of that activity to the western tropical Pacific, and the potential for collaborative tuna tagging in

the central Pacific. He invited Dr John Hampton, of the SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Programme, to address the meeting on these issues.

14. Dr Hampton described the valuable input of Mr Kurt Schaefer (IATTC) to the steering committee of the Regional Tuna Tagging Project (RTTP) that will tag fish in both the western and central Pacific Ocean. He expressed the hope that the IATTC could also mount a new tagging programme, and that the IATTC could collaborate on tag recovery and the analysis of tag returns.

15. Dr Compeán cited this research as a good example of potential cooperation between the two secretariats, and noted the possibility of developing a common tagging project with common funding.

16. Several observers expressed their support for the RTTP.

17. Dr Compeán noted IATTC's need for more information on sharks and other species. He stated that the priorities in this area of scientific research should be guided by the principle of joint interest.

b. Conservation

18. Dr Compeán, in advising that the IATTC is open to collaboration of all kinds in the area of conservation, noted the variation between the IATTC and WCPFC in respect of existing conservation and management measures. He suggested that, at this stage, the focus should be on scientific collaboration.

19. Mr Wright concurred that this is a challenging area for collaboration between the two organisations. He suggested that IATTC's experience with deploying and managing observers at the Secretariat and member levels would assist the WCPFC as it develops its Regional Observer Programme. He noted the potential for close collaboration in relation to observers on vessels that cross the boundary between the respective Convention Areas.

20. In relation to centralized vessel monitoring systems, Mr Wright suggested that the IATTC may benefit from the WCPFC's developing experience in this regard. On the issue of the area of overlap between the WCPFC and IATTC areas, Mr Wright suggested that both secretariats engage French Polynesia and France in discussions on priority issues for collaboration in the overlap area.

21. New Zealand commented that while there is a need to harmonize measures between the two organisations, this should result in strong complementary measures being developed in all cases. It also noted the difference between the WCPO and EPO in relation to the number of coastal State members, that may affect the respective development of conservation measures.

22. Dr Compeán observed the need to see which measures work, since a measure that is effective in one area may not necessarily be effective in another area.

23. El Salvador advised that it had found it helpful to observe the exchanges of opinion between members of each organisation's secretariat, noting the different arrangements for the participation of observers in the WCPFC compared with the IATTC.

24. Ecuador expressed its wish to see joint management of fish stocks between the WCPFC and IATTC, on a cooperative basis.

OTHER BUSINESS

25. There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

26. It was agreed that the next consultation would take place in association with the annual meeting of IATTC in Panama in June 2008.



2ND WCPFC-IATTC CONSULTATIVE MEETING

TUMON, GUAM (USA)
3 DECEMBER 2007



CONS-2-03

WCPFC/IATTC-2007-CONS2/03

11 October 2007

POTENTIAL PROGRAM OF WORK FOR IATTC-WCPFC COLLABORATION

TASKS	REQUIREMENTS	REMARKS
DATA AND INFORMATION		
Exchange of data and information consistent with the information-sharing policies of each Commission		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a mechanism for the exchange of scientific and fisheries data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish WCPFC-IATTC Agreement on Exchange of Data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariats develop a draft Agreement, based on the data security and management procedures of each Commission for presentation to Commission members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a mechanism for regular exchange of vessel data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review information-sharing policies Establish mechanism for preliminary information exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuna organizations global list is established mechanism for authorized vessels. Mechanism required for information about other vessels.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a mechanism for sharing of information during the development of IUU lists. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Secretariat will copy the other on correspondence to members concerning the development of their IUU list, and will provide any information they have on vessels that are being discussed. Note that Kobe POA calls for combined IUU list.
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH		
Collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including Pacific-wide stock assessments		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refinement of bigeye parameters Pacific-wide: A comprehensive review and study of bigeye tuna reproductive biology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify required data fields and research Design implementation methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate electronic discussions among Secretariat and Member government scientific expertise; develop draft proposals for consideration by the appropriate scientific body of each Commission;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCPFC Science Manager to lead.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific-wide bigeye assessments, including model development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and model availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work between IATTC staff and WCPFC's data manager and scientific services provider, the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Pacific-wide tagging project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for tagging project • Coordination arrangements for collaborative tagging efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design the scope and outline of pan-Pacific tagging project • Initiate discussions before and during Third Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee (SC3) on scope and design • Promote information sharing and ideas development during the IATTC tagging workshop. • Commission a proposal on pan-Pacific Tagging Project for review by the two Commissions by December 2007 and June 2008 for consideration. • Funding options explored by the two Commissions • Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP) Steering Committee to design program.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider collaborative research for other tuna and tuna-like species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and model availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider collaborative research at IATTC Stock Assessment Working Group (SAWG) and WCPFC Scientific Committee (SC).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharks: stock assessment of oceanic whitetip and silky sharks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection • Model development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider joint assessments at IATTC SAWG and WCPFC SC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological risk analysis (ERA) for bycatch species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection and model development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue discussions initiated at ERA Research Plan Development Workshop, Hawaii, August 2007 • Identify ongoing collaborative partnerships and support mechanisms.

CONSERVATION		
Conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support processes to promote harmonization and compatibility of conservation and management measures, per the MOU. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop mechanisms to promote consultation on measures affecting stocks and species of mutual interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate to the other Commission draft proposals or resolutions that affect conservation of stocks that occur in its Agreement area. • Invite views of other Commission as part of process; • Opportunistic and informal meetings between the Secretariats to exchange information.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop protocols for integration of port sampling and observer programmes, and identification of sources of bias in species composition data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial informal exchanges involving relevant staff of the two secretariats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going consultation as processes in the two Commissions evolve.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In designing the WCPFC's Regional Observer Programme, examine the potential for harmonizing its objectives, coverage rates and data collection standards with those of the IATTC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal exchanges between relevant staff of the two secretariats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going informal consultation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine possibilities for expansion of observer data collection and data sharing (taking into account the information security policies of the respective Commissions). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a report on the existing or planned observer programmes for the WCPFC and IATTC for discussion at the WCPFC-IATTC Consultative Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide copy of WCPFC IWG-ROP report to IATTC Secretariat.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In designing the WCPFC's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), investigate the potential for developing compatibility between the VMS of both Commissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Secretariats to collaborate to prepare a report of the similarities and differences between the two systems for discussion at the WCPFC-IATTC Consultative Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCPFC VMS implementation plan to be aware of VMS systems in the EPO (e.g. IATTC Resolution C-04-06)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues relating to overlap area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the effect of measures (at least capacity) in overlap area. • Consider data issues. 	