



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION**

6-14 August 2013
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

**REPORT OF JAPAN TRUST FUND
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
8 August 2013**

WCPFC-SC9-2013/ RP-JTF-02

SECRETARIAT

Introduction

The Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) was held on Thursday 8th August 2013, during the meeting of the Ninth Scientific Committee (SC9); it was chaired and convened by Professor Glenn Hurry, and supported by the new JTF Coordinator Dr Yujiro Akatsuka, JTF Administrator Tony Beeching (Secretariat), Country Representative Kathleen Sisor (Palau) and Pamela Maru Fisheries Forum Agency (FFA). The SPC SC representative was absent.

This was the second SC meeting in support of the second phase of JTF funding, which has greater emphasis on monitoring and compliance than the first phase. Funding is approved for the 5 years of the project, but there is competition for each annual budget. Total funding available for 2013 amounted to \$403,380, which was all allocated and disbursed in support of six projects.

1) Review of the project performance

Beneficiaries presented briefly on the 2013 projects (6), and on 3 further projects carried over from earlier funding tranches. Only one beneficiary, Indonesia was absent; this was due to their non-attendance at SC9. The Steering Committee provides a venue to air project issues and to resolve them.

Most projects have been successfully completed and reported on, however the following issues were raised:

1. Rhea Moss-Christian (NORMA) presented on work done to date on the project co-proposed by FSM and RMI, "*Development of an Integrated Fisheries Information System in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.*" Whilst good progress had been made, the loss of the principal consultant/coordinator, Mr Colin Brown, who passed away earlier this year, has left a major gap in project.
 - The Steering Committee agreed to a hiatus to allow time for the project managers to revise their project plan and identify a replacement for the principal consultant.
 - The Steering Committee Chair agreed to meet with the project managers after SC9, to determine how best to move forward.
 - A revised project plan should be submitted to the JTF Administrator.
2. SPC Project "*Introductory Training Workshop on Observer Data Reporting Tools*" has been delayed by the departure of the project lead, Corey Cole. A replacement has been recruited with the anticipation that he will complete the project within the first 6 months of 2014, subject to the agreement of the JTF Steering Committee.
 - The proposed rescheduling of the delivery on this project was accepted.
3. Martin Finau described the ongoing Tongan JTF project "*Support for the collection and the improved management of commercial tuna data in Tonga as well as providing awareness on conservation and management of tuna*" Sampling officers' pay is based on an old pay scale and a per vessel basis, which may have been appropriate for small domestic vessels in the past; the samplers' current workload is greatly increased when working on large foreign fishing vessels, which are becoming increasingly prevalent in Tonga.

- The JTF Steering Committee agreed a revised proposal in which the pay rates for port samplers is increased from 12 pa'anga (sampler) and 8 pa'anga (assistant sampler) to 25 pa'anga per person per vessel sampled. This change in salary will be applied retrospectively for this calendar year (2013) and will not affect the JTF component of the budget (\$US 8,503).

2) Other Issues

The JTF call for 2014 project proposals will likely be made at the WCPFC TCC meeting in September, with a probable deadline for submission on or before 31 December 2013.

Table 1: 2013 JTF Projects

Beneficiary Member(s)	Contacts	Title	Comments
RMI and FSM	Glen Joseph gjoseph@gmail.com and Patrick Mackenzie patrick.mackenzie@norma.fm	Development of an Integrated Fisheries Information System in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.	Consultant Project Coordinator passed away; Project hiatus whilst awaiting replacement and a revised project schedule.
SPC (for SIDs)	Dr Tim Adams TimA@SPC.int Dr Simon Nicol SimonN@SPC.int	Stock Assessment, ecosystem and bycatch workshops for fisheries officers from developing states of the WCPFC – 2013.	Successful project - report submitted – alternative funding (GEF) has been Identified for future workshops.
SPC (for SIDs)	Corey Cole CoreyC@spc.int Peter Williams PeterW@spc.int	Introductory Training Workshop on Observer Data Reporting Tools.	The project lead has left SPC, his replacement will deliver the project during the first half of 2014.
Tonga	Dr Sione Vailala Matoto, Director MAFFF, vailala@kalianet.to or vailalam@yahoo.com and Mr Viulimo Fakalolo, Acting Head of Fisheries, vilimof@tongafish.gov.to	Support for the collection and the improved management of commercial tuna data in Tonga as well as providing awareness on conservation and management of tuna.	Martin Finau has taken the lead on this ongoing project. Pay rates for samplers will be increased with no cost implications for the JTF.
Tonga	Ms Manuopangai kmanuopangai@tongafish.gov.to kmanuopangai@gmail.com	Observer training, debriefing and capacity building for Tonga National Observer Programme.	Project complete, Report submitted. Project contact replaced by Ms Manuopangai

Vietnam	Dr Sungkwon Soh, WCPFC Secretariat Sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int	Collection of baseline data from the developing handline fishery of Vietnam and incorporation into annual catch estimates for 2012.	This project part-funded by JTF is complete and reported under WPEA.
		Budget Requested	\$375,237
WCPFC	Aaron Nighswander aaron.nighswander@wcpfc.int	7.5% Administration Fee (375,237x0.075)	\$28,143
		Total JTF for 2013	\$403,380

Table 2: Projects carried over from previous years

Philippines	Dr Alma Dickson alma_dickson@yahoo.com	Training Program for the Operationalization and Implementation of the Vessel Monitoring System	Project completed. Report due.
Indonesia	Dr. Agus A. Budhiman budhiman@indosat.net.id	Indonesian Observer-Onboard Training Programme	Initial report indicated underspend of around 10k, this was subsequently consumed by further training by Japan.
FSM	Patrick Mackenzie Executive Director NORMA Patrick.Mackenzie@norma.fm	Observer and Port Sampler Training for FSM's National Fisheries Observer Program	Training completed Report due.