



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
SIXTH REGULAR SESSION**
7-10 September 2010
Fukuoka, Japan

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

**WCPFC/NC6/03 (Rev.3)
22 August 2010**

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 Welcome

The Chair (Mr Masanori Miyahara, Japan) will open the Sixth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC6) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), 7-10 September 2010. 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-NC6/02. 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 NC6 to review the Indicative Schedule (WCPFC-NC5/04) 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 10th ISC

The NC6 will review the meeting report of the 10th Meeting of the International Scientific Committee (ISC), especially the status of stocks of highly migratory species in the North Pacific Ocean.

2.2 Report of the Sixth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC6)

The NC6 will review the meeting report and issues arising from the Sixth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC6), Nukuolofa, Tonga, 10-19 August 2010 as they relate to the Northern Committee.

2.3 Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks

2.3.1 Northern Pacific bluefin (CMM-2009-07)

The WCPFC6 adopted CMM for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM-2009-07). The Committee will review the effectiveness of the CMM, and will review stock assessment and other information relating to the conservation and management action of members to implement CMM-2009-07.

2.3.2 North Pacific albacore (CCM-2005-03)

The Committee will review effectiveness of CMM 2005-03, including the actions and/or considerations made by members in relation to their interpretation of, and implementation of, effort control and biological reference points including maintaining spawning stock biomass (SSB) within the range of its historical fluctuation (Attachment J of the Report of the NC4). NC4 had adopted 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 NC6 will revisit the recommendation to revise CMM 2005-03, which was deferred at WCPFC6 for further consideration in 2010.

2.3.3 North Pacific swordfish (CMM-2009-03)

At WCPFC6, the Commission adopted a revised measure for swordfish (CMM 2009-03) which retains provisions of CMM 2008-05 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 NC6 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-2009-04)

WCPFC6 revised CMM-2008-06 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. . NC6 will receive reports from CCMs on the implementation of CMM-2009-04 in the Convention Area north of 20°N and consider issues associated with its full implementation from 10th February 2009.

2.4.3 Seabirds (CMM- 2007-04)

NC6 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.

2.4.4. Skipjack tuna

The NC6 will review the full stock assessment of skipjack by SC6 that accommodated in changes in the stock distribution in the Northwest Pacific and availability of the stocks to fishing fleet.

2.5 Working Group on Striped Marlin

NC's informal working group on striped marlin had met twice in 2009 which resulted in a draft work plan to be implemented over a two- to three-year period. NC5 noted that several specific clarifications on the issues raised by the working group. This issue will be further considered by ISC10 and the outcomes reported to NC6 to support discussion on future work priorities in relation to striped marlin.

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

3.1 Implementation of the ROP by fishing vessels fishing for fresh fish in the Northern Area

NC5 discussed the requirement for the 2010 annual session of the NC to make a recommendation to WCPFC on implementing the ROP by vessels fishing for fresh tuna in the north of 20N. It was noted that while the majority of the work would be undertaken by email, opportunities to meet in the margins of meetings should be taken advantage of. NC6 will make recommendations to the Commission on the implementation of the ROP for fishing vessels fishing fresh fish in the area north of 20°N (Annex C, paragraph 9.ii).

AGENDA ITEM 4. DATA

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

Information gaps in biology and vital statistics such as abundance index were noted during the NC5 and a multilateral research proposal was made. NC6 will discuss how to handle this proposal along with other issues on data gaps.

The Committee also review the progress of addressing data gaps between the WCPFC and ISC as identified at SC5.

AGENDA ITEM 5. WORK PROGRAMME

5.1 Work Programme for 2010

The Committee will review its proposed Work Programme adopted at NC5 (Attachment E of the report of NC5).

5.2 Work Programme for 2011-2014

The Work Programme will be revised to describe activities and funding requirements for the period 2011-2014 so that it aligns with the Work Programme of the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 6. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

6.1 ISC

NC6 will review and make recommendations to the Commission on any remaining issues raised by the consultancy report on the Independent Review of the Commission's Science Structure and Functions and subsequent discussions by the SC6 in relation to the work of the ISC.

6.2 IATTC

NC6 will exchange any views on cooperation with IATTC, especially in relation with CMM-2009-07 (Pacific bluefin tuna).

6.3 Review of interim arrangements for scientific structure and function

NC6 will review any other issues related to the MRAG recommendations and SC6 considerations on the Commission's Science Structure and Functions in relation to work of the Northern Committee.

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 NC6. NC6 is invited to review the outcome and discuss two specific funding requests for northern species research to WCPFC6 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 NC5 deferred discussion to a future session, NC6 is invited to further consider this matter.

7.2 Next meeting

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

7.3 Other business

The NC will discuss any other business, including the outcomes of the t-RFMO workshops.

AGENDA ITEM 8. REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

8.1 Adoption of the Summary Report of the Sixth 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 2010.