

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE**

**NINTH REGULAR SESSION**

2-5 September 2013

Fukuoka, Japan

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**WCPFC-NC9-2013/03**

1. **OPENING OF MEETING**
	1. **Welcome**

The Chair Masanori Miyahara (Japan) will open the Ninth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC9) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), 2-5 September 2013. He will welcome delegations of WCPFC CCMs (members, cooperating non-members and participating territories) and observers.

* 1. **Adoption of agenda**

The Chair will introduce the Provisional Agenda, WCPFC-NC9-2013/02. 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.

Other matters to be discussed, under Agenda Item 8, may be proposed here.

* 1. **Meeting arrangements**

The Chair will invite NC9 to review the Indicative Schedule (WCPFC-NC9-2013/04) noting logistical arrangements in place to support the meeting, meeting schedule, and any social engagements.

1. **CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**
	1. **Report from the Thirteenth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee**

NC9 will review the meeting report of the 13thMeeting of the International Scientific Committee (ISC13), especially the status of stocks of highly migratory species in the North Pacific Ocean. NC9 will consider relevant issues arising from ISC13and make recommendations, under Agenda Item 2.3, as appropriate, to the Commission on conservation and management measures with respect to the following northern stocks:

* Pacific bluefin tuna
* North Pacific albacore
* North Pacific swordfish
	1. **Report of the Ninth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee**

NC9 will review the meeting report and issues arising from the Ninth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC9), Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, 6-14 August 2013 as they relate to the Northern Committee.

* 1. **Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks**
		1. **Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2012-06)**

By 31 July 2013, NC members are tasked to submit reports to the Executive Director relating to:

1. measures they used to implement paragraph 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the CMM; and
2. results from monitoring the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna.

NC9 shall review those reports that CCMs submitted pursuant to this paragraph.

NC9 shall review this CMM based on the new ISC stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna, and take appropriate actions, including the introduction of CDS and a shift from effort control to catch limits. In this process, it is desirable to eliminate ambiguities related to the measures as much as possible, by dealing with the issues such as reference year, definition of juvenile, bycatch or artisanal fishery. NC9 will also review the progress of the peer review of the Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment.

In order to establish a precautionary approach-based management framework, NC9 will consider: (1) recommending appropriate reference points; and (2) agreeing in advance to actions that will be taken in the event each of the particular limit reference points is breached (decision rules).

NC9 may review detailed characteristics of Japan’s artisanal fleet – such as vessel size, engine size, number of crew – which would allow for a better understanding of the fishing capacity of this fleet.

NC9 will consider an updated version of NC8-DP-10 from Korea in relation to a format to describe catches and efforts of CCMs.

* + 1. **North Pacific albacore (CMM 2005-03)**

 NC9 will try to finalize a precautionary approach framework based on responses to the list of specific questions to ISC (Attachment E, NC8 Report).

NC9 will review the current interim management objective (Para 34, NC6 Summary Report) and recommend to the Commission if necessary, appropriate reference points and any actions that will be taken in the event each of the particular limit reference point is breached.

NC9 will consider 2013 NC Work Programme listed below.

1. Review of members’ reports on their implementation of CMM 2005-03, including:
2. Estimation of the proportion of the total catch of albacore in the North Pacific Ocean (in the Convention Area, and/or across the entire North Pacific Ocean, as appropriate) that is effectively subject to the effort limits mandated in the CMM.
3. Determination of how total effort across those fisheries has changed from 2002 through 2010 through a review of members’ reports of annual fishing effort by their vessels “fishing for” North Pacific albacore fisheries.
4. Establishment of a precautionary approach-based management framework, including:
5. recommend appropriate reference points; and
6. agree in advance to actions that will be taken in the event that each of the particular limit reference points is breached (decision rules);
	* 1. **North Pacific swordfish**

In relation to reference points, NC9 will review ISC’s responses on the list of questions to ISC as shown in Attachment F, NC8 Report.

NC Work Programme for NP swordfish includes establishing a precautionary approach-based management framework: (1) recommending appropriate reference points; and (2) agreeing in advance to actions that will be taken in the event each of the particular limit reference points is breached (decision rules). In 2013, NC9 will finalize interim management objectives and reference points in light of ISC.

* 1. **Conservation and management measures for other stocks**

Paragraph 4 of theRules of procedure relating to the Northern Committee (Annex I, Rules of Procedure of the Commission) states that “The Northern Committee shall, by consensus, make recommendations on the implementation for the area north of 20° north parallel of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission.”

* + 1. **Bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas (CMM 2012-01)**

WCPFC9 adopted CMM 2012-01 (CMM for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean) and NC9 will consider any issues related to, or any impacts of, CMM 2012-01 on tuna fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean north of 20ºN.

* + 1. **North Pacific striped marlin (CMM 2010-01)**

NC9 will consider new information if any for the review of this measure.

* + 1. **Sharks (CMM 2010-07, CMM 2011-04 and CMM 2012-04)**

WCPFC adopted three shark-related measures. NC9 will review assessments and scientific advice for shark stocks, including blue shark in the North Pacific Ocean, and consider management options if needed for relevant shark stocks.

* + 1. **Seabirds (CMM 2012-07)**

NC9 will receive reports from NC CCMs on the implementation of CMM 2012-07, 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.

* + 1. **Sea turtles (CMM 2008-03)**

NC9 will review any mitigation research results if available and consider management actions to be further taken.

1. **REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

Paragraph 4 of theRules of procedure relating to the Northern Committee (Annex I, Rules of Procedure of the Commission) states that “The Northern Committee shall, by consensus, make recommendations on the implementation for the area north of 20° north parallel of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission.”

WCPFC9 adopted CMM 2012-03, which states at paragraph 1, “no later than 31 December 2014, CCMs shall commence implementation of observer programmes for fishing vessels used to fish for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdictions in the area north of 20 degrees north.” NC9 will review implementation of ROP for fishing vessels operating in the area north of 20ºN.

1. **Vessel monitoring system**

Paragraph 4 of the Rules of procedure relating to the Northern Committee (Annex I, Rules of Procedure of the Commission) states that “The Northern Committee shall, by consensus, make recommendations on the implementation for the area north of 20° north parallel of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission.”

CMM 2011-02, which replaced CMM 2007-02, states at paragraph 3 “With respect to the area north of 20°N and west of 175°E, the system will be activated at a date to be determined by the Commission.” WCPFC9 endorsed the NC Members commitment to implement VMS in the area north of 20°N and west of 175°E by 31 December 2013 (Para 285, WCPFC9 Report). NC9 may provide advice to the Secretariat to facilitate its implementation.

1. **DATA**
	1. **Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks**

NC Work Programme requests CCMs participating in the NC to submit complete data on fisheries for northern stocks to the Commission. All CCMs are encouraged to submit to the Commission Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific albacore and North Pacific swordfish.

NC9 will review the progress of data submission and identify any further data gaps.

1. **COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**
	1. **ISC**

NC9 will exchange views on further efforts to strengthen the cooperation with ISC.

* 1. **IATTC**

NC9 will exchange views on cooperation with IATTC, especially in relation to Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore.

1. **FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**
	1. **Review of the Commission’s Independent Performance Review**

According to Para 429 of WCPFC9 Report, NC9 will review the Performance Review Matrix in relation to Northern Committee (WCPFC-NC9-IP-03), including the following two items:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section** | **Recommendation** | **Action****(active /completed/ ongoing)** | **Issue (policy/ management/ legal/ compliance/financial)** | **Committee** | **Priority****(high/ medium/ low/ underway)** | **Progress** |
| 3.4.5 Subsidiary bodies of the Commission  | It is recommended that terms of reference be developed for the Northern Committee which, *inter alia*, align the scope of responsibilities for the Committee and the Commission in respect of applicable stocks and species, as well as promote the consistency of management approaches with those of the Commission.  | Active  | Policy/Legal  | WCPFC  | High  | For WCPFC Discussion  |
| 6.3.1. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)  | It is recommended that the Northern Committee (NC) resolves a VMS implementation date for the Convention Area north of 20oN and west of 175°E. Not only should a fixed date be proposed for consideration by the TCC and the Commission, but any phased approach or any suggested exemptions should only be considered if strong justification for such deviations is provided; and  | Complete  | Policy/Management  | TCC/ WCPFC  | VMS review is ongoing. NC to follow up issues of VMS on northern vessels as a priority  | A number of these issues have been resolved with FFA and FFA is also conducting a tender for the VMS service and the WCPFC is a member of the assessment panel.  |

* 1. **Work Programme for 2014-2016**

The Committee will review, and revise as needed, its Work Programme adopted at NC9.

1. **OTHER MATTERS**
	1. **Administrative arrangements for the Committee**
		1. **Secretariat functions and costs**

NC8 considered the issue of Commission funding for developing countries and SIDSs to attend NC meetings (NC8-IP-07 and Para 61 of NC8). FAC6 (December 2012) followed up with specific recommendations and requested NC9 review the contribution formula and provide recommendations to FAC7 (Para 26-27, Attachment W (FAC6 Report), WCPFC9 Report). WCPFC9 endorsed that recommendation and request (Para 417, WCPFC9 Report).

NC9 is invited to review and further consider the development of the NC Secretariat, if needed, and costs related with NC activities.

* + 1. **Rules of Procedure**

Subject to any proposals tabled by CCMs, NC9 will consider Rules of Procedure for NC

* + 1. **Management Objective Workshop (MOW)**

Following the roadmap approved by WCPFC9, the MOW expert group has drafted a document for MOW2 (late November 2013), which includes i) candidate management objectives, ii) performance indicators, and iii) target reference points for each major fishery. NC9 is invited to review the document and provide comments and suggestions for improvement, which will be provided to MOW2 (Attachment X, WCPFC9 Report).

* 1. **Next meeting**

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

* 1. **Other business**

NC9 will discuss any other business raised under Agenda Item 1.2.

1. **Adoption of the Summary Report of the Ninth Regular Session of the Northern Committee and recommendations to the Commission**

NC9 will adopt the Summary Report of its Ninth 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.

1. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting is scheduled to close on 5 September 2013.