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STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2013

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STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2013

1. Introduction

1.1. Context

STRATEGIC VISION:

Effective management, long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPO for present and future generations through the application of precautionary fisheries management, based on the best scientific information available, while minimizing adverse social and environmental impacts and giving full recognition to the special requirements of developing States Parties to the Convention, in particular of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and territories.

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Commission) is the custodian of the world's largest tuna fishery. The harvest of tunas from the WCPO in **2009 was 2.468 million tonnes**. This harvest represents just over 81% of the Pacific Ocean tuna catch and 58% of the global tuna catch.

The principal fishing methods in this fishery are purse seine (77%), pole and line (7%), and longline (9%). The remainder of the harvest is taken by a variety of commercial and artisanal gears including troll and hand-line principally in eastern Indonesia and the Philippines.

The tuna catch is dominated by skipjack, accounting for approximately 73% of the harvest, yellowfin (18%), bigeye (5%) and albacore (5%). Non-target associated or dependent species taken in association with tuna fishing operations include billfish, turtles, sharks, rays and sea birds.

A substantial portion of the WCPO falls under the national jurisdiction of coastal States that exercise sovereignty over their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). The majority of these coastal States in the WCPO are Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Territories. Unique among tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), approximately 80% of the catch of species under the purview of the Commission is taken within EEZs.

In addition to national and regional socio-economic importance within the WCPO, the region's tuna resource makes a major contribution to global food security. Since 2000 the tuna harvest from the WCPO has increased by approximately 50% with vessels based in developing coastal States in the region gradually accounting for a larger proportion of the catch.

The Commission's membership exhibits a range of cultural, social and economic diversity. It includes some of the world's largest industrialized economies and some of the least developed. Coastal States, some with developing fleets and fishing industries, as well as the traditional distant water fishing nations that have operated in the area for many years participate in the Commission on an equal footing. Although the Commission's small island State members are currently reliant on revenue from the licensing of foreign fleets they have aspirations to maximize long term sustainable returns from the harvest of tuna resources, including developing their own domestic fisheries in high seas waters of the WCPO.

1.2. Purpose

This Strategic Plan (the Plan) has been prepared to provide a structured guide that will help both the Commission and the Secretariat to identify how the actions will be taken, tasks accomplished and challenges met in an efficient and timely way so as to provide the best possible support to the Commission and its Members, Cooperating non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs).

This first Plan has been prepared to guide the development of the Commission and the activities of the Secretariat through 2013. It describes the priority tasks and principle strategies for the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention. Without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission, it elaborates on the objectives and direction that are necessary to address these priorities, the benchmarks (performance indicators) against which an assessment of progress towards achieving objectives can be measured, and the relationships and partnerships that will assist in achieving the objectives for the successful implementation of the Plan.

2. Strategic Objectives

Table 1 – Planned operational activities and performance measures

Objectives	Operational activities	Measure (PI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and management measures that ensure long-term sustainability and promote optimum utilization of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt enforceable conservation and management measures that reflect the consideration and application of the advice of the Scientific Committee; • Apply the precautionary approach in accordance with articles 5 (c) and 6 and relevant internationally agreed accepted standards, practices and procedures; • Prevent or eliminate overfishing and excess fishing capacity, and to ensure that levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of fishery resources; • Obtain and evaluate economic and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of the stocks; • Number of decisions that reflect or apply the advice of the Scientific Committee; • Level of fishing, fishing effort/capacity as related to levels commensurate with the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources; • Number of CMMs that meet their objectives for sustainable management of fish stocks; • Management strategies are adopted and implemented; • Level of fishing access by developing State Parties, in particular small island

	<p>other fisheries-related data and information;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take into account the special requirements of developing State Parties, in particular small island developing States, and of territories, including the interests of artisanal and subsistence fishers; • Without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States, agree and implement criteria and procedures for the allocation of total allowable catch or total level of fishing effort in accordance with Article 10(3); • Ensure coverage of all stocks within the competence of the WCPFC; • Development and incorporation of stock specific reference points into management strategies. 	<p>developing States, and of territories, including artisanal and subsistence fishers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure socio-economic studies and analysis considered by the SC; • Number of decisions that reflect agreed to allocation criteria; • Record of Compliance; • Adopt reference points.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and management measures that minimize impacts on non-target species in the Convention Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully implement the ROP at levels that provide manageable levels of uncertainty on by-catch numbers and locations; • Collect complete and accurate data on non-target species; • Assess the impacts of fishing on non-target species; • Adopt and implement effective measures to reduce the incidental mortality of other species, particularly, sharks, turtles, birds and mammals; • Conduct stock assessments or ecological risk assessments for non-target species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which decisions on non-target species are taken consistent with the best available scientific advice and in accordance with the ecosystems-based approach, Precautionary Approach and Annex II of UNFSA; • Number and effectiveness of measures adopted by the Commission to reduce the incidental mortality of sharks, turtles, birds and mammals and other non-target and associated species; • Estimated proportion of fishing effort that uses selective fishing gears that minimize impacts on non-target species; • Record of Compliance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, inter alia, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort, as well as information from national and international research programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt standards and decisions for collection, verification and for the timely exchange and reporting of data on fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area; • Addressing identified data gaps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which data provision and reporting decisions are complied with by CCMs; • The number and scope of data gaps; • The extent to which data is protected, accessed and disseminated in accordance with Commission rules and procedures.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective monitoring, control and surveillance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and implement appropriate cooperation mechanisms for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCS tools are adequately funded and operational;

<p>conservation and management measures are adopted and implemented by the Commission and enforced by its members.</p>	<p>effective MCS and enforcement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the level of compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and develop processes to address non-compliance, including through the use of positive and negative remedies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of non-compliance and trends in contraventions; • Extent of detected IUU fishing activities; • Level of implementation of MCS measures (i.e., number of CCMs conducting port inspections, HSB&Is, etc).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full recognition of the special requirements of developing State Parties to the Convention, in particular small island developing States, and of territories in relation to conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and development of fisheries for such stocks • Enhancing the participation and role of developing State CCMs in the work of the WCPFC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission take into account the special requirements of developing State Parties, in particular small island developing States and of territories; • Establish mechanisms for cooperation with developing States and territories, which may include provision of financial assistance, assistance relating to human resources development, technical assistance, transfer of technology including through joint venture arrangements, and advisory and consultative services. These may be delivered on a bilateral basis with developing States and territories, or through WCPFC Special Requirements or other funds established for this purpose; • Adopt and implement a capacity development strategy, including a fisheries scholarship scheme, for nationals from developing States, particularly SIDS and territories; • Distribution of funds available in the Article 30 Fund in accordance with TORs for the full range of allowable activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Requirements Fund, and other WCPFC funds established for this purpose, assessed for their contribution to capacity building for developing State members ; • SIDS representation among office bearers and Secretariat of the Commission; • The level of funding contributed to the Article 30 Fund or the Commission to assist developing CCMs; • Number of nationals from developing States, in particular from SIDS and territories, who have received scholarships and have completed degrees in the areas of fisheries science, fisheries management, fisheries MCS, fisheries development, and law.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality and efficient administrative and technical support to the Commission Members and other stakeholders are provided by the Secretariat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and transmit the Commission's official communications; • Compile and disseminate the data necessary to accomplish the objective of the Convention; • Prepare administrative and other reports for the Commission and subsidiary bodies; • Administer arrangements for monitoring, control and surveillance and the provision of scientific advice; • Publish and promote the decisions of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of satisfaction by CCMs with provision of support by Secretariat; • Ensure pay and remuneration are competitive with other regional organizations; • Ensure housing is of a standard acceptable to Secretariat staff.

	<p>the Commission and its subsidiary bodies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide treasury, personnel and administrative functions that are operational and efficient; • Deliver the agreed annual work program of the Commission within budget; • Manage the logistics of the annual meeting of the Commission and any meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies; • Retention of staff. 	
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Principle strategies (2011-2013)

- **Adopt conservation and management measures for bigeye and yellowfin tunas that will ensure long-term sustainability and promote optimum utilization.**
- **Ensuring that WCPFC conservation and management measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto SIDS and Territories.**
- **Ensure that Scientific Committee has appropriate capacity to provide Commission with best scientific advice available.**
- **Adopt measures to ensure that the Commission has the necessary monitoring, control and surveillance tools in place to ensure compliance with CMMs and address illegal fishing.**
- **Manage the impacts of highly migratory species fisheries on vulnerable bycatch species (e.g sharks) and non-fish bycatch (e.g. seabirds, turtles).**
- **Ensuring that measures adopted permit or promote the development of domestic fishing and related industries of developing States, in particular the least developed SIDS and Territories, year on year, of the total Western and Central Pacific fisheries-associated industry, while also ensuring that such measures do not undermine the conservation and management of HMS stocks.**
- **Provide the Secretariat with necessary capacity to support the work of the Commission, while recognizing the need for budgetary restraint.**

Table 2 – Associated program of work (2011-2013)

2011	2012	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain and review full assessment for bigeye tuna • Workshop on management objectives (\$) • Complete Cost Recovery Consultancy and consider results • Improve procedures for budget approval • Improve procedures for authorizing vessels to fish in Convention Area • Port state measures (\$) • Consider additional measures for non-target species • Obtain and review full assessment for striped marlin • Pilot program of Compliance with conservation and management measures (CCMM) scheme • Obtain and review full assessment for north Albacore tuna • Conservation and management measures for bigeye and yellowfin tunas • Performance review (\$) • Consideration of Kobe III 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External peer review of bigeye tuna (\$) • Obtain and review shark assessments • CNM application process for carriers and/or bunkers • Cost recovery program • Catch documentation scheme (\$) • Port state measures (cont'd) (\$) • ROP fully implemented (\$) • Development of allocation mechanisms • Obtain and review full assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna (NC) • Adopt management measures for sharks • Action plan to respond to performance review (\$) • Expanded CCMM scheme with established and adopted remedies process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt reference points for assessing the status of the main multispecies tuna fisheries • Development of allocation mechanisms.

3. Monitoring and Review

Every other regular session of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission will review the elements of this Strategic Plan that relate to its functions. The outcomes of the review in each subsidiary body will be consolidated by the Secretariat in a concise summary report that identifies the achievements and challenges associated with the implementation of this Strategic Plan. The report will be presented to the next regular session of the Commission.

The report will identify those tasks and strategies described in the Strategic Plan that have been successfully completed, progress with implementation of those tasks that are on-going and those tasks scheduled for future implementation. The Commission will consider options for addressing constraints and challenges associated with implementation of this Strategic Plan.

A comprehensive review of this Strategic Plan will be undertaken by the Commission in the third year of its implementation. The review will assess the content of the Strategic Plan, and progress with its implementation, against international obligations and the provisions of the Convention. On the basis of the review the Commission will adopt a revised Strategic Plan to serve the subsequent 3 years.

**Template for use by WCPFC CCMs when nominating
measures/activities for consideration at the Commission or subsidiary bodies**

Any proposed new measure or activity will include the following information:

1. A clear outline of the objective and benefits being sought;
2. Risks being managed;
3. Benefit to/impact on SIDs;
4. Area of application;
5. Resources required
 - internal (e.g. Secretariat/subsidiary bodies/time/\$);
 - external;
6. Risks to compliance;
7. Statement of relative priority;
8. Timing;
9. Linkages with other measures/activities;
10. Reporting requirements;
11. Review period/process.