



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

**Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
9-17 August 2011**

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

WCPFC-SC7-2011/03

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting will open at 08:30 on Tuesday, 9 August 2011.

1.1 Welcome address

The Chair will welcome delegations of the WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) and Observers to the Seventh Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC7).

A senior official from Pohnpei State and Executive Director will be invited to deliver an opening address.

1.2 Meeting arrangements

The Chair will outline procedural matters including the schedule for the meeting, administrative arrangements, and a list of theme conveners including endorsement of co-conveners for Stock Assessment theme.

1.3 Issues arising from the Commission

SC will review issues arising from the Commission and other subsidiary bodies.

1.4 Adoption of agenda

The Provisional Agenda for SC7 was prepared and distributed on 11 May 2011 in accordance with Rule 1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. Any Member of the Commission, the Chairman, or the Executive Director may, at least 30 days before the date fixed for the opening of a Regular Session request the inclusion of supplementary items in the Agenda. A request for the inclusion of a supplementary item on the Provisional Agenda shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the proposed supplementary item, which will be communicated to all CCMs and observers at least 20 days before the opening of the Session.

Other matters to be discussed, under Agenda Item 11, may be proposed here.

1.5 Reporting arrangements

SC7 will adopt a Summary Report and, if available, an Executive Summary that will address requests from the Commission. Relevant text under Agenda Items highlighted with an asterisk (*) in the Summary Report will be incorporated into the Executive Summary. The Executive Summary may also include a brief summary of research plans, findings or conclusions on the stock status, reports and recommendations as directed by the Commission or at the initiative of the SC (paragraph 2, Article 12 of the Convention).

SC7 will have assistance of a professional rapporteur as the lead rapporteur, and appoint supporting rapporteurs, who will be assigned to specific agenda items.

1.6 Intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee

The Chair, with support from the Secretariat, will report on intersessional activities of the SC and the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 2 REVIEW OF FISHERIES

2.1 Overview of Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) fisheries*

The SPC-OFP will present on key fisheries for highly migratory species in the WCPO region, including swordfish fishery. SC7 will be invited to provide supplementary information, ask questions and provide comments.

2.2 Overview of Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fisheries

The IATTC will present on fisheries for highly migratory species in the EPO region. SC7 will be invited to provide supplementary information, ask questions and provide comments.

2.3 Annual Report (Part 1) from Members, Participating Territories and Cooperating Non-Members (CCMs)

CCMs will be given the opportunity to make a brief presentation (3 minutes) highlighting recent changes and developments in their fisheries as described in Part 1 of their Annual Report to the Commission. A short time for questions may be provided at the conclusion of each presentation. The deadline for the submission of Part 1 of the Annual Report (Attachment N, SC4 Summary Report) to the Secretariat (sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int) is 10 July 2011. Part 1 will also include information on requests from paragraph 9 of CMM 2007-04, paragraph 8 of CMM 2009-03, paragraph 11 of CMM 2009-06, and paragraph 4 of CMM 2010-07.

Presenters of CCM Annual Reports are required to prepare a half page summary to accompany their report for inclusion in SC7 Summary Report. Rapporteurs will capture the key issues raised in subsequent discussion for inclusion in the Report. It will be assumed that all annual reports have been read prior to the Session. The use of PowerPoint or other visual presentations is discouraged due to time constraints.

CCMs are requested to submit any outstanding Part 1 reports for previous years, and the status of Part 1 submissions for each CCM can be found at the bottom of each WCPFC-SC meeting website.

2.4 Reports from regional fisheries bodies and other organizations

Regional fisheries bodies and other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations observing SC7 may make a brief presentation (3 minutes) on key issues relevant to the work of the SC. Such presentations need to be arranged with the Chair before the opening of the Session. The deadline for the submission of meeting documents to the Secretariat (sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int) from regional fisheries bodies and other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations is 22 July 2011.

AGENDA ITEM 3 STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME

SC7 will provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on the effective management, long-term conservation and sustainable use (including review of the current CMMs) of the stocks listed below.

SPC-OFP may provide a summary report on the Preparatory Workshop for 2011 Tuna Stock Assessments held in Noumea, New Caledonia, 4-8 April 2011.

3.1 WCPO bigeye tuna

3.1.1 Review of research and information

a. Review of Project 35

SC7 will review the results of the pilot survey, “Age, growth, and reproductive biology of bigeye tuna in the Pacific Ocean” and the three sensitivity analyses (revised growth curve, new maturity ogive and both combined) using 2010 bigeye assessment, and provide recommendations for implementation of Phase 2.

b. Review of 2011 stock assessment

SC7 will review the results of the 2011 bigeye stock assessment, future research needs including budget implications if needed, evaluation of CMM 2008-01, and provide recommendations for the Commission’s consideration.

3.1.2 Provision of scientific information

a. Status and trends*

b. Management advice and implications*

3.2 WCPO yellowfin tuna

3.2.1 Review of research and information

SC7 will review the results of the 2011 yellowfin stock assessment, future research needs including budget implications if needed, evaluation of CMM 2008-01, and provide recommendations for the Commission’s consideration.

3.2.2 Provision of scientific information

- a. Status and trends*
- b. Management advice and implications*

3.3 Requests from CMM 2008-01

- a. Fishing effort for bigeye and yellowfin tuna from other commercial tuna fisheries*

In accordance with paragraph 39 of CMM 2008-01, SC7 will review fishing effort or proposals for the provision of effort data from other commercial tuna fisheries provided by CCMs. Such information will be provided to the Secretariat (sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int) by 30 June 2011.

- b. Review of CMM 2008-01*

In conjunction with Agenda 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 4.3, 5.5b and 6.1a, SC7 will provide scientific advice to the Commission for its annual review of the impacts and compliance with this Measure (paragraph 46).

In providing this advice, the SC should take note of the WCPFC process for developing an enhanced CMM agreed during WCPFC7: “The SC is to consider updated assessments for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack and the results of the evaluation of the measure and projections undertaken at the request of SC6, and will provide advice and recommendations that will support the development of an enhanced measure for conservation and management of tropical tunas. On the basis of the advice provided by SC7, the Chair and the Vice-chair of the Commission, assisted by the Executive Director and other Commission subsidiary body Chairs as appropriate, will prepare a preliminary document containing a possible approach and options for the enhanced measure to be considered by TCC7.”

3.4 WCPO skipjack tuna

3.4.1 Review of research and information

SC7 will review the results of the 2011 skipjack stock assessment, future research needs including budget implications if needed, and provide recommendations for consideration by the Commission.

3.4.2 Provision of scientific information

- a. Status and trends*
- b. Management advice and implications*

3.5 South Pacific albacore

3.5.1 Review of research and information

a. Review of Project 39

SC7 will review the results of a 3-year research on “Regional study of the stock structure and life-history characteristics of SP albacore (Project 39)”.

b. Review of 2011 stock assessment

SC7 will review the results of the 2011 albacore stock assessment, future research needs including budget implications if needed, and provide recommendations for the Commission’s consideration.

3.5.2 Provision of scientific information

a. Status and trends*

b. Management advice and implications*

SC7 may consider paragraphs 4 and 5 of the CMM 2010-05 for the provision of advice on SP albacore.

3.6 South Pacific swordfish

3.6.1 Review of research and information

In conjunction with Data and Statistics theme, SC7 will review data holdings relating to swordfish in the South Pacific (paragraph 353, SC6 Summary Report), together with the resolution of any outstanding data issues, for a recommendation to conduct the swordfish assessment during 2012.

3.6.2 Provision of scientific information

a. Status and trends*

b. Management advice and implications*

SC7 may provide advice for the review of CMM 2009-03.

3.7 Southwest Pacific striped marlin

3.7.1 Review of research and information

SC7 will review any research outputs on SP striped marlin, including “Collation of SP striped marlin (project 64)”, and provide recommendations to conduct stock assessment planned in 2012.

3.7.2 Provision of scientific information

a. Status and trends*

b. Management advice and implications*

3.8 North Pacific striped marlin

The ISC Chair will be invited to provide any new information on the status and conservation advice for this stock. SPC-OFP may provide supplement report on the progress of ISC's Data Preparation Workshop on NP striped marlin.

- a. Status and trends*
- b. Management advice and implications*

3.9 Northern stocks

Annex I of the Commission's Rules of Procedure defines 'northern stocks' to be 'northern Pacific bluefin¹, northern albacore and the northern stock of swordfish'. The ISC Chair will be invited to provide the results of 2011 stock assessments, stock status, and management and conservation advice for these stocks.

3.9.1 North Pacific albacore (CMM 2005-03)

- a. Status and trends*
- b. Management advice and implications*

3.9.2 Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2010-04)

- a. Status and trends*
- b. Management advice and implications*

3.9.3 North Pacific swordfish

- a. Status and trends*
- b. Management advice and implications*

AGENDA ITEM 4 MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME*

4.1 Terms of Reference

SC7 will review a draft Terms of Reference for this theme and adopt a final Terms of Reference.

4.2 Limit reference points for the WCPFC

SC7 will review the two consultant reports prepared intersessionally on the four tasks listed below and as requested by SC6 make a recommendation to the Commission on appropriate Limit Reference Points for the principal target species in the WCPFC.

1. Identify candidate indicators (e.g. $B_{current}/B_o$, SB/SB_{MSY}) and related limit reference points (LRPs) (e.g. $B_{current}/B_o = X$, $SB/SB_{MSY} = Y$), the specific information needs they meet, the data and information required to estimate

¹ Pacific bluefin tuna

them, the associated uncertainty of these estimates, and the relative strengths and weaknesses of using each type within a management framework.

2. Using past assessments, evaluate the probabilities that related performance indicators exceed the values associated with candidate RPs.
3. Evaluate the consequences of adopting particular LRPs based on stochastic projections using the stock assessment models.
4. Undertake a literature review or meta-analyses to provide insights into levels of depletion that may serve as appropriate limit reference points and other uncertain assessment parameters (e.g. steepness).

4.3 Review of performance of FAD closures

SC7 will review any updated analysis of fishing activities during the 2010 FAD closure, including examination of observer reports to characterise FAD-related fishing operations.

4.4 Management Objectives Workshop

SC7 will consider the provision of scientific assistance to the preparation and convening of the Commission's workshop on management objectives that is scheduled for 2012, and provide specific recommendations on science with budget implications (paragraph 403, SC6 Summary Report).

AGENDA ITEM 5 ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH MITIGATION THEME

5.1 Ecosystem effects of fishing

SC7 may consider the progress of SEAPODYM applications and the results of Kobe 3 workshop on bycatch, if available.

5.2 Sharks*

SC7 will review CMM 2010-07, especially paragraphs 4, 8, 13 and 14 with reference to data provision, fin to carcass ratios, the need for revised or new CMMs, and updated advice on the stock status of key shark species included in the WCPFC Shark Research Plan, respectively. In addition, SC7 will review the progress of the Shark Research Plan including plans for shark stock assessments, and will consider a process for the nomination of key shark species. Based on the research results presented, in particular the indicators of fishing pressure on the original key shark species², SC7 may wish to consider providing scientific advice on shark stock status to WCPFC8.

The ISC Chair will be invited to brief SC7 on the activities of ISC Shark Working Group and its coordination, as requested by SC6, of shark data sharing and shark stock assessments with SPC-OFP.

² blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), mako sharks (*Isurus* spp.), silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) and thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.)

5.3 Seabirds*

SC7 will review outputs of various researches as recommended in paragraph 439 of the SC6 Summary Report, including research findings on the use of weighted branch lines; the use of dead baits versus live baits; the efficacy of blue-dyed squid bait; the use of deep-setting longline shooters and their particular characteristics north of 23°N, including any specifications that have been developed; and provide recommendations to TCC7 and the Commission.

5.4 Sea turtles*

SC7 will review scientific aspects of the CMM 2008-03, and consider any additional or new mitigation measures of sea turtles.

5.5 Other species and issues

a. Guidelines for the release of encircled animals

SC7 will consider the Commission's request of developing, through collaborative research with TCC, industry and ROP, best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of encircled animals such as whale sharks and cetaceans, and advise on practical, cost-effective mitigation procedures to make these available to fishing vessels for consideration by WCPFC8 (paragraph 397, WCPFC7 Summary Report).

b. FAD bycatch mitigation

SC7 will review the progress of "FAD bycatch mitigation research" funded by the government of Papua New Guinea.

AGENDA ITEM 6 DATA AND STATISTICS THEME

6.1 Data gaps

a. Data gaps of the Commission

SC7 will consider progress in relation to addressing gaps in the data holdings of the Commission.

b. Species composition of purse-seine catches

SC7 will review the progress of Project 60 (Collection and evaluation of purse-seine species composition data). This is the last year of the 3-year project and SC7 may (a) consider whether the objectives have been achieved and (b) make recommendations regarding sampling protocols based on the results of this project.

c. Data issues with the ISC

SC7 will review the progress of data reconciliation of the Commission and ISC data holdings for North Pacific stocks to identify and address data gaps.

6.2 Regional Observer Programme (ROP)

SC7 will consider progress of implementing and auditing ROP, and issues related with scientific data collected or to be collected and data gaps.

6.3 West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA)

SC7 will consider the Summary Report of the second WPEA Project Steering Committee Meeting that will be held during the SC7.

6.4 Tagging initiatives (PTTP)

SC7 will consider the Summary Report of the fifth Steering Committee meeting for the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project.

AGENDA ITEM 7 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

7.1 The status of cooperation and relations

SC7 will review the status of cooperation with other organizations and consider any further needs for with other organizations.

AGENDA ITEM 8 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

8.1 Consideration of the special requirements of developing States pursuant to Part VIII of the Convention

SC7 will consider intersessional activities during 2010/2011 for the capacity building in science of developing States and participating territories, including those supported by the Commission's Special Requirements Fund and Japanese Trust Fund. Other matters within the scope of Part VIII of the Convention may also be discussed. CCMs including developed CCMs, Secretariat, SPC-OFP and FFA are invited to give brief reports in this regard.

AGENDA ITEM 9 FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

9.1 Strategic Research Plan of the Scientific Committee

SC7 will develop a new draft Strategic Research Plan for 2012-2016 for consideration by the Commission.

9.2 Review of the Scientific Committee Work Programme

SC7 will review the progress of 2011 work programme and the list of SC Work Programme that was established at SC3 (Attachment O of the SC3 Summary Report).

9.3 Development of 2012 Work Programme and budget, and projection of 2013-2014 provisional work programme and indicative budget*

SC7 will develop 2012 work programme and budget and provisional work programme and indicative budget for 2013-2014.

AGENDA ITEM 10 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

10.1 Rules of Procedure

Subject to any proposals tabled by CCMs, the SC7 will consider Rules of Procedure for SC.

10.2 Peer review of stock assessments*

SC7 will consider relevant issues for the undertaking of a workshop-style peer-review of the 2011 bigeye stock assessment in early 2012, including selection of reviewers, terms of reference, an indicative milestone, and budget implications.

10.3 Future operation of the Scientific Committee

SC7 will review the structure and performance of the SC meeting, determine the possible expansion of SC8 to include Fish Biology, Fishing Technology and Methods theme, and identify convenors of such themes.

10.4 Next meeting*

Members are invited to propose a time and venue for SC8 in August 2012.

AGENDA ITEM 11 OTHER MATTERS

SC7 may further discuss and develop proposals identified in paragraph 424 of the WCPFC7 Summary Report (i.e., WCPFC7 papers for further discussion and development through SC7 and TCC7).

SC7 will consider any additional issues.

AGENDA ITEM 12 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

12.1 Adoption of the Summary Report and Executive Summary of the Seventh Regular Session of the Scientific Committee

SC7 will adopt the Summary Report of its Seventh Regular Session (and its Executive Summary, if available).

AGENDA ITEM 13 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting will close at 17:00 on Wednesday, 17 August 2011.