



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
6-14 August 2014

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

WCPFC-SC10-2014/GN-IP-01 (Rev.1)

Secretariat

Introduction

1. Article 22 of the Convention requires the Commission to collaborate with other intergovernmental organizations which may contribute to the attainment of the objective of the Convention. The WCPFC maintains formal relations with ten inter-governmental institutions and agencies including other regional fisheries management organisations. The broad objectives of these relationships are to promote cooperation and collaboration in areas of mutual interest. The Commission has relations with the following organisations and the agreements with each of these organizations can be found on <http://wcpfc.int/relations-with-other-organisations>:

- 1) Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC);
- 2) Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA);
- 3) International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC);
- 4) Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
- 5) Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC);
- 6) Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC);
- 7) Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR);
- 8) Commission for the Conservation for Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT);
- 9) Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP); and
- 10) North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC).

In 2012, the Commission approved WCPFC involvement in the GEF-funded *Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas beyond National Jurisdiction* (ABNJ) Project implemented by the UN FAO. That project is now underway and Dr Shelley Clarke has been recruited to the Commission to manage and lead the project with the FAO. SC10 will be briefed on the Shark and Bycatch Mitigation Information System (BMIS) Project.

WCPFC has an interest in other areas of funding under this project and in particular MCS and the development of Harvest Strategies both of which would add to the work currently underway in the Commission on these issues.

Existing arrangements

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

2. An MOU between WCPFC and SPC was first signed in December 2005 for scientific services 2006, updating the specific services annually. In 2013, the three-year MOU was revised highlighting implementation of Shark Research Plan.

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

3. As directed by the Fourth Regular Session of the Commission an MOU between the two secretariats was finalized.

4. There is also a service level agreement (SLA) between the FFA and the Commission for VMS services consistent with paragraph 5 of Article 15 of the Convention.

International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)

5. An MOU was adopted in December 2005. On the basis of recommendations from the *Independent Review of the Commission's Transitional Science Structure and Functions*, the Commission directed that the Secretariat undertake a review of the MOU. This task is pending further direction from the Commission.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

6. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission adopted an MOU with SPREP.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

7. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission adopted an MOU with IOTC.

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

8. An MOU was executed by representatives of the IATTC and WCPFC following its endorsement by WCPFC3 at Apia, Samoa in December 2006.

9. A data exchange agreement to support the exchange of data between the two Commissions was signed by the two parties at the end of the Commission meeting at Papeete, French Polynesia in December 2009.

10. A Memorandum of Cooperation on the Cross Endorsement of Regional Observers between WCPFC and IATTC was signed at the IATTC meeting in La Jolla, USA in July 2011 (Attachment Q, WCPFC7 Summary Report).

11. WCPFC8 directed the WCPFC Executive Director to continue to work with the IATTC Executive Director to implement an arrangement for the deployment of cross-endorsed observers as soon as possible. Two cross endorsed observer training courses have been held since WCPFC8 the first being in Kiribati and the second in Marshall Islands resulting in 21 certified cross endorsed observers being available for vessels wishing to fish in both IATTC and WCPFC waters on the same trip.

12. WCPFC maintains a very good working relationship with IATTC.

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

13. WCPFC5 adopted an Arrangement with CCAMLR. The Arrangement was signed by the Chair of CCAMLR on 12 January 2009, and remained in effect for three (3) years. On 10 March 2013, the Arrangement was renewed and signed by the Chairs of both organizations.

14. In 2014, the CCAMLR IT Manager provided direct assistance to WCPFC, which in-part contributed to the successful launch of the Record of Fishing Vessels Standards, Specifications and Procedures (CMM 2013-03). WCPFC also appreciated technical support from CCAMLR at its internal IMS/GIS workshop held 13 – 14 June 2014. WCPFC and CCAMLR discussed a range of matters of common interest to the two organizations, including meeting servers and document support arrangements, website publishing and document synchronisation. More frequent dialogue between CCAMLR Secretariat and WCPFC Secretariat is recommended, to share experiences, and support an approach that is sensible and will continue to benefit both organisations.

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

15. An MOU between CCSBT and WCPFC was signed following the endorsement of the Second Regular Session of the Commission, 12-16 December 2005 at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP)

16. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission adopted an MOU with ACAP.

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

17. An MOU was developed by the two Secretariats, approved by WCPFC 6 at Papeete, French Polynesia in December 2009, and was signed in December 2010.

Other potential arrangements

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

18. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission decided that there is no urgency to develop an MOU with FAO. However, the Commission is involved in the GEF-funded ABNJ project since 2013.

International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

19. Regular dialogue is maintained with the ICCAT directly and through the tuna-RFMO network. There are no developments to report in respect of formalizing an arrangement for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with ICCAT.

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

20. PICES is an intergovernmental scientific organization that was established in 1992 to promote and coordinate marine research in the northern North Pacific and adjacent seas. Its present members are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. PICES continues to invite WCPFC to participate in its annual meetings. The

Secretariat remains in the position of funding and staffing constraints preventing participation, but looks forward to close cooperation in future years.