



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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

**REPORT OF JAPAN TRUST FUND
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
8 August 2014**

WCPFC-SC9-2014/ RP-JTF-02

SECRETARIAT

Introduction

The Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) was held on Friday 8th August 2014, during the meeting of the Tenth Scientific Committee (SC10); it was chaired and convened by The JTF Administrator, Tony Beeching with support from the JTF Coordinator Dr Yujiro Akatsuka, Country Representative Kathleen Sisor (Palau), Pamela Maru Fisheries Forum Agency (FFA) and Dr John Hampton & Peter Williams from the SPC-OFP.

This was the third SC meeting in support of the second phase of JTF funding, which has greater emphasis on monitoring and compliance than the first phase. Funding is approved for the 5 years of the project, but there is competition for each annual budget. Total funding available for 2014 amounted to USD \$329,484, which was all allocated and disbursed in support of thirteen projects.

1) Review of the project performance

Immediately before the JTF Steering Committee meeting the SC10 Plenary had an opportunity to view a near live demonstration of the RMI/FSM IMS. This project which is now operational was initially funded by JTF in 2013. Beyond the immediate value to RMI and FSM, P. Maru explained how the project benefits are being rolled out to several FFA members, and Samoan participants present at the JTF SC advised the SC that Samoa was currently in the process of taking on board some elements of the IMS project. Dr Akatsuka, noted that this was an excellent use of JTF funds, with benefits extending beyond the immediate recipients of the grant.

Recipients of the thirteen current projects (FFA (benefiting Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Tokelau), Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, SPC (x5 in support of developing states), Tonga (x2), Tuvalu and Vietnam, and the three carried over projects, SPC and FSM/RMI, presented briefly on their projects.

The Steering Committee provides a venue to air project issues and to resolve them.

Martin Finau described the ongoing Tongan JTF project “Support for the collection and the improved management of commercial tuna data in Tonga as well as providing awareness on conservation and management of tuna” Martin's current workload is greatly increased when working on large foreign fishing vessels currently fishing in Tonga fisheries water. A single foreign vessel can unloaded in more than a day in ports of Nuku'alofa and Sampling Officers pay rates of TOP\$25 per vessel per day.

- The JTF Steering Committee agreed a revised proposal in which to pay an extra per vessel rates of TOP \$25 per port sampler per extra number of days of unloading for port samplers when they unload a vessel in more than a day under the supervision of port sampling supervisor (Mr. Martin Finau); and the unused fund by the end of the year to be used for port sampling materials and gears (eg. data collection material (paper, pens, calipers and port samplers safety gears etc). Note that the port sampling gear will depend if there is left over fund.

2) Other Issues

The JTF call for 2015 project proposals will likely be made at the WCPFC TCC meeting in September, with a probable deadline for submission on or before 31 December 2014.