



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
9-17 August 2011

ISSUES ARISING FROM THE COMMISSION

WCPFC-SC7-2011/GN-WP-03

SECRETARIAT

ISSUES ARISING FROM SC6 AND WCPFC7

Issues	References	Tasks/Comments
ISSUES ARISING FROM SC6		
<p>1. Project 35 (Bigeye parameters Pacific-wide)</p>	<p>165. SC6 expressed some concerns regarding postponing a decision on whether to fund Phase 2 of Project 35, as Phase 2 may then have to incur additional costs associated with re-establishing sampling infrastructure. However, the preference of the SC was to delay the scientific review of the pilot study and recommendations for implementation of Phase 2 until SC7.</p> <p>171. On “Bigeye tuna age, growth and reproductive biology” (Project 35), SC6 also recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maturity schedules for stock assessments should be estimated using histological methods. Gonad index (GI) values can be used for evaluating spawning distributions but should not be used for estimating maturity schedules. • Presentation of Project 35 (the bigeye age and reproductivity pilot study) be deferred to SC7. Included in the report to SC7 will be three sensitivity analyses (revised growth curve, new maturity ogive and both combined) using the 2010 bigeye assessment. 	<p>a) SC7 paper SA-WP-01 – this combines both results of 2010 and 2011 contracts</p> <p>b) SC7 will have a review process of this project for the Pacific-wide study</p>
<p>2. Project 55 (FAD Bycatch Mitigation Research)</p>	<p>193. ... that issues related with Project 55 were being funded through a USD 25,000 voluntary contribution from PNG, and that the Secretariat would advertise for proposals on its website.</p>	<p>David Itano will present a progress report on this study.</p>
<p>3. NP striped marlin</p>	<p>327. The stock assessment report on NP striped marlin must be discussed in full at SC7 like any other new stock assessments.</p> <p>328. An ISC representative, per SC’s request, agreed to provide SC7 with an overview of ISC recent assessments for each stock and management advice.</p>	<p>The completion of NP striped marlin deferred to 2012.</p>
<p>4. Future assessment on SP albacore and swordfish</p>	<p>353. For future assessments:</p> <p>i. SC6 requested that following the completion of the biological study in 2011, that South Pacific albacore be considered for a full assessment in 2012, ...</p> <p>iii. SC6 recommended that a review of data holdings relating to swordfish in the South Pacific, together with the resolution of any outstanding data issues, be undertaken during 2011 and reported to SC7. If data for the assessments are deemed sufficient, SC7 can make a recommendation to conduct the swordfish assessment during 2012, with a presentation to SC8.</p>	<p>a) Three full assessment and one update. Regarding terminology, it is suggested to use “stock assessment” only instead of “full assessment” or “update”.</p> <p>b) 353 iii will be addressed at ST-IP-04.</p>
<p>5. TOR for Management Issues Theme</p>	<p>357. The convenor also informed the meeting that there were no terms of reference for this theme, and recommended that after a convenor was elected, the terms of reference for the theme should be drafted, and that this draft be presented to SC7 for discussion, review and adoption. SC6 supported this recommendation.</p>	<p>Theme convenor will prepare a draft TOR for review by SC7</p>
<p>6. Reference points</p>	<p>369. ... The convenor noted that a request had been made to provide SC6 with a biological</p>	<p>Both CSIRO and SPC will provide results of Tasks</p>

	<p>basis for identifying LRPs, but that this task that had not been completed. ... The convener further noted that SPC has developed a good methodology, and that further analyses could be undertaken to help identify candidate LRPs, for presentation to SC7.</p> <p>374. Based on the above discussion, the SC6 made the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC6 recommended that Project 57 on RPs, identified at SC5, be completed. Specifically, tasks 1 and 4 to be put out to tender and tasks 2 and 3 to be completed by SPC. The results are to be reported to SC7 and, if appropriate, to the proposed Management Objectives Workshop to be held in 2011. • After reviewing the results of the above Project, that SC7 make a recommendation to the Commission on candidate RPs (both type and value) for each of the key target species in WCPFC. 	1-4
7. Workshop on Management Objectives	<p>399. The convenor stated that the intent of this agenda item was to consider what guidance the SC could provide to preparing and convening the Commission's proposed workshop on Management Objectives, which is now scheduled for 2011. He noted that issues that would need to be considered included identifying the organiser of the workshop, the agenda, the venue, the timing, appointment of a chair, list of participants, and what preparatory work may need to be conducted. However, he stated that the Secretariat would likely organize the workshop and would be in the best position to choose a venue. Following some discussion, it was agreed that the logistical details could be left to the Secretariat (or other workshop organizer).</p>	<p>Points of consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Logistic arrangements: organiser, venue, timing, WS chair, participants, b) supporting agency and invited experts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independent international expert(s) to provide expert guidance on the use of RPs and other issues of relevance to identifying fisheries management objectives. • SPC to undertake the preparatory work and to provide technical advice on the adoption of RPs to key WCPFC stocks
8. Sharks	<p>424. SC6 recommended to the Commission that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "key shark species" listed in CMM 2009-04 be added to relevant sections of the Commission Rules on Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission, namely... • CCMs should endeavour to collect catch and effort data for porbeagle sharks (south of 20°S)¹ and hammerhead sharks that reflect the spatial and temporal extent of their longline and purse-seine fisheries. ... SC7 will consider adding these two species to paragraphs 1.3 to 1.6 of Annex 1. • SPC-OFP develop a process for the nomination of a key shark species for consideration at SC7, and identify a subgroup of key shark species for which stock assessments will be conducted. • The Commission requested that ISC coordinate shark data sharing and shark stock assessments with SPC-OFP, and present the results of the shark stock assessments in full at SC 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Data submission requirements are reflected in the relevant document. b) SPC and ISC will provide shark-related information to SC7.
9. ISC data	<p>475. A preliminary comparison table of WCPFC and ISC data holdings was provided to</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) SPC provided Category I, II, and III data held in WCPFC for tuna species in the North

¹ Until biological data show this or another geographic limit to be appropriate.

	<p>SPC, and a complete analysis of their respective data holdings will be provided to SC7.</p> <p>477. SC6 requested the science services provider to provide specific tables that show provisions of operational level catch and effort data for the North Pacific region from all CCMs.</p>	<p>Pacific (WCPFC CA) to ISC STAT WG Chair during 9-10 July 2011.</p> <p>b) Secretariat requested ISC STAT WG that SC is expecting ISC's provision of their analysis on ISC data holdings.</p>
10. Strategic Research Plan	<p>509. The Strategic Research Plan (SRP) for 2007–2011 was reviewed ... SC6 adopted modifications to the SRP (Attachment J). A new draft SRP for 2012–2016 will be developed at SC7 for consideration by the Commission.</p>	<p>A draft SRP for 2012-2016 will be reviewed through an informal small group meeting in the margin of SC7 for adoption at the plenary.</p>
11. SC structure	<p>526. ... SC6 recommended that the Commission adopt the following structure for the meeting of SC7:</p> <p>iii) The Biology, Methods, and Fishing Technology themes are to be included in an expanded SC, which is to be held less frequently, as deemed necessary. To allow for the inclusion of these three additional themes, the duration of these SC meetings will be expanded by one or two days, as specified by the preceding SC. Convenors for these three themes will be identified at the SC meeting held the year before the expanded SC meeting.</p> <p>vi) In recent years, special sessions relating to presentations and discussions of large projects of interest to SC (such as the session on the WPEAOFMP held during SC6) have been held on Saturday afternoons. This practice will continue. In the event that a second special session is required (as for PTTP during SC6) then this is to be held as an evening session on a suitably specified day.</p> <p>527. SC7 will review the performance of the above structure, and if required, recommend revisions to be applied to the future SC meetings.</p>	<p>SC8 meeting structure will be determined at SC7</p>
ISSUES ARISING FROM WCPFC7		
1. MOU with ISC	<p>101. WCPFC7 directed that the Secretariat undertake a review of the MOU between WCPFC and ISC in 2011, and that it be addressed at WCPFC8. The MOU is to be modified to expressly address i) participation by the WCPFC science services provider in the 2011 North Pacific striped marlin assessment; and ii) presentation of the assessment to SC7 for review.</p>	<p>a) Secretariat will prepare a review for WCPFC8.</p> <p>b) The completion of NP striped marlin assessment delayed to 2012.</p>
2. SP Swordfish	<p>117. The Commission directed the Secretariat to make written requests to Members, seeking the cooperation of all CCMs that fish for the species (SP swordfish) in providing detailed size data and operational-level logsheet data, specifying catch and effort, in order to enable a full assessment to be undertaken in 2012.</p>	<p>Identified 19 CCMs that caught SP swordfish in the South Pacific during 2000-2010 and sent a letter of request to the 19 CCMs.</p>
3. TOR for Management Objective WS	<p>122. The Commission directed the Secretariat to prepare TORs for the Management Objectives Workshop, which will be held in 2012.</p>	<p>Secretariat will prepare TOR for WCPFC8. SC7 may provide elements to be noted in the TOR.</p>
4. Peer review of bigeye stock	<p>129. At the FAC4 meeting, it was proposed to conduct a workshop-style review, rather than a desk study review, in early 2012 based on the 2011 bigeye assessment; this will provide an in-</p>	<p>SC7 will review the peer review process and</p>

assessment	<p>depth review that interacts with the stock assessment scientists. The workshop-style review of the 2011 bigeye stock assessment will be convened in early 2012, in consultation with SPC; a relevant budget will be proposed by SC7 to WCPFC8.</p> <p>130. The Commission endorsed undertaking a workshop-style peer review of the 2011 bigeye stock assessment in early 2012.</p>	<p>recommend budget for this workshop-style review.</p>								
5. Advice on developing enhanced CMM for tropical tunas	<p>307. WCPFC7 adopted ... a process for 2011 to develop an enhanced CMM for tropical tunas (i.e. bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin) ...:</p> <p>vi) SC7 shall consider updated assessments of 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.</p>	<p>SC7 will cover this.</p>								
6. SC7 develop practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of encircled animals	<p>397. The Commission noted ... the impacts of purse seine fishing on whale sharks, The Commission requested SC7 to develop best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of encircled animals and advise on practical ways to make these available to fishing vessels, for consideration by WCPFC8, taking note that the safety of the vessel crew will also be fully considered. These best practice guidelines should be guided by collaborative research between the SC, TCC and industry. The use of ROP reports and experience of senior ROP observers should be considered in seeking practical, cost-effective mitigation procedures.</p>	<p>Guidelines for the safe release and handling of encircled animals will be covered under SC7 Agenda 5.5a)</p>								
7. SC7's review of the WCPFC7 papers if appropriate	<p>398. The Commission agreed to address the issues raised by WCPFC7-2010-DP-09 (FFA Members proposed CMM to prohibit purse seine fishing associated with whale sharks) and WCPFC7-2010-DP-17 (Proposed CMM mitigating fishing impacts on cetaceans) at SC7, TCC7, and WCPFC8.</p> <p>424. The following list of papers considered at WCPFC 7 was referred to TCC7 and as appropriate SC7 for further discussion and development:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Document Number</th> <th>Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>WCPFC-2010-DP-09</td> <td>FFA members proposed CMM to prohibit purse seine fishing associated with Whale sharks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WCPFC-2010-DP-17 (Rev 2)</td> <td>Proposed CMM mitigating fishing impacts on cetaceans</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WCPFC-2010-30</td> <td>Current CMMs requiring further discussion</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Document Number	Title	WCPFC-2010-DP-09	FFA members proposed CMM to prohibit purse seine fishing associated with Whale sharks	WCPFC-2010-DP-17 (Rev 2)	Proposed CMM mitigating fishing impacts on cetaceans	WCPFC-2010-30	Current CMMs requiring further discussion	<p>Issues related with WCPFC7-2010-DP-09 and WCPFC7-2010-DP-17 will be covered by Ecosystem and Bycatch theme session.</p>
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WCPFC-2010-DP-09	FFA members proposed CMM to prohibit purse seine fishing associated with Whale sharks									
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