



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
5-13 August 2015

Annual WCPFC Report: Joint Tuna RFMO Bycatch Technical Working Group

WCPFC-SC10-2014/EB-IP-02

S. Nicol¹

Recommendation

1. SC11 is requested to note the progress made towards completing the work plan of the Joint Tuna-RFMO By-catch Technical Working Group as outlined in the report.

Background

The Joint Tuna-RFMO By-catch Technical Working Group (By-catch TWG) was established in 2009 and its work plan endorsed by the Kobe III meeting in July 2011 and the Scientific Committee of WCPFC in August 2011. This report documents the progress on the following elements of this work plan:

1. Harmonisation of t-RFMO fishing data;
2. Harmonisation of identification guides;
3. Updating of by-catch research priorities and promotion of collaborative work;
4. Improved Information sharing through the BMIS;
5. Facilitation of Risk Assessments (sharks as the priority);
6. Identification of Funding Sources; and
7. Enhanced compliance with data reporting requirements.

Achievements over the 2014-2015 period

Since WCPFC-SC10 the following activities are reported for the WCPO:

1. Harmonisation of t-RFMO fishing data
See SC11-ST-IP-03, SC11-EB-1P-05.
2. Harmonisation of identification guides
See SC11-EB-IP-09.
3. Improved Information sharing through the BMIS
See SC11-EB-IP-07.
4. Updating of by-catch research priorities and promotion of collaborative work
See SC11-EB-WP-05; SC11-EB-WP-10; SC11-EB-IP-06, SC11-EB-IP-10.
5. Facilitation of Risk Assessments
See SC11-EB-WP-01; SC11-EB-WP-02, SC11-EB-WP-03, SC11-EB-WP-04, SC11-EB-WP-09, SC11-EB-IP-03, SC11-EB-IP-08, SC11-EB-IP-12, SC11-EB-IP-13.
6. Identification of Funding Sources
No progress on the following activities since reporting to WCPFC-SC9.
7. Enhanced compliance with data reporting requirements.
SC11-EB-WP-08.

2015-2016 workplan

See SC11-EB-IP-06

Other Matters

The current chair of the Joint Tuna-RFMO By-catch Technical Working Group will finish employment with the WCPFC Scientific Services Provider in November 2015. A new chair will need to be appointed. The Executive Director of the t-RFMO secretariats will be advised on this matter.