



International Scientific Committee

for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

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SungKwon Soh:

The ISC11 Plenary report and Statistics Working Group report are almost complete and should be up on the ISC website by the end of this week. I still had a number of edits that needed attention before authorizing for posting on the ISC website. Many of the other reports associated with ISC11 are already on the website. I have provided a brief report of ISC11 below for WCPFC-SC Members if they are interested; feel free to present this as my report until the plenary report is available on the web.

Highlights from ISC11

The 11th ISC Plenary, held in San Francisco from 20-25 July 2011 was attended by members from Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, Mexico and the United States. The Plenary reviewed results and conclusions, which were based on new data and updated analyses, of the albacore tuna, billfish and Pacific bluefin tuna working groups. The Plenary endorsed the findings that the albacore stock was not experiencing overfishing and that stock is likely not in an overfished condition. It further recommended that the fishing mortality rate on albacore tuna not be increased. Regarding Pacific bluefin tuna, striped marlin and North Pacific stocks of swordfish, the Plenary maintained the conservation advice of ISC10 with minor changes for clarification. The Plenary endorsed the work plan of the shark working group and the prioritized list of ISC shark species of interest; blue and shortfin mako sharks were ranked high priority. A special seminar on Best Available Scientific Information was held – concepts from which ISC will incorporate into its Operations Manual. The ISC workplan for 2011-2012 includes completing a new stock assessment for striped marlin and Pacific bluefin tuna by ISC12, continuing preparation for a Pacific blue marlin stock assessment in 2012, preparations for an updated blue shark stock assessment in 2012/2013, implementing improved database and website management, and conducting a peer review of its structure. After three years serving as Vice Chairman of ISC, Michel Dreyfus stepped down. The Plenary elected Chi-Lu Sun to serve as Vice Chairman for 2011-2014. The next Plenary will be held in Japan in July 2012.

Regards,

Gerard DiNardo
ISC Chairman

Canada - China - Chinese-Taipei - Japan - Korea - Mexico - United States

*Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) - North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)*