



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
Seventh Regular Session
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ISSUES FROM SC7 and NC7 FOR TCC7

WCPFC-TCC7-2011/08 (rev.1 – [track change](#))

2 October 2011

Paper prepared by Secretariat

ISSUE:

Listing of issues from SC7 and NC7 that have been proposed for discussion at TCC7.

DECISIONS/ENDORSEMENT REQUIRED:

TCC7 is invited to review and comment on the issues forwarded to TCC7 from these two Commission subsidiary committees.

ISSUES FROM SC7

1. (Paragraphs 258, 259, SC6 Summary Report) **South Pacific Swordfish** – The SC noted that the proposed stock assessment on this stock will not be possible without the data for the Spanish longline fleet that operates in the South Pacific. The EU advised that the provision of their operational longline data will be provided to the WCPFC shortly. SC7 recommended that ST-IP-04 South Pacific Swordfish Data Available for Stock Assessments be forwarded to TCC7 for consideration.

2. (Paragraph 364) **Summary of MI-WP-05 (Prospects for effective conservation of bigeye tuna stocks in the Western Central Pacific Ocean)** - SC7 recommended that the TCC and the Commission note the following conclusions based on the analyses presented in working papers MI-WP-01 and MI-WP-05 and an updated version of WCPFC-2010/15 when reviewing the implementation of CMM-2008-01:

- a. that the number of days reported with any activity related to a drifting FAD was 13.5% in 2009 and 5.1 % in 2010 during the FAD closure periods. Trends in FAD usage and associated catch information indicate that the FAD closure has been effective in reducing FAD use in the purse seine fishery,
- b. the limits placed on purse-seine operations have not adequately constrained total purse-seine effort, with total effort in 2009 and 2010 estimated to be 25% and 32%, respectively higher than the 2001-2004 level and the total purse-seine catch of bigeye during 2010 the ~~third~~ [eleventh](#) highest on record,

- c. Purse seine catches of bigeye tuna (in 20°N-20°S) declined in 2010 by 21% from 2009 and [increased](#) by ~~7~~1.3% from the 2001-2004 average,
- d. closing areas to purse seine fishing without consideration of the fate of displaced fishing effort will not be effective for bigeye conservation,
- e. the provisional longline catch in 2010 is 30% lower than the 2001-2004 level. However, this estimate is based on incomplete data and is despite an increase in fleet size. Furthermore reductions in catch may not necessarily correspond to reductions in fishing mortality.

3. (Paragraph 365) Further, SC7 recommended that the OFP-SPC update the projection results presented in working paper SC7-MI-WP-02, based on the procedure outlined in the table below, and the results be presented to TCC and WCPFC8.

Factor	Options	Dimensions
Model runs	Base case model	1
Species	BET, SKJ, YFT	3
Recruitment	Recent average and SRR	2
Longline catch	1.2, 1.1, 1.0, 0.9, 0.8 times 2010 catches	5
Purse seine total effort (excl. ID/PH ex-APW)	2009 (low); 2010 (high)	2
FAD/UNA set effort split (outside FAD closure)	2009 (high FAD use); 2010 (low FAD use)	2
Purse seine FAD effort (including ID/PH ex-APW)	1.2, 1.1, 1.0, 0.9, 0.8, times total effort (with redistribution)	5
ID/PH APW fisheries	2010 catch and effort	2
Other fisheries (e.g. Pole and line and JP coastal PS)	1.2, 1.1, 1.0, 0.9, 0.8 times 2010 effort	5
Closures of PS fishery	2 month closure, 3 month closure	2
CMM 2008-01 exemptions	With exemptions, without exemptions	2
	TOTAL RUNS	24,000

4. (Paragraph 427) **Seabird Mitigation** – For the revision of the current seabird measure CMM 2007-04, SC7 recommended that TCC should consider the utility of separating Table 1 in the CMM into two separate tables, one each for the area north of 23° N and the area south of 30°S, and seasonal patterns (such as those in SC7-EB-WP-07) that could be considered at SC8.

5. (Paragraph 443) **Guidelines for Release of Encircled Animals** – SC7 recommends that the best practice guidelines for release of encircled whale sharks and cetaceans without injury while considering the safety of the crew be developed by an electronic discussion group led by the convener of the Ecosystem and Bycatch Mitigation Theme. The results from this group should be forwarded from SC to the TCC7 for further consideration by WCPFC8.

6. (Paragraph 493) **Data Gaps of the Commission** - SC7 recommended that SC7-ST-WP-01 be forwarded to the TCC, so that the Compliance with Conservation and Management Measures working group can consider it as a priority input to the development of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme.

7. (Paragraph 449) **Further**, the SC noted the catch attribution issues relating to Chinese longline catches in Kiribati waters and the under-reported catches stemming from 2009 and 2010 by these Chinese

vessels licensed to fish in Kiribati. SC encouraged China to resubmit their data for 2009 and 2010. SC noted that Kiribati has not been provided complete records for these data, by China, but would submit it to the Commission if it was provided to them. China claims to have met all their data reporting obligations according to the agreement between Kiribati and China. Noting the influence of the unclaimed bigeye catches (approximately 4,000mt in 2009) on the bigeye assessment and projection outcomes for WCPFC8, the SC forwarded this to the TCC for their consideration.

8. (Paragraph 520) **SC7-ST-WP-02 (Misreporting of purse seine catches of skipjack and yellowfin+bigeye on logsheets)** - SC7 noted inconsistencies amongst fleets in the reporting of skipjack and yellowfin+bigeye on purse seine logsheets, and considering the importance of accurate purse seine catch composition data for scientific purposes, recommended that SC7-ST-WP-02 be referred to the TCC.

ISSUES FROM NC7

1. There have been three key issues expected from NC7:
 - A process to address management of North Pacific Albacore;
 - A time schedule to address the implementation of the Regional Observer Programme north of 20°N; and
 - A decision and time frame for the requirement for implementation of VMS north of 20°N.
2. NC7 proposed a process to develop a precautionary management framework for North Pacific albacore tuna (Attachment A). Annexed table to this Attachment will be updated intersessionally.
3. NC7 proposed a recommendation on the implementation of the ROP by fishing vessels fishing for fresh fish in the north of 20°N (Attachment B).
4. NC7 also requested that the Commission address the implementation schedule for vessels noted in CMM 2007-01, Annex C, paragraph 10, namely:
 10. *The implementation schedule for the following vessels shall be deferred:*
 - i) *small vessels, the minimum size of which shall be considered by the IWG-ROP for recommendation to the Commission in 2008.*
 - ii) *troll and pole-and-line vessels used for fishing for skipjack tuna or albacore (to be scheduled for review by the IWG-ROP).*
5. The matter of implementation of the VMS north of 20°N remained unresolved and was to be discussed next year.

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee
Seventh Regular Session**

**Sapporo, Japan
6-9 September 2011**

**PROCESS TO DEVELOP A PRECAUTIONARY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR
NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA**

Context

The work plan agreed to at NC6 called for NC7 to: “Review the effectiveness of CMM 2005-03, including members’ reports on their interpretation and implementation of fishing effort controls.” An important outcome of this exercise is to determine the degree to which total F on the stock is subject to the limits on fishing effort mandated by the management measure. Regular and standardized reporting against CMM 2005-03 by CCMs that fish for NP albacore will allow for NC to assess the extent to which CCMs are adhering to the measure.

Furthermore, Article 6, paragraph 1 (a) of the Convention calls on “the Members of the Commission in applying the precautionary approach to determine, on the basis of the best scientific information available, stock-specific reference points and the action needed to be taken if they are exceeded.”

Article 6, paragraph 3 also states that “Members of the Commission shall take measures to ensure that, when reference points are approached, they will not be exceeded. In the event they are exceeded, members of the Commission shall, without delay, take the action determined under paragraph 1(a) to restore the stocks.”

Considering that the International Scientific Committee has determined in its 2011 stock assessment for North Pacific Albacore that the stock is not being overfished, or in an overfished state, now is an opportune time for the NC to agree to a process to develop a Precautionary Management Framework for the stock based on biological reference points, that would include management actions should agreed-upon reference points be exceeded.

Taking into consideration the results of the 2011 stock assessment and the review of the effectiveness of CMM 2005-03, the NC should continue its efforts to develop a precautionary approach based management framework, reference points, and associated decision rules. The paper tabled at NC6 (WCPFC-NC6-DP-01 “Developing a precautionary Management Framework for Stocks managed by Northern Committee”) should be a basis for this work.

Process

With respect to determining the extent that CCMs are implementing CMM 2005-003, Members will report annually to NC on their implementation of the measure, and their efforts to restrict F to levels observed in 2002-2004. Members will use the template provided in Annex A for this purpose.

Building on the principles outlined in paper WCPFC-NC6-DP-01, a work plan with associated timelines is proposed in Annex B for the NC to develop and recommend a precautionary approach based management framework for North Pacific albacore, including agreed upon biological limit and target reference points and decision rules should those reference points be exceeded. In addition to initiating these actions, it is proposed that NC7 incorporate this work into its Work Program for 2012-2015.

Attachment 1, Appendix A, Annex A

Table 1. Average annual catch of North Pacific albacore

CCM	Data pertain to WCPFC Area only or entire N Pacific?	Fisheries with ANY catch of NP albacore	"Fishing for" NP albacore? (Y/N)	2006-2010 average annual catch
Canada	N Pacific total catches	Albacore troll	y	5,899
Total catches for Canada:				5,899
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				5,899
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				100
China	CA only	Longline	NK	(2007-8) 10272.5
Total catches for China:				
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
Cook Islands				
Total catches for Cook Islands:				
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
Japan	CA only	LL Coast	Y/N	17,098
		LL DW	Y/N	4,207
		PL Coast	N	80
		PL DW	Y	24,970
		PS Coast	N	11
		PS DW	N	1,840
		GN	N	455
		Troll	N	470
		Set Net	N	50
		Others	N	37
Total catches for Japan:				49,218
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				46,275
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				94
NOTE:				
1) "2006-2010 average annual catch" is preliminary.				
2) "Y/N": this category vessels includes two types; "fishes for NP ALB" and "non targeting".				
Korea	N Pacific	LL DW	Y/N	169
Total catches for korea:				169
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				169
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				100
NOTE:				
1) Average annual catch is preliminary (Data will be updated by 30 Sep 2011)				
2) "Y/N": this category vessels includes two types; "fishes for NP ALB" and "non targeting".				
Philippines				
Total catches for Philippines:				
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				

% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
Chinese Taipei				
	N Pacific	albacore LL	Y	2,548
	N Pacific	LL others	N	552
Total catches for Chinese Taipei:				3,100
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				2,548
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				82
United States				
	N Pacific	Albacore troll	Y	12,099
		Longline	N	297
		Gillnet	N	3
		Pole and line	N	9
		Purse seine	N	34
		Other	N	505
Total catches for United States:				12,946
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				12,099
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				93
NOTE:				
1) These USA (2006-2010) data may not be confirmed from figures available to the Secretariat.				
2) US response: See all our annual reports under CMM 2005-03, the latest of which is dated 8 Jul 2011.				
Vanuatu				
	CA only	LL	Y	7,591
Total catches for Vanuatu:				10,178
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				2,587
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				25
Belize				
	CA only	LL	Y	95
Total catches for Belize:				95
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				95
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				100
NOTE: catch unsegregated by area				
Federated States of Micronesia				
	CA only	LL	N	N/A
Total catches for FSM:				
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
NOTE: Commenced fishery in 2009				
Marshall Islands				
	CA only	LL	N	N/A
Total catches for RMI:				
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
NOTE: Commenced fishery in 2008				

Table 2. Fishing effort fishing for North Pacific albacore (ALB)

CCM	Area ¹	Fishery ²	2002-04 Average		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
			No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days
Canada ³	N Pacific	ALB troll		8,898	213	8,565	174	6,243	198	7,113	134	5,907	135	6,589	157	7,532
	CA ⁴ only	ALB troll		266	1	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N Pacific	ALB troll		8,898	213	8,565	174	6,243	198	7,113	134	5,907	135	6,589	157	7,532
China																
Cook Islands																
Japan ⁵	CA only	LL Coast	296		289		287		273		276		280		286	
		LL DW	633		591		538		494		480		361		342	
		PL DW	141		134		125		106		104		104		101	
Korea ⁶	N Pacific	LL	170				130		122		108		111		122	
Chinese Taipei ⁷	N Pacific	ALB LL	25		23	2,363	24	4,156	21	3,360	18	2,603	13	2,082	20	2,093
USA	N Pacific	ALB troll		24,994		24,731		22,006		24,000		20,631		24,358		25,224
Vanuatu	N Pacific		32	9,728	28	5,096	29	5,278	33	9,999	15	3,195	14	2,548	12	2,184
Belize ⁸													40		49	

¹ Data pertain to WCPFC Area only or entire N Pacific?

² Fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore

³ NOTE: For Canada no fishing inside the CA since 2005

⁴ Convention Area

⁵ Japanese albacore data are not segregated by north or south pacific with respect to effort or number of vessels

⁶ Korean albacore data are not segregated by north or south pacific with respect to effort (number of vessels)

⁷ This data just indicates the fishery fishing for NP albacore only

⁸ Vessel number and effort was given for all species

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Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee
Seventh Regular Session**

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**Recommendation on Implementation of the ROP by Vessels
Fishing for Fresh Fish in the North of 20 Degrees North**

Conservation and Management Measure 2011-XX

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

Recalling Article 28(1) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC Convention), which requires the Commission to develop a Regional Observer Programme to, among other things, collect verified catch data, and to monitor the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission;

Further recalling Article 28(7) of the WCPFC Convention, which requires the Commission to develop procedures and guidelines for the operation of the Regional Observer Programme (ROP);

Cognizant of Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2007-01, which established the procedures to develop the ROP, in particular paragraph 9 of Annex C of CMM2007-01, which gives considerations on special circumstances for fishing vessels used exclusively to fish for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north;

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention, the following Conservation and Management Measure for the Establishment of the Implementation of the ROP by vessels fishing for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north.

The ROP for fishing vessels used exclusively to fish for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north shall be implemented in the following manner:

1. No later than 31 December, 2014, CCMs shall commence implementation of observer programmes for fishing vessels used to fish for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdictions in the area north of 20 degrees north.
2. For such fishing vessels, CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish by the end of December 2014.
3. Observers shall be sourced from the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme, including authorized national programs of flag states.

4. Unless expressly set forth in this CMM, procedures in CMM 2007-01 will be applied *mutatus mutandis* to the implementation of this CMM.