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SUPPLEMENT – DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

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The attached document is a mockup of the layout for the Strategic Plan that has been provided by the Consensus Building Institute. The text in the document has not changed and this document is only for illustrative purposes.

¹ Replaces 2 December version, and includes an editorial correction



Western and
Central Pacific
Fisheries
Commission

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
STRATEGIC PLAN

DRAFT // 16 November, 2016



Rhea Moss-Christian
WCPFC Chair

Foreword

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Context for Strategic Planning

The Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the WCPFC Convention) entered into force in June 2004, creating one of the first regional fisheries management organizations to be established after the adoption in 1995 of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. The objective of the Convention is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks

in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement. For this purpose, the Convention establishes a Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC).

The strategic planning process has been focused on analyzing key trends shaping the fisheries and fishing industries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean to provide a pathway forward for the Commission over the next ten years. The ten-year strategic plan is complemented by an operationally focused three-year corporate plan. Both of these documents have been developed with significant involvement and consultation of Commission members, cooperating non-members, and participating territories (CCMs) and other stakeholders.

WCPFC Strategic Vision

Effective management, long-term conservation, and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPO for present and future generations through the application of precautionary fisheries management, based on the best scientific information available, while minimizing adverse social and environmental impacts and giving full recognition to the special requirements of developing States Parties to the Convention, in particular of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and territories.

WCPFC Strategic Plan, 2011-2013

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Purpose of Strategic Planning

The Commission has undertaken the current strategic planning process in the context of the WCPFC Convention. The Convention remains the foundational and guiding document for the Commission's ongoing work and the ten-year strategic plan and the three-year corporate plan seek to guide efforts to operationalize the objectives and mandate of the Convention.

This strategic planning process sought to build on the Commission's baseline strengths and achievements to-date while identifying how the Commission can nimbly respond to the challenges facing it today and potentially in the future in order to continue to promote the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean. In particular, the Commission's strengths include the world-class quality of the science program; specific management measures and elements of the compliance program that have been implemented over the past decade; the leadership role played by members and participating territories, including the Pacific Island states; the enhanced capacity of flag states to effectively manage vessels flying their flags; and the professionalism and competence of the Secretariat.

This strategic planning process sought to build on the Commission's baseline strengths and achievements to-date while identifying how the Commission can nimbly respond to the challenges facing it today and potentially in the future.

At the same time, significant transition and transformation in the Commission's broader operating environment provide an opportunity for the Commission to define its future direction for continued relevance and strength. The data gathering phase of the strategic planning process identified a number of key trends shaping the future of fisheries and the fishing industry in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, including

improving technologies to harvest fish stocks and also around monitoring and reporting; increasing pressure on WCPO fish stocks; and greater public awareness and interest in fishery sustainability from civil society, consumers, and the market.

In light of the significance of these trends on the fisheries and the fishing industries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, it is incumbent on the Commission to strategically position and mobilize its efforts and resources to continue to promote the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPO. This strategic plan translates the Convention's mandate into tangible goals and objectives that will guide the Commission's direction over the next ten years. By creating shared priorities, the Commission will be better able to set priorities, focus energy and mobilize resources, strengthen operations, and ensure that key participants and stakeholders (including member states and participating territories, cooperating non-members, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the Secretariat) work cooperatively and with efficiency towards common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes, and assess and adjust the Commission's direction in response to a changing environment.

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WCPFC Members

Australia, China, Canada, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu.

WCPFC Participating Territories

American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna.

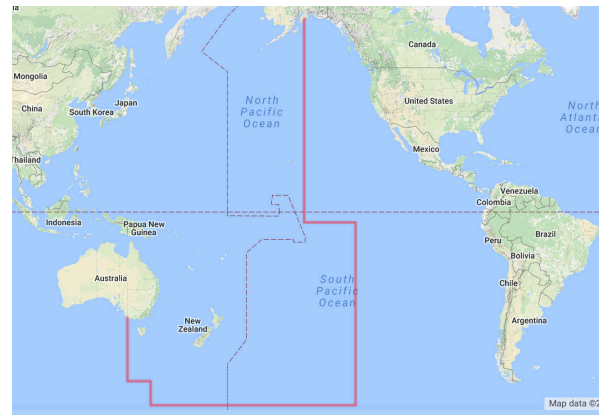
WCPFC Cooperating Non-members

The Commission confers Cooperating Non-Members status on an annual basis to some non-member states in order for those states to be able to participate in the WCPO fisheries. The current list of Cooperating Non-Members is posted on the WCPFC website.

Jurisdiction, Authority, and Governance

The Pacific Ocean is home to some of the world's most abundant populations of tuna species such as bigeye, albacore, skipjack, and yellowfin, and to billfish species such as marlin and swordfish. Collectively, these fish are referred to as highly migratory stocks because of the great distances they can swim, often across ocean provinces and the boundaries of multiple countries. There are many different methods used for capturing highly migratory stocks, but the WCPFC is primarily concerned with the impact of fishing vessels that use longlines and purse seine gear, as well as troll lines, pole and line gear, and other small-scale fishing methods, including some artisanal methods. The Commission develops conservation and management measures that are often specific to fishing gear types, primarily because different gear types target different species.

The area covered by the Convention covers almost 20 percent of the earth's surface and comprises waters of the Pacific Ocean with southern and eastern boundaries delineated by the WCPFC Convention. In the east, the convention area adjoins and overlaps the area of competence of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.



The Convention establishes a governing body known as the Commission that is comprised of members. The Commission holds annual meetings and is presided over by a Chair and a Vice-Chair, who are elected from amongst the contracting parties. Four subsidiary bodies support the work of the Commission and meet in the months prior to the annual meeting, which is always held in December. These are the Scientific Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee, the Northern Committee, and the Finance and Administration Committee. All Commission decisions are generally taken by consensus.

Goals and Objectives for 2027 in Line with the WCPFC Convention

Goals and guiding objectives put forward in this strategic plan were developed with significant involvement and consultation of Commission members, cooperating non-members, and participating territories and other stakeholders. These goals do not constitute all of the activities that the Commission currently does, and will continue to do. Rather, this strategic plan seeks to identify a few key areas for strategic focus on which the Commission will place particular emphasis during the next ten years.

In addition to the goals presented below, the Commission will consider addressing the following issues of concern, as possible, during the next ten years:

- Fishing capacity management;
- Compatibility of management measures among exclusive economic zones and between exclusive economic zones and the high seas; and
- Allocation.

GOAL #1



Adopt and implement harvest strategies and other tools to conserve and sustainably utilize fish stocks and manage interactions with the environment.

GUIDING OBJECTIVES

1. Implement harvest strategies and other tools through the development and adoption of CMMs to manage key stocks, including tuna and other species.
2. Reduce uncertainty and improve robustness in the assessment of the status of stocks, the social and economic aspects of the fisheries, and the interaction between WCPFC fisheries and the marine ecosystem, including variations in climatic conditions, and integrate such knowledge into harvest strategies.



GOAL #2

Enhance compliance with conservation and management measures.

GUIDING OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance, develop, and implement monitoring, compliance, surveillance, and enforcement tools.
2. Combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
3. Enhance, develop, and implement port-state and flag-state measures.
4. Address non-compliance with appropriate responses and remedial measures.
5. Assist CCMs in addressing their capacity challenges in order to better enforce compliance.



GOAL #3

Implement ecosystem-based management.

GUIDING OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain healthy ecosystem structure and conserve biodiversity.
2. Assess and integrate the two-way interaction between the environment and fisheries into developing management measures for target and bycatch species.
3. Monitor measurable targets for non-target stocks and bycatch in order to identify systemic trends and to identify emerging issues.
4. Minimize waste and pollution.
5. Monitor and eliminate discards.



GOAL #4

Strengthen capacity of developing states, in particular small island developing states and territories, to manage and develop their tuna fisheries.

GUIDING OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance the scientific and technical capacity of developing states, in particular small island developing states and territories.
2. Enhance and sustain the capacity of developing states, in particular small island developing states and territories, to fully participate in fisheries management in line with the WCPFC Convention, including the development of a sustainable financing mechanism for the fund established under article 30(3) of the WCPFC Convention.

GOAL #5

Enhance Commission operations by deploying best available data and science and by enhancing transparency of Commission governance and operations.

GUIDING OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance and sustain quality and accessibility of robust scientific and technical data and other relevant information to underpin robust, science-based management decisions.
2. Enhance and integrate the Commission's information management systems to provide timely inputs and outputs.
3. Enhance transparency of the Commission's governance and operations.

Future Opportunities and Updating the Strategic Plan

Strategic planning is an exercise in trying to plan for an uncertain future. While necessary and helpful for setting priorities and working towards common goals, circumstances can and will evolve, perhaps in ways not anticipated today. With this context in mind, the Commission will convene a process to revisit and refresh the strategic plan five years after adoption. In addition to updating and adapting the goals and objectives articulated here, the review process may consider broader contextual developments such as changes in the broader governance framework for fisheries or changes in ocean use.

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