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**SUMMARY REPORT SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE NORTHERN  
COMMITTEE**

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**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**

**SUMMARY REPORT  
(Adopted Version)**

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**Northern Committee  
Seventh Regular Session**

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

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

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**AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING**

1. The Seventh Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC7) took place in Sapporo, Japan, from 6 to 9 September 2011. The meeting was attended by members from Canada, Cook Islands, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America (USA) and Vanuatu, and observers from Federated State of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific (ISC), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Secretariat, American Fisherman's Research Foundation, Ocean Friends Against Driftnets and World Wildlife Fund Japan. The list of meeting participants is included as Attachment A.

**1.1 Welcome**

2. Masanori Miyahara, Chair of the Northern Committee (NC), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Sapporo, Japan. Participants, members and observers introduced themselves.

**1.2 Adoption of agenda**

3. Japan proposed that agenda 2.4.1 and 2.4.4 should be combined since the Commission will deal with the three species all together and the revised agenda was adopted (Attachment B). The documents that supported the meeting were made available on WCPFC's website at: <http://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/2011/7th-regular-session-northern-committee>

**1.3 Meeting arrangements**

4. Japan, as host of NC7, briefed the meeting of social arrangements and the meeting schedule.

**AGENDA ITEM 2. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

**2.1 Report from the Eleventh Meeting of the International Scientific Committee**

5. G. DiNardo, ISC chair, provided an overview of ISC's results from its 11th meeting, held in San

Francisco, California, U.S.A., from 20 to 25 July 2011. The results are contained in the ISC meeting report, which is posted on ISC's website at: <http://isc.ac.affrc.go.jp>. This document was also made available to WCPFC in accordance with the requirements of the ISC-WCPFC memorandum of understanding. G. DiNardo noted that progress was made on many projects of ISC's work plan, but because of data availability issues the striped marlin stock assessment is postponed until 2012. A full stock assessment of North Pacific albacore was completed in 2011 and results indicate the stock is neither experiencing overfishing nor is overfished. The ISC intends to complete stock assessments for Pacific bluefin tuna and striped marlin in 2012, and stock assessments for blue marlin and blue shark stocks by 2013. Progress with administrative matters included: i) development of a framework to complete the peer review of ISC function; ii) substantial improvements with the administration and function of the ISC website and database; and iii) clarifying and updating the ISC operations manual. Issues hindering the efficiency of ISC were presented, in particular the lack of full commitment from certain ISC Members. Commitment includes participating in working group workshops, as well as adhering to established data reporting procedures, and certain ISC Members have yet to provide data. G. DiNardo completed his presentation by recognizing ISC's new leaders: C-l. Sun newly elected vice-chair for 2012–2014; R-f. Wu, Statistics Working Group (STATWG) chair; S. Kohin; Shark Working Group (SHARKWG); and J. Brodziak, Billfish Working Group (BILLWG) chair. The 12th meeting of ISC will be hosted by Japan in July 2012 at a venue to be announced.

6. In response to a question, the ISC Chair stated that they prioritized two shark species, blue shark and short-fin mako shark, for assessment and that the ISC will collaborate with other interested parties, specifically the SPC and IATTC. He also noted that SPC has announced they plan to complete a blue shark assessment and it will be crucial for the two organizations to coordinate to avoid duplication of work.

7. Japan said that at SC7 it was strongly recommended that ISC complete the NP striped marlin assessment for presentation at SC8. The ISC Chair noted his disappointment that the assessment was not completed this year, because the data were not provided in time, but the data are now available and the ISC expects to have a complete assessment before next year's SC meeting.

## **2.2 Report of the Seventh Regular Session of the Scientific Committee**

8. SC Chair (N. Miyabe) provided a summary report of the Seventh Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, which took place in Federated States of Micronesia from 9<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> in August. Discussion was held by the respective theme sessions (Ecosystem and Bycatch Mitigation, Management Issues, Data and statistics, Stock Assessment). The following key matters were presented.

- 1) Review of the fisheries in the WCPO and the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).
- 2) Review of the most recent assessments for Tuna and billfish stocks in the North Pacific.
- 3) A review of the status of stocks of bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna and South Pacific albacore.
- 4) A review of research into the status and assessment of pelagic key shark stocks in the WCPO.
- 5) Bycatch mitigation issues associated with sea birds and sea turtles, sharks and others.
- 6) WPE OFM project, Japan Trust Fund, and the Pacific tuna tagging projects.
- 7) Limit reference points for the key tuna species of the WCPFC
- 8) SC Work programme, Budget, and Administrative matters

## **2.3 Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks**

### **2.3.1 Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM-2010-04)**

9. The NC reviewed the CCM's implementation of CMM 2010-04, which requires members to

report on their implementation of this CMM.

10. The Philippines recalled that past research had indicated catches of PBF in Philippine waters but better data collection is needed to confirm whether any catches are currently occurring. They plan to implement measures to prevent the catch of juvenile PBF.

11. Canada stated that it did not submit a report because it had no recorded catch of PBF in 2010.

12. Japan introduced DP02 on its implementation of CMM 2010-04. Japan highlighted that it introduced (i) a catch limit for juvenile PBF and a voluntary catch limit for adult PBF by purse seine fishery, (ii) an administrative guidance not to increase the number of licenses of set-nets for PBF, (iii) a vessel registration system and mandatory reporting for artisanal fishery operating in the Sea of Japan and Eastern China Sea and (iv) a registration system and mandatory reporting of all PBF aquaculture sites. It explained that more than 5000 artisanal vessels were registered (almost same number of active vessels in WCPFC vessel registration) and this registration is scheduled to expand to vessels operating in pacific coast next year. It also explained the enhanced data collection of PBF import from Korea as well as Mexico. Further, Japan reported on the cooperation with IATTC members, noting that IATTC failed to agree a measure at this year's annual meeting.

13. Korea presented DP-03. It introduced that Korea enacted a Ministerial Directive which aims to initiate, as a first step, monitoring and managing the PBF fisheries in Korean waters, including prohibition of commercial catch of the juvenile PBF that is less than 20 kg. Korea explained that the directive has been established through series of domestic process and effective since May 26, 2011. Regarding the DP01, Korea appreciated Japanese effort for the provision of the statistics and analysis on the Korean PBF catch and expressed its different view on the use of the term “disguised exportation” in DP-01 in reference to PBF exported to Japan labeled as “skipjack.” They explained that it might be the result of misidentification by fishermen and the fishery cooperative that handled the landed fish.

14. Japan presented DP-01 (Preliminary Analysis of Pacific Bluefin Tuna Import from Korea in 2011) and concluded that the PBF catch by Korea is not substantially lower than last year, although the new Korean directive came into force only in late May. They also stated that they could use a different term than “disguised exportation” in response to Korean concern. However, they noted that even if the fishermen were unable to identify the fish correctly, the exporter should be able to distinguish between the two species. This leads Japan to wonder whether this was merely a matter of misidentification.

15. In response to a question, Korea confirmed that they considered PBF weighing less than 20 kg as juveniles. The Chair consulted the ISC PBF Working Group Chair who stated that PBF weighs 25-30 kg around May or June of the third year (age-3). This indicates that fish weighing less than 30 kg should be considered juveniles.

16. Korea further noted that the prohibition of the juvenile PBF catch has the following exemptions: 1) The catch under scientific research, 2) The catch for the purpose of stock enhancement, 3) The catch for fry for the aquaculture, and 4) incidental catch by other than large purse seiners. Korea also noted that the catches under research can be used commercially after the completion of the study on the catches. The study includes collection of the catch data by reporting from the permitted vessels before selling by the weight and number of PBF and by fishing gears, except for the PBF that is less than 20kg, whose data are recorded by boxes.

17. Chinese Taipei asked if Korean vessels also catch PBF outside their EEZ. Korea explained that the Ministerial Directive only applies to fisheries inside the EEZ.

18. The US presented DP-04, which states that the US does not have any vessels fishing for PBF. The NC Chair asked about PBF catch in Hawaiian waters, which are in the Convention Area. The U.S. noted small quantities are caught incidentally in the Hawaii longline fishery.

19. Chinese Taipei reviewed their report, distributed as DP-06, which explained that it set the limit for the number of longline vessels fishing for PBF and that it introduced Catch Documentation Scheme for the species.

20. The NC Chair asked what measures have been implemented to control juvenile catch. Chinese Taipei responded that their fisheries don't catch juveniles so they have not yet implemented management measures. The Chair then asked about how incidental catches are handled under the limited entry system. Chinese Taipei said a longline vessel that catches PBF without proper authorization would be sanctioned.

21. The Philippines presented DP-05. The Chair asked about the location of the closed area established on Tubbataha Reef and its effect on tuna conservation. The Philippines explained its location and noted that it is an important spawning and rearing area for a variety of tuna species, although more research will be needed to determine whether it is an area important to PBF.

## **Discussion**

22. The U.S. complemented Japan and Korea on their efforts to implement CMM 2010-04 domestically and suggested that in a future measure the Committee should remove exemptions for artisanal fisheries and for Korea.

23. Japan stated that the artisanal fishery exemption should, at some point, be reviewed, but stressed that there are a very large number of artisanal vessels, likely in excess of 10,000, whose actual catch of each vessel is very small. This presents logistical difficulties in removing the exemption at this stage.

24. Vanuatu noted they have not recorded any PBF catch but their fisheries are monitored and they will report any catches. In this regard, Vanuatu requested other countries to inform them if they record imports of PBF from Vanuatu.

25. Korea responded to Japan's question by noting that purse seine catches of juvenile PBF (<20 kg) are exempted under the research program and that even though it is research catch it may still be exported. Regarding the Japanese concern, Korea stated that it is easier to identify PBF in the market, especially in the Japanese auction market, than in the local market place. Also they noted that there are various circumstances, including difficulties in species identification of juvenile tunas and quick processes of the trade on the fresh fish that may lead to misidentification of PBF and suggested the need for more cooperation between exporting and importing countries.

26. The Chair asked for further explanation of Korea's regulations for high seas catch of PBF. Korea responded that currently there is no information on purse seine vessels' PBF catch outside the Korean EEZ.

27. The Chair asked Korea what types of activities are called research under Ministerial Directive. Korea responded that before the Directive was established there was no regulation of PBF fishing; After the Directive came into force anyone wishing to catch PBF has to have permission to catch it and the permission and reporting of the catch is under the auspices of their research program, which collects data relevant to PBF management. All fishermen, including the large purse seine vessels, are allowed to participate in the research program.



28. The Chair sought confirmation that under the research program fishermen only have to report catch and then they are exempted from any further limits on catch. Korea confirmed this situation. Japan asked if it is correct that after the introduction of the Directive the activity by purse seine fleet has not actually changed but rather is now renamed from commercial operation to research activity. Korea said that it is an accurate characterization of their management program and further stated that this is a remarkable turning point towards the monitoring and managing the PBF fisheries in Korea where there has not been any regulations on the PBF fishing.

29. Korea and Japan expressed their intention to strengthen cooperation on monitoring of PBF import-export. Japan asked Korea to establish more effective methods for regulating PBF fisheries by 2012 when CMM 2010-04 will be revised.

30. Korea said that it is their intention to comply with CMM 2010-04 and once complete the research programme they will be in full compliance with the measure. Japan noted that Korea described a 5-year research program while the CMM is due to be revised next year. Korea responded that even before completion of the 5-year research program they could accept the obligation at the same level as other members under the current CMM when sufficient data and information are secured, hopefully next year. They added that 2011 is the second year of 5-year programme.

### **2.3.2 North Pacific albacore (CCM-2005-03)**

31. The Chair reviewed progress on compliance with the measure, noting that in 2009 the NC prepared a draft recommendation which was not adopted by the Commission because it covered the area south of 20 degrees north. He noted that despite a relatively optimistic report from the ISC, the NC must be careful because a decline in recruitment from average historical level could be a cause for a concern.

32. The U.S. recognized that although the ISC's report concluded the stock is in a healthy condition, there remains uncertainty that needs to be addressed to improve the assessment and that members should contribute to the priority research needs identified by the ISC. In the near term the current CMM remains adequate but the U.S. looked forward to using this meeting to take a look at member's annual submission of Part 2 Reports, including identifying which fleets are fishing for albacore and how those fleets are being controlled. This would help the NC to understand how many fleets are fishing for the stock, and how much the total catch of NP albacore is subject to the effort limits of the CMM, to better assess the effectiveness of CMM 2005-03 and to improve the measure in the future.

33. Vanuatu reported on their catches of NP and SP albacore. They also stressed their desire to improve the CMM given that declines in recruitment could lead to overfishing.

34. Canada reviewed its fishing activities for NP albacore in 2010, which included the number of active vessels as well as fishing effort in number of vessel days. Canada further noted that the fishery was restricted to the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), and that no NP albacore was caught in the Convention Area in 2010. The Chair asked what other species are caught by the Canadian albacore fleet. Canada responded that albacore is a secondary species to salmon in its troll fishery.

35. Japan reviewed its north Pacific albacore fishery. Longline and pole and line account for 98% of total albacore catch. Albacore is bycatch species for most of longline vessels while for pole and line fishery and other longline fishery it is one of target species. These vessels are regulated by a licensing system and the number of vessels has declined substantially in recent years.

36. Korea reviewed catch and effort statistics for 2006-2010. The Korean NP albacore catch,

principally made by about 120 large scale longliners during the period, has been caught as bycatch by majority of longliners, though some targeted NP albacore.

37. The Philippines stated that albacore is not a target species in Philippine fisheries and there is no reported catch. However, there may some catch reported under the “other species” category.

38. The Chinese Taipei albacore longline fishery targets albacore. These vessels need prior approval from Fisheries Agency to target albacore. The number of vessels allowed to fish for NP albacore is limited to 25. VMS, registration scheme, and catch reporting are used to manage and control this fishery. Chinese Taipei submitted catch and effort statistics to WCPFC.

39. The U.S. has one fishery primarily targeting albacore, the west coast troll fleet, which includes pole and line vessels. There are other small fisheries but over 90% of the catch comes from the troll fishery. The U.S. monitors the fishery with permits and logbooks. The U.S. is monitoring against the 2002-2004 effort level although currently there are no regulatory limits. However, fishing effort has fluctuated around the 2002-2004 level and the fleet includes a reasonably consistent number of vessels and vessel days during the recent period. In large part this fishery operates in the eastern Pacific. During this fishing year some effort moved into the WCPFC Convention Area west of 150 degrees W longitude.

## **Discussion**

40. The U.S. asked Japan how the incidental catch is controlled in relation to the baseline level. Japan replied that with respect to pole and line and longline, the total number of licenses is controlled regardless of whether they are targeting albacore or skipjack based on fixed number of licensed vessels.

41. The U.S. further asked Japan about the causes for the decline in the number of vessels. Japan replied that there is a government vessel scrapping program and sometimes vessels leave the fishery for business reasons.

42. The U.S. asked Korea about the catch they reported for 2010, because it is larger than what was reported in the ISC catch tables. Korea replied that the statistics reported to ISC are from logbook data based on about 30% coverage. What was reported here were data collected from industry. The U.S. noted that reporting baseline catch information is helpful but the CMM is an effort-based measure.

43. The U.S. asked Chinese Taipei whether there are other vessels besides the 25 authorized longliners that are allowed to catch albacore. Chinese Taipei replied that the boat owners must seek prior approval from the agency before fishing for albacore. There are around 50 large scale albacore longliners but they have limited the number allowed in the north Pacific area to 25.

44. The Chair asked how Chinese Taipei controls albacore bycatch by other vessels. Chinese Taipei noted that the catch reports show that albacore bycatch is low.

45. Upon request by the NC, the Secretariat prepared a compilation of reports from members regarding the fleets targeting/non-targeting NP albacore and recent fishing effort by those fleets compared to the 2002-2004 baseline.

46. Korea noted that it has submitted catch data every 6 months since 2005. However, Korea noted some differences between data submitted to the WCPFC versus the ISC, which will require some correction. The Chair emphasized that the data must be sent to the WCPFC Secretariat.

47. The U.S. considered the information provided in the first table of the compilation is useful to

understand what percent of total catch occurs in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore while the second table helps to understand whether the CMM has been effectively implemented. It is clear that further work needs to be done to collect and supplement the data in the tables. They also pointed out that effort, not catch, is appropriate metric and should be represented in the second table.

48. Japan concurred that these tables are helpful. Japan also said that it can report the number of fishing vessels and they know that current effort is below the 2002-2004 level.

49. Vanuatu said that in future reporting they will distinguish catch of NP albacore from total albacore catch. They noted that currently they have 12 vessels fishing for NP albacore.

50. The Chair said that the NC is agreeable to the use of these tables to monitor the implementation and members should continue to submit information to improve the accuracy of the tables.

51. The U.S. pointed to several key fields in the tables. It is important to calculate the percent of all fisheries that are considered “fishing for” NP albacore in order to assess whether the measure can be effective. In the second table annual fishing effort estimates should be provided in order to determine whether the measure is effective.

52. While admitting its usefulness, Japan stated the concern that effort metrics might oversimplify the complex nature of their fisheries which have a multi-species strategy based on availability and market price. The Chair emphasized these tables are not a “scorecard” but are useful in guiding the NC on the effectiveness of the measure and whether other actions need to be taken.

53. Korea stated that their vessels generally target yellowfin or bigeye with albacore caught incidentally.

54. The FSM understood the measure applies to all fishing activities by CCMs in north of equator and therefore emphasized that the FSM does not have a fishery targeting NP albacore although NP albacore is caught incidentally in other fisheries.

55. The table is revised and attached as Annex A to Attachment C.

56. The U.S. reemphasized the importance of accurate information for the measure to be effective and reminded the members that the Paragraph 4 of CMM2005-03 requires the members to report fishing effort for NP albacore at minimum by the number of vessel-days fished. The U.S. also stressed that the member who is catching NP albacore only as by-catch should also be at table in order to manage the stock as a whole.

57. Canada, citing the positive outlook of NP albacore in 2011 stock assessment, suggested that it would be an opportune time for the NC to discuss a long term strategy for the stock that includes the development of precautionary management framework. Such a framework would include biological reference points and pre-agreed decision rules that trigger management actions should those reference points be exceeded. Canada further suggested that document WCPFC-NC6-DP01 could form a basis of this work.

58. In response to the request by the Chair, Canada drafted a proposal (WP02) that incorporated elements that recognized both concerns expressed by the U.S. on the need for accurate reporting by members against CMM2005-03 to determine its effectiveness, as well as tasks and timeframe to advance the development of a precautionary management framework for NP albacore.

59. There was a discussion about baseline time period and the NC confirmed that this period 2002-2004 reflects the current effort baseline.

60. The U.S. also commented that the first task of compiling members' reports should explicitly reference the Secretariat as the body responsible. With regard to the timeline, it would be useful to insert a statement that the members will work interessionally on this task. Second, the U.S. wanted to make clear that the most important element is to establish a permanent limit reference point for fishing mortality rate and the associated decision rules, since F is what is controlled by managers. Finally, the U.S. recommends making the timing of the adoption of reference points and decision rules more flexible with the understanding that all these elements would be adopted by 2013. Also, the U.S. proposed that the task considering changes to the CMM should be moved from 2013 to 2014 and beyond.

61. Japan noted that it does not seem necessary to include tasks in 2011 in the Process since the Committee is conducting those activities at the present time. In their view, it might not be possible to compile members' reports and identify shortcomings this year so it would be better to both identify and rectify shortcomings as a single task to be completed in 2012. With respect to Task B, they felt detailed tasks regarding reference points is not necessary at this time. However, Japan is unsure of the effectiveness of the U.S.'s suggestion of intercessional work.

62. The FSM said they are unclear as to who is required to report albacore catches under this proposal. The U.S. pointed out that the reporting of NP albacore catch every 6 months, per the CMM, is an obligation of all Commission members. But the focus of the proposed reporting in the Canadian proposal is on fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore, which are confined to NC members. The FSM noted that they do not have fishery targeting NP albacore and report their bycatch under existing reporting obligations. As this data is provided to the WCPFC, the secretariat would be able to acquire this data for inclusion in Annex A of Attachment C. It was agreed that the FSM did not need to duplicate its reporting NP albacore catch directly to the NC.

63. The Chair outlined recommended revisions to the Canadian proposal, which was supported by the NC members. He also encouraged intercessional work on the tasks as recommended by the USA. A revised process to develop a management framework for NP albacore is attached as Attachment C.

### **2.3.3 North Pacific swordfish**

64. The Chair noted that according to the work plan the Committee is supposed to establish interim management objectives and reference points for this species. He asked the ISC Chair for advice on this task. The ISC Chair noted that in 2010 the ISC provided the NC with a suite of reference points for this Committee to choose from.

65. There was further discussion of the framework described in the SC Report linking appropriate LRPs to the type of biological data used in the stock assessment. According to this scheme swordfish should be considered Level 2 or Level 1. The Chair suggested that as part of the next assessment (2013) the ISC will calculate the LRPs and at that time the NC can decide on the choice of LRPs.

66. The U.S. was not in favor of delaying establishing LRPs for F until the next assessment. It noted that the ISC is already producing estimates of F relative to FMSY and B relative to BMSY, which is consistent with Level 1. The U.S. recommended adopting FMSY as the LRP and asked for other members view for this proposal.

67. The ISC chair pointed out that the current assessment uses a dynamic production model to

produce estimates of FMSY and BMSY that does not rely on estimates of steepness. If we were to move to an age structured assessment approach it would be possible to incorporate estimates of steepness into the analysis.

68. Upon the request from the NC, The ISC Chair agreed to explore the possibility to provide a suite of LRPs for north Pacific swordfish at next session of NC, although it was not originally in the work program of the ISC. Japan requested to include possible LRPs based on empirical data in the suite, which is confirmed by the ISC Chair.

## **2.4 Conservation and management measures for other species**

### **2.4.1 Bigeye, yellowfin tuna and skipjack**

69. The SC Chair made a presentation on impact by region and fishery, for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack. Depletion has generally been greatest in Regions 3 and 4 for bigeye and yellowfin, and Region 2 for skipjack.

70. Japan pointed out that for yellowfin and bigeye Region 3 had the largest impact, which is the western part of the tropical region and purse seine fisheries account for most of the impacts. A plot of the change in annual estimates of bigeye MSY shows a fall in MSY corresponding to the initiation of the purse seine fishery in tropical water.

71. Korea said that the biggest impact on bigeye is from the purse seine FAD associated fishery and asked if there are any recommendations to reduce this impact. The SC Chair said the SC has recommended a 32% reduction in F for all fisheries. Korea sought clarification that the SC did not make any fishery-specific recommendations. The SC Chair pointed out that most of the catch is taken by purse seine and longline fisheries.

72. Japan asked for an explanation of the difference in trends shown in the Kobe plots for bigeye and yellowfin. The SC Chair explained that an important factor in the different trend is that bigeye recruitment is increasing while it is decreasing for yellowfin. Many members questioned the phenomenon that bigeye recruitment has increased while spawning biomass has declined.

73. The Philippines raised concern that CMM 2008-01 prevents their fishing vessels from fishing on the high seas. As a result, they are now fishing in domestic waters where spawning occurs and catching much smaller fish.

74. Japan pointed out that the Japanese pole and line CPUE data was used in the skipjack assessment yet that fishery only accounts for 4% of total catch and questioned if this can fully represent the stock trend. The SC Chair shared their concern and suggested a need for more and better data to assess this stock.

75. Japan pointed out about the range contraction of skipjack due to purse seine catches in the tropical region. The Chair pointed out that coastal fishermen in Japan are suffering from the lack of availability of skipjack in adjacent waters. Japan further noted that the SC Report indicates that the range contraction has become more severe in recent years.

76. Korea asked if there is any data to suggest stock separation of skipjack between different regions. The SC Chair said that movement data is consistent with a single stock hypothesis.

77. The NC reiterated its concern about the expansion of purse seine fisheries in the area between 20 N and 20 S, which could be causing declines in abundance of these species in the Northern Area. The NC noted the need for the Commission to take the measures to reduce F for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack by purse seine vessels in the tropical region.

#### **2.4.2 Sharks (CMM-2010-07)**

78. No discussion was held (See paragraph 6 under Agenda 2.1).

#### **2.4.3 Seabirds (CMM- 2007-04)**

79. No discussion was held.

#### **2.4.4. North Pacific striped marlin (CMM-2010-01)**

80. In response to a question, the ISC Chair confirmed that ISC will complete the assessment of the species next year.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3. REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (CMM-2007-01)**

#### **3.1 Implementation of the ROP by fishing vessels fishing for fresh fish in the Northern Area**

81. The Chair noted that last year the Commission did not adopt an implementation schedule of the ROP in the Northern Area which was proposed by the NC. He argued the main reason the Commission did not accept the NC proposal was the exemption for certain vessels and emphasized that the NC has to prepare a proposal which can be adopted by the Commission this year.

82. Chinese Taipei described the difficulties such as safety of observers, insufficient working space and shortage of observers that have had placing observers on small longliners. Furthermore, there is currently a shortage of trained observers for purse seiners fishing in the WCPO and a requirement to place them on other vessels and small vessels would exacerbate this problem.

83. Chinese Taipei then outlined their proposal for achieving full compliance with the 5% coverage level. For 70-100 GT vessel the objective is to reach 5% level by the end of 2014; for vessels >60 GT the objective is to reach the 5% level by the end of 2015; By the end of 2016 the objective is to reach the 5% level for all tuna longliners in the Northern Area. In response to a question, Chinese Taipei said they have 90-100 vessels in the <70 GT category. Chinese Taipei stated the length of 70 GT vessel is from 22 to 25 meters.

84. Vanuatu and Cook Islands voiced support for removing the exemption for small vessels, noting that they have put observers on small vessels in their EEZs.

85. Chinese Taipei argued that the TCC should revisit the issue of the minimum size of small vessel following the ROP audit and they want to wait for the results. However, the Commission Chair (former IWG-ROP Chair) said the issue of defining small vessels was not the matter that was deferred until after the completion of the audit. He concurred that the Commission would be unhappy if a recommendation was delayed further. The Chair said waiting to address this issue until the end of 2016 is too late and subsequently proposed a tiered implementation schedule that would have all vessels meet the coverage requirement by the end of 2014.

86. Chinese Taipei asked whether other fisheries (pole and line, troll) must reach the 5% observer coverage level by the end of 2012 per CMM 2007-01. The U.S. replied that Paragraph 10 of Annex C of CMM 2007-01 references the deferral of implementation for small vessels and troll and pole and line vessels fishing for skipjack or albacore, and remains unaddressed by the WCPFC, which Canada concurred.

87. The FSM noted that its national observer program is an authorized ROP and offered to assist the NC members with observers under special arrangements.

88. After consulted with members, Chinese Taipei proposed a revision of Chair's suggestion, which calls on full implementation of 5% coverage for vessels used exclusively to fish for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north. The NC adopted a recommendation on implementation of ROP by fishing vessels fishing for fresh fish in the Northern Area attached as Attachment D.

89. The Northern Committee also requests that the Commission address the implementation schedule for those vessels indicated in paragraph 10 of Annex C of CMM 2007-01, noting this might affect the implementation of the WCPFC ROP.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4. VMS**

##### **4.1 Implementation of the WCPFC Vessel Monitoring System in the Northern Area**

90. The U.S. pointed out that the northwest quadrant of the Convention Area still has an exemption to VMS for vessels that exclusively fish in that area. The U.S. feels that VMS should be implemented throughout the Convention Area as soon as possible. They asked if other members are ready to support that and forward a recommendation to the full Commission later this year.

91. Japan said they are happy to start considering how to extend VMS into this area. Nonetheless, they saw it as somewhat premature to forward a proposal this year given there is an ongoing review of the Commission VMS program. The U.S. said they are interested in the review but it has become an issue of fairness since VMS has been implemented in all the other quadrants.

92. Chinese Taipei expressed that there are also interested in the VMS review. They would also love to know the rationale of those members who accept to carry observers on small vessels but request to have an exemption on commission VMS programme for these vessels.

93. Vanuatu suggested that there could be an exemption for small vessels operating inside or just outside the EEZ but complying with domestic law. The Philippines supported alternative, non-satellite type VMS for use on small vessels.

94. The Chair said this matter will be discussed next year when more information is available, including alternate methods for implementation on small vessels. This issue should be included in the work plan.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5. DATA**

##### **5.1 Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks**

95. The NC members expressed their concern that China does not submit required information particularly on NP albacore nor participate the NC meetings in recent years although China appear to have significant catch in the north Pacific. The members requested the Chair to write a letter to request

China for its data submission and full cooperation on the activity of the NC. The Cook Islands was requested to provide information to be included in the Annex A of Attachment C.

96. The NC also noted the improvement of data collection on PBF by Korea through its research programme and by Japan through mandatory reporting by artisanal fishery and aquaculture.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

### **6.1 Work Programme for 2012-2015**

97. The NC adopted the work programme, attached as Attachment E.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **7.1 ISC**

98. The Chair noted that the ISC solicited financial contributions for the review, which has been met, and encouraged further voluntary contribution to ISC.

### **7.2 IATTC**

99. The Chair said the NC will consider working cooperatively with IATTC on measures for PBF and NP albacore. The U.S. thanked the Chair for his work and expressed its willingness to assist future contact with IATTC for better cooperation.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8. OTHER MATTERS**

### **8.1 Administrative arrangements for the Committee**

#### **8.1.1 Secretariat functions and costs**

100. The Chair asked about the status of the voluntary fund. The Secretariat replied that no funds have been contributed.

#### **8.1.2 Rules of Procedure**

101. NC7 deferred further consideration of this item to a future meeting of the NC.

### **8.2 Next meeting**

102. Japan said they would host NC8 in 2012 taking into account the views of other members. The U.S. said the first week of September (September 2-8) is preferable to the following week for the meeting.

### **8.3 Other business**

103. Korea noted the steering committee of Kobe process to be held in the margins of the FAO COFI.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9. REPORT TO THE COMMISSION**

### **9.1 Adoption of the Summary Report of the Seventh Regular Session of the Northern Committee and recommendations to the Commission**



104. NC adopted the Summary Report of its Seventh Regular Session.

**AGENDA ITEM 10. CLOSE OF MEETING**

**10.1 Close of meeting**

105. The meeting was closed on 9 September 2011.

**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**

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**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**

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**AGENDA**

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**AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING**

- 1.1 Welcome
- 1.2 Adoption of agenda
- 1.3 Meeting arrangements

**AGENDA ITEM 2. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

- 2.1 Report from the 11th ISC
- 2.2 Report of the Seventh Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC7)
- 2.3 Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks
  - 2.3.1 Northern Pacific Bluefin (CMM-2010-04)
  - 2.3.2 North Pacific Albacore (CMM-2005-03)
  - 2.3.3 North Pacific Swordfish
- 2.4 Conservation and management measures for other species
  - 2.4.1 Bigeye, yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna (CMM-2008-01)
  - 2.4.2 Sharks (CMM-2010-07)
  - 2.4.3 Seabirds (CMM-2007-04)
  - 2.4.4 Striped marlin (CMM-2010-01)

**AGENDA ITEM 3. REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

- 3.1 Implementation of the ROP by fishing vessels fishing for fresh fish in the Northern Area

**AGENDA ITEM 4. VMS**

- 4.1 Implementation of the WCPFC Vessel Monitoring System in the Northern Area

**AGENDA ITEM 5. DATA**

- 5.1 Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks

**AGENDA ITEM 6. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

- 6.1 Work Programme for 2012-2015

**AGENDA ITEM 7. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

- 7.1 ISC
- 7.2 IATTC

**AGENDA ITEM 8. OTHER MATTERS**

- 8.1 Administrative arrangements for the Committee
  - 8.1.1 Secretariat functions and costs
  - 8.1.2 Rules of Procedure
- 8.2 Next meeting
- 8.3 Other business

**AGENDA ITEM 9. REPORT TO THE COMMISSION**

- 9.1 Adoption of the Summary Report of the Seventh Regular Session of the Northern Committee and recommendations to the Commission

**AGENDA ITEM 10. CLOSE OF MEETING**

- 10.1 Closing of the meeting

**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**

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

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**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 C, Annex A**

**Table 1.** Average annual catch of North Pacific albacore

| <b>CCM</b>   | <b>Data pertain to WCPFC Area only or entire N Pacific?</b> | <b>Fisheries with ANY catch of NP albacore</b> | <b>"Fishing for" NP albacore? (Y/N)</b> | <b>2006-2010 average annual catch</b> |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Canada</b>  | 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                                   |
| <b>China</b>   | 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:                                     |   |  |   |                                       |
| <b>Cook Islands</b>  |   |  |   |                                       |
| Total catches for Cook Islands:  |   |  |   |                                       |
| Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:  |   |  |   |                                       |
| % of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:                                     |   |  |   |                                       |
| <b>Japan</b>   | 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                                    |
| <b>NOTE:</b>   |   |  |   |                                       |
| 1) "2006-2010 average annual catch" is preliminary.  |   |  |   |                                       |
| 2) "Y/N": this category vessels includes two types; "fishes for NP ALB" and "non targeting". |   |  |   |                                       |
| <b>Korea</b>   | 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                                   |
| <b>NOTE:</b>   |   |  |   |                                       |
| 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". |   |  |   |                                       |
| <b>Philippines</b>   |   |  |   |                                       |
| Total catches for Philippines:   |   |  |   |                                       |
| Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:  |   |  |   |                                       |

|  |           |                |   |        |
|--|-----------|----------------|---|--------|
| % of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:   |           |                |   |        |
| <b>Chinese Taipei</b>  | 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     |
| <b>United States</b>   | 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     |
| <b>NOTE:</b>   |           |                |   |        |
| 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. |           |                |   |        |
| <b>Vanuatu</b>   | 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     |
| <b>Belize</b>  | 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    |
| <b>NOTE:</b> catch unsegregated by area  |           |                |   |        |
| <b>Federated States of Micronesia</b>  | 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:   |           |                |   |        |
| <b>NOTE:</b> Commenced fishery in 2009   |           |                |   |        |
| <b>Marshall Islands</b>  | 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:   |           |                |   |        |
| <b>NOTE:</b> Commenced fishery in 2008   |           |                |   |        |

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

| CCM                         | Area <sup>1</sup>       | Fishery <sup>2</sup> | 2002-04<br>Average |                | 2005              |                | 2006              |                | 2007              |                | 2008              |                | 2009              |                | 2010              |                |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
|                             |                         |                      | No. of<br>vessels  | Vessel<br>days | No. of<br>vessels | Vessel<br>days | No. of<br>vessels | Vessel<br>days | No. of<br>vessels | Vessel<br>days | No. of<br>vessels | Vessel<br>days | No. of<br>vessels | Vessel<br>days | No. of<br>vessels | Vessel<br>days |
| Canada <sup>3</sup>         | 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 <sup>4</sup><br>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 <sup>5</sup>          | 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 <sup>6</sup>          | N Pacific               | LL                   | 170                |                |                   |                | 130               |                | 122               |                | 108               |                | 111               |                | 122               |                |
| Chinese Taipei <sup>7</sup> | 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 <sup>8</sup>         |                         |                      |                    |                |                   |                |                   |                |                   |                |                   |                | 40                |                | 49                |                |

<sup>1</sup> Data pertain to WCPFC Area only or entire N Pacific?

<sup>2</sup> Fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore

<sup>3</sup> NOTE: For Canada no fishing inside the CA since 2005

<sup>4</sup> Convention Area

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

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

<sup>7</sup> This data just indicates the fishery fishing for NP albacore only

<sup>8</sup> Vessel number and effort was given for all species

**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**

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

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**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.

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

**Northern Committee  
Seventh Regular Session**

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**Work Programme for the Northern Committee  
(as revised by the Seventh Regular Session)**

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| Work areas                                    | objectives   | 1-year tasks |                                   |      |      |
|---|--|--------------|-----------------------------------|------|------|
|   | 2012-2015  | 2012         | 2013                              | 2014 | 2015 |
| . Northern stocks                             |  |              | Consider other management options |      |      |
|   |  |              | than the existing management      |      |      |
|   |  |              | measures, if appropriate.         |      |      |
| a. Monitor status; consider management action | Review status and take action as needed for: <sup>9</sup><br><b><u>North Pacific albacore</u></b><br>Tasks<br>(A) Review members' reports on their implementation of CMM 2005-03 |              |                                   |      |      |

<sup>9</sup> In the event that the Commission, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Annex I of the Commission Rules of Procedure, adds additional stocks, such as the northern stock of striped marlin, to the list of stocks understood to be "northern stocks", this work programme will be revised to include periodic status reviews and consideration of management action for such stocks.

| Work areas | objectives   | 1-year tasks   |   |  |   |
|------------|--|--|---|--|---|
|            | 2012-2015  | 2012   | 2013  | 2014   | 2015  |
|            | <p>(1 )Estimate the proportion of the total catch of albacore in the North Pacific Ocean (in the Convention Area, and/or across the entire North Pacific Ocean, as appropriate) that is effectively subject to the effort limits mandated in the CMM.</p> <p>(2) Determine how total effort across those fisheries has changed from 2002 through 2010 through a review of members' reports of annual fishing effort by their vessels "fishing for" NP albacore fisheries.</p> <p>(B) Establish a Precautionary Approach based management framework, including: (1) recommend appropriate reference points; (2) agreeing in advance to actions that will be taken in the event each of the particular limit reference points is breached (decision rules); (3) recommend any changes to CMM 2005-03.</p> <p><b><u>Pacific bluefin tuna</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Swordfish</u></b></p> | <p>Review the compiled members' reports and identify and rectify shortcomings</p> <p>Discuss Task (B)(1) and (2)</p> <p>Review reports from CCMs on their domestic management measures.</p> <p>Obtain and review a full assessment and consider appropriate management action.</p> <p>Consider interim management objective and reference points in light of ISC</p> | <p>Review the compiled members' reports and identify and rectify shortcomings</p> <p>Finalize Task (B) (1) and (2)</p> <p>Obtain and review a full assessment and consider appropriate management</p> | <p>Review the compiled members' reports and identify and rectify shortcomings</p> <p>Recommended any changes to CMM 2005-03<br/>(Task(B)(3))</p> | <p>Review the compiled members' reports and identify and rectify shortcomings</p> |

| Work areas  | objectives   | 1-year tasks   |  |      |      |
|---|--|--|--|------|------|
|   | 2012-2015  | 2012   | 2013   | 2014 | 2015 |
| b. Data   | <b>Striped marlin</b> (if agreed by the Scientific Committee and Commission).  | Obtain and review a full assessment and consider appropriate management action.  | action   |      |      |
|   | Achieve timely submission of complete data needed for assessments, formulation of measures, and review of Commission decisions | CCMs participating in the NC submit complete data on fisheries for northern stocks to the Commission<br>Encourage submission to Commission of PBF, NPALB and NPSM data from all CCMs and make available to ISC | CCMs participating in the NC submit complete data on fisheries for northern stocks to the Commission<br>Encourage submission to Commission of PBF, NPALB and NPSM data from all CCMs and make available to ISC |      |      |
|   | Consider systems to validate catch data  |  |  |      |      |
| c. Scientific support                               | Provide support for scientific studies   | Encourage voluntary contribution for NC's list of priority scientific projects   |  |      |      |
| <b>2. Non-target, associated, dependent species</b> |  |  |  |      |      |
| a. Seabirds   | Consider appropriate implementation of methods to minimize catch and mortality.  | Review implementation of CMM-2007-04 in the northern area  |  |      |      |
| b. Sea turtles                                      | Consider appropriate implementation of methods to minimize catch and mortality.  | Review mitigation research results and consider management action  |  |      |      |
| c. Sharks   | Consider appropriate implementation for CMM-2010-07 in the northern  | Review scientific advice from ISC, if any, and consider management options on two  |  |      |      |

| Work areas   | objectives   | 1-year tasks   |      |      |      |
|--|--|--|------|------|------|
|  | 2012-2015  | 2012   | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| <p>area.</p> <p><b>3. Review effectiveness of decisions</b></p> <p><b>4. ROP(Paragraph 9, Attachment C of CMM2007-01)</b></p> <p><b>5. VMS</b></p> <p><b>6. Cooperation with other organisations</b></p> <p>a. ISC</p> <p>b. IATTC</p> | <p>Annually review effectiveness of conservation and management measures and resolutions applicable to fisheries for northern stocks</p> <p>Following Article 22.4, consult to facilitate consistent management measures throughout the respective ranges of the northern stocks</p> | <p>shark species (blue shark and mako shark).</p> <p>Review effectiveness of NP albacore measure (CMM 2005-03), including member's reports on their interpretation and implementation of fishing effort control.</p> <p>Review effectiveness of Pacific bluefin tuna measure. (CMM2010-04)</p> <p>Review implementation of ROP for fishing vessels operating in north of 20N.</p> <p>Consider implementation of VMS in the area north of 20N and west of 175E.</p> <p>Consider action to support ISC.</p> <p>Have consultation to maintain consistent measures for NP albacore and northern Pacific bluefin tuna</p> |      |      |      |