

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION**

Busan, Republic of Korea

7-15 August 2012

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**WCPFC-SC8-2012/03 Rev 1**

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The meeting will open at 08:30 on Tuesday, 7 August 2012.

* 1. **Welcome address**

The Chair will welcome delegations of the WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) and Observers to the Eighth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC8).

A senior official from the Republic of Korea and the Executive Director will be invited to deliver opening addresses.

* 1. **Meeting arrangements**

The Chair will outline procedural matters including the meeting schedule, administrative arrangements, and a list of theme conveners. SC8 will be informed that Mr Ludwig Kumoru (PNG) was elected as a new SC Vice-Chair at WCPFC8. In addition, SC8 will endorse a new co-convener, Mr David Itano (USA), for the EB theme session.

* 1. **Issues arising from the Commission**

SC8 will review issues arising from the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

* 1. **Adoption of agenda**

The Provisional Agenda for SC8 was prepared and distributed on 9 May 2012 in accordance with Rule 1 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. Any Member of the Commission, the Chairman, or the Executive Director may, at least 30 days before the date for the opening of the Regular Session request the inclusion of supplementary items in the Agenda. A request for the inclusion of a supplementary item on the Provisional Agenda shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the proposed supplementary item, which will be communicated to all CCMs and observers at least 20 days before the opening of the Session.

Other matters to be discussed, under Agenda Item 11, may be proposed here.

* 1. **Reporting arrangements**

SC8 will adopt a Summary Report and, if available, an Executive Summary that will address requests from the Commission. Relevant text under Agenda Items highlighted with an asterisk (\*) will be incorporated into the Executive Summary. The Executive Summary may also include a brief summary of key research plans, findings or conclusions on the stock status, reports and recommendations as directed by the Commission or at the initiative of the SC (paragraph 2, Article 12 of the Convention).

SC8 will have assistance of a professional rapporteur as the lead rapporteur, and appoint supporting rapporteurs, who will be assigned to specific agenda items.

* 1. **Intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee**

The Chair, with support from the Secretariat, will report on intersessional activities of the SC and the Secretariat.

1. **REVIEW OF FISHERIES**
   1. **Overview of Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) fisheries\***

The SPC-OFP will present on key fisheries for highly migratory species in the WCPO region, including key billfish species, if available. SC8 will be invited to provide supplementary information, ask questions and provide comments.

* 1. **Overview of Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fisheries**

The IATTC will present on fisheries for highly migratory species in the EPO region. SC8 will be invited to provide supplementary information, ask questions and provide comments.

* 1. **Annual Report (Part 1) from Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs)**

All CCMs shall submit Part 1 of the Annual Report (Attachment N, SC4 Summary Report) to the Secretariat (BOTH [tony.beeching@wcpfc.int](mailto:tony.beeching@wcpfc.int) and [contact.ar@wcpfc.int](mailto:contact.ar@wcpfc.int)) by **08 July 2012[[1]](#footnote-1)**. Part 1 will also include information on requests from paragraph 9 of CMM 2007-04, paragraph 8 of CMM 2009-03, paragraph 11 of CMM 2009-06, and paragraph 4 of CMM 2010-07. CCM’s Part 1 Report should include a half page summary for inclusion in the SC8 Summary Report.

It will be assumed that all annual reports have been read prior to the Session. CCMs will be given the opportunity, if needed, to make a brief presentation (3 minutes) highlighting recent changes and developments in their fisheries as described in Part 1 of their Annual Report to the Commission. A short time for questions may be provided at the conclusion of each presentation.

CCMs are requested to submit any outstanding Part 1 reports for previous years. The status of Part 1 submissions for each CCM can be found at the bottom of each WCPFC-SC meeting website.

* 1. **Reports from regional fisheries bodies and other organizations**

Regional fisheries bodies and other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations observing SC8 may make a brief presentation (3 minutes) on key issues relevant to the work of the SC. Such presentations need to be arranged with the Chair before the opening of the Session. The deadline for the submission of such meeting documents from regional fisheries bodies and other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations to the Secretariat ([tony.beeching@wcpfc.int](mailto:tony.beeching@wcpfc.int)) is 20 July 2012.

1. **DATA AND STATISTICS THEME**
   1. **Data gaps**
      1. Data gaps of the Commission

SC8 will consider progress in relation to addressing gaps in the data holdings of the Commission.

CCMs are requested to report their progress to SC8 on the inclusion of the following text in Section 5 of “Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission”:

“*The statistical and sampling methods that are used to derive the size composition data shall be reported to the Commission, including reference to whether sampling was at the level of fishing operation or during unloading, details of the protocol used, and the methods and reasons for any adjustments to the size data*.”

CCMs are also requested to report their progress to SC8 on the inclusion of the following text in Sections 3, 4, and 5 of “Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission”:

“*Information on operational changes in the fishery that are not an attribute in the data provided are to be listed and reported with the data provision*.”

* + 1. Species composition of purse-seine catches

SC8 will review the progress of Project 60 (Collection and evaluation of purse-seine species composition data), amended research plan and budget implication (Para 510, SC7 Summary Report).

* + 1. Data issues with the ISC

SC8 will review the progress of data reconciliation of the Commission and ISC data holdings for North Pacific stocks to identify and address data gaps.

* 1. **Requests from CMM 2008-01**
     1. Fishing effort for bigeye and yellowfin tuna from other commercial tuna fisheries\*

In accordance with paragraph 39 of CMM 2008-01, SC8 will review estimates of fishing effort or proposals provided by CCMs for the provision of effort data for other commercial tuna fisheries fishing for bigeye and yellowfin tuna. CCMs will provide such information to the Secretariat ([tony.beeching@wcpfc.int](mailto:tony.beeching@wcpfc.int)) by 30 June 2012.

* 1. **Regional Observer Programme**

SC8 will consider report on auditing Regional Observer Programme (ROP), and issues related with scientific data collected or to be collected and data gaps.

SC8 will review the data generated by the ROP as requested in Para 7, Annex C of CMM 2007-01, and make appropriate recommendations to the Commission for annual review of the ROP.

1. **STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME**

SC8 will provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on the effective management, long-term conservation and sustainable use of the stocks listed below, including review of the current CMMs.

* 1. **WCPO bigeye tuna**
     1. Review of research and information
     2. Peer review of 2011 bigeye tuna stock assessment

SC8 will consider the peer review report and recommendations of the review panel (Drs Jim Ianelli, Mark Maunder, and Andre Punt), and provide recommendations to the Commission.

SPC-OFP will provide some comments on the peer review.

* + 1. Indicator analysis

SC8 will review the results of the 2012 bigeye stock indicator analysis and any future research needs.

* + 1. Progress report on Project 35 (Refinement of bigeye parameters Pacific-wide)

SC8 will review and discuss the progress of the Project 35 and will provide recommendations on the continuity of this project in 2013.

* + 1. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*
   1. **WCPO yellowfin tuna**
      1. Review of research and information

SC8 will review and discuss the results of the 2012 yellowfin stock indicator analysis and any future research needs.

* + 1. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*
   1. **WCPO skipjack tuna**
      1. Review of research and information

SC8 will review and discuss the results of the 2012 skipjack stock indicator analysis and any future research needs.

* + 1. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*
   1. **South Pacific albacore tuna**
      1. Review of research and information
3. Review of Project 39 (Stock structure and life-history characteristics of SP albacore)

This project was introduced at SC7 (SC7-SA-WP-05). The final version of the 3-year research on “*Regional study of the stock structure and life-history characteristics of SP albacore*” conducted by CSIRO and partially supported by the Commission will be posted on the SC8 meeting site as an information paper. SC8 may provide any additional comments, if available, on the final report.

1. Review of 2012 stock assessment

SC8 will review the results of the 2012 albacore stock assessment and any future research needs.

1. Review of CMM 2010-05

SC8 will review science aspects of the current CMM 2010-05 and the continuous reporting of South Pacific Albacore Fishery (WCPFC8-2011-IP/04 Rev 1).

* + 1. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*
   1. **South Pacific swordfish**
      1. Review of research and information

SC8 will review and discuss the results of the SP swordfish fishery characterization, stock indicator analysis, progress toward stock assessment, and any future research needs.

* + 1. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*

SC8 may provide scientific advice for the revision of CMM 2009-03 (CMM for swordfish).

* 1. **Southwest Pacific striped marlin**
     1. Review of research and information

1. Review of Project 64 (Collation of SP striped marlin)

Collated data were used for 2012 SP striped marlin stock assessment. The summary of final report of the project 64 will be presented.

1. Review of 2012 stock assessment

SC8 will review and discuss the results of the SP striped marlin stock assessment, any further research needs, and provide recommendations for the Commission’s consideration.

* + 1. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*
   1. **North Pacific striped marlin**
      1. Review of research and information
3. Review of 2012 stock assessment

The ISC Chair (or his designate) will provide the results of 2012 NP striped marlin stock assessment conducted by ISC. SC8 will review and discuss new information on the stock status and conservation advice for this stock.

* + 1. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*

SC8 may provide scientific advice to the Commission for the revision of CMM 2010-01 (CMM for NP striped marlin).

* 1. **Northern stocks**

Annex I of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure defines ‘northern stocks’ to be ‘northern Pacific bluefin[[2]](#footnote-2), northern albacore[[3]](#footnote-3) and the northern stock of swordfish[[4]](#footnote-4)’. The ISC Chair (or his designate) will be invited to provide the results of 2011 stock assessments, stock status, and management and conservation advice for these stocks.

* + 1. **North Pacific albacore tuna** 
       1. Review of research and information
       2. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*
   * 1. **Pacific bluefin tuna** 
        1. Review of research and information
3. Review of 2012 stock assessment

The ISC Chair (or his designate) will provide the results of 2012 Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment conducted by ISC. SC8 will review and discuss new information on the stock status and conservation advice for this stock.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*

SC8 may provide scientific advice to the Commission for the amendment of CMM 2010-04 (CMM for Pacific bluefin tuna).

* + 1. **North Pacific swordfish**
       1. Review of research and information
       2. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*
   1. **WCPO sharks**
      1. **Oceanic whitetip shark**
         1. Review of research and information
3. Review of 2012 stock assessment

SC8 will review the results of the 2012 oceanic whitetip shark stock assessment and future research needs.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*
   * 1. **Silky shark**
        1. Review of research and information
3. Review of 2012 stock assessment

SC8 will review the results of the 2012 silky shark stock assessment and future research needs.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC8 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends\*
2. Management advice and implications\*

**4.10 Stock Assessment Methods**

4.10.1 Review of research and information

1. **MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME\***
   1. **Terms of Reference**

The Commission agreed TOR for the MI theme session. SC8 may review the TOR and provide comments if any to the Commission.

* 1. **Reference Points for the WCPFC**
     1. Limit reference points

SC8 will review the working definition of Limit Reference Points adopted by SC7 (described in Para 334 b of the SC7 Summary Report) in light of any comments from the Commission.

SC8 will review relevant research on evaluating the consequences of adopting limit reference points identified by SC7 for yellowfin, bigeye and South Pacific albacore tunas (c.f. Para 334 f, SC7 Summary Report), taking into account of WCPFC8's concerns regarding reference points in its further deliberations (Para 121 of draft WCPFC8 report), and provide comments and recommendations to the Management Objectives Workshop (c.f. WCPFC8-2011/39 rev2 for its terms of reference) and the Commission. SC8 may provide recommendations to the research provider if changes are required prior to the Workshop.

* + 1. Target reference points

SC8 will review relevant research on identifying and evaluating candidate target reference points for the WCPFC, in particular for skipjack tuna (c.f. Para 334 k, SC7 Summary Report) and provide comments and recommendations to the Management Objective Workshop. SC8 may provide recommendations to the research provider if changes are required prior to the Workshop.

* + 1. Harvest Control Rules

SC8 will review relevant work on the concept, structure and development of harvest control rules for the WCPFC in preparation for the Management Objective Workshop (c.f. Para 334 i, SC7 Summary Report).

* 1. **Requests from CMM 2008-01(2011-01)**
     1. Review of the effectiveness of CMM 2008-01\*

Assisted by the science services provider, SC8 will review any updates on measuring the effectiveness of CMM 2008-01 and provide advice to the Commission for the development of a revised CMM for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna stocks (paragraph 46).

* 1. **Management Objectives Workshop**

SC8 will review and discuss the TOR of the Management Objectives Workshop (MOW) that was adopted by WCPFC8, and consider and additional provision of scientific advice to the MOW, which will be held in Manila, 29-30 November 2012.

1. **ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH MITIGATION THEME**
   1. **Ecosystem effects of fishing**

SC8 may consider any research related with fishery impacts on ecosystem, including the progress of SEAPODYM applications and the Kobe process on bycatch issues, if available.

6.1.1 Review of research and information

* 1. **Sharks\*** 
     1. Shark Research Plan

SC8 will review the progress of the Shark Research Plan including designation of additional key shark species[[5]](#footnote-5), such as whale sharks, plans for shark stock assessments and prioritization.

1. Assessment of whale sharks against the key shark species criteria

SC8 will consider whether whale sharks meet the criteria for the designation of key shark species and provide recommendations to the Commission.

* + 1. Review of CMM for Sharks

Recognizing the considerable body of work on shark catch mitigation, including non-retention and live-release, deeper hook deployment on longliners (for epipelagic species), use of circle hooks, and prohibition on targeting, finning and wire leaders, SC8 will consider investigations into the effectiveness of mitigation measures for sharks.

1. CMM 2010-07 (CMM for Sharks)

SC8 will review CMM for Sharks, especially paragraphs 4, 8, and 13 with reference to data provision, fin to carcass ratios, and the need for revised or new CMMs.

1. CMM 2011-04 (CMM for oceanic whitetip shark)

SC8 will review CMM for Oceanic Whitetip Shark, effective on 1 January 2013, and, by reviewing the results of the oceanic whitetip shark stock assessment, provide any additional scientific advice to the Commission for the amendment of this CMM at WCPFC9.

1. Development of CMMs on other shark species

Based on research results presented, including silky shark stock assessment, in particular the indicators of fishing pressure on the original key shark species, SC8 may wish to consider providing scientific advice on the stock status of relevant shark species to WCPFC9.

1. Guidelines for safe release of encircled animals

SC8 will continue developing the best practice guidelines for release of encircled whale sharks, including the development of a research programme, perhaps involving tagging, to evaluate and verify the effectiveness of preliminary safe release guidelines, and provide recommendations to the Commission. (Reference may include WCPFC8-2011-IP/01, WCPFC8-2011-DP/15a (Rev 1), and WCPFC8-2011-DP/17)

* + 1. International cooperation on shark issues

The ISC Chair will brief SC8 on the activities of ISC Shark Working Group and its coordination of shark data sharing and shark stock assessments with SPC-OFP.

* 1. **Seabirds\***

6.3.1 Review of research and information

SC8 will review any relevant available research findings as recommended in paragraph 439 of the SC6 Summary Report and paragraph 430 of the SC7 Summary Report, including research into the use of weighted branch lines; the use of dead baits versus live baits; the efficacy of blue-dyed squid bait; the use of deep-setting longline shooters and their particular characteristics north of 23°N, including any specifications that have been developed; and provide recommendations on the effectiveness of CMM 2007-04 to TCC8 and the Commission.

* 1. **Sea turtles\***

SC8 may review scientific aspects of the CMM 2008-03, and consider any additional or new mitigation measures of sea turtles.

* 1. **Other species and issues**
     1. FAD bycatch mitigation

SC8 will review the progress and future plans for research on FAD bycatch mitigation efforts.

* + 1. Food security issues with bycatch

SC7 requested that issues associated with the volumes of food fish discarded in regional tuna fisheries (including those fishes in Resolution 2005-03) and the impact of tuna fishing on key food stocks be incorporated into the SC Strategic Research Plan. WCPFC8 agreed that consideration of research on food fish discard volumes and the impact of tuna fishing on key food stocks by the SC is appropriate.

1. Management advice and implications\*

SPC-OFP will present an analysis related with food fish discarded and its impact. SC8 will review results of relevant research and provide comments and recommendations to the Commission.

1. **OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS**
   1. **West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project\***

WPEA OFM Project started January 2010 and will terminate in December 2012. SC8 will consider the Summary Report of the third WPEA Project Steering Committee Meeting that will be held during the SC8.

* 1. **Pacific Tuna Tagging Project \***

SC8 will consider the Summary Report of the 6th Steering Committee meeting for the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project.

1. **COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**
   1. **The status of cooperation and relations**

SC8 will review the status of cooperation with other organizations and consider any further needs for with other organizations.

1. **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES**
   1. **Consideration of the special requirements of developing States pursuant to Part VIII of the Convention**

SC8 will consider intersessional activities during 2011/2012 for the capacity building in science of developing States and participating territories, including those supported by the Commission’s Special Requirements Fund and Japanese Trust Fund. Other matters within the scope of Part VIII of the Convention may also be discussed. CCMs including developed CCMs, Secretariat, SPC-OFP and FFA are invited to give brief reports in this regard.

1. **FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET**
   1. **Review of the Scientific Committee Work Programme**

SC8 will review the progress of 2012 work programme and update the list of SC Work Programme that was established at SC3 (Attachment O of the SC3 Summary Report).

* 1. **Development of the 2013 Work Programme and budget, and projection of 2014-2015 provisional Work Programme and indicative budget\***

SC8 will develop the 2013 work programme and budget and provisional work programme and indicative budget for 2014-2015.

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
   1. **Rules of Procedure**

Subject to any proposals tabled by CCMs, the SC8 will consider Rules of Procedure for SC.

* 1. **Peer review of stock assessments\***

SC8 may consider review of the terms of reference and process deployed for 2012 peer review based on the review outcomes, and will consider a schedule for any further reviews.

* 1. **Future operation of the Scientific Committee** 
     1. Future structure of the SC

SC8 will review the structure and performance of the SC meeting, determine the possible expansion of SC9 to include Fish Biology, Fishing Technology and Methods theme, and identify convenors of such themes.

SC8 also consider the revised agenda structure where “Management advice and implications” under Agenda Item 3 (Stock Assessment Theme) may be moved to Agenda Item 4 (Management Issues Theme).

* + 1. Review of SC agenda

Provisional agenda has been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with SC officials and other key contributing agencies such as SPC-OFP. SC8 will have a chance to review the general structure of SC agenda.

* + 1. Guidelines for the theme conveners and SC chair

SC8 will review draft guidelines for the theme conveners and SC chair and adopt it for future performance of the SC meetings.

* 1. **Election of the Chairman of the Scientific Committee\***

SC8 will recommend to the Commission a candidate for Chairman to serve in that role from the end of WCPFC9 in December 2012, to the end of WCPFC11, December 2014.

* 1. **Next meeting\***

Members are invited to propose a time and venue for SC9 in August 2013.

1. **OTHER MATTERS**

SC8 will consider any other issues raised under Agenda Item 1.4.

1. **ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

SC8 will adopt the Summary Report of its Eighth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee.

1. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting will close at 17:00 on Wednesday, 15 August 2012.

1. Note: Submission of Annual Report Part 1 by this due date will be reported in the 2012 Compliance Monitoring Reports (c.f. CMM 2011-06) which will be circulated by 28 July 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Pacific bluefin tuna [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. North Pacific albacore [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. North Pacific swordfish [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), two mako sharks (*Isurus spp*.), silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), three thresher sharks (*Alopias spp*.), porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) and four hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)