



**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS**

Circular No.: 2019/33
Date: 11 June 2019
No. pages: 3

Meeting Notice: Fifteenth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC15) - Update

Dear All,

Further to Circulars 2019/29 and 2019/31, please find enclosed a Letter from the co-chairs of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG). This letter is also available at: <https://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/nc15>.

Please distribute this Circular to all relevant people and potential participants at the NC15 meeting in your country and organization. If you have any questions, please contact the Secretariat's Science Manager Dr SungKwon Soh at sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int.

Yours sincerely,

Feleti Penitala Teo, **OBE**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA FOURTH SESSION

Portland, Oregon, United States of America 3 – 5 September 2019

Dear fellow members and participants,

The provisional agenda for the 4th session of the Joint Working Group (JWG) is now posted on the WCPFC and IATTC websites. As co-chairs we look forward to a productive meeting in September as we continue to work together through this informal working group to develop recommendations on the conservation and management measures for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) for consideration by the WCPFC Northern Committee and IATTC.


You will note a few changes to the structure and schedule of the meeting from past years. While the Northern Committee (NC) will convene to go over its agenda and welcome members on 3 September, the NC will recess at 10 am. The JWG meeting will then commence at 10:30 on September 3 and continue until adjourning no later than the mid-day recess on September 5. The Northern Committee will then reconvene to conduct Northern Committee business. The indicative schedule of both meetings is also posted. However, please note that the schedule will be changed from time to time to use time efficiently. For example, if the JWG meeting recesses for drafting its report, NC meeting will reconvene during that recess even on Wednesday or Thursday morning. NC15 has other important issues besides PBF to discuss and needs ample time.

Scientific reports on PBF stock condition and other related information from ISC, the Scientific Committee of the WCPFC and the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee will be presented during the JWG meeting. In order to understand the current implementation of management measures across both the WCPFC and IATTC convention areas, we will discuss each member's implementation of conservation and management measures for PBF. WCPFC Northern Committee members are required under CMM 2018-02 to submit implementation reports to the WCPFC Executive Director by 31 July. We respectfully request that IATTC members fishing PBF also provide written reports of their implementation of conservation measures well in advance of the meeting. Please submit these reports by August 1 to Dr. Sungkwon Soh, who will kindly serve as secretariat of the JWG for this meeting.

We also plan to prepare a more substantive summary report of the JWG meeting this year so that other members of IATTC and WCPFC who do not attend the JWG meeting will have a better understanding of our deliberations. We hope that these revisions in agenda structure and meeting reporting will help emphasize that the JWG is a separate joint effort by NC and IATTC even though the joint WG meeting is occurring in conjunction with NC15 this year. We also believe that they will be an improvement into the future, regardless of when or where the JWG meeting is held.

We welcome your comments and other suggestions. Let us know your thoughts promptly so that we can assure smooth preparation for the meeting. And if you have any questions about Portland, Dorothy would be happy to be of assistance since we are meeting in her home town in September!

Sincerely,



Masa Miyahara and Dorothy Lowman