



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION**

Busan, Republic of Korea
7-15 August 2012

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

WCPFC-SC8-2012/GN-WP-04

I. SC7 Summary Report

1. The Secretariat published the Summary Report of the Seventh Session of Scientific Committee and posted it on the SC7 website.

II. Science Services from SPC-OFP

2. The Commission signed an MOU with the Commission's Science Services Provider (SPC-OFP) to provide science and data management services in 2006 and has updated Annex I of the MOU each year to accommodate changing services as requested by the Commission for each calendar year. In 2009, the Commission and the SPC agreed to revise the MOU to provide for a three-year arrangement as directed by the Commission. The three-year MOU applies through 2012 and will be reviewed again at WCPFC9 in December 2012. The components of 2012 services in Annex I include:

- Data management, statistical analyses and related services
 - Data Management
 - Compilation of catch and effort estimates
 - Data dissemination
 - Technical / policy advice
 - Support of other data-related projects of the Commission
- Stock assessment and related analytical services
 - Target species stock assessments and auxiliary analyses
 - Implementation of the shark research plan
 - Model development and refinement
- Management analyses and CMM performance monitoring
 - Conservation and Management Measure performance monitoring
 - Analyses to support development of Conservation and Management Measures
- Other advisory and technical services

3. SPC-OFP produced 30 papers and reports for SC8 and provided *ad hoc* advice and support throughout the year. In addition, SPC-OFP assisted the following activities:

- Participated in TCC7 and WCPFC8, producing several key papers and presentations for each meeting;
- Participated in the West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project for the maintenance and refinement of data collection programme in Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam;
- Assisted various workshops for the audit of port sampling, estimation of annual total catch by gear and species, and training of local database managers;
- Conducted the Pacific Tuna Tagging Program (PTTP) and coordinated PTTP Steering Committee Meeting; and
- Assisted to address issues related with Kobe bycatch meetings.

III. Progress of SC Work Programme Activities

4. SC work programmes conducted in 2011-2012 include:
 - (Project 14) Implementation of the WPEA OFM Project activities – country progress will be reported at the 3rd Project Steering Committee meeting on Saturday, 11 August 2012;
 - (Project 35) Refinement of bigeye parameters Pacific-wide – SPC-OFP will provide a progress report on the Pacific-wide sampling and preliminary analysis;
 - (Project 42) Pacific-wide tagging project: SPC-OFP will provide a progress report on 2012 tagging activities and the status of tag recovery;
 - (Project 57) Identifying Provisional Limit Reference Points: SPC-OFP will present an analysis on the evaluation of limit reference points using the most recent stock assessment models for the four key tuna species;
 - (Project 60) Purse Seine Species Composition: SPC-OFP will provide the outputs of the extended project activity; and
 - (Project 48, 63) Development of Decision Rules: SPC-OFP will introduce the concept and example of harvest control rules for skipjack and SP albacore tuna at SC8.

IV. Cooperation with other organizations

5. The Secretariat was represented at the following science-related meetings during the last 12 months:
 - SPC Tuna Data Workshop , 23 – 27 April 2012, Noumea, New Caledonia;
 - Workshop on the peer review of the bigeye tuna 2011 stock assessment, 28 April to 2 May 2012, Noumea, New Caledonia;
 - The 12th ISC and its Working Group meetings,;
 - WPEA OFM Project related meetings in Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam, including 2012 East Asia Seas Congress.

V. Research Projects

1. Western Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project

6. Since the last PSC meeting, collection of size data, logbook data and landing data has been continued in the three participating countries (Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam). Review workshops for the audit of port sampling and verification of size data and catch data were convened prior to estimating annual total catch of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas by species and gear. WPEA OFM Project supported relevant staff of the three countries to participate in Tuna Data Workshop hosted by SPC-OFP in April 2012. Their participation greatly improved the capacity of those countries in

collecting, analyzing and submitting their fishery data to the Commission to fulfill WCPFC member's obligations.

7. The three countries also made their effort to develop, update and refine policy-related project activity reports: 1) review and reform of policy, legal and institutional arrangements of the participating countries to comply with WCPFC requirements, 2) development of national tuna fishery profiles, 3) review of national-level tuna association activities, and 4) development and update of national tuna management plan. In addition, WPEA OFM supported the countries for better implementation of national logbook programme, initiation of observer programme, and better implementation of the WCPFC conservation and management measures.

8. WPEA OFM is preparing a terminal evaluation of the project which will happen in August/September 2012. With UNDP, preparation of the 2nd phase of WPEA OFM project is under progress. UNDP developed a project framework document, targeting to submit it to GEF Council Meeting in November 2012, and trying to submit Project Identification Form in September or November 2012. Experts involved in this process are Dr Jose Padilla (UNDP), and Drs Tony Lewis and Anna Tengberg as a project coordinator and consultant.

2. Japanese Trust Fund Project

9. This is the first year of a second 5 year phase of the Japan Trust Fund. The focus this year has shifted more towards compliance in developing states. Dr Suzuki has completed his term as administrator of the JTF, and in 2012, the Secretariat fills that role. In the 2011/12 project year, nineteen applications were received, of which fifteen were selected for funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund. JTF available funding for 2011/12 amounted to USD 428,354 and was fully subscribed; in addition a project which had difficulty obtaining matched funding last year may proceed this year with 2011 JTF funding of USD 31,809. Projects approved for funding support include those from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, SPC, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Vietnam.