



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

ELECTRONIC MEETING
12-19 August 2020

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

WCPFC-SC16-2020/GN-IP-04

Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. Article 22 of the Convention requires the Commission to collaborate with other intergovernmental organizations which may contribute to the attainment of the objective of the Convention. The WCPFC maintains formal relations with ten inter-governmental institutions and agencies including other regional fisheries management organisations. The broad objectives of these relationships are to promote cooperation and collaboration in areas of mutual interest. The Commission has relations with the following organisations and the agreements with each of these organizations can be found on <https://www.wcpfc.int/relations-other-organisations-0>:

- 1) The Pacific Community (SPC);
- 2) Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA);
- 3) International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC);
- 4) Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
- 5) Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC);
- 6) Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC);
- 7) Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR);
- 8) Commission for the Conservation for Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT);
- 9) Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP); and
- 10) North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC).

EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Pacific Community (SPC)

2. The WCPFC and SPC-OFP data exchange agreement was adopted in 2009.

3. An MOU between WCPFC and SPC was first signed in December 2005 for 2006 scientific services, updating the specific services annually. In 2016, the three-year MOU was revised, highlighting the development of management strategy evaluation to support the implementation of the harvest strategy framework of the Commission. In 2019, the three-year MOU was revised, with the terminology of ‘MOU’

being replaced by the 'Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)'. The MOA Annex I (Agreement for the Annual Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission and Assistance to Members by the Pacific Community) for 2020 was signed by both parties on 23 March 2020.

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

4. As directed by the Fourth Regular Session of the Commission, an MOU between the two secretariats was finalized.

5. There is also a service level agreement (SLA) between the FFA and the Commission for VMS services consistent with paragraph 5 of Article 15 of the Convention.

International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)

6. An MOU was adopted in December 2005.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

7. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission adopted an MOU with SPREP.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

8. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission adopted an MOU with IOTC.

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

9. An MOU was executed by representatives of the IATTC and WCPFC following its endorsement by WCPFC3 at Apia, Samoa in December 2006.

10. A memorandum of cooperation on the exchange and release of data between the two Commissions was signed by the two parties at the end of the Commission meeting at Papeete, French Polynesia in December 2009.

11. A Memorandum of Cooperation on the Cross Endorsement of Regional Observers between WCPFC and IATTC was signed at the IATTC meeting in La Jolla, USA in July 2011 (Attachment Q, WCPFC7 Summary Report).

12. The NC-IATTC Joint Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna has been held since 2016 during the Northern Committee meetings.

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

13. WCPFC5 adopted an Arrangement with CCAMLR. The Arrangement was signed by the Chair of CCAMLR on 12 January 2009, and remained in effect for three (3) years. On 10 March 2013, the Arrangement was renewed by removing the specific effective period of the Arrangement, and signed by the Chairs of both organizations.

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

14. An MOU between CCSBT and WCPFC was signed following the endorsement of the Second Regular Session of the Commission, 12-16 December 2005 at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

15. WCPFC13 and CCSBT agreed to a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Exchange and Release of Data between WCPFC and CCSBT and a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Endorsement of WCPFC ROP Observers for Observing Transshipments of Southern Bluefin Tuna on the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area with CCSBT. The signing of these two memoranda was concluded on 5 June 2017.

Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP)

16. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission adopted an MOU with ACAP.

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

17. An MOU was developed by the two Secretariats, approved by WCPFC 6 at Papeete, French Polynesia in December 2009, and was signed in December 2010.

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)

18. An MOU was developed by the two Secretariats and reviewed at WCPFC16. Both Chairs of the WCPFC and SPRFMO finalized co-signing the MOU in August 2020.

OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

19. WCPFC Secretariat and the PEMSEA agreed a grant letter of cooperation on 20 December 2016 for the development and implementation of a WPEA project portal and monitoring and evaluation reporting system. The WPEA portal will continue under PEMSEA Resource Facility and the WPEA-ITM project site has been updated.

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

20. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission decided that there is no urgency to develop an MOU with FAO.

21. On 25 October 2014, the FAO and WCPFC signed an Execution Agreement valid through January 2019 to mitigate the adverse impacts of bycatch on biodiversity in global tuna fisheries, which is a part of the FAO's GEF-funded Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ, Common Oceans) Tuna Project.

22. On 2 June, the GEF Council approved the second phase of the Common Oceans Program and the Tuna Project; and a project document is supposed to be submitted within 12 months.

Tuna Compliance Network

23. The Tuna Compliance Network, an informal network of officers responsible for compliance from the five tuna RFMOs, was established in March 2017, which is hosted under the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (IMCSN) with support from the FAO Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project. The Tuna Compliance Network provides opportunities for regular dialogue amongst the five tuna RFMO Secretariats on MCS and Compliance matters, and with other MCS/Compliance experts.

International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

24. Regular dialogue is maintained with the ICCAT directly and through the tuna-RFMO network. In 2019, the Members of WCPFC are invited to attend the Joint t-RFMO Bycatch Working Group Meeting in Porto, Portugal, during 16-18 December 2019.

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

25. PICES is an intergovernmental scientific organization that was established in 1992 to promote and coordinate marine research in the northern North Pacific and adjacent seas. Its present members are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. PICES continues to send an invitation letter to the Secretariat to attend the PICES Annual Meeting but the Secretariat remains in the position of funding and staffing constraints preventing participation, but looks forward to close cooperation in future years.

26. The theme of the PICES-2020 Annual Meeting is “*How does 30 years of research on changing North Pacific ecosystems inform the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?*”. PICES invited WCPFC representative to the PICES-2020 Annual Meeting, especially at the FIS Committee Meetings on September 23-24 (1600-1800 East Pacific time), as an observer. The meeting will be held virtually.

North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)

27. NPFC is an inter-governmental organization established to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur. Fisheries resources covered by the Convention is all fish, mollusks, crustaceans and other marine species caught by fishing vessels within the Convention Area, excluding: (i) sedentary species insofar as they are subject to the sovereign rights of coastal States; and indicator species of vulnerable marine ecosystems as listed in, or adopted pursuant to the NPFC Convention; (ii) catadromous species; (iii) marine mammals, marine reptiles and seabirds; and (iv) other marine species already covered by pre-existing international fisheries management instruments within the area of competence of such instruments. In 2016 WCPFC ICT Manager was invited to NPFC to present an overview of WCPFC's IT infrastructure. In 2017 NPFC Executive Assistant visited WCPFC headquarters. NPFC is working with WCPFC and other organizations to enhance its science and compliance capacities.