

18 August 2020

Dear JWG Members and Participants,

We thank you again for your patience as we plan for the virtual 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IATTC-WCPFC Northern Committee Joint Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG). We have attached a draft agenda which will be posted soon and wanted to highlight some important details to assist with your preparation for a successful virtual meeting.

#### Schedule and Logistics for Virtual Meeting

The two day virtual meeting will commence on 6 October 2020 at 7am *Japan Standard time* (JST). Each day's session will be 3 hours in duration. Please note that this will mean an October 5 start time for some participants, depending on your time zone. The WCPFC Secretariat has graciously agreed to provide administrative and technical support for this meeting. The virtual meeting will be utilizing a Zoom platform and instructions on registering for the meeting will be posted on the WCPFC website in the near future. While the JWG meeting is distinct from the NC16 meeting, many of the documents will be used for both meetings, so information will be posted within the NC16 page.

#### Preparation for JWG-5

In order to accomplish our business in two 3 hour sessions, we ask that documents and presentations be posted early to allow sufficient time for members to review the materials and formulate their questions and thoughts. In particular:

- A presentation by the ISC on the new benchmark assessment and the results of the catch scenario projections has been recorded and will be posted prior to September 15. All participants should review this presentation prior to the virtual meeting as we intend to move directly into questions and answers on the ISC work without another presentation in order to make the best use of our time. We encourage members to send questions to us as Co-Chairs prior to the meeting so that we can coordinate with ISC and move through this part of Agenda item 3 efficiently.
- To the extent possible, scientific advice and recommendation from the WCPFC Scientific Committee (SC), the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) will also be posted as far in advance of the meeting as possible (Agenda item 3.1). The dates of the SAC meeting are not yet confirmed, but we remain optimistic that the meeting will occur prior to the JWG meeting.
- In preparation for Agenda item 4, the implementation reports required of WCPFC Northern Committee members to be submitted to the WCPFC Executive Director by July 31 will be posted on the NC16 page. Like last year, we are also requesting that IATTC members of the JWG also provide written reports of their implementation of PBFT conservation measures for review during Agenda Item 4. Please submit these to Dr

Sungkwon Soh at WCPFC ([SungKwon.Soh@wcpfc.int](mailto:SungKwon.Soh@wcpfc.int)) who has kindly agreed to provide support to the JWG no later than September 15.

- We also ask any member who plans to submit proposals for CMMs or IATTC resolutions to make them available for JWG discussion and possible development of JWG recommendations to the Northern Committee and IATTC. If possible, please submit them for posting no later than September 15 in order to give all members time to review prior to the virtual meeting (Agenda item 5). We plan to have members introduce any proposals and answer questions on the first day of the meeting and then continue the discussion on Day 2 as necessary.

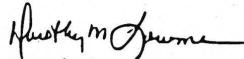
We hope that by posting the materials for the meeting by September 15, there will be ample time for pre-meeting discussions to occur to facilitate a productive JWG virtual meeting in October.

#### Other issues

You will note that discussion of MSE development is not on the agenda. Given that little progress has been made since the last meeting and our time is limited, we believe that this issue can be deferred until next year's JWG meeting. There will be a very brief progress report from the Chair of the CDS Working Group under Agenda item 6.

Thank you again for all of your hard work and commitment to the JWG under this year's challenging conditions. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Lowman

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JWG Co-Chairs

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

Virtual Meeting  
6-7 October 2020 7am-10 am Japan Standard Time

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Draft **PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

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**IATTC-NC-JWG xxxx**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and Meeting Procedures
3. Scientific Information on Pacific Bluefin Tuna
  - 3.1 ISC report on New Benchmark Stock Assessment
  - 3.2 Reports from WCPFC-SC and IATTC-SAC
- 4 Reports on the implementation of conservation and management measures (CMMs) and resolutions for Pacific bluefin tuna
- 5 PBFT Conservation and Management Measures
- 6 Review of progress of CDS Working Group
- 7 Future (2021) JWG meeting
- 8 Other business
- 9 Adoption of Report
- 10 Close of meeting