**Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee**
**Eighth Regular Session**

**Nagasaki, Japan**
**3-6 September 2012**

# SUMMARY REPORT

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**Northern Committee**
**Eighth Regular Session**

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# SUMMARY REPORT

## AGENDA ITEM 1 — OPENING OF MEETING

1. The Eighth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC8) took place in Nagasaki, Japan, from 3 to 6 September 2012. The meeting was attended by members from Canada, China, Cook Islands, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America (USA) and Vanuatu, and observers from Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Mexico Solomon Islands, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), American Fisherman's Research Foundation, Pew Environmental Group, and World Wildlife Fund Japan. The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific (ISC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Secretariat also attended the meeting. The list of meeting participants is included as Attachment A.

### 1.1 Welcome

2. M. Miyahara, Chair of the Northern Committee (NC), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Nagasaki, Japan.

### 1.2 Adoption of agenda

3. A revised agenda was adopted (Attachment B). Documents supporting the meeting were made available on WCPFC's website at http://wcpfc.int/node/4588.

### 1.3 Meeting arrangements

4. Japan, as host of NC8, briefed the meeting of social arrangements and the meeting schedule. USA provided lead rapporteurs (B. Wiley and R. Jones), and Japan provided support rapporteurs (H. Fukuda, A. Nagata, Y. Okochi).

## AGENDA ITEM 2 — CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

### 2.1 Report from the Twelfth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee

5. G. DiNardo, ISC chair, provided an overview of ISC's results from its 12th meeting, held in Sapporo, Japan from 18 to 23 July 2012. The results are contained in the ISC meeting report, which can be found on ISC's website at: http://isc.ac.affrc.go.jp. This document was also made available to WCPFC in accordance with the requirements of the ISC-WCPFC memorandum of understanding.

6. G. DiNardo provided a report on the stocks of relevance for the Northern Committee, and provided an update on ISC conservation advice. The report highlighted the following working group meetings and updated conservation advice:

a. Pacific bluefin tuna: G. DiNardo reported that the Pacific Bluefin Tuna Working Group (PBFWG) met three times in the preceding year on Pacific bluefin tuna; the first time to review data and the assessment model, and a second time to attempt to complete a new assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna (although the WG was unsuccessful in this regard). A third meeting was held to update catch data and to further plan for the completion of the assessment. DiNardo indicated that ISC's highest priority is to complete this assessment in November 2012, and to provide the results to the WCPFC at the earliest possible date. Catches of Pacific bluefin tuna in 2011 were 11,830 mt, a decline of approximately 1,000 mt from 2010. Various models disagree as to whether there has been a recent increase in spawning stock biomass (SSB). Due to the lack of a new assessment, the conservation recommendations from the previous year are maintained. "F" needs to be decreased below 2002–2004 levels, particularly on juvenile age classes.

b. Albacore: The North Pacific Albacore WG met in July 2012 to finalize conservation advice. The WG noted that the reported catch is slightly above the historical average, but noted concerns about catch data reported by China and by non-members. The WG will meet in July 2013 to prepare for the assessment planned for 2014.

c. Billfish: During the past year, the Billfish WG completed an assessment of striped marlin, completed stock projections for striped marlin, and completed an update of billfish catch tables. The biomass of striped marlin has been in a state of continuous decline for decades, and current catch is around 3,800 mt per year, which is down 50% from catches in the 1970s. Biomass is estimated to be only 16% of the unfished state. F is approximately 24% above $F_{MSY}$. The stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring.

d. Shark WG: The ISC Shark WG met three times in the past year. An age and growth workshop was held, catch tables were updated, and the assessment model configuration was reviewed. ISC provided no new conservation and management advice for sharks. A blue shark assessment is planned for 2013.

e. Swordfish: North Pacific swordfish stocks are considered to be in satisfactory condition. ISC noted that swordfish catches by Japan have decreased following the 2011 tsunami. No new assessment was performed for swordfish, and the advice provided to NC7 was maintained.

f. Statistics WG: The Statistics WG met and updated the ISC website and databases, along with the work plan for this WG.

g. Interaction with other organizations: The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and WCPFC's science services provider — the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, SPC — routinely participate in ISC species working group workshops, including the completion of stock assessments. Data inventories are routinely exchanged between ISC and WCPFC, and efforts are underway to expand the exchange of data inventories with IATTC. A full report of the striped marlin stock assessment was presented at the Eighth Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee (SC8) and was well received. While the report of the 12th meeting of the ISC was made available to WCPFC in accordance with the ISC-WCPFC memorandum of understanding, ISC will explore ways to provide the assessment report sooner. ISC and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) continue to discuss potential collaborations, recognizing that such collaborations would be beneficial to both organizations.

7. G. DiNardo noted that China is now engaged in ISC, and recently hosted the Billfish WG workshop in April 2012. In response to a question posed about whether relevant data have been provided by China, DiNardo stated that ISC is working with China to rectify the problem. To facilitate discussions, China formally invited the Albacore WG to host its next workshop in Shanghai, China. China noted that last week it had submitted to the WCPFC Secretariat updated catches, which should also address some of these concerns.

### 2.2 Report of the Eighth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee

8. The WCFPC Secretariat provided a summary report of SC8, which took place in Busan, Korea from 7 to 15 August 2012. The following key matters were presented:

- Results of the peer review of the 2011 bigeye tuna stock assessment;
- Review of tuna fisheries in the western and central Pacific Ocean and the eastern Pacific Ocean;
- Data gaps;
- Review of 2012 stock assessment assessments for South Pacific albacore, southwest Pacific striped marlin, silky shark and oceanic white-tip shark stocks;
- Reference points, harvest control rules and review on the effectiveness of CMM 2008-01;
- Seabird mitigation and adoption of Guidelines for the Safe Release of Encircled Animals, including Whale Sharks; and
- SC work programme, budget, and administrative matters.

9. Japan raised a concern about the interpretation of shark stock assessment results, emphasizing that given the data-poor situation on sharks, the assessment should be conducted with care. Japan also encouraged collecting and submitting of shark data.

### 2.3 Conservation and management measure for northern stocks

#### 2.3.1 Pacific bluefin tuna

10. The NC Chair reminded Members, Cooperating non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) that the current conservation and management measure (CMM) for Pacific bluefin tuna will expire at the end of 2012 and needs to be renewed. Each CCM was invited to present the status of implementation of CMM 2010-04.

11. Japan introduced meeting paper NC8-DP-01 (which reviewed Japan's implementation of CMM 2010-04), and gave a presentation on Japan's Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries. Japan explained that almost all catches were made in the areas under Japan's jurisdiction and primarily within its territorial and internal waters. Japan highlighted its efforts with respect to each of their Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries. Japan noted that as of 1 July 2012 it has completed registration for its entire fleet of artisanal boats (including troll boats, jig boats and handline operations), including over 13,000 vessels, which are also now subject to mandatory catch reporting requirements. Japan has implemented an annual catch limit of 4,500 mt for its purse-seine fleet which fishes for juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna off the west coast of Japan, and representing a 26% decrease from the 2005–2009 average catch. Japan has also implemented a 2,000 mt catch limit for the purse-seine fishery targeting adult Pacific bluefin tuna in the Sea of Japan. In April 2011, all Pacific bluefin tuna aquaculture operations were required to register and report on their operations, including the number of cages in operation and the source of Pacific bluefin tuna fry being farmed.

12. Korea asked Japan to explain the discrepancies between catches reported to ISC and what Japan presented in NC8-DP-01. Japan explained that differences were due to variances in the timing of the fishing year used by ISC and Japan, but that the data were consistent. Chinese Taipei and Korea also asked Japan whether catch limits would be imposed on the artisanal Pacific bluefin tuna fleet. Japan responded that although they are not opposed to considering some type of management measures for this fleet, implementation of a catch limit for a fleet consisting of 13,000 vessels spread over a wide geographical area is not practical.

13. USA requested that Japan consider submitting more detail about the characteristics of its artisanal fleet — such as vessel size, engine size, number of crew — which would allow for a better understanding of the fishing capacity of this fleet. Japan agreed to provide such information in advance of NC9.

14. Korea introduced meeting paper NC8-DP-04, and explained that its five-year research programme, which started in 2010, is still underway and that Korea is currently in the process of revising portions of their historic catches characterized as juvenile or adult. Korea is also planning to place observers on purse-seine boats to further characterize the fishery and to determine whether Korea's catch of juveniles can be controlled and subject to regulation. Korea stated that it has not issued any licenses for Pacific bluefin tuna because it does not have any directed fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna, and that all of the catch comes as bycatch or from mixed species fisheries that typically target mackerel. Once its research program is complete, Korea will be able to consider the possibility of management measures.

15. Japan presented meeting paper NC8-IP-05, characterizing Japanese imports of Pacific bluefin tuna from Korea. Japan's report showed an increasing trend in Korean-caught Pacific bluefin tuna in 2012. In addition, the report stated that roughly 50% of Korea's Pacific bluefin tuna catch was from 5 of 26 purse-seine vessels, suggesting that these vessels were likely targeting Pacific bluefin tuna. Korea noted that its catches of mackerel from this fishery were about 300 times that of the catch of Pacific bluefin tuna, indicative that Pacific bluefin tuna were a bycatch species in this fishery. Japan asked about the definition of "bycatch" used in Korea's report. Japan pointed out that, according to the Korean explanation in previous NC meetings, there was no definition of bycatch in Korea's regulations, but that Korea established the Ministerial Directive in 2011 that used the word "bycatch". Korea responded that the word "bycatch" means Pacific bluefin tuna that are mixed with other species in the catch.

16. Chinese Taipei asked Korea whether it is planning to introduce a catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna on its purse-seine fishery like Japan has done. Korea responded that it does not have any specific plan at this stage. Japan stated that although CMM-2010-04 exempted the Korean purse-seine fishery

from implementing reductions in catches of juveniles, Korea was still required to regulate this fishery in accordance with paragraph 2, and that its failure to do so represented an instance of non-compliance.

17 While appreciating Korea's intention to control Pacific bluefin tuna catches by purse-seine vessels in the near future, the Chair noted that no significant progress had been made since 2010 with regard to the management of Korea's Pacific bluefin tuna fishery. NC8 expressed concern about Korea's delay in implementing CMM 2010-04, and urged Korea to take further action to improve compliance with this CMM.

18. Chinese Taipei presented meeting paper NC8-DP-07. Chinese Taipei reported that it has around 250 longline vessels catching Pacific bluefin tuna, and that it implemented a catch documentation programme in 2010 for Pacific bluefin tuna on a voluntary basis. Chinese Taipei has also implemented a port sampling scheme that samples 100% of its landed Pacific bluefin tuna catch, and collects data on size and weight. In 2012, Chinese Taipei's catch was approximately 200 mt, which is in contrast to its average catch during 2002–2004 of 1,743 mt. Chinese Taipei also urged NC members to improve the Pacific bluefin tuna CMM by introducing measures such as catch limits and catch documentation schemes.

19. USA presented meeting paper NC8-DP-08. USA reported that it does not have any vessels that fish for Pacific bluefin tuna in the WCPFC Convention Area, but noted that its vessels do catch Pacific bluefin tuna incidentally in the WCPFC Convention Area and incidentally and opportunistically in the IATTC Convention Area. USA is in the process of implementing the CMM adopted by the IATTC in July 2012. This purse-seine fishery caught 99 mt in 2011, and typically catches juveniles that are 1–3 years of age.

20. The Philippines presented meeting paper NC8-DP-05, and reported that it is still implementing and its improving data collection efforts, but currently has no catches of Pacific bluefin tuna to report.

21. Japan presented meeting paper NC8-DP-09 on imports of Pacific bluefin tuna from Mexico, noting that it does not expect Mexican catch statistics to match up well with import numbers because Pacific bluefin tuna that are harvested by Mexico are typically fattened in pens for 6–12 months before export to Japan.

22. The Chair noted the absence of Mexico from NC8, and expressed his hope that Mexico would arrive later in the week. He also noted that Mexico had been encouraged to attend NC meetings and had made a commitment to attend NC8 in recognition of Mexico's important role in managing and conserving Pacific bluefin tuna.

23. Japan presented a draft CMM for Pacific bluefin tuna (meeting paper NC8-DP-03) for consideration by NC8. After reviewing this proposal, NC8 agreed to submit a recommendation (Attachment C) to the Commission for the Pacific bluefin tuna CMM for 2013. The Chair announced his intention to call a special meeting of NC during the December Commission meeting in case the stock assessment results turn out to be very negative and does not allow a one-year delay of introduction of a new CMM.

24. NC8 considered that it is desirable to avoid ambiguities as much as possible when it works for a new CMM at NC9. Those ambiguities include interpretation of: reference year, juvenile, bycatch and artisanal fishery.

25. Korea proposed a format to describe catches and efforts of CCMs (meeting paper NC8-DP-10). NC8 decided to consider this proposal at NC9. The Chair encouraged Korea to consult with other members to improve the proposal prior to NC9.

### 2.3.2 North Pacific albacore

26. USA presented meeting paper NC8-DP-02, which was intended to help provide direction to NC8 in following up on Tables 1 and 2 of Attachment C, Annex A of the NC7 report. USA provided updates to the table for USA fisheries and also made suggestions intended to help NC members complete the table in a consistent and informative way so as to further the work of the Committee. Some members found USA's suggestions helpful, but others indicated that they still had difficulty in determining under what circumstances a fishing vessel is determined to be targeting albacore tuna, and that they had drawn somewhat arbitrary lines in an effort to describe marginal situations in order to categorize their fisheries accordingly, which the USA's proposal did not allow for. A small working group convened and produced revised tables (Attachment D). NC8 tentatively adopted those tables with the understanding that they are subject to future review by NC.

27. There was a discussion on limit reference points (LRPs) for albacore tuna. USA noted the Commission's adoption of a hierarchical approach for setting LRPs, expressed its understanding that North Pacific albacore is probably a Level 2 stock, and proposed that $F_{SPR20\%}$ be the LRP for F. Japan stated that it felt that the current interim reference points worked fine, as LRPs should be set to avoid any recruitment overfishing, which has not occurred with the North Pacific albacore stock. Japan expressed support for a continuation of the current interim level, and this was echoed by other delegations. Canada noted that under the 2012–2015 work programme, NC was also to discuss pre-agreed decision rules, and expressed that these could represent a range of management actions should LRPs be breached. A small WG made progress on a way forward on the issue of LRPs for albacore on Tuesday. All parties agreed to pose specific questions to ISC in order to be in a better position to finalize a precautionary approach framework at NC9. A list of these questions appears in Attachment E. ISC will provide responses for consideration in advance of NC9.

### 2.3.3 North Pacific swordfish

28. The ISC Billfish WG provided a presentation on a suite of LRPs for North Pacific swordfish under the existing production stock assessment model. ISC recommended that LRPs need to be consistent with the current stock assessment, and highlighted that potential LRP estimates exist for both North Pacific stocks, including uncertainty estimates. ISC suggested that LRPs are needed for both fishing mortality and biomass for North Pacific swordfish stocks in order to avoid situations where fishing mortality might increase rapidly and cause the rapid decline of a stock within a very short timeframe.

29. USA asked ISC whether a reliable estimate of steepness was available for North Pacific swordfish. The ISC representative explained that the concept of steepness applies to age-structured assessment models rather than production models, and that although age-structured models were considered, they were not a good fit for swordfish due to data limitations but this will be reconsidered in the future, along with an assessment of possible environmental influences of on swordfish recruitment.

30. NC8 then discussed possible LRPs for North Pacific swordfish. USA indicated that they considered North Pacific swordfish to be a Level 1 stock and that $F_{MSY}$ could serve as a suitable LRP, and that although a biomass LRP should also be adopted, USA's sense was that NC was not ready to conclude that aspect of the conversation and that adopting an F-based LRP would be a good first step. Japan explained that it did not necessarily agree that North Pacific swordfish was a Level 1 stock but it is

Japan's understanding that if it is a Level 1 species, the hierarchical approach requires $B_{MSY}$ as the LRP, and that NC should also examine other options such as spawning stock biomass per recruit (SPR)-based reference points before making a decision. The Chair suggested that possible harvest control rules should also be considered side-by-side with possible LRPs because in his view, if a lower LRP is chosen, the corresponding consequences for exceeding it should be more severe.

31. The Chair instructed the interested parties of Japan, USA, Canada and Chinese Taipei to collaborate on a set of clear instructions for a request to be forwarded to the Billfish WG, describing the various F, SPR and other possible LRPs for further elaboration, along with corresponding probabilities that a given LRP might be exceeded. As a result of those members' effort, NC8 agreed on a list of questions to ISC (Attachment F). ISC will work to provide the responses to NC9

### 2.4 Conservation and management measures for other species

#### 2.4.1 Bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas (CMM 2011-01)

32. The Secretariat presented a report of the Scientific Committee on the status of CMM for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna. The following points were mentioned:

- Purse-seine effort has expanded continuously since the introduction of CMM 2008-01, with effort in 2011 estimated to have increased by approximately 31% compared with effort in 2004.
- The incidence of reported activity related to the use of drifting fish aggregation devices (FADs) during FAD closures was considerably lower in 2010 (6.0%) and 2011 (8.2%) compared with 2009 (16.1%).
- While total purse-seine effort remained at around normal levels throughout 2009–2011, the proportion of effort associated with FAD usage was lowest in 2010 and highest in 2011 due to high a FAD set ratio outside of the closure and overall increase of purse-seine effort.
- The proportion of bigeye catch during the closure months was lowest compared with those of skipjack and yellowfin tuna. However, the total purse-seine catch of bigeye during 2011 was the highest on record (77,095 mt).
- Available data from all sources indicate that the high seas pockets closure since 1 January 2010 has largely been respected.
- In 2011, the reported longline catch of bigeye tuna was 64,175 tons, or 76% of the 2001–2004 level. However, the reduced catches have been paralleled by a decline in nominal catch per unit effort (CPUE) and no apparent reduction in fishing effort.
- From 10-year projections based on fishery conditions for 2009–2011, maintaining the fishery at the 2010 level resulted in $F/F_{MSY}$ as 0.96 in 2021 due to lower FAD use, lower longline catches, and a large catch reduction (30%) from Indonesia and the Philippines.
- Under total closure (FAD effort is not transferred to unassociated fishing), there was a small incremental reduction in bigeye $F/F_{MSY}$ and substantial reductions in total catch, particularly of skipjack in the purse-seine fishery.
- If the CMM was implemented without exemptions, an (approximately) additional one-half of the overfishing could be removed.
- Regarding individual impacts on bigeye $F/F_{MSY}$ against a base of 2004, the reduction in purse-seine FAD effort in 2010 has the greatest effect in terms of removing overfishing (67.4% of overfishing removed) followed by the reduction in longline catch in 2010 (34.7% of the overfishing removed).
- SC8 recommended that the Commission adopt measures that apply to all sections of the fishery.

33. Japan and Chinese Taipei advised NC8 to be cautious about using nominal data to draw conclusions regarding longline effort for bigeye tuna. They noted that catch limits are in place for bigeye tuna and that when they are reached the fleets switch to target other species. Japan also expressed alarm that purse-seine effort has continued to increase under CMM-2008-01 and that bycatches of bigeye in the purse-seine fishery exceeded catches by the longline fishery. Japan explained the change in the longline fishery observed over the last 30 years. The decline of bigeye and yellowfin catches in the tropical region has forced those vessels to shift their fishing effort to the north and to depend more on albacore.

34. NC8 expressed concern and disappointment in the lack of effectiveness of CMM-2008-01, and reiterated its concern about the expansion of the purse-seine fishery in the area between 20° N and 20° S, which could be causing a decline in the abundance of these species in the Northern Area. NC8 noted the need for the Commission to take measures to reduce F for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas by purse-seine vessels in the tropical region.

### 2.4.2 North Pacific striped marlin

35. NC8 generally approved of the approach reflected in CMM 2010-01 and believes that it can serve as the basis for continued management of North Pacific striped marlin. NC8 noted that Commission members should take into account the valuable information contained in the ISC12 report when considering possible catch limits for North Pacific striped marlin and options for improving the existing measure.

### 2.4.3 Sharks

36. Japan noted that an assessment of blue sharks was currently on the work plans of both SPC and ISC, and expressed concern that work might be duplicative if these efforts were not coordinated. An ISC representative echoed this concern, and noted that originally SPC and ISC had agreed that ISC would undertake assessments of both blue sharks and shortfin mako sharks, but that the position of SPC appeared to have changed. The ISC representative indicated that ISC had already completed much of the preliminary data work necessary for an assessment of blue sharks in the North Pacific and that ISC was close to completing its work. He noted his intention to send a letter to SPC to explain this situation.

37. NC8 supported ISC's plans for conducting assessments of shortfin mako sharks and blue sharks, and urged the Commission to consider options for avoiding duplicative efforts.

### 2.4.4 Seabirds

38. NC8 noted with approval the Scientific Committee's recent approach to separating seabird mitigation tactics as between the North Pacific and South Pacific due to the prevalence of deep-diving seabirds in the South Pacific. NC8 also expressed concern regarding the exemption of small vessels in the application of CMM-2007-04 (bird mitigation for small vessels), and supported the Scientific Committee's recommendation that members report on the size compositions of their longline fleets operating in the North Pacific.

39. NC8 agreed to maintain a placeholder for the discussion of seabird issues on the agenda for NC9.

### 2.4.5 Sea turtles

40. NC8 did not discuss sea turtles, but agreed to maintain a placeholder for the discussion of sea turtle issues on the agenda for NC9.

## AGENDA ITEM 3 — REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

### 3.1 Implementation of the Regional Observer Programme (CMM 2007-01) by fishing vessels fishing for fresh fish in the Northern Area

41. After reviewing the NC7 proposal on the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) by fishing vessels for fresh fish in the Northern Area, NC8 agreed to submit a revised proposal (Attachment G) to the Commission for its approval.

42. NC8 also discussed the application of ROP to small vessels, which continues to be deferred under the CMM. Chinese Taipei introduced its experience on observer deployments on small longline vessels in the past two years, and highlighted the difficulties in addressing concerns of observer safety, insufficient working spaces and the heavy burden for more than 1,000 longline vessels in three oceans. Chinese Taipei, therefore, requested NC8 to consider this special case while discussing its small longline vessels that are less than 70 gross registered tons (GRT), around 110 vessels, used to fish for fresh fish in the high seas north of 20° N. For its part, Chinese Taipei expressed its intent to achieve 5% observer coverage for its small longline vessels by the end of 2016.

## AGENDA ITEM 4 — VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

### 4.1 Implementation of the WCPFC vessel monitoring system in the Northern Area

43. Korea noted that it considers the vessel monitoring system (VMS) to be one of the most effective tools in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and that VMS should be applied throughout the entire Convention Area.

44. NC8 noted that all of NC members are prepared to implement VMS in the area north of 20° N and west of 175° E by 31 December 2013, and seeks the endorsement of this plan by the Commission.

## AGENDA ITEM 5 — DATA

### 5.1 Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks

45. NC8 reaffirmed the importance of collecting data on northern tunas and providing the data to ISC.

## AGENDA ITEM 6 — COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### 6.1 ISC

46. Japan noted that it coordinates ISC's databases, data management, and website. Japan is making efforts to maintain the quality of all of these products and asked for the continued support and cooperation of other NC members. Japan also noted the establishment by the Commission of an account for supporting the work of the NC, and suggested that perhaps the account should be activated now, in part to allow ISC functions to be strengthened.

47. NC8 supports a closer, more collaborative relationship between ISC (as an independent scientific body) and the Commission's Scientific Committee and science services provider. It is believed that this will enhance the Commission's scientific work. Finding ways to enhance these two scientific bodies, as well as the Commission's science services provider, should be a goal of the Commission, NC, and ISC so that the different abilities and approaches of these bodies can be synergized.

48. NC8 recommended that the WCPFC Secretariat, the science services provider (SPC) and the ISC chair meet to coordinate activities and clarify expectations.

49. NC8 also recommended that all three bodies (Scientific Committee, ISC, and SPC as the science services provider) redouble their efforts to attend each other's plenary meetings and to coordinate closely between sessions.

50. NC8 also recommended that NC request ISC to follow up on the SC's requests concerning striped marlin assessment projections.

### 6.2 IATTC

51 . Canada highlighted its recent efforts at IATTC to update and strengthen the 2005 resolution for albacore tuna. In particular, Canada seeks to make progress on the definition of current effort, as well as recognize work being undertaken within WCPFC towards developing a precautionary approach management framework for the stock. It noted that IATTC ran out of time at this year's annual meeting and that as a result, full consideration of their proposal was not possible.

52. NC8 recommended that continued efforts be made to create compatible measures between IATTC and WCPFC for North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna.

53. Mexico joined NC8 during the course of the week and expressed its commitment to the work of the NC as well as WCPFC. Its statement is attached as Attachment H. NC8 welcomed Mexico's participation. Japan also expressed its desire to work closely in various fora with Mexico, which is the second largest Pacific bluefin tuna harvesting country. Although welcoming Mexico, the Chair mentioned that it would have been more beneficial if Mexico could have participated in the review of the various measures taken by NC members, and urged NC to provide relevant information to Mexico.

## AGENDA ITEM 7 — FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

### 7.1 Work programme for 2012–2015

54. NC8 revised and adopted a future work plan (Attachment I).

## AGENDA ITEM 8 — OTHER MATTERS

### 8.1 Administrative arrangements for the Northern Committee

#### 8.1.1 Secretariat functions and costs

55. There was no discussion on Secretariat functions and costs of NC.

**8.1.2 Rules of procedure**

56. NC8 deferred further consideration of this item to a future meeting of NC.

**8.2 Election of the Chair**

57. M. Miyahara (Japan) was nominated as a candidate Chair of NC for the Commission's approval through NC10.

**8.3 Next meeting**

58. Japan said that it would host NC9 in early September 2013, specific dates to be determined taking into account the views of other members.

**8.3 Other business**

59. USA highlighted a recent instance of IUU fishing by a stateless vessel using large-scale drift nets on the high seas. The vessel had on board approximately 20 mt of North Pacific albacore tuna at the time it was intercepted. China reported that the vessel is currently in its possession and that the vessel will be confiscated.

60. NC8 reiterated its condemnation of IUU fishing and encouraged members to continue to make efforts to address IUU fishing.

61. The Secretariat introduced a WCPFC9 paper (NC8-IP-07, Commission funding for developing countries and SIDs to attend the Northern Committee meetings) for the Committee's information. The current NC meeting budget is USD 10,000, which is not enough to support representatives of developing countries to participate in NC as observers. NC may consider a request of additional funding from the Commission for allowing the use of the Special Requirement Fund for the observer's participation.

## AGENDA ITEM 9 — ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

61. NC8 adopted the Summary Report of its Eighth Regular Session.

## AGENDA ITEM 10 — CLOSE OF MEETING

62. The meeting was closed on 6 September 2012.

**Attachment A**

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee**
**Eighth Regular Session**

**Nagasaki, Japan**
**3–6 September 2012**

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**Attachment B**

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee**
**Eighth Regular Session**

**Nagasaki, Japan**
**3–6 September 2012**

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**AGENDA**

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**AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF MEETING**
- 1.1 Welcome
- 1.2 Adoption of agenda
- 1.3 Meeting arrangements

**AGENDA ITEM 2 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**
- 2.1 Report from the 12th ISC
- 2.2 Report of the Seventh Regular Session of the Scientific Committee
- 2.3 Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks
  - 2.3.1 Northern Pacific bluefin
  - 2.3.2 North Pacific albacore
  - 2.3.3 North Pacific swordfish
- 2.4 Conservation and management measures for other species
  - 2.4.1 Bigeye and yellowfin tuna
  - 2.4.2 Sharks
  - 2.4.3 Seabirds
  - 2.4.4 Skipjack tuna
  - 2.4.5 Striped marlin

**AGENDA ITEM 3 REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME**
- 3.1 Implementation of the ROP by fishing vessels fishing for fresh fish in the Northern Area

**AGENDA ITEM 4 VMS**
- 4.1 Implementation of the WCPFC Vessel Monitoring System in the Northern Area

**AGENDA ITEM 5 DATA**
- 5.1 Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks

**AGENDA ITEM 6 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**
- 6.1 Work Programme for 2013-2016

**AGENDA ITEM 7 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**
- 7.1 ISC
- 7.2 IATTC

**AGENDA ITEM 8 OTHER MATTERS**

8.1 Administrative arrangements for the Committee

8.1.1 Secretariat functions and costs

8.1.2 Rules of Procedure

8.2 Election of the Chair

8.3 Next meeting

8.4 Other business

**AGENDA ITEM 9 REPORT TO THE COMMISSION**

9.1 Adoption of the Summary Report of the Eighth Regular Session of the Northern Committee and recommendations to the Commission

**AGENDA ITEM 10 CLOSE OF MEETING**

10.1 Closing of the meeting

**Attachment C**

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee**
**Eighth Regular Session**

**Nagasaki, Japan**
**3–6 September 2012**

# DRAFT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

*The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):*

*Recognizing* that WCPFC7 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM2010-04);

*Taking account of* the conservation advice from the 12th meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock, which again highlighted the importance that the level of F is decreased below the 2002-2004 levels, particularly on juvenile age classes;

*Also recognizing* that the trend of spawning stock biomass has been influenced substantially by the annual level of recruitment and that collecting of fisheries data in an accurate and timely manner is critically important for the proper management of this stock, and;

*Further recalling* that paragraph (4), Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC to reach agreement to harmonize CMMs for fish stocks such as Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations;

*Adopts*, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

1. The interim management objective for Pacific bluefin tuna is to ensure that the current level of fishing mortality rate is not increased in the Convention Area. Initially, control over fishing effort will be used to achieve this objective as follows:

2. The Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take measures necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20 degrees north shall stay below the 2002-2004 levels for 2013, except for artisanal fisheries. Such measures shall include those to reduce catches of juveniles (age 0-3) below the 2002-2004 levels, except for Korea. Korea shall take necessary measures to regulate the catches of juveniles (age 0-3) by managing Korean fishery in accordance with this CMM. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.

3. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting;

4. CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 31 July 2013 measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 6 and 7 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to Executive Director by 31 July 2013. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph;

5. The Northern Committee at its Regular session in 2013 shall review this CMM based on the new ISC stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna scheduled in late 2012 and take appropriate actions;

6. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this Conservation Management Measure to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with paragraphs 2 and 3 above;

7. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.

8. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for Pacific bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.

9. The provisions of paragraph 8 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such developing coastal State, particularly Small Island developing State Members or participating territories, unless such fishing is conducted in support of efforts by such Members and territories to develop their own domestic fisheries

**Attachment D**

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee**
**Eighth Regular Session**

**Nagasaki, Japan**
**3–6 September 2012**

## NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE CATCH AND EFFORT DATA
## (Updated information on Attachment C, Annex A of NC7 Summary Report)

**Table 1:** Average annual catch of North Pacific albacore (metric tonnes)

| CCM | Data pertain to WCPFC Area only or entire N Pacific? | Fisheries with ANY catch of NP albacore | "Fishing for" NP albacore? (Y/N) | 2006-2010 average annual catch |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Canada** | N Pacific total catches | Albacore troll | Y | 5,899 |
| | | | Total catches for Canada: | 5,899 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 5,899 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 100 |
| | | | | |
| **China** | N Pacific | Longline | Y | 1,967 |
| | N Pacific | Longline | N | 98 |
| | | | Total catches for China: | 1,967 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 1,869 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 95 |
| Note:<br>Historically, there are 10 longliners seasonally operating in the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean targeting albacore, which covered the Convention Areas of WCPFC and IATTC | | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Cook Islands** | N Pacific total catches | Albacore troll | Y | 31 |
| | N Pacific total catches | Longline | Y | 8 |
| | | | Total catches for Cook Islands: | 39 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 39 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 100 |
| | | | | |
| **Japan** | CA only | LL Coast | Y | 16,817 |
| | | LL DW | Y | 4,230 |
| | | PL Coast | N | 89 |
| | | PL DW | Y | 24,504 |
| | | PS Coast | N | 14 |
| | | PS DW | N | 1,841 |
| | | GN | N | 430 |
| | | Troll | N | 505 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Set Net | N | 52 |
| | | Others | N | 36 |
| | | | Total catches for Japan: | 48,518 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 45,551 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 94 |
| | | | | |
| **Korea** | CA only | LL DW | Y | 18 |
| | CA only | LL DW | N | 157 |
| | | | Total catches for Korea: | 175 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 18 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 10 |
| NOTE:<br>1) Three LL DW participated in fishing for NP albacore in 2007 and 2008, and the catch was 87 tons. | | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Philippines** | N Pacific | others | N | 75 |
| | | | Total catches for Philippines (average for 2009–2011): | 75 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 0 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 0 |
| NOTE: Catches are mainly from hook-and-line gear | | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Chinese Taipei** | N Pacific | albacore LL | Y | 2,548 |
| | N Pacific | LL others | N | 552 |
| | | | Total catches for Chinese Taipei: | 3,100 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 2,548 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 82 |
| | | | | |
| **United States** | N Pacific | Albacore troll | Y | 12,344 |
| | | Longline | N | 288 |
| | | Gillnet | N | 3 |
| | | Pole and line | N | 0 |
| | | Purse seine | N | 23 |
| | | Other | N | 577 |
| | | | Total catches for United States: | 13,236 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 12,344 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 93 |
| NOTE:<br>1) These USA (2006–2010) data may not be confirmed from figures available to the Secretariat.<br>2) USA response: See all our annual reports under CMM 2005-03, the latest of which is dated 30 April 2012. | | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Vanuatu** | CA only | LL | | 1,794 |
| | | | Total catches for Vanuatu: | 1,794 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 1,794 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore: | 100 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belize** | CA only | LL | Y | 95 |
| | | | Total catches for Belize: | 95 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | 95 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | 100 |
| NOTE: catch unsegregated by area | | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Federated States of Micronesia** | CA only | LL | N | 18 |
| | | | Total catches for FSM: | 18 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | 0 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | 0 |
| NOTE: Commenced fishery in 2009 | | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Marshall Islands** | CA only | LL | N | N/A |
| | | | Total catches for RMI: | |
| | | | Catches in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | |
| NOTE: Commenced fishery in 2008 | | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Kiribati** | | | | |
| | | | Total catches for Kiribati: | |
| | | | Catches in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | |
| | | | | |
| **Mexico** | | | | |
| | | | Total catches for Mexico: | |
| | | | Catches in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | |
| | | | | |
| **Vietnam** | EEZ only | LL | N | 13 |
| | | | Total catches for Vietnam (average of 2000–2011): | 13 |
| | | | Catches in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | 0 |
| | | | % of total catch in fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore: | 0 |
| Note: Catches are mainly from LL only; and there is also possibility of wrong identification by enumerators to account yellowfin and bigeye as albacore | | | | |
| | | | | |

**Table 2:** Fishing effort for North Pacific albacore (ALB)

| CCM | Area[1] | Fishery[2] | 2002-04 Average | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 | | 2010 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | No. of vessels | Vessel days | No. of vessels | Vessel days | No. of vessels | Vessel days | No. of vessels | Vessel days | No. of vessels | Vessel days | No. of vessels | Vessel days | No. of vessels | Vessel days |
| Canada[3] | N Pacific | ALB[4] troll | | 8,898 | 213 | 8,578 | 174 | 6,277 | 207 | 6,961 | 134 | 5,919 | 138 | 6,553 | 159 | 7,592 |
| | CA[5] only | ALB troll | | 76 | 2 | 111 | 2 | 105 | 1 | 59 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| China | N Pacific | LL[6] | 10 | 1,250 | 10 | 1,230 | 10 | 1150 | 2 | 260 | 2 | 250 | 2 | 280 | 2 | 240 |
| Cook Islands | N Pacific | ALB troll | 4 | 183 | 2 | 240 | 2 | 171 | 1 | 57 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | N Pacific | LL | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 37 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Japan[7] | CA only | LL Coast | 296 | 40.988 | 289 | 41,078 | 287 | 42,814 | 273 | 43,245 | 276 | 40,023 | 280 | 43,408 | 286 | 44,840 |
| | | LL DW[8] | 633 | 26,851 | 591 | 21,548 | 538 | 21,186 | 494 | 21,712 | 480 | 17,823 | 361 | 12,060 | 342 | 12,879 |
| | | PL DW | 141 | 19,839 | 134 | 20,442 | 125 | 16,059 | 106 | 16,931 | 104 | 15,667 | 104 | 15,248 | 101 | 15,541 |
| Korea[9] | CA only | LL DW | 13 | 1,072 | | | | | 3 | 268 | 3 | 107 | | | | |
| Philippines | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chinese Taipei[10] | N Pacific | ALB LL | 25 | | 23 | 2,363 | 24 | 4,156 | 21 | 3,360 | 18 | 2,603 | 13 | 2,082 | 20 | 2,093 |
| USA | N Pacific | ALB troll | | 24,994 | | 24,731 | | 22,006 | | 24,000 | | 24,994 | | 25,429 | | 25,486 |
| Vanuatu | N Pacific | | 24 | 2,496 | 37 | 4,394 | 31 | 3,112 | 29 | 3,279 | 18 | 1,483 | 18 | 1,661 | 11 | 313 |
| Belize[11] | | | | | | | | | | | | | 40 | | 49 | |
| FSM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kiribati | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mexico | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vietnam | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

[1] Data pertain to WCPFC Convention Area only or entire North Pacific?
[2] Fisheries "fishing for" North Pacific albacore
[3] Note: For Canada no fishing inside the CA since 2005
[4] ALB = albacore
[5] CA = Convention Area
[6] LL = longline
[7] Japanese albacore data are not segregated by North or South Pacific with respect to the number of vessels
[8] DW = distant water
[9] Korea's fishing effort "fishing for" North Pacific albacore occurred in 2007 and 2008, and non-target fishing effort occurred every year in the North Pacific
[10] These data indicate the fishery fishing for North Pacific albacore only
[11] Vessel numbers and effort was given for all species

| CCMs | Target/ Non-target | Convention Area only | North Pacific |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Canada** | **Target** | | 5,899 |
| | **Non-T** | | 0 |
| **China** | **Target** | | 1,869 |
| | **Non-T** | | 98 |
| **Cook Is.** | **Target** | | 39 |
| | **Non-T** | | 0 |
| **Japan** | **Target** | 45,551 | |
| | **Non-T** | 2,967 | |
| **Korea** | **Target** | 18 | |
| | **Non-T** | 157 | |
| **Philippines** | **Target** | | 0 |
| | **Non-T** | | 75 |
| **Chinese Taipei** | **Target** | | 2,548 |
| | **Non-T** | | 552 |
| **USA** | **Target** | | 12,344 |
| | **Non-T** | | 892 |
| **Vanuatu** | **Target** | 1,794 | |
| | **Non-T** | 0 | |
| **Belize** | **Target** | 95 | |
| | **Non-T** | 0 | |
| **FSM** | **Target** | 0 | |
| | **Non-T** | 18 | |
| **RMI** | **Target** | | |
| | **Non-T** | | |
| **Kiribati** | **Target** | | |
| | **Non-T** | | |
| **Mexico** | **Target** | | |
| | **Non-T** | | |
| **Vietnam** | **Target** | | 0 |
| | **Non-T** | | 13 |
| | | **Convention Area only** | **North Pacific** |
| **Total catch** | **Target** | 47,458 | 22,699 |
| | **Non-T** | 3,142 | 1,630 |
| | **Total catch** | 50,600 | 24,329 |
| **Proportion** | **Target** | 94% | 93% |
| | **Non-T** | 6% | 7% |
| | | 100% | 100% |

**Attachment E**

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee**
**Eighth Regular Session**

**Nagasaki, Japan**
**3–6 September 2012**

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## NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE REFERENCE POINTS
## Requests to the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

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1. For the purposes of determining potential limit reference points for a precautionary approach management framework for North Pacific albacore, Northern Committee (NC) requests advice from the ISC on the following:

   i) Is the stock-recruitment relationship known, and in particular a reliable estimate of the steepness parameter (h) for the stock?

   ii) Are the key biological (natural mortality, maturity) and fishery (selectivity) variables reasonably well estimated?

2. To determine the suitability of candidate reference points identified by the ALBWG in its 2011 stock assessment, NC8 further requests that the ISC provide advice with respect to the following:

   a) For each of the following levels of F, expected yields, with measures of variability of these expected yields, under high, low and historical average recruitment scenarios, over the course of 10-year projections (and, in addition, 25-year projections for $F_{SSB\text{-}ATHL}$), the probabilities of breaching (in at least 1 year of the projection period) the Interim Management Objective (average of the 10 historical lowest years of SSB) and each of the depletion levels $SB_{10\%}$, $SB_{20\%}$, $SB_{30\%}$ and $SB_{40\%}$;
      i) $F_{SSB\text{-}ATHL}$
      ii) $F_{MAX}$
      iii) $F_{0.1}$
      iv) $F_{MED}$
      v) $F_{10\%}$, $F_{20\%}$, $F_{30\%}$, $F_{40\%}$, $F_{50\%}$

   b) A determination of whether or not under different levels of fishing mortality (average $F_{2006\text{-}2008}$, average $F_{2002\text{-}2004}$) that the above candidate reference points will be exceeded.

   c) To provide the influence of the environmental variation such as regime shift and decadal change on $F_{SPR}$ and empirical based reference points.

**Attachment F**

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee**
**Eighth Regular Session**

**Nagasaki, Japan**
**3–6 September 2012**

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## NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC SWORDFISH REFERENCE POINTS
## Requests to the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

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For the purpose of the NC's consideration of biological reference points for swordfish in the northwest Pacific Ocean, the NC requests information and advice from the ISC on the following:

1. If a production model is used to assess the status of the stock:
   a. Is there an adequately precise estimate of intrinsic growth rate available?

2. If an age-structured model is used to assess the status of the stock:
   a. Is there an adequately precise estimate of steepness available?
   b. Are the key biological (natural mortality, maturity) and fishery (selectivity) variables reasonably well estimated?

3. For the purpose of evaluating the suitability of specific candidate limit reference points:
   a. For each of the following levels of F, expected yields, with measures of variability of those expected yields, over the course of 15-year projections, the probabilities of breaching (in at least one year of the projection period) each of the depletion levels $SB_{10\%}$, $SB_{20\%}$, $SB_{30\%}$, and $SB_{40\%}$:
      i) Most recent 3-year average F
      ii) $0.5F_{MSY}$, $0.75F_{MSY}$, $F_{MSY}$, $1.25F_{MSY}$, $1.5F_{MSY}$
      iii) Maximum historically observed single-year F

4. The implications, with respect to any limit reference points that may have been adopted while using a production model, of changing to the use of an age-structured model.

**Attachment G**

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee**
**Eighth Regular Session**

**Nagasaki, Japan**
**3–6 September 2012**

# RECOMMENDATION ON IMPLEMENTING THE REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME BY VESSELS FISHING FOR FRESH FISH NORTH OF 20°N

*The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;*

*Recalling* Article 28(1) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPF Convention), which requires the Commission to develop a Regional Observer Programme (ROP) to, among other things, collect verified catch data, and to monitor the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission;

*Further recalling* Article 28(7) of the WCPF Convention, which requires the Commission to develop procedures and guidelines for the operation of the Regional Observer Programme;

*Cognizant* of Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2007-01, which established the procedures to develop the ROP, in particular paragraph 9 of Annex C of CMM2007-01, which gives considerations on special circumstances for fishing vessels used exclusively to fish for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north;

*Recommends*, in accordance with paragraph 9 of Attachment K, Annex C of the CMM2007-01,

**The ROP for fishing vessels used exclusively to fish for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north shall be implemented in the following manner:**

1. No later than 31 December 2014, CCMs shall commence implementation of observer programmes for fishing vessels used to fish for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdictions in the area north of 20 degrees north.

2. For such fishing vessels, CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish by the end of December 2014.

3. Observers shall be sourced from the WCPFC ROP.

**Attachment H**

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee**
**Eighth Regular Session**

**Nagasaki, Japan**
**3–6 September 2012**

## MEXICO'S STATEMENT

We want to express that what Mexico manifested in the WCPFC plenary meeting is true. Mexico is committed to this organization and will participate from now on in the NC and WCPFC plenary meetings. We thank the chair of the NC and its members for their continuous and constructive openness towards Mexico, with the purpose of allowing our participation in the NC meeting.

We give this group high priority not only because we have a history of fishing in the WCP region, but because we also share a common stock (PBF).

Managing this stock in the WCP has repercussions in the EPO and vice versa, but we know that conservation measures in the WCP region have much higher impact for good or for bad. Whatever is agreed in this organization will decide the future of the stock.

We believe that management measures in the WCP have to be improved; they need to include all participants in the fishery, all year classes of the stock, all fleets. Mandatory and not voluntary measures have to be implemented or otherwise the stock health won't be achieved. Right know more than half the fishing mortality is unattended due to the situation just mentioned.

In the IATTC framework conservation measures for PBF have been approved for the first time, thanks to japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, the US as well as Mexico among others. A biannual catch limit of 10 thousand tons was adopted, consistent with the advice of the IATTC scientific staff. This biannual limit will be respected.

Nevertheless whatever is achieved in the EPO will have a minor effect if the WCP does not take stronger conservation measures. All those concerns are expressed in that resolution that will be revised in IATTC considering WCPFC measures.

Mexico reiterates its preoccupation as well as willingness to contribute with PBF conservation to avoid situations observed in other oceans.

**Attachment I**

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee**
**Eighth Regular Session**

**Nagasaki, Japan**
**3-6 September 2012**

## WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE °

| Work areas | Objectives | 1-year tasks | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2013–2015 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| .. **Northern stocks** | | Consider other management options than the existing management measures, if appropriate. | | |
| a. Monitor status; consider management action | Review status and take action as needed for:[1]<br>**North Pacific albacore**<br>Tasks<br>(A)Review members' reports on their implementation of CMM 2005-03 | | | Review compiled |

[1] In the event that the Commission, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Annex I of the Commission Rules of Procedure, adds additional stocks, such as the northern stock of striped marlin, to the list of stocks understood to be "northern stocks", this work programme will be revised to include periodic status reviews and consideration of management action for such stocks.

| Work areas | Objectives | 1-year tasks | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2013–2015 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| | (1 )Estimate the proportion of the total catch of albacore in the North Pacific Ocean (in the Convention Area, and/or across the entire North Pacific Ocean, as appropriate) that is effectively subject to the effort limits mandated in the CMM.<br>(2) Determine how total effort across those fisheries has changed from 2002 through 2010 through a review of members' reports of annual fishing effort by their vessels "fishing for" North Pacific albacore fisheries. | Review compiled members' reports and identify and rectify shortcomings. | Review compiled members' reports and identify and rectify shortcomings. | members' reports and<br>identify and rectify shortcomings. |
| | (B) Establish a precautionary approach-based management framework, including: (1) recommend appropriate reference points; (2) agreeing in advance to actions that will be taken in the event each of the particular limit reference points is breached (decision rules); (3) recommend any changes to CMM 2005-03. | Finalize Task (B)(1) and (2) | Recommend any changes to CMM 2005-03 (Task(B)(3)) | |
| | **<u>Pacific bluefin tuna</u>** | Review reports from CCMs on their domestic management measures and international trade.<br>Obtain and review a full assessment | . | |

| Work areas | Objectives | 1-year tasks | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2013–2015 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| | | and consider appropriate. management actions including introduction of CDS and a shift from effort control to catch limit. | | |
| | Establish a precautionary approach-based management framework, including: (1) recommend appropriate reference points; (2) agreeing in advance to actions that will be taken in the event each of the particular limit reference points is breached (decision rules); (3) recommend any changes to CMM 2010-04. | Start consideration of Task (1) and (2). | | |
| | **Swordfish**<br>Establish a precautionary approach-based management framework, including: (1) recommend appropriate reference points; (2) agreeing in advance to actions that will be taken in the event each of the particular limit reference points is breached (decision rules). | Finalize interim management objective and reference points in light of ISC. | Obtain and review a full assessment and consider appropriate management action. | |
| | **Striped marlin** (if agreed by the Scientific Committee and Commission). | Review implementation of applicable CMM. | | |
| b. Data | Achieve timely submission of complete data needed for assessments, formulation | CCMs participating in the NC submit complete data on fisheries for | CCMs participating in the NC submit complete data | |

| Work areas | Objectives | 1-year tasks | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2013–2015 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| | of measures, and review of Commission decisions. | northern stocks to the Commission. | on fisheries for northern stocks to the Commission. | |
| | | Encourage submission to Commission of Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific albacore and North Pacific striped marlin data from all CCMs and make available to ISC. | Encourage submission to Commission of Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific albacore and North Pacific striped marlin data from all CCMs and make available to ISC. | |
| | Consider systems to validate catch data. | | | |
| c. Scientific support | Provide support for scientific studies. | Encourage voluntary contribution for NC's list of priority scientific projects. | | |
| **2. Non-target, associated, dependent species** | | | | |
| a. Seabirds | Consider appropriate implementation of methods to minimize catch and mortality. | Review implementation of CMM-2007-04 in the Northern Area. | | |
| b. Sea turtles | Consider appropriate implementation of methods to minimize catch and mortality. | Review mitigation research results and consider management action. | | |
| c. Sharks | Consider appropriate implementation for CMM-2010-07 in the Northern Area. | Review scientific advice from ISC, if any, and consider management options on two shark species (blue shark and mako shark). | | |
| **3. Review effectiveness of decisions** | Annually review effectiveness of conservation and management measures and resolutions applicable to fisheries for | Review effectiveness of North Pacific albacore measure (CMM 2005-03), including member's | | |

| Work areas | Objectives | 1-year tasks | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2013–2015 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| | northern stocks. | reports on their interpretation and implementation of fishing effort control.<br><br>Review effectiveness of Pacific bluefin tuna measure (CMM2010-04) | | |
| **4. ROP(paragraph 9, Attachment C of CMM2007-01)** | | Review implementation of ROP for fishing vessels operating in north of 20°N. | | |
| **5. Vessel monitoring system (VMS)** | | Review implementation of VMS in the area north of 20°N and west of 175°E. | | |
| **6. Cooperation with other organizations** | | | | |
| a. ISC | | Consider action to support ISC. | | |
| b. IATTC | Following Article 22.4, consult to facilitate consistent management measures throughout the respective ranges of the northern stocks | Have consultation to maintain consistent measures for North Pacific albacore and North Pacific bluefin tuna | | |