



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Electronic Meeting
11-19 August 2021

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

WCPFC-SC17-2021/GN-IP-04 ([Rev.01](#))

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 for 2021 has been signed by both parties on 11 February 2021.

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. The Second Regular Session of the Commission in December 2005 adopted an MOU with ISC.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

7. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission in December 2007 adopted an MOU with SPREP.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

8. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission in December 2007 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 WCPFC6 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).

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

12. 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)

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

14. 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)

15. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission in December 2007 adopted an MOU with ACAP.

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

16. 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 Organisations (SPRFMO)

17. Signing an MOU between the SPRFMO and the WCPFC was finalized on 6 August 2020. The objective of the MOU is to facilitate cooperation between the two Organizations to advance their respective objectives, particularly with respect to stocks or species which are within the competence or mutual interest of both Organizations.

OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

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

18. 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 even after the completion of the WPEA project.

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)

19. Together with SPC, WCPFC continuously cooperate with CWP as a Member since 2008. The CWP meets approximately every three years. The objectives of the CWP are to: (a) keep under continuous review the requirements for fishery statistics for the purposes of research, policymaking and management; (b) agree standard concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies for the collection and collation of fishery statistics; and (c) make proposals and recommendations for action in relation to the collection, collation and dissemination of fishery statistics.

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

20. 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, People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, 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.

North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)

21. NPFC is an intergovernmental 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 2000, WCPFC and NPFC planned to arrange the Memorandum of Understanding at WCPFC17 but this task was deferred to WCPFC18 due to the meeting constraints from COVID-19 pandemic.

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

22. The IWC prepares a proposal to implement a collaborative project to assess and address cetacean bycatch in tuna fisheries under the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Phase II project. The project is led by the IWC and aims to build collaborations with IOTC and WCPFC to work towards addressing the lack of information in relation to cetacean bycatch and the solutions to address associated bycatch issues. The project plans to undertake regional data collation, gap analyses and spatial bycatch risk assessment at ocean basin scale. It also aims to mitigate cetacean bycatch by collaboratively working with RFMOs, national governments, experts and the fishing industry by raising awareness of practical solutions. The WCPFC Secretariat has been involved in the IWC's consultation process with the SPC in developing the project proposal.