



**WCPFC  
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES WORKSHOP**

Manila, Republic of the Philippines  
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**AN OVERVIEW OF THE RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE WCPFC CONVENTION  
AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS**

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**SECRETARIAT**



# **Management Objectives and Reference Points**

An overview of the relevant sections of the WCPFC Convention, and other relevant international instruments

# From the Terms of Reference



## **Session 3.1 WCPFC Management Objectives**

- *Overview of the relevant sections of the WCPFC Convention text that relate to management objectives, including Articles 5, 6, 7, 10, and 30*
- *Overview of other relevant instruments, e.g., UNCLOS, and UNFSA (e.g. Annex 2 Guidelines)*

...

**But also later sessions on Reference Points**

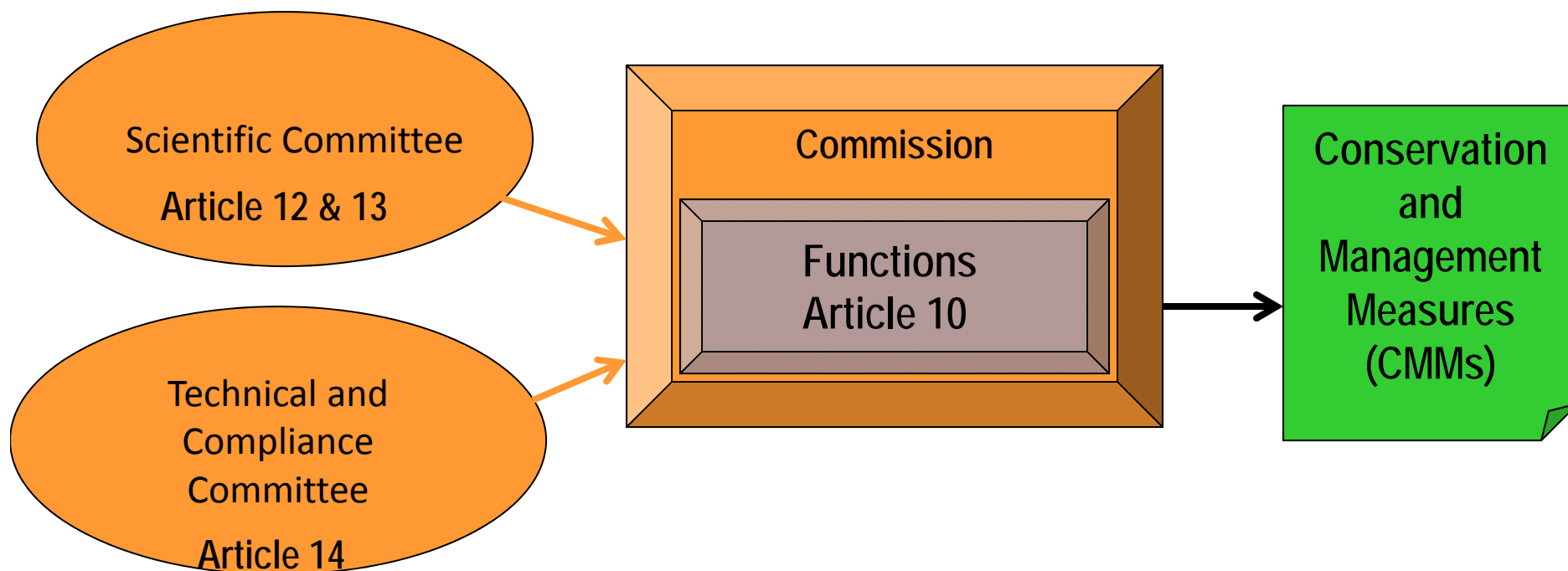


# This presentation

1. The Role of the Commission and subsidiary bodies in developing CMMs (Article 10)
  - Management objectives and reference points would be set out within CMMs
  
2. Principles and Measures to be taken into account, including the precautionary approach (Article 5, 6, 7, 30, UNFSA Annex 2)
  
3. Sum up
  - which will also touch on where WCPFC has got to date with CMMs



# Role of the Commission and Subsidiary Bodies



- The Commission shall take into account the reports and any recommendations of the Scientific Committee and Technical and Compliance Committee on matters within their respective areas of competence. (Article 10 (5))

# CMMs are adopted as a function of



## the Commission

- Article 10, paragraph 1 sets out the specific functions of the Commission
  - which are “without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States”
- The relevant sub-provisions include, to:
  - a) ensure long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks
  - b) promote cooperation and coordination between members to ensure CMMs are compatible
  - c) maintain or restore populations of non-target species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened
  - h) international minimum standards for responsible fishing
  - o) ...any measure or recommendation necessary for achieving the objective of the Convention

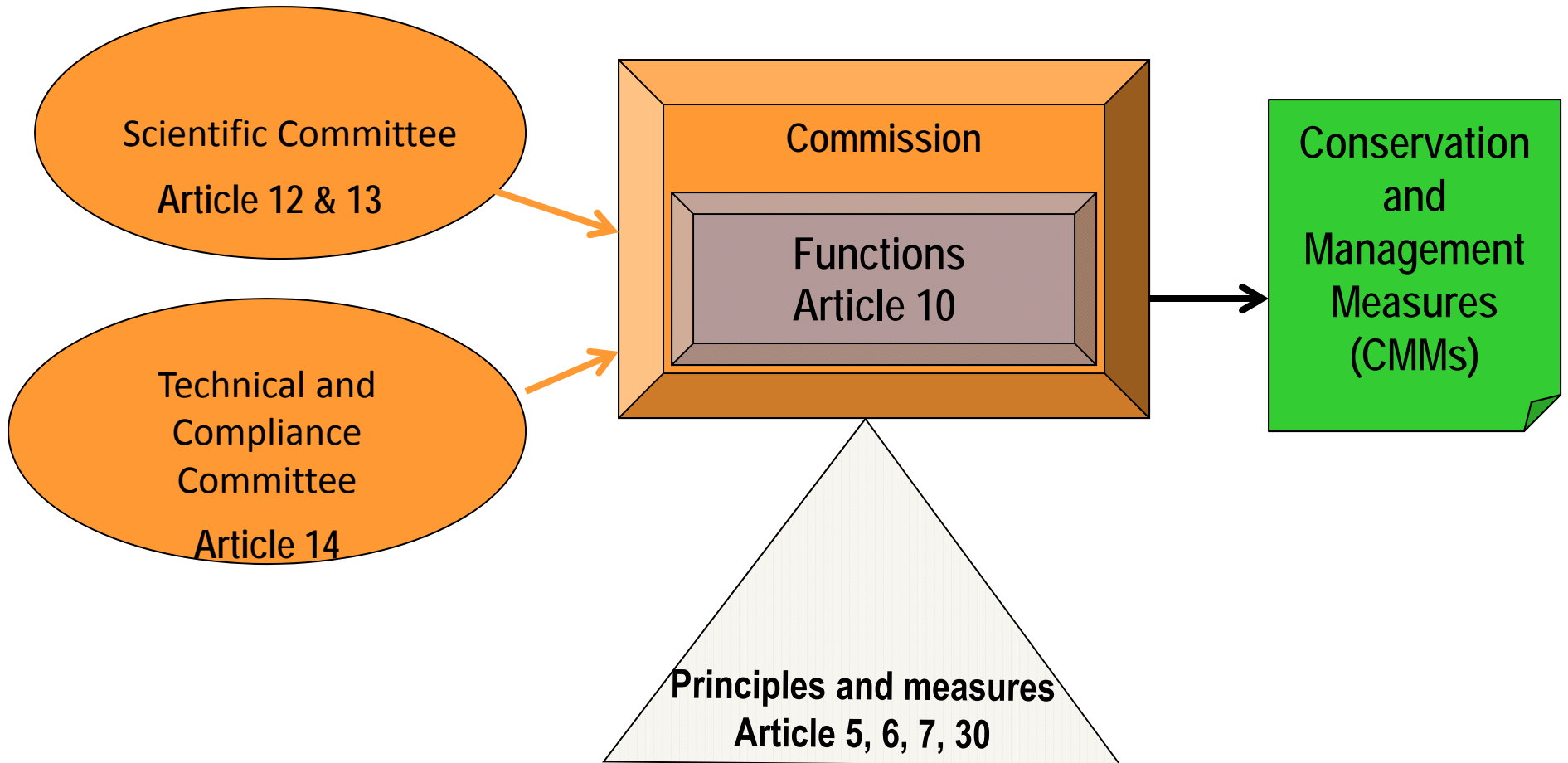
# WCPF Convention objective...



*To ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 Convention and the [UN Fish Stocks] Agreement*

**Article 2 Objective**

# Principles and measures for conservation and management



Advice

Principles and measures





## Article 5

### Principles and measures

*In order to conserve and manage highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area in their entirety, the members of the Commission shall, in giving effect to their duty to cooperate in accordance with the 1982 Convention, the Agreement and this Convention:*

*(a) adopt measures to ensure long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and promote the objective of their optimum utilization;*

# Principles and measures



Article 5 (b) *ensure that such measures*

*are based on the best scientific evidence available and **are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield,***

*as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area, particularly small island developing States, and taking into account fishing patterns, the interdependence of stocks and any generally recommended international minimum standards, whether subregional, regional or global;*



# Principles and measures

Article 5 (g) take measures

to prevent or  
eliminate over-fishing and excess fishing  
capacity

and to ensure that levels of fishing  
effort do not exceed those commensurate  
with the sustainable use of fishery resources;

# Other environmental and socio-economic considerations (Article 5)



- d) Assess impacts of fishing, impacts of other human activities and environmental factors, interactions between target stocks and other species;
- e) Adopt measures to minimise impacts of fishing activities (waste, pollution, discards, lost or abandoned gear, non-target species), and promote development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost effective fishing gear and techniques;
- f) Protect biodiversity in marine environment
- h) Take into account interests of artisanal or subsistence fishers



# Article 30 considerations

- Article 30 is one of the qualifiers within the provision of Article 5 b)
- Article 7 (2) also states that the respective capacities of developing coastal States, particularly SIDS is to be given due consideration when applying the provisions of Article 5 and 6 within areas under national jurisdiction
- Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 30 are probably the most directly relevant in terms of socio-economic considerations in setting of Management Objectives

Assistance to developing coastal States in the Convention Area will also need to be considered in any proposed roadmap for furthering management objectives and reference points

(see Article 7(2) and Article 30(4))

## **Article 5 (c) apply the precautionary approach**



**... in accordance with this Convention and all relevant internationally agreed standards and recommended practices and procedures;**

**Further detail is provided in Article 6:**

In applying the precautionary approach the members of the Commission shall:

- apply the guidelines set out in Annex II of UN Fish Stocks Agreement, which shall form an integral part of this Convention
- determine, based on best science available, stock-specific reference points and action to be taken if they are exceeded (Article 6(1a))
- Take measures to ensure that, when reference points are approached they will not be exceeded.
- Without delay, if reference points are exceeded, take action to restore the stocks (Article 6(3))

# Other considerations in applying the precautionary approach



- Members shall take into account, *inter alia*
  - uncertainties relating to the size and productivity of the stocks,
  - reference points,
  - stock condition in relation to such reference points,
  - levels and distributions of fishing mortality and
  - the impact of fishing activities on non-target and associated or dependent species, as well as
  - existing and predicted oceanic, environmental and socio-economic conditions. (Article 6(1b))

# Guidelines for application of precautionary reference points



## Annex II of UN Fish Stocks Agreement

- Definitions: Reference points
  - Limit Reference Points
  - Target Reference Points
  - Provisional Reference Points
- The relationship between management strategies and reference points
- Target reference points are intended to meet management objectives
- Reference points should be stock-specific



# Guidelines for application of precautionary reference points



## Annex II of UN Fish Stocks Agreement

7. The fishing mortality rate which generates maximum sustainable yield should be regarded as a minimum standard for limit reference points.

For stocks which are not overfished, fishery management strategies shall ensure that fishing mortality does not exceed that which corresponds to maximum sustainable yield, and that the biomass does not fall below a predefined threshold.

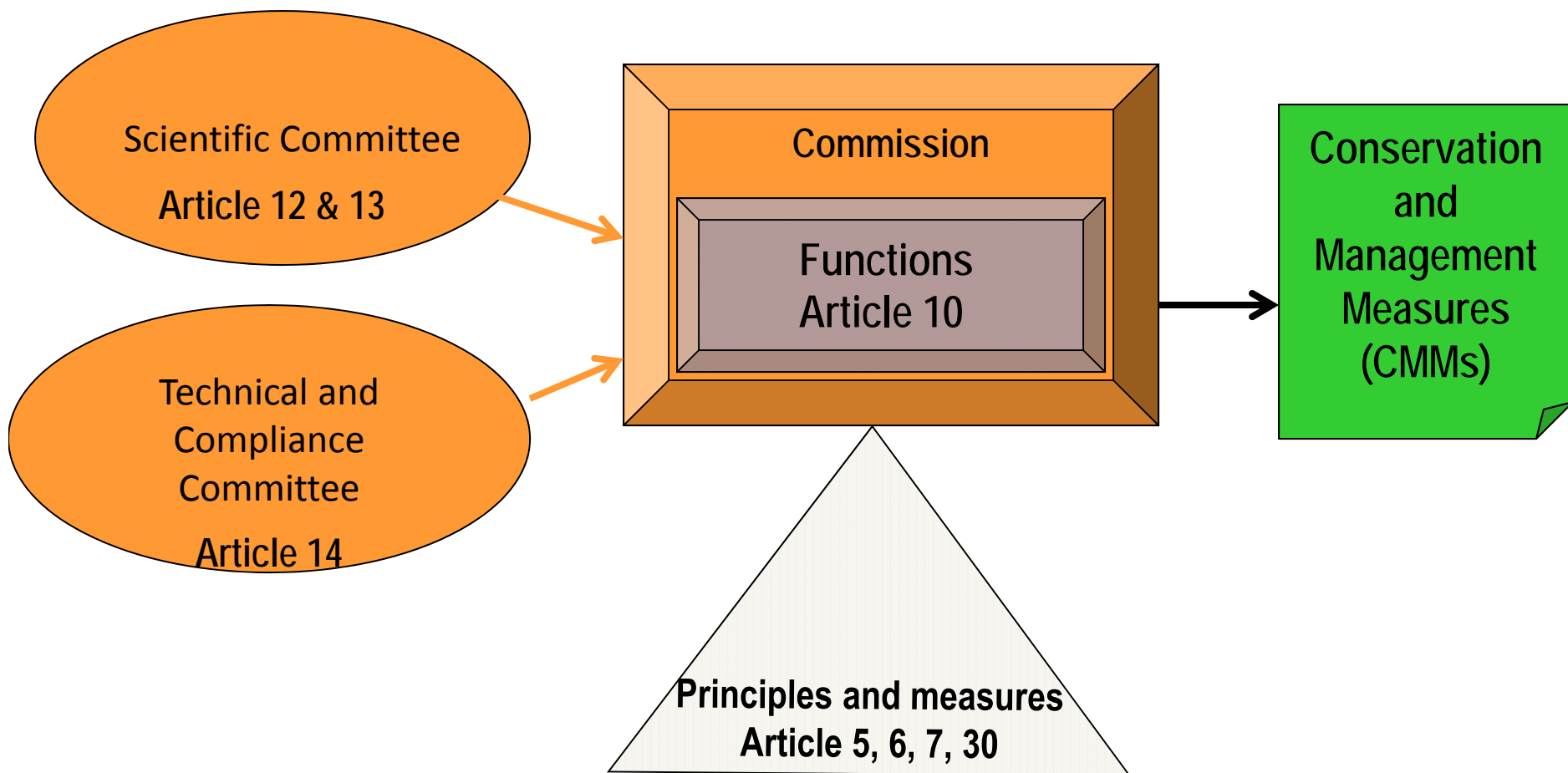
For overfished stocks, the biomass which would produce maximum sustainable yield can serve as a rebuilding target.

# Article 7 -



## Implementation of principles in areas under national jurisdiction

- Coastal States are to apply Article 5 in exercise of their sovereign rights (Article 7(1))
- Members are to give due consideration to respective capacities of developing coastal States, in particular SIDS, to apply the provisions of Article 5 and 6 in areas under national jurisdiction and their need for assistance. (Article 7(2))



Advice

Principles and measures



# Where are we to date?

- Individual CMMs describe measures that apply within a fishery and/or for a specific fish stock
  - Some consideration of special requirements of developing States through provisions in CMMs specifying that the limits or reductions within CMMs do not apply to small island developing States.
- Some examples in recent CMMs and draft CMM proposals of **interim management objectives** within CMMs
  - e.g. Proposed 2012-01, Pacific Bluefin 2010-04
- **Reference Points** have been discussed at SC8 and NC8, but not yet been elaborated as limits or targets within CMMs.

# Sum up



- Setting of Management Objectives and determining Reference Points and action to be taken if exceeded, are important pieces of the future conservation and management framework for the WCPFC
- The WCPF Convention does provides guidance and sets out some rules for these
  - There are a broad range of considerations (biological, social and economic) that the Commission, and members individually, are expected to consider when developing Management Objectives and Reference PointsWhich include the special requirements of developing States

# Sum up (2)



Given the considerations outlined...

- management frameworks (including management objectives and reference points) for each species/stock should be considered on a case by case basis that will include:
  - The nature of the fish
  - Its current status
  - Its role in the fishery
  - The issues that impact upon it
- A number of key issues remain unresolved in the Convention text
  - How management objectives and reference points are operationalised
  - Compatibility between measures applying in areas under national jurisdiction and measures applying in high seas



