

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**NINTH REGULAR SESSION**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

6-14 August 2013

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**WCPFC-SC9-2013/03 (Rev.2)[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The meeting will open at 08:30 on Tuesday, 6 August 2013.

* 1. **Welcome address**

The Chair will welcome delegations of the WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) and Observers to the Ninth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC9).

The Executive Director will be invited to deliver opening addresses.

* 1. **Meeting arrangements**

The Chair (Mr Ludwig Kumoru) will outline procedural matters including the meeting schedule, administrative arrangements, and a list of the theme conveners. In addition, SC9 will endorse new the conveners for the Data and Statistics (DA) and Ecosystem and Bycatch (EB) theme sessions.

* 1. **Issues arising from the Commission**

SC9 will review issues arising from the previous meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

* 1. **Adoption of agenda**

The Provisional Agenda for SC9 was prepared and distributed on 8 May 2013 in accordance with Rule 1 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. Any Member of the Commission, the Chairman, or the Executive Director may, at least 30 days before the date for the opening of the Regular Session request the inclusion of supplementary items in the Agenda. A request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the Provisional Agenda shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the proposed supplementary item, which will be communicated to all CCMs and observers at least 20 days before the opening of the Session.

Other matters to be discussed, under Agenda Item 12, may be proposed here.

* 1. **Reporting arrangements**

SC9 will adopt a Summary Report. An Executive Summary will be drafted by the Secretariat and circulated for adoption intersessionally. The Executive Summary will include a synopsis of stock status and management advice and implications, research plans, findings or conclusions on the stock status, reports and recommendations as directed by the Commission or at the initiative of the SC (paragraph 2, Article 12 of the Convention).

Secretariat has hired a rapporteur, and will request volunteer support rapporteurs assigned to specific agenda items within their areas of expertise.

* 1. **Intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee**

The Chair, with support from the Secretariat, will report on intersessional activities of the SC and the Secretariat.

1. **REVIEW OF FISHERIES**
   1. **Overview of Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) fisheries**

The SPC-OFP and FFA will present an overview of the WCPO on key fisheries, including billfish. SC9 will be invited to provide supplementary information, ask questions and provide comments.

* 1. **Overview of Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fisheries**

The IATTC will present an overview of the fisheries for highly migratory species in the EPO region. SC9 will be invited to provide supplementary information, ask questions and provide comments.

* 1. **Annual Report (Part 1) from Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs)**

All CCMs shall submit Part 1 of the Annual Report (the template is available at <http://www.wcpfc.int/guidelines-procedures-and-regulations>), including a half page summary, to the Secretariat (BOTH [tony.beeching@wcpfc.int](mailto:tony.beeching@wcpfc.int) and [contact.ar@wcpfc.int](mailto:contact.ar@wcpfc.int)) by **06 July 2013**.

It will be assumed that all annual reports have been read prior to the Session. CCMs will be given the opportunity, if needed, to make a brief presentation (3 minutes) highlighting recent changes and developments in their fisheries as described in Part 1 of their Annual Report to the Commission. A short time for questions may be provided at the conclusion of each presentation. The status of Part 1 submissions for each CCM can be found at the bottom of each WCPFC-SC meeting website.

* 1. **Reports from regional fisheries bodies and other organizations**

Regional fisheries bodies and other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations observing SC9 may make a brief presentation (3 minutes) on key issues relevant to the work of the SC. Such presentations need to be arranged with the Chair before the opening of the Session. The deadline for the submission of such meeting documents from regional fisheries bodies and other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations to the Secretariat ([tony.beeching@wcpfc.int](mailto:tony.beeching@wcpfc.int)) is **Friday, 19 July 2013**.

1. **DATA AND STATISTICS THEME**
   1. **Data gaps**
      1. Data gaps of the Commission

SC9 will consider and recommend actions to address any identified data gaps in the data holdings of the Commission.

SC9 will consider Paragraph 29 of the CMM 2012-01 (Other commercial fisheries) and recommend which fisheries should be included and what information is needed to develop appropriate management measures for those fisheries.

Noting that whale shark is now designated as a key shark species, SC9 will discuss implications with regard to inclusion in the “Scientific data to be provided to the Commission.”

* + 1. Species composition of purse-seine catches

SC9 will review the research outputs of Project 60 (Collection and evaluation of purse-seine species composition data) and provide key findings and further recommendations if any to the Commission.

SC9 will also consider reports from an external review of the current procedures for estimating the species and size composition of purse-seine catches, and SPC's responses to the review.

* + 1. Data issues with the ISC

SC9 will review the progress of data reconciliation of the Commission and ISC data holdings for northern stocks to identify and address data gaps.

* 1. **Regional Observer Programme**

SC9 will consider issues, if any, related with scientific data collected or to be collected and data gaps.

1. **STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME**

SC9 will provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on the effective management, long-term conservation and sustainable use of the stocks listed below, including review of the current CMMs.

* 1. **WCPO tunas**
     1. **WCPO bigeye tuna**
        1. Review of research and information
     2. Progress on Project 70

SC9 will review the progress of Project 70 (Improvement of stock assessments in line with recommendations from the report of the Peer Review for the 2011 Bigeye Tuna Stock Assessment) and provide comments and recommendations to the Commission.

* + 1. Progress on Project 69

SC9 will review the progress of Project 69 (Improvement of MultiFan Catch at Length) and provide comments and recommendations if any to the Commission.

* + 1. Progress report on Project 35 (Refinement of bigeye parameters Pacific-wide)

SC9 will review the progress of the Project 35.

* + 1. Indicator analysis for key tuna species

SC9 will review the results of the 2013 bigeye stock indicator analysis and any future research needs.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

No stock assessment was conducted in 2013 but one is scheduled for 2014. SC9 will provide a brief summary of the current stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **WCPO yellowfin tuna**
        1. Review of research and information

SC9 will review and discuss the results of the 2013 yellowfin stock indicator analysis and any future research needs.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

No stock assessment was conducted in 2013 but one is scheduled for 2014. SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **WCPO skipjack tuna**
        1. Review of research and information

SC9 will review and discuss the results of the 2013 skipjack stock indicator analysis and any future research needs.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

No stock assessment was conducted in 2013 but one is scheduled for 2014. SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **South Pacific albacore tuna**
        1. Review of research and information

SC9 will review and discuss the results of the 2013 SP albacore stock indicator analysis and any future research needs.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

No stock assessment was conducted in 2013. SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   1. **Northern stocks**

Annex I of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure defines ‘northern stocks’ to be ‘northern Pacific bluefin[[2]](#footnote-2), northern albacore[[3]](#footnote-3) and the northern stock of swordfish[[4]](#footnote-4)’. According to the MOU between WCPFC and ISC, ISC’s scientific information and advice will be presented at the annual meeting of the Scientific Committee.

The ISC Chair will be invited to brief SC9 on activities of ISC since SC8, including ISC’s 2013 stock assessments and future plans.

* + 1. **North Pacific albacore tuna** 
       1. Review of research and information

SC9 will review new information if available on the stock status of NP albacore tuna.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

No stock assessment was conducted in 2013. SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **Pacific bluefin tuna** 
        1. Review of research and information
3. Review of 2012 stock assessment

The ISC Chair (or his designate) will provide the results of 2012 Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment conducted by ISC. ISC will update the progress of a CIE review of the stock assessment.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC9 will review and discuss new information on the stock status and conservation advice and provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **North Pacific swordfish**
        1. Review of research and information

SC9 will review new information if available on the current stock status of NP swordfish.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

No stock assessment was conducted in 2013. SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   1. **WCPO sharks**

The Commission approved that stock assessments be conducted in 2013 for silky shark (revisited) and blue shark (Pacific-wide). Mako shark stock assessments for South Pacific and North Pacific are scheduled for 2014.

* + 1. **Oceanic whitetip shark**
       1. Review of research and information

SC9 will review new information if available on the stock status of oceanic whitetip shark.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

No stock assessment was conducted in 2013. SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **Silky shark**
        1. Review of research and information

SC9 will review the results of the 2013 silky shark stock assessment and future research needs.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **South Pacific blue shark**
        1. Review of research and information

SC9 will review the results of the 2013 blue shark analysis and provide guidance for future research needs.

SC8 requested that SPC conduct a stock assessment of SP blue shark but the Pre-Assessment Workshop (Noumea, 8-12 April 2013) expressed its concern at the gaps and uncertainty in catch and CPUE data and recommend that SPC progress work on catch and CPUE and present this to SC9 before progressing with the assessment.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **North Pacific blue shark**
        1. Review of research and information

ISC advised that it had completed an assessment on NP blue shark using two models. The first, a simpler model, uses a Bayesian Production Modeling platform, and the second, a more complicated approach led by SPC, uses Stock Synthesis 3 (SS3) as the modeling platform. The assessment was conducted collaboratively under the umbrella of ISC and published as an ISC SHARK WG Working Paper at ISC Plenary in July 2013.

SC9 will review the results of the 2013 North Pacific blue shark stock assessment based on the two modeling platforms and recommend future research needs if any.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   1. **WCPO billfishes**
      1. **South Pacific swordfish**
         1. Review of research and information
3. Review of 2013 stock assessment

SC8 will review the results of the 2013 SP swordfish stock assessment and recommend future research needs if any.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **Southwest Pacific striped marlin**
        1. Review of research and information

SC9 will review any new information available for the update of SWP striped marlin stock.

SC8 recognized that SWP striped marlin is often caught as a non-target species. Therefore, SC9 will review SPC’s data analysis that was conducted to identify areas of high catch concentration that could be subject to targeted management.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

No stock assessment was conducted in 2013. SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **North Pacific striped marlin**
        1. Review of research and information

SC9 will review new information if available on the stock status of the NP striped marlin.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

No stock assessment was conducted in 2013. SC9 will provide a brief summary of stock status and recommendations.

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **Other billfishes**

SC9 may consider other billfish species, particularly blue marlin, for future research and whether it wants the main billfish species (swordfish, striped marlin, blue marlin, possibly black marlin) routinely included in future indicator analyses, and accordingly to be included in the service agreement.

* + - 1. Pacific blue marlin

SC9 will review information provided by ISC on the current stock status and stock assessment results for Pacific blue marlin and provide to the Commission a brief summary of stock status and recommendations if needed.

1. **MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME** 
   1. **Limit reference points for the WCPFC**
      1. Review of Project 57 (Research related to the development of limit reference points)

SC9 will review the results of the analyses completed relating to the work program recommended at SC8 (ref. Paragraphs 304 and 306 of the SC8 Summary Report) and provide recommendations to the Commission for endorsement.

* 1. **Development of WCPFC Management objectives**
     1. Review of the draft document on management framework options

Following the roadmap approved by WCPFC9, the MOW expert panel has drafted a document for MOW2 (late November 2013), which includes i) candidate management objectives, ii) performance indicators, and iii) target reference points for each major fishery. SC9 is invited to review the document and provide comments to the expert panel.

* 1. **Target reference points and harvest control rules for the WCPFC**
     1. Review of research and information

SC9 will review any new information available and provide recommendations to the Commission on further research needs.

* 1. **Implementation of CMM 2012-01**
     1. Request to review alternative reduction of FAD sets

SC9 will review and provide comments, as required, on CCM reports on the status of implementing the alternative measure as described in paragraph 2, Attachment B of the CMM 2012-01.

* + 1. Other issues

SC9 will review other issues relating to the implementation and effectiveness of CMM 2012-01.

1. **ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH MITIGATION THEME**
   1. **Ecosystem effects of fishing**
      1. Review of research and information

SC9 may consider any research related with fishery impacts on ecosystem, including the Kobe process on bycatch issues, if available.

* 1. **Sharks** 
     1. Shark Research Plan

SC9 will review the progress of the Shark Research Plan including designation of additional key shark species[[5]](#footnote-5) and plans for shark stock assessments and prioritization.

* + 1. Review of CMM for Sharks

Recognizing the considerable body of work on shark catch mitigation, including non-retention and live-release, deeper hook deployment on longliners (for epipelagic species), use of circle hooks, and prohibition on targeting, finning and wire leaders, SC9 will consider investigations into the effectiveness of mitigation measures for sharks.

1. CMM 2010-07 (CMM for Sharks)

SC9 will review CMM for Sharks, especially paragraphs 4, 8, and 13 with reference to data provision, fin to carcass ratios, and the need for revised or new CMMs.

1. CMM 2011-04 (CMM for oceanic whitetip shark)

SC9 will review CMM for Oceanic Whitetip Shark, effective on 1 January 2013, and provide any additional scientific advice to the Commission for the amendment of this CMM at WCPFC10.

1. CMM 2012-04 (CMM for protection of whale sharks from purse seine fishing operations)

This CMM will enter into force on January 1, 2014

SC9 will review a study conducted by SPC on the spatial and temporal distribution of whale sharks in the WCPO based on observer data and other data sources as appropriate (Paragraph 394, SC8 Report).

1. Guidelines for safe release of encircled animals

SC9 will continue to develop, through an Informal Small Group, the best practice guidelines for release of encircled whale shark. This will include field tests to assess handling, post-release mortality, practicality and effectiveness of preliminary safe release guidelines (paragraph 363, WCPFC9 Summary Report), and provide recommendations to the Commission

* + 1. International cooperation on shark issues

Noting the recent inclusion of the following five shark species into the list of [CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)](http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130314_cop16.php) Appendix II, SC9 may consider its implications for future scientific activities of the Commission.

* oceanic whitetip shark (Carcharhinus longimanus)
* great hammerhead shark (Sphyrna mokarran)
* scalloped hammerhead (Sphyrna lewini)
* smooth hammerhead shark (Sphyrna zygaena)
* porbeagle shark (Lamna nasus)
  1. **Seabirds**

SC9 will review any relevant available research findings, including ACAP’s seabird guide.

As per Paragraph 10, CMM 2012-07, SC9 will assess to the extent possible the implications of the North Pacific small-vessel exemption on seabird interaction rates and make any appropriate recommendations.

* 1. **Sea turtles**

SC9 may review scientific aspects of the CMM 2008-03, and consider any additional or new mitigation measures of sea turtles.

* 1. **Other species and issues**
     1. FAD bycatch mitigation

SC9 will review the progress and future plans for research on FAD bycatch mitigation efforts.

* + 1. Food security issues with bycatch

SPC-OFP will present an analysis related with food fish discarded and its impact in regional tuna fisheries.

SC9 will provide comments and recommendations to the Commission on food security issues with bycatch.

1. **OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS**
   1. **West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project**

WPEA OFM Project was terminated in March 2013 and a terminal evaluation report was produced. The Secretariat is preparing the 2nd phase of WPEA Project with UNDP, and core activities of the WPEA Project continue until the commencement of the 2nd phase project. SC9 will consider the Summary Report of the fourth WPEA Project Steering Committee Meeting that will be held during the SC9.

* 1. **Pacific Tuna Tagging Project**

SC9 will consider the Summary Report of the seventh Steering Committee meeting for the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project.

1. **COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

SC9 will review the status of cooperation with other organizations.

1. **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES**

SC9 will consider intersessional activities during 2012/2013 for the capacity building in science of developing States and participating territories, including those supported by the Commission’s Special Requirements Fund and Japanese Trust Fund. Other matters within the scope of Part VIII of the Convention may also be discussed. CCMs including developed CCMs, Secretariat, SPC-OFP and FFA are invited to give brief reports in this regard.

1. **FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET**
   1. **Review of the Scientific Committee Work Programme**

SC9 will review the progress of 2013 work programme, and review a database of projects listed in the Record of the SC Work Programme.

* 1. **Development of the 2014 Work Programme and budget, and projection of 2015-2016 provisional Work Programme and indicative budget**

SC9 will develop the 2014 work programme and budget and provisional work programme and indicative budget for 2015-2016. The three-year MOU between WCPFC and SPC has been contracted for 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2015, which includes a 3-year implementation of the shark research plan.

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
   1. **Rules of Procedure**

Subject to any proposals tabled by CCMs, the SC9 will consider Rules of Procedure for SC.

* 1. **Peer review of stock assessments**

SC9 may consider a schedule for future reviews.

* 1. **Future operation of the Scientific Committee** 
     1. Future structure of the SC

SC9 may consider any improvements to the current structure of the SC meetings.

* + 1. Review of scientific aspects of the Commission’s Independent Performance Review

SC9 will review the science portion of the Performance Review matrix (Paragraph 429 of the WCPFC9 Summary Report).

* + 1. Review of Annual Report – Part I template

WCPFC9 adopted an addendum to Annual Report –Part I template. SC9 may consider incorporating the addendum into the main template.

* + 1. Resolution 2012-01

SC9 should note Resolution 2012-01, adopted at WCPFC9.

* 1. **Election of Officers of the Scientific Committee**

SC9 will consider nominations for SC officer positions as required.

* 1. **Next meeting**

Members are invited to propose a time and venue for SC10 and SC11 in August 2014 and 2015.

1. **OTHER MATTERS**

SC9 will consider any other issues that are raised under Agenda Item 1.4.

1. **ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

SC9 will adopt the Summary Report of its Ninth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee.

1. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting will close at 17:00 on Wednesday, 14 August 2013.

1. No substantial changes. The order of Agenda 5.2 and 5.3 and the order of Agenda Item 4.1 – 4.4 were switched. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Pacific bluefin tuna [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. North Pacific albacore [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. North Pacific swordfish [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), two mako sharks (*Isurus spp*.), silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), three thresher sharks (*Alopias spp*.), porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) four hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth), and whale shark [↑](#footnote-ref-5)