

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**TENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

6-14 August 2014

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**WCPFC-SC10-2014/03**

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The meeting will open at 08:30 on Wednesday, 6 August 2014.

* 1. **Welcome address**

The Chair will welcome delegations of the WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) and Observers to the Tenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC10).

A senior official from the Republic of Marshall Islands will be invited to deliver an opening address. A group photo will be taken at the end of the opening ceremony.

* 1. **Meeting arrangements**

The Chair (Mr Ludwig Kumoru) will outline procedural matters including the meeting schedule, administrative arrangements, and the list of theme conveners. In addition, SC10 will endorse the appointment of a new co-convener for the Ecosystem and Bycatch (EB) theme session.

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

SC10 will be briefed on issues arising from the previous meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

* 1. **Adoption of agenda**

The Provisional Agenda for SC10 was prepared and posted on 8 May 2014 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**

SC10 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 (Para 2, Article 12 of the Convention).

The WCPFC Secretariat will hire a lead rapporteur, and theme conveners will arrange support rapporteurs for their theme sessions.

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

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

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

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community – Oceanic Fisheries Programme (SPC-OFP) and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) will present an overview of the WCPO key fisheries, including billfish. SC10 will be invited to provide supplementary information, ask questions and provide comments.

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

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) will present an overview of the fisheries for highly migratory species in the EPO region. SC10 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**

All CCMs shall submit Part 1 of the Annual Report (the template is available at <http://www.wcpfc.int/guidelines-procedures-and-regulations>) to the Secretariat (BOTH [tony.beeching@wcpfc.int](mailto:tony.beeching@wcpfc.int) and [contact.ar@wcpfc.int](mailto:contact.ar@wcpfc.int)) by **Monday,** **07 July 2014**.

It is assumed that all annual reports will 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. Submitted Part 1 reports are posted at the bottom of each WCPFC-SC website.

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

Regional fisheries bodies and other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations observing SC10 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 **Saturday, 19 July 2014**.

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

SPC-OFP will present the data gaps paper, and SC10 will consider and recommend actions to address any identified data gaps in the data holdings of the Commission.

SC10 will consider Para 46 (Other commercial fisheries) of the CMM 2013-01 and recommend which fisheries should be included and what information is needed to develop appropriate management measures for those fisheries.

* + 1. Species composition of purse-seine catches

SC10 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.

* + 1. Data issues with the ISC

SC10 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**

SC10 will consider issues, if any, related with scientific data collected or to be collected and data gaps from regional observer programme.

* 1. **Electronic monitoring and electronic reporting**

The Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting Workshop was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, from 31 March – 1 April; the workshop report is posted on SC10 website (SC10-GN-IP-03).

The outcomes of the workshop will be briefly introduced. SC10 may provide comments/ recommendations as required.

1. **STOCK ASSESSMENT THEME** 
   1. **WCPO tunas**
      1. **WCPO bigeye tuna**
         1. Review of research and information
      2. Progress report on Project 35 (Refinement of bigeye parameters Pacific-wide)

SPC-OFP is implementing the 2nd year of the 3-year project on bigeye biological parameters. SC10 will review the progress of the Project 35 and provide comments and/or recommendations as required.

* + 1. Progress on Project 70 (Improvement of stock assessments in line with recommendations

from the report of the Peer Review for the 2011 Bigeye Tuna Stock Assessment)

SPC-OFP is implementing the 2nd year of the 3-year project for the improvement of stock assessment. SC10 will review the progress of Project 70 and provide comments and/or recommendations as required.

* + 1. Progress on Project 69 (Improvement of MultiFan Catch at Length)

Project 69 finishes by the end of December 2014. SC10 will review the progress of the Project and provide comments and/or recommendations to the Commission as required.

* + 1. Review of 2014 bigeye tuna stock assessment

Taking into consideration any relevant outputs from Project 69 and Project 70, SC10 will review the results of the 2014 bigeye tuna stock assessment, any future research needs including budget implications, and provide comments and/or recommendations on the process and methodology of stock assessment to the Commission, as required.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Stock status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **WCPO yellowfin tuna**
        1. Review of research and information
3. Review of 2014 yellowfin tuna stock assessment

Taking into consideration any relevant outputs from Project 69 and Project 70, SC10 will review the results of the 2014 yellowfin tuna stock assessment, any future research needs including budget implications, and provide comments and/or recommendations on the process and methodology of stock assessment to the Commission as required.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **WCPO skipjack tuna**
        1. Review of research and information
3. Review of 2014 skipjack tuna stock assessment

Taking into consideration any relevant outputs from Project 69 and Project 70, SC10 will review the results of the 2014 skipjack tuna stock assessment, any future research needs including budget implications, and provide comments and/or recommendations on the process and methodology of stock assessment to the Commission as required.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

No stock assessment was conducted in 2014.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will review and discuss available information, and provide a brief summary on 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[[1]](#footnote-1), northern albacore[[2]](#footnote-2) and the northern stock of swordfish[[3]](#footnote-3)’. According to the MOU between WCPFC and ISC, ISC’s scientific information and advice will be presented at the annual meetings of the Scientific Committee.

The ISC Chair will be invited to brief SC10 on the activities of ISC since SC9, including ISC’s 2014 stock assessments and future plans.

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

ISC conducted a stock assessment for NP albacore in 2014. SC10 will review the results of the assessment, and provide comments and/or recommendations on the process and methodology used.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

An updated stock assessment was conducted in 2014. The ISC Chair (or his designate) will provide updated information for Pacific bluefin tuna.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

An updated stock assessment was conducted in 2014. The ISC Chair (or his designate) will provide updated information for NP swordfish.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   1. **WCPO sharks**
      1. **Oceanic whitetip shark**
         1. Review of research and information

No stock assessment was conducted in 2014. SC10 may review updated information if available for oceanic whitetip shark.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

No stock assessment was conducted in 2014. SC10 may review updated information if available for silky shark.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

No stock assessment was conducted in 2014. SC10 may review updated information if available for South Pacific blue shark.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
   * 1. **North Pacific blue shark**
        1. Review of research and information
3. Review of 2014 North Pacific blue shark stock assessment

ISC/SPC-OFP conducted a stock assessment for NP blue shark in 2014. SC10 will review the results of the assessment, and provide comments and/or recommendations on the process and methodology used.

1. Evaluation of North Pacific blue shark as a northern stock

As requested by WCPFC10, SC is to evaluate whether NP blue shark would qualify as a northern stock.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

No stock assessment was conducted in 2014. SC10 may review updated information if available for SP swordfish.

* Noting inconsistencies in the Australian and Hawaii growth schedules in the 2013 stock assessment, SC9 recommended that additional work on age, growth and age validation be undertaken. SC10 may be briefed on the progress of this research.
  + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

No stock assessment was conducted in 2014. SC10 may review updated information if available for SWP striped marlin.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

No stock assessment was conducted in 2014. SC10 may review updated information if available for NP striped marlin.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

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

No stock assessment was conducted in 2014. SC10 may review updated information if available for Pacific blue marlin.

* + - 1. Provision of scientific information

SC10 will provide agreed text for the following:

1. Status and trends
2. Management advice and implications
3. **MANAGEMENT ISSUES THEME**
   1. **Limit reference points for the WCPFC**
      1. Review of Project 57 (Research related to the development of limit reference points)

SC10 will review SPC-OFP’s progress report for this project, which will include stochastic projections for bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack, and south Pacific albacore tunas using one or more assessment model runs at a range of effort multipliers that give a range of risks (e.g., 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, etc.) of exceeding the agreed limit reference points.

SC10 will have an opportunity to specify the range of alternative assessment models from the structural uncertainty grid, and their relative weighting, for each species, that should be used in the final set of stochastic projections to determine the risk of exceeding the LRPs (the 3rd bullet in Para 385, SC9 Summary Report).

* 1. **Target reference points (TRP) and harvest control rules (HCR) for the WCPFC**

Para 151 of WCPFC10 Summary Report stated:

*151. WCPFC10 agreed that the Scientific Services Provider provide the following to MOW3 with progress reported to SC10 in 2014 with a view to informing the Commission’s consideration and adoption of a TRP and HCR at WCPFC 11:*

1. *Evaluate WCPO skipjack stock status against candidate target reference points of 40%, 50% and 60% of unfished spawning stock size.*
2. *Apply stock-wide harvest control rules such as those present in MOW2-WP/03 and examine robustness relative to the new assessment and major sources of uncertainty.*
3. *Include performance indicators relating to fish sizes, impacts on yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna, and examine the acceptable magnitude of changes in fishing effort.*

SC10 will review available information on this topic and may provide advice on the progress on TRPs and HCRs for the Commission’s consideration.

* 1. **Development of WCPFC Management Objectives**

SC10 may review updated information in relation to this topic, and provide advice as required.

* 1. **Implementation of CMM 2013-01**

As requested in Para 29 of CMM 2013-01, SC10 will provide advice to the Commission on the relative impact on fishing mortality for yellowfin, of FAD set measures, and any increases of yellowfin purse seine catch in unassociated schools.

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

The Commission accepted four recommendations in Para 419 of the SC9 Summary Report, which include i) supporting BMIS; ii) supporting development of SEAPODYM; iii) members’ provision of fine-scale data to support SEAPODYM; and iv) an external review of the SEAPODYM model.

SC10 may consider any research related to fishery impacts on ecosystems, and further consider specific steps as required to implement the SC’s recommendations endorsed by the Commission above.

* 1. **Sharks** 
     1. GEF ABNJ Shark and BMIS project

SC10 will be briefed on the GEF ABNJ Shark and BMIS project, including the initial stage, and how this might contribute to the shark work of the Commission.

* + 1. Shark Research Plan

SC10 will review the progress of the Shark Research Plan, in particular, the achievements since SC9 in 2013, including recommendations made in the progress report, and provide recommendations to the Commission as required.

SC9 requested that the scientific services provider conduct analysis of potential mitigation options for silky and oceanic whitetip sharks. SC10 will review the analysis and provide recommendations on the most appropriate options for the Commission’s consideration.

* + 1. Review of conservation and management measures 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, SC10 will consider investigations into the effectiveness of mitigation measures for sharks.

1. CMM 2010-07 (CMM for Sharks)

SC10 will review CMM for Sharks, especially Paras 4, 8, and 13 with reference to data provision, fin to carcass ratios, and the need for a revised or new CMM.

SC10 may consider the development of an integrated and comprehensive shark measure to reduce the catch of overexploited shark species (Para 465, SC9 Summary Report)

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

According to Para 5 of the CMM, SC10 will review a detailed proposal, if submitted, for any biological sampling from oceanic whitetip sharks caught in the Convention Area that are dead on haulback in the WCPO.

SC10 may provide additional scientific advice to the Commission for the amendment of this CMM.

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

SC10 may consider additional mitigation measures based on CCMs’ reports through Annual Report Part 1 on any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.

1. CMM 2013-08 (CMM for silky sharks)

This measure was effective from 1 July 2014.

According to Para 5 of the CMM, SC10 will review a detailed proposal, if submitted, for any biological sampling from silky sharks caught in the Convention Area that are dead on haulback in the WCPO.

According to Para 6 of the CMM, CCM’s and the SC shall continue work on bycatch mitigation measures and live release guidelines to avoid the initial catch of this species wherever possible, and maximize the number of incidentally caught individuals that can be released alive.

1. Safe release guidelines
2. Guidelines for the safe release of encircled animals, including whale sharks

As recommended by SC9 (Para 465.b), SC10 will continue to develop, through an Informal Small Group, the best practice guidelines for safe release of encircled animals, including whale shark. Science-based guidelines may include field tests to assess handling, post-release mortality, practicality and effectiveness (Para 363, WCPFC9 Summary Report).

1. Development of (new) safe release guidelines to maximize shark survival

As recommended by SC9 (Para 465.b), SC10 may consider the development of safe release guidelines to maximize shark survival for species of concern, such as for oceanic whitetip and silky sharks for longline and purse-seine fisheries.

* 1. **Seabirds**

SC10 may review relevant available research findings, including seabird bycatch rates for longline vessels < 24m and ≥ 24m and assessment on the utility of electronic monitoring, if available (Para 489, SC9 Summary Report).

* 1. **Sea turtles**

SC10 will review scientific aspects of the CMM 2008-03, and consider additional or new mitigation measures of sea turtles if available.

* 1. **Other species and issues**
     1. Bycatch mitigation

SC10 will review research, if available, on bycatch mitigation efforts, including i) mitigation of small bigeye and yellowfin tunas; ii) avoidance or selective release of bycatch species from the net to maximize the chances of survival of released animals; and iii) investigations that scientifically verify the post-release condition of bycatch species using pop-up archival tags and other technology

* + 1. Food security issues with bycatch

According to Para 457 in the SC7 Summary Report on the importance of food security issues, the science services provider presented SC8-EB-WP-18 (*Estimation of catches and fate of edible bycatch species taken in the equatorial purse seine fishery*) and SC9-EB-IP-02 (*Estimation of catches and condition of edible bycatch species taken in the equatorial purse seine fishery*).

As requested by SC8 (Para 450, SC8 Report), SC10 may review updates on this item, if available, and provide comments and recommendations to the Commission on food security issues linked to bycatch.

* + 1. Other issues

Other ecosystem and bycatch related researches that are related to the work of the Commission will be covered under this item.

1. **OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS**
   1. **West Pacific East Asia Project**

Support of tuna data collection from port sampling, estimation of annual total tuna catch, and legal, policy and institutional arrangements in compliance with WCPFC requirements in Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam has continued following the termination of the GEF-funded WPEA OFM Project in March 2013. The WCPFC Secretariat has worked on the preparation of the 2nd phase of the GEF-funded WPEA Project with UNDP, in support of the establishment of an infrastructure to improve data collection, and to ensure that their policy, legal and institutional arrangements fully comply with WCPFC requirements. SC10 may comment on the progress of the WPEA Project.

* 1. **Pacific Tuna Tagging Project**

SC10 will review the progress of the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project and the results of its eighth steering committee meeting.

1. **COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

SC10 will review the status of cooperation with other organizations and provide further recommendations if any for the Commission’s consideration.

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

SC10 will consider intersessional activities for the capacity building in science of developing States and participating territories, including those supported by the Commission’s Special Requirements Fund and Japan Trust Fund. Other matters within the scope of Article 30 (Recognition of the special requirements of developing States) of the Convention may also be discussed. 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**

SC10 will be briefed on the status of the 2013 SC work programme.

* 1. **Development of the 2015 Work Programme and budget, and projection of 2016-2017 provisional Work Programme and indicative budget**

SC10 will develop the 2015 SC work programme and budget and provisional work programme and indicative budget for 2016-2017 for the Commission’s endorsement.

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

SC10 may consider a schedule for future reviews, including a detailed plan if required for an external review of the SEAPODYM model as recommended by SC9 (Para 419, SC9 Report).

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

SC10 may review proposed draft *Guidelines for SC Meeting Reports* prepared by the Secretariat.

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

WCPFC10 agreed that the Secretariat would revise the performance review matrix to remove all recommendations which have been addressed and completed, and present the revised matrix to WCPFC11. For your interest, the revised science section is posted as SC10-GN-WP-05.

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

SC10 will consider nominations for SC Chair, Vice-Chair and theme convener positions as required.

* 1. **Next meeting**

Members are invited to confirm a time and venue for SC11 in 2015, and to propose a time and venue for SC12 in 2016.

1. **OTHER MATTERS**

SC10 will consider any other issues that are raised under Agenda Item 1.4.

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

SC10 will adopt the Summary Report of its Tenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee.

1. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting will close at 17:00 on Thursday, 14 August 2014.

1. Pacific bluefin tuna [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. North Pacific albacore [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. North Pacific swordfish [↑](#footnote-ref-3)