



**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS AND
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES**

Circular No.: 2014/13

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Letter from Japan – Comment for Workshop Announced in WCPFC Circular 2014/05

Dear All,

Please find the attached letter received 26 February 2014 from Japan, providing comments towards the upcoming e-Reporting and e-Monitoring Workshop to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 31 March to 1 April 2014 (reference to WCPFC Circular 2014/05).

This letter is circulated as requested by Japan.

Thanks,



Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director



FISHERIES AGENCY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907, Japan

February 25, 2014

Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director
Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Dear Executive Director Hurry,

I am writing in response the Circular 2014/05 regarding E-reporting and E-monitoring Workshop. Firstly we would like to express our appreciation for the work of the Secretariat to organize the Workshop.

As we pointed out in our comments to the draft report of WCPFC10, it is the view of Japan that the Commission at WCPFC10 did not make a decision to give the E-reporting and E-monitoring Workshop an authority to “table a proposal at TCC10”. In fact, a Workshop is usually not a forum to prepare a proposal and, in addition, it is not clear from the report on what the Workshop will make a proposal. Therefore, as we proposed in our comments on the draft report, the paragraph 172 should read as “WCPFC10 agreed that further discussions on E-reporting and E-monitoring should be held in early 2014 at a venue to be determined by the Secretariat and the results should be reported at TCC10.”

Also, in order to reflect the agreement of WCPFC10 more accurately, we suggest to delete “/WCPFC” from agenda item 9.2.

Please circulate this letter to the CCMs.

Regards,

Takashi Koya
Japanese Alternate Commissioner to the WCPFC

2.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) Status

61. One CCM, while supporting the renewal of Vietnam's CNM status for 2014, called for Vietnam to take responsibility for overseeing shipbuilding activities, such as those underway for [10](#) large purse seiners, in order to avoid contributing to overcapacity in the region.

62. Vietnam thanked CCMs for their support of its CNM application. ▼ In response to concerns following media reports on future expansions of fishing capacity in the WCPF Convention Area, Vietnam committed to gather information to determine if large-scale purse seiners intended for deployment in the WCPF Convention Area will be built in Vietnam. Vietnam emphasized that, at any rate, the media reports did not indicate that the vessels would be operating in the maritime zones of Vietnam, be flagged to Vietnam, or be owned or beneficially owned by Vietnamese nationals. Vietnam made this commitment even though nothing in CMM 2009-11, other CMMs, Resolution 2005-02, or the WCPF Convention imposes specific obligations or restrictions on the building of fishing vessels in Vietnam as such.

Deleted: It noted that media reports on the building of large purse seiners in Vietnam do not indicate that the vessels will be i) fishing in Vietnam's EEZ, ii) flagged to Vietnam, or iii) operated by Vietnamese nationals. Therefore, it is not clear on what basis it would exercise responsibility for these activities. Vietnam also confirmed that it had paid its full assessed contribution for 2013.

Supplementary explanation

Replacement is a draft submitted from Vietnam. We would be appreciated if the Secretariat could check it to Vietnam.

63. One CCM [stated](#), that as a CNM Vietnam should assist with implementing WCPFC CMMs including those with provisions regarding capacity and fishing effort. [The CCM also requested Vietnam to convey the home government Commission's concerns for purse seine overcapacity issue in the WCPO. Vietnam agreed with this request.](#)

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4.1 Development of a CMM on Tropical Tunas

109. Japan made a presentation on the struggles of Japan's small to mid-scale longline fisheries over the past 30 years (*WCPFC10-2013/DP-29a*). In overview, there has been a rapid decline in catch, catch value and the number of vessels, and the fishing grounds have shrunk considerably. Decreasing catches of bigeye and yellowfin have been replaced by albacore, sharks or swordfish, but these catches too are declining. In one case study, the continued existence of the traditional fishing community is being threatened whereas in another case study the community is suffering from both changes in the fishery and the effects of the tsunami. Believing that this scenario is not unique to its communities, Japan urged CCMs to take action to halt the expansion of the purse seine fleet and reverse the trends in the bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks. Particular concern was expressed about information suggesting that Sapmer, a French company based in

Singapore, is planning to build ten purse seiners in Vietnam which will fish in the Convention Area to supply the Japanese market.

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6.1 Report on Progress from MOW2

145. Dr Ian Cartwright (Thalassa Consulting) presented the report of the Second Management Options Workshop (MOW2) held 28-29 November 2013. MOW1 was held before WCPFC9 and was mainly concerned with awareness raising and consideration of a wide range of objectives. Following MOW1 a “Strawman” (i.e. a candidate list of management objectives, performance indicators, and target reference points (TRPs)) for the tropical longline fishery, the tropical purse seine fishery, the southern longline fishery, the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery and the North Pacific albacore fishery was completed and provided to SC9, NC9 and TCC9 for comment. These comments were reflected in a “Strawman” document submitted to MOW2. Suggestions for amendments were made following the presentation and during the break out groups, and there were incorporated in the final version of the “Strawman” report (WCPFC10-2013/15b). In that workshop a series of plenary workshop presentations showing examples of the application of target reference points, harvest control rules (HCRs) and trade-offs were provided, followed by break-out groups. The last day of the workshop drew together comments from the break-out groups via plenary discussions. A report of MOW2 was provided (WCPFC10-2013/15a), including a recommendation for an initial spawning biomass target reference point for skipjack.

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Supplementary explanation

Revise to be consistent with the contents of Section 3 of the report on the MOW2 showed as followings.

3. The ‘Strawman’ Document: A report of the Expert Working Group: Management objectives, performance indicators and reference points

The Facilitator provided a brief overview of the ‘Strawman’ document and requested feedback on the document and more specifically on the tables of objectives, indicators and target reference points (TRPs) for each fishery. Suggestions for amendments were made following the presentation and during the break-out groups, and these are incorporated in the final version of the ‘Strawman’ Report (WCPFC10-2013-15b)

145bis. One CCM requested Dr Ian Cartwright to reflect its suggestion, which was made and accepted in MOW2 on “Strawman” exactly. Dr Ian Cartwright accepted it.

146. WCPFC10 accepted the MOW2 (WCPFC10-2013/15a) and “Strawman” (WCPFC10-2013/15b rev.1) reports (Attachment D).

7.2 Consideration of Future Work

172. WCPFC10 agreed that further discussions on E-reporting and E-monitoring should be held in early 2014 at a Workshop at a venue to be determined by the Secretariat and the result should be reported to TCC10.

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8.1 Report of the Ninth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee

Management Issues Theme

189. Japan noted that Pacific bluefin tuna are in urgent need of a stock recovery and NC9 agreed to develop at NC10 a rebuilding programme. Japan also stated that this will involve development of a LRP by the ISC which will be presented to the Northern Committee.

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9.1 Report of the Ninth Regular Session of the Northern Committee

214. Japan stated that the US proposal should be discussed at the Northern Committee.

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215. WCPFC10 adopted the report of NC9 and asked the SC to evaluate whether North Pacific blue shark to be a northern stock.

Supplementary explanation

Revise to be consistent with the paragraph 73 of the NC9 report.

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11.1 Consideration of New CMMs and Other Conservation Requirements

11.1.7 Sharks

314. Some CCMs stated that they reluctantly supported the proposed measure because they considered the scientific support for such a measure to be not absolutely clear. These CCMs requested that the text be re-worded to apply only to silky sharks caught in the WCPF Convention Area because the species is allowed to be taken by vessels fishing in the IATTC Convention Area. Furthermore, these CCMs requested text be added to the effect that the measure would be amended on the basis of the most recent stock assessment advice.

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326. One CCM raised a number of issues with the proposed text including questions about the preambular wording, the definition of “viscera”, the ability to develop appropriate mitigation measures in the specified timeframe without any specific proposals, and the requirement to apply a purse seine shark handling handbook which are not developed. Given the number of outstanding concerns, this CCM stated that it could not support the current draft proposal.

327. Some CCMs pointed out that it was not clear how the revised proposal tracked the existing shark CMM (CMM 2010-07).

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