

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE**

**FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

4 – 7 September 2018

Fukuoka, Japan

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**WCPFC-NC14-2018/03**

1. **OPENING OF MEETING**
   1. **Welcome**

The Chair Masanori Miyahara (Japan) will open the Fourteenth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC14) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), in Fukuoka, Japan, 4 – 7 September 2018.

* 1. **Adoption of agenda**

The Chair will introduce the Provisional Agenda, WCPFC-NC14-2018/02. Any other matters raised here can be discussed under Agenda Item 7.3 (Other business).

* 1. **Meeting arrangements**

The Chair will invite NC14 to introduce the Indicative Schedule (WCPFC-NC14-2018/04), logistical arrangements in place to support the meeting, and any social engagements.

1. **CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**
   1. **Report from the 18th Meeting of the International Scientific Committee**

NC14 will review the meeting report of the 18th Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC18), especially the status of the three northern stocks. Annex I of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure defines ‘northern stocks’ to be ‘stocks which occur mostly in the area north of 20° north parallel’ and currently are ‘northern Pacific bluefin[[1]](#footnote-1), northern albacore[[2]](#footnote-2) and the northern stock of swordfish[[3]](#footnote-3)’.

* 1. **Report of the 14th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee**

NC14 will review issues arising from the 14th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC14) as they relate to the Northern Committee.

* 1. **Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks**
     1. **Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2017-08)**

According to the work programme, NC tasks for 2018 include:

1. Review the compiled members’ reports and identify and rectify shortcomings.
2. Obtain the assessment and other work results from ISC and recommend any necessary changes to CMM on PBF.
3. Support ISC workshop for MSE development.
4. Develop CDS based on the inputs from members.

NC14 will review member’s reports on CMM 2017-08, updates on stock status of Pacific bluefin tuna, results of ISC workshop for MSE development and CDS development.

* + - 1. **Reports from CCMs and Observers**

By 31 July 2018, CCMs are, under paragraph 10 of the CMM 2017-08, tasked to submit reports to the Executive Director relating to:

1. measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 12 of the CMM; and
2. results from monitoring the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna.

NC14 will review reports from CCMs on their domestic management measures and trade, and may suggest actions for CCMs to enhance their compliance with this CMM. IATTC members will also be asked to provide information on EPO harvest activities and related domestic management measures.

* + - 1. **Joint Working Group Meeting between NC and IATTC on Pacific bluefin tuna conservation management**

The 3rd Joint WG meeting will be convened during NC14, co-chaired M. Miyahara (NC) and D. Lowman (IATTC).

NC14 will review the report from the 3rd Joint Working Group Meeting between NC and IATTC to be held during the NC14, and adopt results of the joint meeting as recommendations for WCPFC15.

* + 1. **North Pacific albacore (CMM 2005-03)**

According to the work programme, NC tasks for 2018 include:

1. Review the compiled members’ reports and identify and rectify shortcomings.
2. Continue to support ISC MSE work to complete Task (B)(2), where (B)(2) is “continue to work to establish TRP and other elements of harvest strategies, if appropriate based on MSE” .
3. Recommend any necessary changes to CMM 2005-03.
   * + 1. **Reports from CCMs and Observers**

NC14 will review the compiled members’ reports on catch and effort data based on CMM 2005-03 on NP albacore, and identify and rectify any shortcomings.

* + - 1. **Interim harvest strategy for North Pacific albacore fishery (HS 2017-01)**

NC14 will review the progress of ISC’s management strategy evaluation (MSE) process for North Pacific albacore in line with the adopted HS 2017-01, including the limit reference point as requested in Para 72 (NC13 Summary Report), and provide recommendations to ISC for further task.

* + - 1. **Review of the CMM 2005-03**

The last North Pacific albacore stock assessment was conducted in 2017. NC14 may consider any updated information and proposals if available, and recommend a revised or new CMM for the North Pacific albacore stock as appropriate.

* + 1. **North Pacific swordfish**

According to the work programme, NC tasks for 2018 include:

1. Obtain and review a full assessment and consider appropriate management action.
2. Finalize interim management objective and reference points and establish CMM.
   * + 1. **Review of 2018 NP swordfish stock assessment**

NC14 will review the results of 2018 stock assessment, review ISC’s stock status and conservation advice, and consider appropriate management actions.

* + - 1. **Development of a management framework**

NC14 will review any proposals for the management scheme of NP swordfish, and consider interim management objectives and reference points to establish a new CMM as required.

* 1. **Conservation and management measures for other stocks**
     1. **Bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas (CMM 2017-01)**

WCPFC14 adopted CMM 2017-01 (*CMM for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean*). NC14 will consider any issues related to, or any impacts of, CMM 2017-01 on tuna fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean north of 20ºN.

* + 1. **North Pacific striped marlin (CMM 2010-01)**

The latest ISC’s stock assessment was conducted in 2015. A series of concerns were expressed from SC and NC on the stock status of NP striped marlin:

* SC11 recommends that the Commission develop a rebuilding plan for North Pacific striped marlin with subsequent revision of CMM 2010-01 in order to improve stock status. (Para 374, SC11 Summary Report)
* NC12 expressed concern over the status of NP striped marlin and urged the Commission to develop a rebuilding plan for the stock as a matter of priority. (Para 74, NC12 Summary Report)
* NC13 expressed concern over the status of NP striped marlin and urged the Commission to develop a rebuilding plan for the stock as a matter of priority. NC members are encouraged to submit a draft CMM, if possible. (Para 91, NC13 Summary Report)
* The Commission agreed to task SC14 to prioritise determination of whether the North Pacific striped marlin and North Pacific blue shark are northern stocks and as applicable provide updated management advice and recommendations to WCPFC15. To support the SC’s consideration of these matters in 2018, the Scientific Services Provider (SPC-OFP) and ISC were requested to provide to SC14 papers that provide available information on the status of these stocks and the catch levels in their associated fisheries. (Para 378, WCPFC14 Summary Report)

NC14 will review any proposals for the establishment of a new CMM for NP striped marlin. NC14 also consider SC14’s review on the designation of NP striped marlin as a northern stock.

* + 1. **Sharks (CMM 2010-07, CMM 2011-04, CMM 2012-04, CMM 2013-08 and CMM 2014-05)**

NC14 will note the current progress of an intersessional working group (IWG-Sharks) to develop a draft comprehensive shark CMM for discussion at WCPFC15. (Paras 332-333, WCPFC14 Summary Report)

NC14 will consider SC14’s review on the designation of NP blue shark as a northern stock, and review updated management advice and recommendations for NP blue shark provided by SC14.

NC14 will note the result of ISC’s stock assessment and conservation advice for North Pacific shortfin mako.

* + 1. **Seabirds (CMM 2017-06)**

NC13 encouraged its members to submit information to NC14 regarding the implementation of new seabird mitigation measure for small scale vessels which starts from 2017. (Para 99, NC13 Summary Report)

Considering significant interaction with seabirds in the North Pacific, NC14 will review any reports relate to implementation of the mitigation measures in the area.

* + 1. **Sea turtles (CMM 2008-03)**

NC14 may review any mitigation research results and any proposals to improve the CMM if available.

1. **REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

NC14 may review any information regarding implementation of the regional observer program for fishing vessels operating in the area north of 20ºN.

1. **DATA**
   1. **Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks**

The NC Work Programme calls for CCMs participating in the NC to submit complete data on fisheries for northern stocks to the Commission. All CCMs are encouraged to submit to the Commission Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific albacore, North Pacific striped marlin, and swordfish data and to make them available to the ISC.

NC14 will review the progress of data submission and identify any additional data gaps.

1. **COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**
   1. **ISC**

NC14 will exchange views on further efforts to strengthen the cooperation with ISC.

* 1. **IATTC**

NC14 will continue to exchange views on cooperation with IATTC, especially in relation to Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore.

1. **FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**
   1. **Work Programme for 2019-2021**

The Committee will review, and revise as needed, its Work Programme for 2018-2020.

1. **OTHER MATTERS**
   1. **Administrative arrangements for the Committee**
      1. **Secretariat functions and costs**

NC14 is invited to review and further consider the operation of the NC Secretariat, and costs related with NC activities.

* + 1. **Rules of Procedure**

Subject to any proposals tabled by CCMs, NC14 will consider Rules of Procedure for NC

* 1. **Next meeting**

The date and place for the Fifteenth Regular Session of the NC will be agreed.

* 1. **Other business**

NC14 will discuss any other business raised under Agenda Item 1.2.

1. **Adoption of the Summary Report of the 14th Regular Session of the Northern Committee**

NC14 will adopt the Summary Report of its 14th Regular Session. It will make every effort to adopt its Summary Report by consensus. If consensus is not reached, the Summary Report will indicate the majority and minority views and may include the differing views of the representatives of the members on all or any part of the Summary Report.

1. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting is scheduled to close on 7 September 2018.

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