



**Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee  
Sixth Regular Session**

**Fukuoka, Japan  
7–10 September 2010**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

## **USP Library Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Northern Committee.

Sixth regular session, 7-10 September 2010, Fukuoka, Japan: summary report. Kolonia, Pohnpei: Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, 2010.

40 p. ; cm.

1. Fishery management, International—Oceania—Congresses 2. Fishes—Conservation—Oceania  
Congresses 3. Fish stock assessment—Oceania—Congresses 4. Tuna fisheries—Oceania—Congresses  
5. The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western  
and Central Pacific Ocean—Congresses I. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

ISBN

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**Northern Committee**  
**SIXTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Fukuoka, Japan  
7–10 September 2010

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

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**AGENDA ITEM 1 — OPENING OF MEETING**

1. The Sixth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC6) took place in Fukuoka, Japan, from 7–10 September 2010. The meeting was attended by Members from Canada, Cook Islands, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America (USA), and Vanuatu, and Observers from ISC, Greenpeace, WWF, Japan, American Fisherman’s Research Foundation, and the WCPFC Secretariat. The list of meeting participants is included in Attachment A.

**1.1 Welcome**

2. Masanori Miyahara, Chair of the Northern Committee (NC), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Fukuoka, Japan. Participants from Members and Observers introduced themselves.

**1.2 Adoption of agenda**

3. Canada requested time to introduce document NC6-DP-02 as a recommended framework for the Northern Committee and Korea requested time to introduce Korea’s report on the catch of PBF (NC6-DP-04). These requests were granted and the provisional agenda was modified and adopted (Attachment B). The documents that supported the meeting were made available on the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) website:

<http://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/2010/6th-regular-session-northern-committee>

**1.3 Meeting arrangements**

4. Japan, as host of NC6, briefed the meeting of social arrangements and the meeting schedule.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 — CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

**2.1 Report from the 10<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean**

5. G. Sakagawa, the outgoing ISC Chairman, provided an overview of ISC results from its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, held in Victoria, B.C., Canada, 21-26 July 2010. The results are contained in the ISC meeting

report, which is posted on the ISC website (<http://isc.ac.affrc.go.jp>). This document was also made available to the WCPFC in accordance with the ISC-WCPFC MOU requirements. He noted that progress was made on many projects of the ISC work plan as well as with tasks that were requested by the NC5. Work is progressing for a full stock assessment of the North Pacific albacore and striped marlin stocks in 2011, and Pacific bluefin tuna and blue marlin stocks in 2012. The ISC objective is to conduct a full stock assessment for each species every three years. Progress with administrative matters included dissolving the Bycatch Working Group because other science committees of RFMOs were meeting the needs, formation of a Shark Working Group to conduct shark stock assessments, for initially blue shark and shortfin mako, employing a full-time data administrator and webmaster by the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries to provide needed services, postponing a planned world blue marlin symposium because of higher priority projects, concluding an MOC with the IATTC and starting the process of clarifying and updating the ISC operations manual. The ISC also completed a document (NC6-WP-09 or ISC/10/Plenary/04) in response to the NC5 request for advice on candidate Biological Reference Points (BRPs) for an NC workshop.

6. G. Sakagawa completed his presentation by recognizing the new slate of leaders of the ISC: G. DiNardo newly elected Chair of the ISC for 2011-2013; M. Dreyfus, vice Chair; S.K. Chang, STATWG Chair; J. Holmes, ALBWG Chair; and Y. Takeuchi, PBFWG Chair. Chairs for both the BILLWG and Shark Working Group are currently vacant. The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ISC will be hosted by the U.S. in July 2011 at a venue to be announced.

7. J. Holmes, Chair of the ALBWG, presented the ISC results on stock assessment of ALB. He reported that the ISC is on schedule for completing a full assessment of the North Pacific albacore stock before the next annual meeting of the Northern Committee. During the year, it examined recent fishery data to determine if there was a signal or trend in the spawning stock biomass (SSB), but did not detect a strong signal in either direction. The estimated catch in 2009 was 78,000 mt, about 9,000 mt higher than in 2008 and near the long-term (1971-2000) mean of 77,000 mt. Analysis of longline fishery data did not provide a strong positive or negative signal in the age 6-9+ SSB index to indicate a specific trend in the SSB since the last stock assessment. The ISC noted, however, that the estimated value of  $F_{SSB-ATHL}$ , the NC's interim biological reference point, is 0.75 / yr for a 25-year projection period using fishery data through 2008. This value is similar to the  $F_{2002-2004} = 0.75$  / yr estimated in the last stock assessment. The ISC concluded that its 2009 conservation advice is still valid and restated it with a minor clarification as follows:

“Previous scientific advice, based on the 2004 stock assessment, recommended that current fishing mortality rate (F) should not be increased. It was noted that management objectives for the IATTC and WCPFC are based on maintaining population levels which produce maximum sustainable yield. Due to updating and improvements and refinements in data and models used in the 2006 stock assessment, it is now recognized that  $F_{(2002-2004; 0.75)}$  is high relative to most of the F reference points [commonly used in fisheries management](see Table 5a in Annex 5) [of the ISC7 Plenary Report].

“On the other hand, the same analysis indicates that the current [2005] estimate of the SSB is the second highest in history but that keeping the current F would gradually reduce the SSB to the long-term average by the mid 2010s. Therefore, the recommendation of not increasing F from current level ( $F_{2002-2004} = 0.75$ ) is still valid. However, with the projection based on the continued current high F, the fishing mortality rate will have to be reduced.”

8. In response to the US concerns on the large time interval between the albacore stock assessments, the WG Chair noted that it will be discussed in the working groups but the ISC has the general aim of conducting stock assessment every three years. He also noted that another reason for the delay was the need

to control the workload imposed on the scientists who conduct both albacore and bluefin assessments. In response to the Chair's question on the level of current fishing mortality, the WG Chair noted that  $F_{2009}$  might be less than 2002-2004 ( $F=0.75$ ) based on recent trends in nominal catch and effort or, alternatively,  $F_{2009}$  may be as high as 2002-2004 since recruitment after 2005 is not known. The WG had no way to assess these alternatives in the absence of new stock assessment.

9. Y. Takeuchi, Chair of the PBFWG, reported on the stock status and conservation advice of Pacific bluefin tuna from the ISC10 plenary in July 2010. After NC5, ISC's PBFWG updated the 2008 stock assessment with data through 2007. Results indicated that the assumption of adult  $M$  is particularly influential to the estimate of absolute spawning biomass and fishing mortality. In contrast, relative measures of these metrics were less sensitive to the assumed  $M$ . The estimate of spawning biomass in 2008 (at the end of the 2007 fishing year) declined from 2006 and is estimated to be in the range of the 40-60<sup>th</sup> percentile of the historically observed spawning biomass. Average fishing mortality during 2004-2006 ( $F_{2004-2006}$ ) increased from  $F_{2002-2004}$  by 6% for age-0, approximately 30% for ages 1-4, and 6% for ages 5+ fish in the stock. Future projections predict that at  $F_{2004-2006}$  median spawning biomass is likely to decline to levels around the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of the historical spawning biomass, while at  $F_{2002-2004}$  median spawning biomass is likely to decline in subsequent years but recover to levels near the median of the historically observed spawning biomass levels. The conservation advice from ISC10 was simplified and revised as follows:

“Given the conclusions of the July 2010 PBFWG workshop (*Annex 7*), the current (2004 - 2006) level of  $F$  relative to potential biological reference points, and the increasing trend of  $F$ , it is important that the level of  $F$  is decreased below the 2002-2004 levels, particularly on juvenile age classes.”

10. In response to questions from Japan about why  $M$  was changed and how the new  $M$  was derived, Takeuchi responded that i)  $M$  was changed because the huge unfished biomass estimated initially was considered implausible, ii) there were small changes in juvenile  $M$ , and iii)  $M$  for age 0 was based on tagging data conducted by IATTC in the 1970s and 1980s,  $M$  for age 1-2 was based on tagging data conducted for southern bluefin tuna since fish in these stocks have similar size ranges at this age interval, and  $M$  for ages 3 and older was based on life history methods that are commonly used to estimate  $M$ . In relation to Chinese Taipei's question on the impact of uncertainty and improving the quality of assessment, the WG Chair answered that the absolute level of biomass is highly uncertain but does not have much impact on conservation advice put forward, and that the working group will hold a workshop to improve the stock assessment model by investigating issues identified in previous workshops (model structure, CPUE, other fishery data and biological parameters).

11. Regarding a question from the USA on what would be the most appropriate BRP for PBF in the view of robustness to the sensitive dynamics of the PBF to  $M$ , the WG Chair answered with his personal view that  $F_{med}$  and  $F_{loss}$ , the less sensitive RPs, would be more appropriate for the management of PBF stock. The reason why many RPs are highly sensitive to  $M$  will be reviewed in the future workshop in 2011. Japan, noted that a large decline in SSB occurred in the 1960s and that SSB remained at the lowest level in the time series in both the 1970s and 1980s and asked the reason for the sharp decline and stable catches during the periods when SSB was at its lowest level. The WG Chair replied that there was no specific discussion of the decline by the WG, but fishing mortality during this period was stable and comparable for other periods, while  $F$  at age 0 was somewhat lower. As for the stability of the fishery during that period, it probably was not stable since catch was reduced to 10,000 t during these periods. However, while the catch by EPO purse seiners was small during 1950s, the catch for juvenile increased after that period and leveled off, and that might be one of the reasons. Regarding Korea's question on the location and season of juvenile catch, the WG Chair answered that small-sized fish are taken by a troll fishery in the western part of the Pacific coast of Japan in autumn, and then taken around Tsushima Island in winter. Age 0 fish are taken by purse seine around Tsushima Island, East China Sea and south of the Korean Peninsula. Ages 1 fish are taken by purse

seine in the EPO in summer and East China Sea. Age 2 fish are caught by purse seiners in the EPO and rarely caught in the western Pacific side. In response to a USA question about the level of SSB before 1950s, the WG Chair answered that PBFWG have only nominal catch data prior to World War II, and the quality of these data is low relative to data post-1952. For example, there could be mis-identification of species for the catch data in the EPO and there were no species identification in Japan prior to 1950; all species were recorded as tuna.

12. G. DiNardo, Chairman of BILLWG, presented the ISC results on stock assessment of North Pacific swordfish. He reported that the ISC conducted a revised stock assessment for the EPO stock only in 2010. The revision was necessary because additional catches from Spain that were not included in the 2009 stock assessment became available, as well as catch data from Japan, Chinese Taipei and Korea. For the revised EPO assessment, the 2009 stock assessment model (Bayesian Surplus Production model) was used. The results indicated that the exploitation rate in 2006 was 6% and the catch (3,900 t) at roughly 78% of the estimated MSY level of 5,000 t. The estimated exploitable biomass in 2006 was 69,000 t and over 200% above  $B_{MSY}$ . The ISC concluded that there is no conservation concern for both the EPO and WCPO stocks of swordfish in the north Pacific. The conservation advice put forth by ISC10 was the same as in 2009: “The WCPO and EPO stocks of swordfish are healthy and above the level required to sustain recent catches.” (in the north Pacific)

13. Japan asked why the Stock Synthesis Model, used for PBF and ALB assessments, was not used for swordfish. The WG Chair answered that Bayesian surplus production model was used because fewer data were available for swordfish than PBF and ALB. The WG attempted to use the Stock Synthesis Modeling platform but was unsuccessful. In response to Cook Island’s question about the region for the swordfish stock assessment and the source of data for the stock assessment, the WG Chair answered that the assessments were done for the North Pacific, and the time series data were provided by Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan and Spain. In response to Japan’s question about the estimation of MSY-related parameters in the swordfish assessment, although it is reported from the ISC WG Chairs that MSY-related BRPs are difficult to estimate for PBF and ALB, the WG Chair answered that MSY is a natural output of the surplus production model for swordfish assessment.

## **2.2 Report of the Sixth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee**

14. N. Miyabe, the Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC), presented a summary report on the outcomes of the SC6, which was held in Nuku’alofa, Tonga. He briefly highlighted the status of fisheries in the WCPO and the results of 2010 full stock assessments for bigeye and skipjack. He also noted other key issues, including SC’s response to the recommendations from the Joint tuna RFMO workshops, the process for the external review of the SPC’s stock assessments, and the SC’s work programme and budget.

15. Japan stated that skipjack is an important stock for its coastal fishermen, however, they are suffering from poor migration and catch, and asking about the cause of this phenomenon. The SC Chair responded that it is not an easy question to answer and that other countries, such as Australia and New Zealand, also had similar experience. Once the SEPODYM ecosystem model is fully developed it might be used to address this issue. Citing paragraph 309 of the SC6 Report (“...high catches in the equatorial region could result in range contractions of the stock, thus reducing skipjack availability to higher latitudes (e.g. Japan, Australia, New Zealand fisheries.)” and concerning the age composition of the catch, Japan asked what kind of efforts will be undertaken to reduce the uncertainty. The SC Chair responded that this is the first year of collaboration with SPC and Japan, it will be improved in the next year. Regarding the reduction in level of bigeye fishing mortality, the Secretariat responded that the 29% reduction in fishing mortality from the average levels for 2005–2008 is equivalent to a minimum 31% reduction in fishing mortality from the 2004 levels, and a minimum 20% reduction from average 2001–2004 levels. Regarding a USA question on the high catch of SP albacore, the SC Chair responded that it may be due to many fleets operating in the

Subtropical Convergence Zone in the south Pacific.

### **2.3 Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks**

16. L. Donihee, Canada, introduced delegation paper WCPFC-NC6-DP-02, which explores a potential management framework for stocks under the mandate of the NC, based on a Precautionary Approach (PA). The WCPFC Convention text requires members to determine stock specific reference points, to take measures to ensure points are not exceeded, and to take action without delay if these reference points are exceeded. DP02 outlines one way to adopt a PA regime – through the establishment of control rules which identify three stock status zones – healthy, cautious and critical – based on pre-determined reference points. A removal rate is set, and decision rules and management actions are decided in advance, which come into effect as the stock approaches the critical zone. Canada welcomed comments from other delegations and asked that NC members consider the basic concepts contained in this paper as a way forward for the Commission when considering conservation and management measures and the need to identify appropriate reference points. The WS on biological RP supported this concept.

#### **2.3.1 Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM-2009-07)**

17. Japan presented its implementation of CMM 2009-07. It is composed of (1) control of the number of fishing vessels for PBF under licensing system, (2) administrative instructions to purse seine industry not catch or land small PBF less than 2kg and to ensure total catch in Northern Kyushu area will not exceed the average catch of 2000-2004, and (3) administrative instructions to local government not to increase the number of licenses of set nets for PBF and to pay due consideration not to increase bluefin tuna catch in other set nets. Japan also highlighted that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), on May 11, 2010, announced and now in the preparation for its comprehensive management directions for its PBF fisheries (composed of offshore fisheries, coastal fisheries and aquaculture) by establishing “Resource Recovery Plan” together with the introduction of income assurance system. Japan is now in preparation for the implementation

18. Japan reported on the artisanal fishery of Japan. It provided the characteristics of the Japanese coast and various statistics in the islands, underlining that more than 20,000 artisanal vessels operate and seasonally catch PBF. As for the PBF fisheries, three characteristics are provided with various kinds of fishing method, small scale and family business, and landing ports dotted the whole country. Troll is one of the main fishing methods for PBF. Japan launched artisanal fisheries management in May 2010. An announcement by MAFF on actions toward the effective conservation and management of PBF includes a vessel registration system and a mandatory catch reporting requirement.

19. Regarding the US question on the level of PBF catch in artisanal fisheries, Japan responded that while artisanal catch is range of 2,000-3,000 mt in total, the level of catch data is not accurate enough to be used in scientific analysis – this is why Japan is introducing a registration system with a mandatory reporting system, including total catch by vessel, volume of catch and size of fish. Regarding Chinese Taipei’s question on the implementation of the new management system, Japan responded that, by end of next March, Japan will establish the PBF Resource Recovery Plan and under this plan Japan will implement specific management measures beginning in April 2011. Regarding Chinese Taipei’s question on other fisheries catching PBF, Japan responded that they include jigging, handline, and a hybrid type of jigging and trolling. Data collection from most other fisheries, including all artisanal fisheries, will be covered by the new system. Regarding Korea’s question on the data collection from artisanal fisheries, Japan currently estimates artisanal catch using sales slips from fish markets.

20. Korea introduced document NC6-DP-04 regarding Korea’s PBF catch. The catch of PBF started in



1982 as a non-target species, mostly by large-scale purse seiners (>50 GRT) which are targeting mackerels, and also by small-scale purse seiners, set-nets, small-scale compound gears and other gear types of artisanal fisheries. No scientific research on PBF had been conducted until 1999 due to the lack of interest in PBF among fishermen. However, the recent increase in Korean catch and fisherman's interest in the PBF resulted in policy makers providing funding to support biological and ecological research on PBF, in addition to supporting the strengthening of the data collection system. Domestic statistics indicated that the PBF catch started in 1982 and has increased steadily to a maximum of over 2,100mt in 2003, although interannual variability is high. As a fisheries monitoring and management body in Korea, MIFAFF requested the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) to conduct more systematic research on various aspects of the Pacific bluefin tuna stock. The research is aimed at preparing a tuna fishery management plan, including the establishment of domestic management measures to be imposed on fishermen. The research will continue over five years beginning in 2010, and the progress will be reported to the ISC.

21. In response to the Chair's question on the progress of Korea's management plan, Korea responded that it will begin preparing a management plan along with the progress of the research. Japan stated that Korea failed to answer several matters, including the improvement of catch data quality and submission of target or bycatch issue. Korea responded that its PBF statistics in the past depended upon the statistics of Korea's export and Japan's import data, and recently Korea started collecting purse seiner's cooperative auction data from fish markets. In addition, NFRDI initiated a pilot project in 2008 to collect data from the smaller fisheries such as set net and small compound gear in Busan, but has not fully completed this work at present. The target species of the large purse seiners operating in Korean waters is mackerel, caught during the nighttime. However, sometimes they catch PBF during daytime sets if PBF migrate up to the fishing ground and recently, PBF has become a very important species to Korean fishermen. Japan asked again the timeline for Korea to produce some reliable catch estimates of the PBF from the purse seiners and other gears, noting that the fishery types between Korea and Japan are very similar. Japan will be producing all catch data including artisanal data from early next year. Japan noted that, regarding the bycatch issue, if PBF are caught during the day time, then it can be considered as target fishery. Korea also clarified that PBF catch includes target catch since they target it during daytime, and confirmed that the interest of PBF catch among fishermen is increasing. The Chair noted that if it is a target catch, then the catch is manageable. Regarding Chinese Taipei's question on the contents of research and detailed description of catch sources, Korea responded that the research includes a study on spawning area and period, monitoring of catch information, and examination of catch information with its domestic research outcome done by NFRDI or during the process of the research, if necessary. The purpose of the research is to establish a management plan of the PBF fishery. Korea will prepare a management plan, which will include fishing control, input/output control, fishing gear, creation of an appropriate fishing gear, time/area closure, and identification of PBF fishing ground(s). Korea has had three workshops to educate fishermen and to introduce international management concerns and efforts on this species. Korea explained that dealing with fishermen's business takes time, especially upgrading their awareness to an international level. Korea expects to provide more reliable data in the near future. Chinese Taipei expressed its concern about the targeting of PBF, especially targeting juvenile. Regarding Korea's request of more time, Japan noted that since 2007, Korea has repeatedly requested more time, and now Korea seems to want another 5 years until their research project is complete, which will be too late.

22. Japan made a presentation about a preliminary analysis of PBF import from Korea. In 2009, WCPFC adopted CMM2009-07 for PBF, but the measures were not applicable to the Korean EEZ and Korea did not join the measure because of uncertainty concerning PBF catches in Korean waters. In order to reduce this uncertainty and help Korea join the measure, Japan started collecting trade information on imports from Korea in 2010. From 1 January to 30 June 2010, 24 Korean purse seine vessels caught 1,283.9 mt of PBF in the Korean EEZ, and 911.5 mt were exported to Japan. 884.9 tons – (about 69%) were caught by 5 purse seine vessels. Over 50% of these tuna (457t) were imported in March, followed by April (171.5t)

and June (159.8t). Regarding size composition, 430t (47%) were in 3-5 kg category and 428.4 t (47%) were in 5-50kg category. On average, it takes 2.5 days from catch to Japanese Fish Markets. Busan is the major landing port for the Korean purse seiners and the port of shipment of Korean tunas. The port of Fukuoka is the port where more than 95% of the PBF imported from Korea are auctioned. About 90% of the exports were handled by 4 major exporters in Korea, and 86% of the imports were handled by 4 major importers in Japan.

23. The US noted that it is vitally important to get the best information and we need to produce reliable data very quickly and encouraged Japan and Korea to accelerate data collection as soon as possible. Korea responded that in principle, Korea would like to join the international efforts for conservation and management of PBF and with appreciation to Japan for introducing the very elaborate and analytical import data from Korea. However, basically, Korea's catch of PBF is very small compared to Japan's catch, but noted that PBF data collection is the first priority in Korea. It makes every effort to accurately calculate catches of PBF and now statistics and figures are collected based on Korea's catch documentation and data from scientific observers dispatched to Busan Port. Korean catch in 2009 submitted to ISC10 is provisional and, after review of various sources of data, the catch might be updated and reported to ISC11. Japan noted that if the Korea catch is smaller, then there should be no difficulties introducing management measures adopted by the WCPFC. Korea commented that because PBF was not an important species in its fisheries economy before around 2000, Korea didn't pay much attention to the management of PBF. PBF research this year is the first medium-size research in Korea, which is itself a remarkable step forward for PBF fishery management. Korea will try to provide more information about PBF in the future. The Chair clarified that Korea's various efforts toward PBF will be much appreciated, however, the important matter here is the delay of PBF management by the Korean government.

24. Philippines reported its PBF fisheries according to the reporting requirement of CMM 2009-07. It noted that Philippines has no PBF fishery at all but is ready to apply any measures for tuna management.

25. The US explained that it has no fisheries that target PBF in the WCPO. The total catch of PBF across the entire North Pacific by the US fleets is around 500-600 mt a year and almost all are taken outside of the Convention Area; catches in the Convention Area are less than 20 mt a year. Japan asked the US whether it can implement any measure as a Member of WCPFC to the PBF fisheries in the EPO where no PBF measure has been adopted by IATTC. The US answered that they have no plan to increase the catch of PBF that is caught opportunistically from fisheries directed to other species, and at this point, the US does not envision that the catch will significantly increase beyond the range of the past 10 years.

26. Chinese Taipei reported actions taken this year for managing their PBF fishery. The first action was controlling fishing effort. The number of vessels allowed to fish for PBF in the North Pacific Ocean was set at 660 and only 562 vessels were authorized this year. The second action was to implement a Catch Document Scheme (CDS) on the fishery. This scheme requires that fishermen attach specially designed tags to the catch, report information on the catch over radio to a designated fishery radio station, and apply for CDS while entering port for landing. Considering the usefulness of this scheme, members utilizing the same resource were urged to adopt the same measure to protect the fish stock. The third action was increased monitoring of fishing locations and catch information through VMS on the vessels and port inspection of the catch. Lastly, every PBF landed in Chinese Taipei is now inspected and length and weights are measured, and utilizing the CDS information, improving the quality of catch statistics. Nearly 100% coverage of the fish to measure length and weight has been achieved since last year.

27. Regarding the Chinese Taipei's PBF report, Japan asked about the information collected from the CDS and the implementation date of the CDS. Chinese Taipei responded that CDS was implemented in March 2010, and that it collects the fishing location, tag number, weight and length of the fish. All information is contained in NC6-WP-03(rev.1). Regarding a study on spawning ground, Chinese Taipei has

collected otoliths and is planning to collect gonads to understand biological parameters. Regarding Japan's question on the compliance with 100% coverage of the CDS and vessel size fishing for PBF, Chinese Taipei responded that almost all the PBF are landed in three domestic ports and the officials on the ports will check if the catch has come with CDS. Fishermen violating this regulation will receive punishments. The PBF vessel size is mostly around 20-24 m. Regarding Korea's question on the fish size, Chinese Taipei noted that the major size composition ranged 172-260cm based on 2009 data.

28. The Chair opened the floor for the revision of the CMM 2009-07 based on the conservation advice from the ISC10, and Japan proposed the revised CMM to be targeted for 2011-2012, considering that there will be a new stock assessment in 2012. Korea announced its willingness to remove the exemption for the Korean EEZ from the current measure in force, but stated that it could not accept such an ambiguous term as "stay below" in the CMM with respect to the proposed limit on fishing effort. The US suggested that a decrease in catches from the 2002-2004 level of 5-10% would satisfy the ISC's advice that  $F$  be reduced below the 2002-2004 level. Japan wanted to follow exactly the ISC's advice that it is important that the "level of  $F$  is decreased below the 2002-2004 levels" and suggested that the specific level of decrease should be determined by individual Members. Chinese Taipei emphasized the importance of reducing fishing mortality of juvenile PBF and the need to take some substantive measures. The US commented that controlling fishing effort may not be effective at controlling  $F$  and that consideration should be given to alternative approaches, particularly controlling catch. The US pointed out that the inclusion of language to "reduce" from the 2002-2004, if not accompanied by a specific level of reduction, would not be substantively different from the language in the current measure to maintain levels "no greater than" the 2002-2004 level. In order to ensure that the measure is effective, the US recommended that it include sufficiently detailed reporting requirements that would allow implementation of the measure to be adequately evaluated. Chinese Taipei expressed concern about how to control fishing effort, and proposed that the measure be developed to control catch. In response to questions from Japan about the PBF management actions the US has taken in the EPO, and a request that the US report back to the NC on any such actions, the US said it would do so, but that it would expect other members to do the same in the similar circumstances.

29. Korea expressed reservation on deletion of exemption of Korean EEZ in the draft CCM but told that it would not block the consensus. While appreciating the Korean effort, the other members asked Korea to reconsider and withdraw the reservation by the December Commission meeting. The Committee adopted the recommendation (Attachment C) by consensus with the Korean reservation.

30. In relation to paragraph 4 of this recommendation, the Cook Islands expressed its concern over the possible duplication of the reporting with the Part 2 report. It was noted that each CCM should avoid such duplication in its reporting to the Commission.

### **2.3.2 North Pacific albacore (CMM-2005-03)**

31. Regarding RPs for NP albacore, Japan proposed  $F_{SSB-ATHL}$  with a 10-year projection period as a precautionary RP, and  $B_{loss}$  as a LRP. But the ALB WG Chair noted that  $B_{loss}$  was not well estimated for this species, so will be very risky if actually used. Japan stated that it considers  $B_{loss}$  to be a good candidate for RPs, though an absolute number of the RPs can be determined at next stock assessment. The US repeated its position that the most appropriate LRP for  $F$  is  $F_{MSY}$ , but that it is open to considering appropriate proxies for  $F_{MSY}$ , particularly some of the points in the family of  $F_{\%SPR}$ . The US noted that  $F_{SSB-ATHL}$  is in effect as an interim reference point, but not with a 10-year projection period. The US was not supportive of any shortening of the projection period used in estimating  $F_{SSB-ATHL}$ , and as it emphasized during the Reference Points Workshop, the fact that many subjective decisions are needed to use a simulation-based reference point like  $F_{SSB-ATHL}$ , including the projection period, is a big disadvantage of those types of reference points.

32. Japan said that SSB for PBF has had large fluctuations and during the lowest level of SSB in 1970s and 1980s, catch and recruitment were stable. USA noted that when a RP is crossed, immediate action should be taken, and that action should be pre-agreed. Japan noted that an immediate action is needed before the stock reaches the level of historically the lowest level – so  $F_{SSB-ATHL}$  is necessary.

33. With respect to the interim management objective, the US and Canada suggested that a specific timeline for action be included in the event that  $F_{SSB-ATHL}$  is exceeded.

34. The Committee confirmed that it will continue to use “the interim management objective for north Pacific albacore” agreed upon at NC4 and agreed to replace Attachment J to the NC4 report by the following to establish a clear time line for management actions:

- 1) The interim management objective for North Pacific albacore is to maintain the spawning stock biomass (SSB) above the average level of its 10 historically<sup>1</sup> lowest points (hereinafter referred to as “the Level”). The fishing mortality rate that would likely<sup>2</sup> cause SSB to fall below the Level is referred to as “interim reference point” (IRP).
- 2) In the event that ISC finds that the current fishing mortality rate exceeds IRP, the Committee shall, at its next meeting, formulate conservation and management recommendations that are designed to reduce the fishing mortality rate below IRP within one year of adoption of measures. In formulation of such measures the committee shall consider relevant socioeconomic factors and any relevant information from ISC, including its latest conservation advice.

The interim management objective and IRP will be reviewed every three years to develop more permanent objectives and reference points that fulfill the provisions of the Convention, in particular Article 6. Achievement of the interim management objective will not preclude the NC from formulating and recommending conservation and management measures that would achieve additional objectives, particularly those stipulated in the Convention or otherwise adopted by the Commission.

35. Canada noted that using  $F_{SSB-ATHL}$  as the interim RP is a risky way of managing the stock considering current advice from the ISC.

36. The NC discussed how to evaluate implementation of CMM 2005-03, and agreed that members should report back on the measures they have taken to implement the measure. The NC agreed that for the purpose of evaluating implementation of paragraph 2 of CMM 2005-03, CCMs shall include in their 2011 annual reports, part II, the following information:

- a. a list of their specific fisheries or fleets they have determined to be “fishing for” North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area; and
- b. a description of the particular measures, as well as monitoring mechanisms, they have established to ensure that fishing effort in each of the fisheries or fleets does not increase above 2002-2004 average levels.

37. In relation to the 0-20°N area, the Chair suggested that the NC could submit a separate recommendation to the WCPFC, recommending that it adopt equivalent measures for the 0-20°N area. Japan urged the NC Members to take the same measures between 0-20°N.

38. Japan also proposed an amendment to CMM 2005-03, but the NC agreed not to recommend any changes to the CMM until next year, when a new stock assessment will be available.

### **2.3.3 North Pacific swordfish**

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<sup>1</sup> Here, “historically” means the time series of annual SSB levels from 1966 through 2005, as estimated in the latest formal stock assessment of the ISC.

<sup>2</sup> Here, “likely” means greater than 50% probability.

38. Japan proposed that management action be considered to ensure that fishing effort on swordfish does not move from other fisheries into the North Pacific. Korea commented that fishing effort could be moved from place to place along with the location of fish abundance within the level of total effort. The US noted that paragraph 3 of CMM 2009-03 states that “CCMs shall not shift their fishing effort for swordfish to the area north of 20°S, as a result of this measure.” Although that provision does not cover Japan’s concern entirely, it was agreed to rely on that provision for the time being.

## **2.4 Conservation and management measures for other species**

### **2.4.1 Bigeye and yellowfin tuna (CMM-2008-01)**

39. Japan noted that this measure includes no transfer of effort into archipelagic waters and territorial seas (paragraph 5). In the same manner, Japan requested that the NC recommend to the Commission a prohibition on that further transfer of fishing effort from south to north, as was recommended at NC4 and NC5.

### **2.4.2 Sharks (CMM-2009-04)**

40. Japan noted that the ISC will conduct stock assessments on shortfin mako and blue shark sometime in the future and the NC welcomed and supported the initiation of this work on sharks. The US advised that additional stock assessment of key shark species should not delay the stock assessment of key tuna species, such as NP albacore. In addition, the ISC should collaborate with SPC-OFP and other interested parties when conducting stock assessments. Japan expressed its serious concern about poaching activities of one Member – which is engaged in shark finning operations. Cook Islands also commented that they have noticed changing gear configurations and that catch composition on board some vessels consists of 70% blue shark.

### **2.4.3 Seabirds (CMM-2007-04)**

41. No discussion but this agenda item will be kept in the future.

### **2.4.4 Skipjack tuna**

42. Japan recommended that the NC should convey a clear message that coastal fishermen in the NC members particularly Japan are suffering from poor catches of skipjack tuna, which should be fully taken into account when the Commission considers skipjack or purse seine issues. NC expressed its concern over the decline of the migration level of skipjack to the northern area, and requested that the Commission take full account of this issue.

## **2.5 Working Group on Striped Marlin**

43. G. DiNardo presented a status report on the activities of the Northern Committee Striped Marlin Working Group (NC-SMWG), and a proposal for future activities. While the NC-SMWG work plan identifies 5 research tasks, most of the working groups activities were focused on longline gear modifications. In particular, expected reductions in striped marlin catch relative to the fishing target (bigeye or yellowfin tuna) associated with the removal of the two shallowest hooks. These gear modifications result in significant reductions in striped marlin catches with no significant reductions to the bigeye tuna catches and slight reductions in yellowfin tuna catches. These findings are consistent with similar research in other areas. It was reported that the U.S. will fund gear development work aimed at reducing striped marlin catch but this research is being conducted outside the purview of the NC-SMWG. While progress has been made, it continues to be hindered due to the need for broader scientific and technical support to complete the tasks

than is currently available within the NC, as well as the lack of financial support. It was also noted that the current NC-SMWG Chair will be resigning effective immediately, which hampers future progress. Given these concerns it was proposed that the NC-SMWG be abolished and that the research tasks be assigned to the Commission.

44. The Committee agreed to abolish the SMWG but also agreed that it should continue to work on striped marlin. NC7 may prepare a draft conservation and management measure based on the outputs of stock assessment in 2011. The US reminded the meeting that the striped marlin is on the agenda of the TCC6, at which time there will be another opportunity to discuss appropriate actions.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3. REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (CMM-2007-01)**

#### **3.1 Implementation of the ROP by fishing vessels fishing for fresh fish in the Northern Area**

45. Based on the requirements in paragraph 9, Annex C of CMM-2007-01, Japan prepared a proposal for the commencement of a regional observer program in the north Pacific (NC6-DP-01).

46. While Chinese Taipei expressed its general support for the Japanese proposal, it proposed some amendments for the exemption of vessels less than 70 GT in size. Chinese Taipei noted that based on 2009 data, they have 280 small fishing vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species including sharks on the high seas in the NC waters and that about 150 vessels are less than 70GRT, which is about 55 % of those vessels operating in NC waters. In the future, ROP for boats less than 70 GT will be covered. But at the moment, it is difficult to send observers onto boats smaller than 70 GT and that there were potential issues related to the safety of observers on these small boats. Regarding Japan's question on any legal constraints in sending observer to small boats, Chinese Taipei noted that there seemed to be no clear relationship between the size of fishing boats and the number of crew on board. At the moment, however, it is rather difficult to force employer to put observer on vessels smaller than 70 GT. Other members questioned whether it is appropriate to consider that 70GT fishing vessels are small.

47. Philippines reported that there are no fishing boats catching fresh tunas operating outside of its EEZ in the NC area. Fishing vessels are an average of 30m or longer and carry more than 10 crew, and it would be enough space for observer.

48. Cook Islands noted that due to its small population, and resource constraints it is rather difficult and expensive to send observers to boats. Nevertheless, it has committed to 5% coverage of its fishing vessels irrespective of boat sizes.

49. The US places observers on all the longline vessels operating off Island of Hawaii. The smallest of these is 15m. It should be possible for other Member country to introduce the same system as the US, domestic law cannot be used as an excuse for not sending observers. There are many difficulties implementing and operating the program, but the US have been overcome such problems so others can as well. The US noted that there should be an alternative way to collect verifiable data on board vessels, such as a camera monitoring system, because port sampling cannot collect all the data required by the ROP. A concrete plan should be devised for collecting verifiable data. The US suggested that ROP coordinator should be consulted for guidance.

50. Japan stated that it is difficult to change domestic law regarding the personnel capacity of the vessels as it was legislated not by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), but by the Ministry of Transportation. Japan cannot send observer for vessels with less than 7 personnels.

51. Japan introduced a draft proposal for a ROP which includes an exemption for vessels less than 70

GRT taking into account of the situation that Chinese Taipei, but included language noting that the exception is not permanent. Japan commented that some language will be added so that vessels less than 6 crew will be exempt. The Chair introduced the revised proposal. After discussion it was agreed that the the description of exemptions based vessel size or number of crew will be dropped and instead CCMs requesting exemptions shall submit a request to the Executive Director by July 31, 2011, and provide the description of a data collection programme equivalent to the ROP. Cook Islands stated that 5% coverage by the ROP have already been implemented in the southern WCPO area, with the recognition of Article 28 (IV) of the Convention that all vessels fishing beyond its national jurisdictions be prepared to carry an observer. Although the Cook Island has some level of discomfort with the proposal as drafted, it was willing to go along with the consensus provided that this will not be a precedent for the implementation of the ROP in the Convention area in the south of 20N. Chinese Taipei requested that its practical difficulties should be taken into consideration. The Committee adopted the recommendation (Attachment D).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4. DATA**

##### **4.1 Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks**

52. S.K. Chang, the ISC STATWG Chair, presented data status and gaps on the northern stocks. ISC addressed three aspects of improvement to the ISC database in 2010 through (1) convening a metadata workshop to collect metadata from each member and unify the extent and contents of the database; (2) beginning work to complete the ISC data inventory; and (3) revising the data reporting protocol to allow for greater transparency of ISC data. The importance of a permanent ISC Data Administrator (DA) in the above improvements was highlighted.

53. Regarding data gaps, incomplete or outdated estimates of biological and life history parameters used in the stock assessment models was continuously indicated and stressed as a major uncertainty in many assessments of the northern stocks. Financial investment to updating and upgrading the estimates through a multilateral Biological Sampling Plan (BSP) is highly encouraged to address the concern. Progress was made in obtaining missing fishery statistics from non-ISC members for some species, however continuous efforts to obtain catch/effort and size data from them are still needed. Not all ISC Members have submitted their data or submitted their data on a timely basis for an up-to-date annual review of fishery performance and for up-to-date stock assessments. Supports from managers of NC are necessitated to address this data submission issue. Preliminary comparison of data holdings by ISC and WCPFC was conducted in SC6. In general, for the large-scale fisheries, WCPFC has more data than ISC and, for the small-scale fisheries, ISC has more data than WCPFC. Results of the work has emphasized the usefulness of the comparison work in determining data gaps for both organizations as well as in providing the basis for each organization to work with its members to resolve the gaps.

54. Japan encouraged further effort for the Member of NC to resolve the data gaps reported by the ISC. In relation to this topic, NC6-WP-08 was introduced by Japan, which proposed the plan of NC voluntary funds and encouraged NC Members to contribute to WCPFC Secretariat with nominating project. Japan announced that at least some part of the NC voluntary fund will be covered by Japan. Accordingly, NC agreed that the Committee request Members to make a voluntary contribution to this proposal. Japan may contribute some money to a special project. The representative of Korea stated that she will report the need for funding support to the ISC to her government.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5. WORK PROGRAMME**

##### **5.1 Work Programme for 2011-2014**

55. Japan explained the contents of NC6-WP-07, which is based on the recommendation of Kobe II in

Barcelona, 2010. Cost for the peer review of ISC stock assessments should be covered by the NC members, or can be requested from the WCPFC. The Albacore stock assessment will start in October 2010. For this meeting, NC members should bear the cost of the reviewer. Japan noted that the actual stock assessment will be started in next March, so NC could start sending reviewers next March.

56. The ISC plenary Chair supported the idea of independent reviews of the albacore stock assessment, but the timing of the review is a concern. Because independence is important, SPC is not an appropriate reviewer. It would be better to look to other tuna RFMOs for assistance. The process requires substantial funding, for example, the cost of a reviewer could be as high as 1,000 USD per day. A less costly way may be available but this requires further investigation.

57. Japan asked for a rough estimate of minimum costs for full scale peer review process and was advised that it may be about USD \$60,000 for 3 reviewers for 20 days (this would be quick). Korea noted that a peer review process is important and its cost should be supported by the Commission. The Committee agreed to consider this issue further at the Commission meeting in December.

58. Work plan in Attachment E is a revised proposal of the existing work program.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **6.1 ISC**

59. The current MOU between WCPFC and ISC will not be changed.

### **6.2 IATTC**

60. The Chair attended a consultation meeting with IATTC to introduce the work of NC and management of PBF in late August. All participants agreed to work with NC in the same direction. The US expressed appreciation for Japan's initiative in cooperation between WCPFC and IATTC. Canada informed the meeting that it became a full Member of the IATTC this year and that it will promote cooperation between IATTC and WCPFC on PBF and albacore. The WCPFC Secretariat informed the meeting about cooperation with IATTC on fishing operations in the overlapping area. Cook Islands noted that they had stated their concerns on the movement of fishing vessels from one area to another and seek a harmonized measure between WCPFC and IATTC.

### **6.3 Review of interim arrangements for scientific structure and function**

61. The Secretariat informed that the SC6 finalized review of issues arising from the Independent Review.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS**

### **7.1 Administrative arrangements for the Committee**

#### **7.1.1 Secretariat functions and costs**

62. No discussion

#### **7.1.2 Rules of Procedure**

63. NC6 deferred further consideration of this agenda item to a future session of NC.



## **7.2 Next meeting**

64. Japan proposed that it will host NC7 somewhere in Japan. Some NC members preferred that it should be held somewhere cooler in Japan. The meeting period is tentatively set as September 6-9, 2011.

## **7.3 Other business**

65. No other business was raised. The Chair requested Members to provide rapporteurs to next meeting, especially from countries who speak English as a mother tongue. The US suggested that NC7 discuss VMS issues in the northern area. The Committee agreed to add this item to the NC7 agenda.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8. REPORT TO THE COMMISSION**

### **8.1 Adoption of the Summary Report of the Sixth Regular Session of the Northern Committee and recommendations to the Commission**

66. NC6 adopted the Summary Report of its Sixth Regular Session.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9. CLOSE OF MEETING**

### **9.1 Closing of the meeting**

67. The meeting was closed in 10 September 2010.

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee  
Sixth Regular Session**

**Fukuoka, Japan  
7–10 September 2010**

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**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee  
Sixth Regular Session**

**Fukuoka, Japan  
7–10 September 2010**

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**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

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**AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING**

- 1.1 Welcome
- 1.2 Adoption of agenda
- 1.3 Meeting arrangements

**AGENDA ITEM 2. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

- 2.1 Report from the 10th ISC
- 2.2 Report of the Sixth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC6)
- 2.3 Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks
  - 2.3.1 Northern Pacific bluefin (CMM-2009-07)
  - 2.3.2 North Pacific albacore (CCM-2005-03)
  - 2.3.3 North Pacific swordfish (CMM-2009-03)
- 2.4 Conservation and management measures for other species
  - 2.4.1 Bigeye and yellowfin tuna (CMM-2008-01)
  - 2.4.2 Sharks (CMM-2009-04)
  - 2.4.3 Seabirds (CMM- 2007-04)
  - 2.4.4 Skipjack tuna
- 2.5 Working Group on Striped Marlin

**AGENDA ITEM 3. REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (CMM-2007-01)**

- 3.1 Implementation of the ROP by fishing vessels fishing for fresh fish in the Northern Area

**AGENDA ITEM 4. DATA**

- 4.1 Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks

**AGENDA ITEM 5. WORK PROGRAMME**

- 5.1 Work Programme for 2010
- 5.2 Work Programme for 2011-2014

**AGENDA ITEM 6. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

- 6.1 ISC
- 6.2 IATTC
- 6.3 Review of interim arrangements for scientific structure and function

**AGENDA ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS**

- 7.1 Administrative arrangements for the Committee
  - 7.1.1 Secretariat functions and costs
  - 7.1.2 Rules of Procedure
- 7.2 Next meeting
- 7.3 Other business

**AGENDA ITEM 8. REPORT TO THE COMMISSION**

- 8.1 Adoption of the Summary Report of the Sixth Regular Session of the Northern Committee and recommendations to the Commission

**AGENDA ITEM 9. CLOSE OF MEETING**

- 9.1 Closing of the meeting

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
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**Northern Committee  
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**DRAFT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR  
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

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The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),

Recognizing that WCPFC6 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM2009-07);

Recalling that the WCPFC6 requested the Northern Committee to develop a new draft CMM applying to the Korean EEZ for consideration at the WCPFC7;

*Taking account of* the conservation advice from the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock, which highlighted the importance that the level of F is decreased below the 2002-2004 levels, particularly on juvenile age classes;

*Also recognizing* that the trend of spawning stock biomass has been influenced substantially by the annual level of recruitment and that collecting of fisheries data in an accurate and timely manner is critically important for the proper management of this stock, and;

*Further recalling* that paragraph (4), Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC to reach agreement to harmonize CMMs for fish stocks such as Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations;

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

1. The interim management objective for Pacific bluefin tuna is to ensure that the current level of fishing mortality rate is not increased in the Convention Area. Initially, control over fishing effort will be used to achieve this objective as follows:
2. The Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take measures necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20 degrees north shall stay below the 2002-2004 levels for 2011 and 2012, except for artisanal fisheries. Such measures shall include those to reduce catches of juveniles (age 0-3) below the 2002-2004 levels.
3. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna

fisheries in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting;

4. CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 31 July 2011 and 2012 measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 6 and 7 of this CMM. The Northern Committee shall annually review reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph;

5. The Northern Committee at its Regular session in 2012 shall review this CMM based on the new ISC stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna scheduled in 2012 and take appropriate actions;

6. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this Conservation Management Measure to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with paragraphs 2 and 3 above;

7. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.

8. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for Pacific bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.

9. The provisions of paragraph 8 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such developing coastal State, particularly Small Island developing State Members or participating territories, unless such fishing is conducted in support of efforts by such Members and territories to develop their own domestic fisheries.

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
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**RECOMMENDATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROP BY VESSELS  
FISHING FOR FRESH FISH IN THE AREA NORTH OF 20 DEGREES NORTH**

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**Conservation and Management Measure 2010-XX**

*The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;*

*Recalling* Article 28(1) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC Convention), which requires the Commission to develop a Regional Observer Programme to, among other things, collect verified catch data, and to monitor the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission;

*Further recalling* Article 28(7) of the WCPFC Convention, which requires the Commission to develop procedures and guidelines for the operation of the Regional Observer Programme (ROP);

*Cognizant* of Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2007-01, which established the procedures to develop the ROP, in particular paragraph 9 of Annex C of CMM2007-01, which gives considerations on special circumstances for fishing vessels used exclusively to fish for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north;

*Adopts*, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention, the following Conservation and Management Measure for the Establishment of the Implementation of the ROP by vessels fishing for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north.

**The ROP for fishing vessels used exclusively to fish for fresh fish in the area north of 20 degrees north shall be implemented in the following manner:**

1. No later than 31 December, 2014, CCMs shall commence implementation of observer programmes for fishing vessels used to fish for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdictions in the area north of 20 degrees north (hereinafter referred as “the Northern Convention area”).
2. For fishing vessels except for those exempted under paragraph 3 below, CCMs shall achieve at least 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery.
3. CCM may submit request to the NC7 for exemptions from paragraph 2 above with reasons and data

collection programmes equivalent to the ROP. The request shall be submitted to the Executive Director by 31 July, 2011. The NC shall consider and decide on those requests at its session in 2011. Such exemptions, if any, shall be terminated on 31 December, 2018.

4. Each year, CCMs whose vessels are granted exemptions in accordance with paragraph 3 shall provide a report on progress to reduce the number of vessels that cannot carry observers.
5. Observers shall be sourced from the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme, including authorized national programs of flag states.
6. Unless expressly set forth in this CMM, procedures in CMM 2007-01 will be applied *mutatus mutandis* to the implementation of this CMM.



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**Work Programme for the Northern Committee  
(as revised by the Sixth Regular Session)**

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Work areas	5-year objectives	1-year tasks				
	2010-2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>.Northern stocks</b>					Consider other management options than the existing management measures, if appropriate.	
a. Monitor status; consider management action	Review status and take action as needed for: <sup>3</sup> North Pacific albacore		Obtain and review a full assessment and consider appropriate management action		Review interim management objective in light of ISC advice.	

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<sup>3</sup> In the event that the Commission, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Annex I of the Commission Rules of Procedure, adds additional stocks, such as the northern stock of striped marlin, to the list of stocks understood to be “northern stocks”, this work programme will be revised to include periodic status reviews and consideration of management action for such stocks.

Work areas	5-year objectives	1-year tasks				
	2010-2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Pacific bluefin tuna	Review reports from CCMs as well as report from Korea on their domestic management measures, consider advice of ISC on F and consider management action for 2011 and after	Review reports from CCMs on their domestic management measures and advice of ISC and consider appropriate management action	Obtain and review a full assessment and consider appropriate management action.		
	Swordfish		Consider and set up interim management objective and reference points in light of ISC advice. Consider and set up interim management objective and reference points in light of ISC advice.		Obtain and review a full stock assessment and consider appropriate management action	
	Striped marlin (if agreed by the Scientific Committee and Commission).		Obtain and review a full assessment and consider appropriate management action			
b. Data	Achieve timely submission of complete	CCMs participating in the NC submit complete data on	CCMs participating in the NC submit complete			

Work areas	5-year objectives	1-year tasks				
	2010-2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	<p>data needed for assessments, formulation of measures, and review of Commission decisions</p> <p>Consider systems to validate catch data</p>	<p>fisheries for northern stocks to the Commission</p> <p>Encourage timely submission to Commission of PBF, NPALB and NPSM data from all CCMs and make available to ISC</p>	<p>data on fisheries for northern stocks to the Commission</p> <p>Encourage timely submission to Commission of PBF, NPALB and NPSM data from all CCMs and make available to ISC</p>			
c. Scientific support	Provide support for scientific studies		Encourage voluntary contribution for NC's list of priority scientific projects			
<p><b>2. Non-target, associated, dependent species</b></p> <p>a. Seabirds</p> <p>b. Sea turtles</p> <p>c. Sharks</p>	<p>Consider appropriate implementation of methods to minimize catch and mortality.</p> <p>Consider appropriate implementation of methods to minimize catch and mortality.</p> <p>Consider appropriate implementation for</p>		<p>Review implementation of CMM-2007-04 in the northern area</p> <p>Review mitigation research results and consider management action</p> <p>Review implementation for CMM-2009-04 in the</p>			

Work areas	5-year objectives	1-year tasks				
	2010-2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	CMM-2009-04 in the northern area.		northern area.  Review scientific advice from ISC, if any, and consider management options on two shark species (blue shark and mako sharks, ).	Review scientific advice from ISC, if any, and consider management options on two shark species (blue shark and mako sharks).		
<b>3. Review effectiveness of decisions</b>	Annually review effectiveness of conservation and management measures and resolutions applicable to fisheries for northern stocks		Review effectiveness of NP albacore measure (CMM 2005-03), including members' reports on their interpretation and implementation of fishing effort controls			
			Review effectiveness of Pacific bluefin tuna measure.			

Work areas	5-year objectives	1-year tasks				
	2010-2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>4. ROP (Paragraph 9, Attachment C of CMM 2007-01)</b>			Review ROP and consider specific cases for exemptions			
<b>5. Cooperation with other organizations</b> a. ISC  b. IATTC	Following Article 22.4, consult to facilitate consistent management measures throughout the respective ranges of the northern stocks	Consider and establish a mechanism to support ISC Have consultation to maintain and establish consistent measures for NP albacore and northern Pacific bluefin tuna	Consider action to support ISC. Have consultation to maintain and establish consistent measures for NP albacore and northern Pacific bluefin tuna			