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SUMMARY REPORT OF THE INFORMAL CONSULTATION **FOR** THE  
NORTHERN COMMITTEE OF WCPFC  
(*Tokyo, Japan 12-13 September 2005*)

The Informal Consultation for the Northern Committee of WCPFC took place at Tokyo, Japan from 12 to 13 September 2005. The Consultation was attended by representatives from Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei and the United States of America. The Secretariat of the WCPFC, also attended. The list of meeting participants is included at Attachment 1.

Agenda 1. Opening

1. The meeting was opened by Mr. Akira NAKAMAE, Deputy Director General, Fisheries Agency of Japan. Participants noted the importance and usefulness of this informal consultation and expressed their appreciation to Japan for hosting the meeting.

Agenda 2. Election of Chair

2. Mr. Masanori MIYAHARA, Japan, was elected as the Chair.

Agenda 3. Adoption of Agenda

3. The agenda was adopted as amended (Attachment 2).

Agenda 4. **Process** toward the initiation of the Northern Committee

4. The following works and schedule were suggested to start the function of the Northern Committee:
  - a. Preparatory meeting for the Northern Committee on Saturday, December 10, 2005 in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.
  - b. Formal establishment of the Northern Committee by the Commission on Monday, December 12.
  - c. First meeting of the Northern Committee on Monday or Tuesday in the same week to formalize the outcomes of the above preparatory meeting.
  - d. The results of the first Northern Committee meeting will be sent to the Commission for its consideration and appropriate actions.
5. The above will be communicated to the Commission Chair and under his ruling the schedule will be finalized. All the process of the above preparatory and Northern Committee meetings should be open to any member of and observer to the Commission.

6. The following issues are suggested for the preparatory meeting of the Northern Committee;
  - a. Secretarial functions, costs, costs sharing and other logistical issues associated with the function of the Northern Committee
  - b. Relationship of the Northern Committee with the ISC, **IATTC** and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission
  - c. **Conservation** and management **measures** for northern albacore
  - d. Data needs for assessments of the northern stocks
  - e. Future work program
  - f. Election of Chair and other officers, if necessary
  - g. Rules of Procedure
7. Participants supported an idea to nominate Mr. Masanori **MIYAHARA**, Japan, as a candidate for the chair of the Northern Committee. It was noted that the chair will be formally elected at the first meeting of the Northern Committee.
8. It was noted that the Commission has a full agenda and that it would be difficult to have the Northern Committee meeting in association with the Commission meetings in 2006 and thereafter. It was **suggested** to have the Northern Committee meetings in early September in the future. The period of Northern Committee meeting should be decided in accordance with the workload each year.
9. Regarding the meeting venue, Japan expressed its willingness to host the Northern Committee meeting every year unless any other offer was made by other member of the Northern Committee. Participants appreciated Japan's offer, and some also expressed interest in hosting future meetings.
10. It was noted that transparency of the Northern Committee was important and that, even though any member of the Commission may participate in meeting of the Northern Committee as an observer, further effort should be made to ensure that all issues discussed at the Northern Committee are reported to all members of the Commission.

Agenda 6. Formulation of the rules and regulations for the Northern Committee

a) Rules of Procedure

11. Following the **suggestion** by Chair, **Chinese Taipei** presented its draft Rules of Procedure for the Northern Committee (Attachment 3).
12. The following format was suggested for formulation of the Rules **of Procedure**:  

It was noted that the Rules of Procedure for the Commission should be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Northern Committee except for the following rules:  
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13. Those exceptional rules to be applied to the Northern Committee will be discussed at the preparatory meeting.

b) Costs and Budget

14. Japan presented the document on the Northern Committee of WCPFC and explained its ideas to enable the Committee to perform its functions well and effectively with minimum cost (Attachment 4). In addition to the proposal by Japan, the possibility of having a Northern Committee liaison officer at the Secretariat headquarter will be considered further. Extraordinary cost for the Northern Committee will also be discussed further at the preparatory meeting.
15. Regarding contribution formula showed in attachment 4, China preferred the option three and other participants preferred to open all of the options.
16. The costs of the Northern Committee should be born by **its** members but be a part of Commission budget as a whole. The participants showed strong preference for payment of the Northern Committee costs as a part of their assessed contributions to the **Commission** in accordance with the formula to be agreed in future.

Agenda 6. Cooperation with the ISC

17. Japan introduced the Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WCPFC and the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and **Tuna-like** Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) (Attachment 5). In relation to the role of ISC for the future work of Northern Committee, it was suggested that the participants should review the draft MOU for the discussion at the preparatory meeting of the Northern Committee in December 2005. It was also suggested that data gap issue for assessment of northern stocks should be discussed at the preparatory meeting.

Agenda 7. Future work plan for management of northern **stocks**

18. Japan presented the recent stock status of northern albacore based on the assessment conducted by ISC (Attachment 6).

19. The meeting noted that the IATTC has adopted management measures for the northern albacore and that the IATTC has asked the WCPFC to take similar measures (Attachment 7).
20. It was suggested that this matter should be discussed at the preparatory meeting of the Northern Committee with the view toward adopting a recommendation on northern albacore for consideration by the Commission at the WCPFC2.

Agenda 8. Others

21. The outcomes of this consultation will be reported promptly to all the members of the WCPFC.

Agenda 6. Adoption of **summary** report

22. The Consultation adopted the summary report.