



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**
31 August – 3 September 2015
Sapporo, Japan

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

WCPFC-NC11-2015/03

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 Welcome

The Chair Masanori Miyahara (Japan) will open the Eleventh Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC11) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), 31 August – 3 September 2015. He will welcome delegations of WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) and observers.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

The Chair will introduce the Provisional Agenda, WCPFC-NC11-2015/02.

According to the Rules of Procedure, the Committee will decide how to manage any supplementary items, if any are requested by a member of the Commission, the Chairman, or the Executive Director, at least thirty days before the opening of the meeting.

Other matters to be discussed, under Agenda Item 8, may be proposed here.

1.3 Meeting arrangements

The Chair will invite NC11 to review the Indicative Schedule (WCPFC-NC11-2015/04) noting logistical arrangements in place to support the meeting, meeting schedule, and any social engagements.

1.4 Membership

The NC membership shall include the members situated in the Convention area north of 20°N and those fishing in the area (Paragraph 7, Article 11 of the Convention).

At NC10, Fiji expressed its wish to be a member of NC noting that its vessels are now operating in the Convention area north of 20°N. Subject to confirmation of Fiji's fishing operation in such area, Fiji will become a member of NC.

AGENDA ITEM 2 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1 Report from the Fifteenth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee

NC11 will review the meeting report of the 15th Meeting of the International Scientific Committee (ISC15), especially the status of stocks of highly migratory species in the North Pacific Ocean.

2.2 Report of the Eleventh Regular Session of the Scientific Committee

NC11 will review issues arising from the Eleventh Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC11, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, 5-13 August 2015) as they relate to the Northern Committee.

2.3 Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks

2.3.1 Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2014-04)

NC will consider any proposals, and recommend a revised or new CMM for the Pacific bluefin tuna stock.

2.3.1.1 Review of CCM report

By 31 July 2015, NC members are, under paragraph 11, tasked to submit reports to the Executive Director relating to:

- i) measures they used to implement paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 13 of the CMM; and
- ii) results from monitoring the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna.

NC11 will review reports from CCMs on their domestic management measures and trade, and may suggest CCMs on actions to enhancing their compliance with this CMM.

2.3.1.2 Precautionary management framework and multi-annual rebuilding plan

NC will establish a precautionary-approach management framework. NC11 will consider appropriate reference points and actions to be taken in the event of specific limit reference points (LRPs) being breached, and review the multi-annual rebuilding plan (NC Work Programme and paragraphs 1 and 2 in CMM 2014-04).

2.3.1.3 Catch documentation scheme

NC11 will consider the establishment of a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna as a matter of priority (Paragraph 9, CMM 2014-04), noting that WCPFC CDS Intersessional Working Group meeting is scheduled to be held in Pohnpei, FSM, during 20-21 September 2015.

2.3.2 North Pacific albacore (CMM 2005-03)

NC will consider any proposals, and recommend a revised or new CMM for the North Pacific albacore stock.

2.3.2.1 Review of CCM report

According to the NC work programme, NC11 will review the compiled members' reports on catch and effort data based on CMM 2005-03 with updated catch and effort tables (Annex A, Attachment C of NC7 Summary Report) on NP albacore, and identify and rectify any shortcomings. Tasks will include (NC Work Programme):

- (1) Estimate the proportion of the total catch of albacore in the North Pacific Ocean (in the Convention Area, and/or across the entire North Pacific Ocean, as appropriate) that is effectively subject to the effort limits mandated in the CMM.
- (2) Determine how total effort across those fisheries has changed from 2002 through a review of members' reports of annual fishing effort by their vessels "fishing for" North Pacific albacore fisheries.

2.3.2.2 Precautionary management framework

NC11 will review the progress of ISC's management strategy evaluation (MSE) process for NP albacore, and provide comments/recommendations/requests to ISC for further task.

Regarding Task B for NP albacore in the NC Work Programme and Attachment D in NC10 Report, NC11 will monitor spawning stock biomass against the LRPs and consider the establishment of target reference points (TRPs) following a MSE. Task B states:

Implement the agreed precautionary approach-based management framework, including: (i) monitor if LRP is breached; (ii) establish TRP following MSE; (iii) recommend any changes to CMM 2005-03.

2.3.3 North Pacific swordfish

NC will consider any proposals, and recommend a new CMM for the North Pacific swordfish stock as required.

NC11 will consider management framework for NP swordfish and finalize interim management objective and reference points in light of the ISC2014 stock assessment.

2.4 Conservation and management measures for other stocks

2.4.1 Bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas (CMM 2014-01)

WCPFC11 adopted CMM 2014-01 (CMM for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean) and NC11 will consider any issues related to, or any impacts of, CMM 2014-01 on tuna fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean north of 20°N.

2.4.2 North Pacific striped marlin (CMM 2010-01)

ISC will provide the results of 2015 assessment for NC's consideration.

2.4.3 Sharks (CMM 2010-07, CMM 2011-04, CMM 2012-04, CMM 2013-08 and CMM 2014-05)

WCPFC adopted five shark-related measures. ISC will provide the results of 2015 assessment on shortfin mako shark for NC's consideration.

WCPFC11 agreed to task SC11 to prioritise work on determining the designation of North Pacific blue shark as a northern stock, including establishing the criteria and process for the designation

of northern stocks. NC11 will review the outcome of SC11's deliberation on this issue.

2.4.4 Seabirds (CMM 2012-07)

NC11 will receive reports from NC CCMs on the implementation of CMM 2012-07, as well as the status of introducing the mitigation measures to their fleets as required at paragraph 10 of the Measure for the area north of 23°N.

2.4.5 Sea turtles (CMM 2008-03)

NC11 will review any mitigation research results if available and consider possible management actions.

AGENDA ITEM 3 REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

Paragraph 4 of the Rules of procedure relating to the Northern Committee (Annex I, Rules of Procedure of the Commission) states that "The Northern Committee shall, by consensus, make recommendations on the implementation for the area north of 20° north parallel of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission."

WCPFC9 adopted CMM 2012-03, which states at paragraph 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."

In order to review the implementation of the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) in the NC area, NC10 requested each member to report its implementation of ROP to NC11. NC11 will review implementation of ROP for fishing vessels operating in the area north of 20°N.

AGENDA ITEM 4 VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

WCPFC11 adopted CMM 2014-02 which replaced CMM 2011-02, and VMS was activated in the area north of 20°N and west of 175°E since 31 December 2013.

NC11 may consider whether this agenda item be included for future meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 5 DATA

5.1 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 and North Pacific swordfish.

NC11 will review the progress of data submission and identify any additional data gaps.

AGENDA ITEM 6 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

6.1 ISC

NC11 will exchange views on further efforts to strengthen the cooperation with ISC.

6.2 IATTC

The 87th IATTC in 2014 adopted Resolution C-14-06 (Measures for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean 2015-2016). NC11 will continue to exchange views on cooperation with IATTC, especially in relation to Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore.

AGENDA ITEM 7 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 Work Programme for 2016-2018

The Committee will review, and revise as needed, its Work Programme adopted at NC10.

AGENDA ITEM 8 OTHER MATTERS

8.1 Administrative arrangements for the Committee

8.1.1 Secretariat functions and costs

NC11 is invited to review and further consider the operation of the NC Secretariat, and costs related with NC activities.

8.1.2 Rules of Procedure

Subject to any proposals tabled by CCMs, NC11 will consider Rules of Procedure for NC

8.2 Next meeting

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

8.3 Other business

NC11 will discuss any other business raised under Agenda Item 1.2.

AGENDA ITEM 9 ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

NC11 will adopt the Summary Report of its Eleventh 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.

AGENDA ITEM 10 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting is scheduled to close on 3 September 2015.