

**Report from the CCSBT Observer to the 9th Regular Session of
the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish
Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC)**
(2-6 December 2012, Manila, the Philippines)

CCSBT Observer (Korea)

1. The Ninth Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC9) took place from 2-6 December 2012 at Manila, Philippines, attended by 40 Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs), 10 inter-governmental organizations and 14 non-governmental organizations.

Matters directly related to the CCSBT were not discussed at the meeting.

Major Issues Discussed

2. Major agenda items included: 1) IATTC/WCPFC Overlap Area issues; and 2) REPLACEMENT MEASURE FOR CMM 2008-01 / CMM 2011-01 (tropical tuna measures).

3. Regarding the overlap area issue, WCPFC9 agreed to accept the short and long-term process as follows:

a. In the short term, the following applies:

i. Vessels listed exclusively in the WCPFC record of Fishing Vessels shall apply the conservation and management measures of the WCPFC when fishing in the overlap area;

ii. Vessels listed exclusively in the IATTC register shall apply the conservation and management measures of the IATTC when fishing in the overlap area;

iii. In the case of vessels listed in the record/register of both organizations, the corresponding flag Member shall decide and notify to both Commissions under which of the two commissions those vessels shall operate when fishing in the overlap area, as regards the application, for a period of not less than three years, of the conservation and management measures of that Commission.

iv. In the case of vessels listed in the record/register of both organizations, the vessels of a Cooperating Non-Member shall apply the conservation and management measures of the Commission of which it is a member, when fishing in the overlap area.

b. Initiate in parallel a longer-term process through the establishment of a joint working group to explore avenues for managing tuna stocks in the entire Pacific Ocean

4. Regarding tropical tuna measures, the participants had an extensive discussion on the Chair's draft. Opinions varied on major components such as FAD management, capacity and effort limitation, restrictions by fishery types and observers and the Commission could not draw a consensus on a concrete measure. To address the situation, a small working group was formed to produce a recommendation for CMM2012-01, which would be a single-year

measure. WCPFC9 adopted the tropical tuna management measure produced by the SWG and edited by the plenary as CMM 2012-01. Japan proposed to host a working group meeting on the draft multi-year management program for tropical tunas in Japan prior to TCC9. WCPFC9 agreed that TCC9 would focus on the draft multi-year management program for tropical tunas and compliance issues.

Other Adopted Measures (CMM) and Decisions

4. Measures on whale shark protection:

WCPFC9 adopted a CMM on the protection of whale sharks from purse seine fishing operations. As this measure did not include handling and safe release guidelines, WCPFC9 noted the need to continue development of such science-based guidelines through discussions at SC and TCC, including establishing field tests to assess handling, post-release mortality, practicality and effectiveness.

5. Charter notification extension:

WCPFC9 agreed to extend the CMM on charter notification (CMM 2011-05) for a three-year period.

6. Pacific Bluefin Tuna measure:

WCPFC9 adopted the NC's recommended CMM for PBF noting that the measure will be reviewed in 2013 pending the results of the soon to be completed ISC stock assessment.

7. Amendment to the seabird measure:

New Zealand introduced a proposal to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds, which was designed to allow higher latitude areas to utilize the most effective seabird mitigation measures and to align WCPFC-approved mitigation measures with those in other tuna RFMOs. WCPFC 9 adopted this proposed amendment.

8. WCPFC9 also agreed that the Commission will participate in the GEF ABNJ Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Project, with its in-kind co-financing in the amount of \$6,347,000.

Venue for Next Meeting

At WCPFC9, no offers for hosting the meetings were forthcoming and the Chair tasked the Executive Director with determining the most economically and logistically attractive venue for each meeting. At the meeting, it was decided that FSM would host the meeting as a default venue, but later, Australia offered to host WCPFC10 in Cairns from December 2-6, 2013.