

**Report from the CCSBT Observer to the 10th 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 2013, Cairns, Australia)

CCSBT Observer (Korea)

1. The Tenth Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC10) took place from 2-6 December 2013 at Cairn, Australia, attended by 39 Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs), 9 inter-governmental organizations and 17 non-governmental organizations.

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

**Major outcomes**

1. The Commission has received an instrument of ratification from Indonesia showing entry into force on 29 November 2013. Several CCMs congratulated Indonesia on its ratification of the Convention.

2. The Commission accepted the MOW2 and “Strawman” reports (i.e. a candidate list of management objectives, performance indicators, and target reference points (TRPs)) for the tropical longline fishery, the tropical purse seine fishery, the southern longline fishery, the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery and the North Pacific albacore fishery and agreed to hold an additional workshop on management options (MOW3) in 2014.

3. There was a report of the e-monitoring and e-reporting study. The objectives of the project were to: i) develop a common understanding and language of E-reporting and E-monitoring; ii) document and evaluate existing and future E-reporting and E-monitoring technologies; and iii) propose potential scenarios for implementation of E-reporting and E-monitoring in the WCPO tuna fisheries. WCPFC10 agreed that further discussions on E-reporting and E-monitoring should be held at a workshop in early 2014.

5. WCPFC10 accepted the six stock status and assessment recommendations of SC9. According to Kobe plots based on past years’ stock assessments and existing reference points, three of the four main tropical tuna stocks are in the green quadrant. However, all three are expected to track toward higher exploitation and lower biomass levels over time. Bigeye tuna are currently assessed as overfishing occurring but not being overfished; managing the stock to reduce fishing mortality on this stock is one of the key tasks for WCPFC. For the South Pacific albacore fishery, the uncertainty is relatively higher due to the nature of the fishery and the data available and in recent longline species composition has shifted toward a larger portion of the catch of South Pacific albacore in the southern hemisphere.

6. WCPFC10 accepted the twelve ecosystem and bycatch recommendations of SC9. i. Support the Bycatch Mitigation Information System; ii. Support ongoing development

of SEAPODYM; iii. CCMs to provide fine-scale data for use in SEAPODYM; iv. Consider an external review of SEAPODYM; v. Develop reference points for key shark species; vi. Develop safe release guidelines for sharks; vii. Implement logsheets showing retained and discarded sharks; viii. Develop an integrated and comprehensive shark CMM; ix. Consider measures to reduce mortality on overfished sharks; x. Investigate the vessel length-based exclusion from seabird mitigation measures in the North Pacific; xi. Forward the ACAP seabird identification guide to observer programmes; and xii. Undertake a pilot project on E-monitoring in a WCPFC longline fishery.

7. WCPFC10 adopted TCC9 recommendations;

- i. Extend the manual reporting requirements under the VMS SSPs for one year
- ii. Exempt vessels in good standing on the FFA Vessel Register from requirements to submit a VTAF;
- iii. Agree guidelines for timely submission of ROP data;
- iv. Include HSBI elements in the CMR process;
- v. Task the Secretariat with preparing a report on transshipment activities;
- vi. Task the Scientific Services Provider with providing specific information on South Pacific Swordfish to SC10;
- vii. Agree the definition of a purse seine day in transit;
- viii. Clarify that for CMM 2005-03, the reporting responsibility lies with the flag State; and
- ix. Clarify that CCMs identify in their 2014 Annual Report Part 2 which metric they used to calculate the percentage of longline observer coverage for 2013.

8. WCPFC10 adopted a new CMM

- i. for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme
- ii. concerning Standards, Specifications and Procedures for the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels
- iii. new requirements for a unique vessel identifier for inclusion in the CMM for the Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorisation to Fish
- iv. on daily catch and effort reporting
- v. on no-retention of silky sharks which included amendments to i) restrict the scope to silky sharks caught in the WCPF Convention Area, ii) amend the measure based on the latest stock assessment results, and iii) delay implementation of the proposal until 1 July 2014
- vi. for Pacific bluefin tuna, to replace CMM 2012-06 as the status of stock was assessed as being heavily overfished and experiencing low recruitment for 2011-2012. This situation suggests i) there is considerable risk of the spawning stock biomass falling below its historic low level, and ii) current management is likely to be less effective than expected. Therefore the CMM calls for a 15% reduction in F for 2014 only and requires monitoring of recruitment and development of an emergency response if recruitment is extremely low. The CMM includes a rebuilding program that requested the ISC to analyse 7 management scenarios, with the result of which the NC is supposed to renew the CMM for Pacific bluefin tuna.
- vii. on criteria for consideration of the impact of conservation and management proposals on SIDS and Participating Territories

vii. operationalizing the special requirements of SIDS and territories

**Venue for Next Meeting**

The Chair announced that WCPFC11 will be held in Apia, Samoa from December 1-5, 2014 and WCPFC12 will be held in Bali, Indonesia.