

Report from the CCSBT Observer (Republic of Korea) to the Nineteenth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) (Da Nang, Vietnam, 28 November-3 December, 2022)

1. The 19th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission took place from 28 November to 3 December, 2022 in Da Nang, Vietnam. 31 Members & Participating Territories, Cooperating Non-Members (CNM) and a number of NGOs participated in the meeting.
2. WCPFC19 adopted, among others, the CMM on a Management Procedure for Skipjack Tuna, the Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore, the CMM for North Pacific Swordfish and a revised CMM for Sharks.
3. WCPFC19 agreed on a Process to negotiate a revised Tropical Tuna Measure in 2023 and WCPFC20 will discuss the issue further this year.
4. WCPFC19 also agreed to include Climate Change as a standing agenda item and to prioritize discussion of how best to incorporate climate change information and analyses in its work.
5. WCPFC19 agreed to grant cooperating non-member status to Curaçao, El Salvador, Ecuador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam for 2023.
6. No change was made to the WCPFC IUU Vessel List. Three existing vessels - the Neptune, Fu Lien No.1 and Yu Fong 168 - remained on the List.
7. Ms. Jung-re Riley Kim completed her term as the Commission Chair after 4 years' service. Dr. Josie Tamate from Niue and Mr. Fukuda Takumi from Japan were appointed as the new Commission Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.
8. Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian from the Republic of Marshall Islands was appointed as the new Executive Director of WCPFC.
9. It was agreed that WCPFC20 would be held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in 2023.
10. There wasn't any discussion on CCSBT-related issues at WCPFC19.