

Report from the CCSBT Observer to the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

The Republic of Korea

1. The 13th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) was held from December 5-9, 2016 in Denarau Island, Fiji. 31 Contracting Members, Cooperating Non-members (CNM) and NGOs participated in the meeting. The 13th Regular Session followed a series of subsidiary body meetings—the Scientific Committee, the Northern Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee meetings.
2. WCPFC 13 approved CNM status to Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Thailand, and Vietnam for 2017.
3. The Commission agreed to adopt the revised “Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission” decision.
4. The Commission approved the Terms for a Review of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme which is to occur in 2017 and agreed to adopt several Conservation and Management Measures including:
 - i) CMM 2016-02 Conservation and Management Measure for the Eastern High Seas Pocket, which will replace CMM 2010-02;
 - ii) CMM 2016-03 Conservation and Management Measure for the Protection of WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Observers; and
 - iii) CMM 2016-05 Conservation and Management Measure for Charter Notification Scheme, which will replace CMM 2015-05.
5. The Commission adopted the 2017 WCPFC IUU Vessel List.
6. WCPFC13 noted the following issues would also be progressed as part of or alongside the further development of the Bridging Tropical Tuna measure: purse seine capacity management and high seas transshipment controls.
7. WCPFC13 agreed on the following process for progressing the development of the Bridging Tropical Tuna CMM:
 - i) commence work on the Bridging CMM electronically in the early part of 2017, focusing on the structure of the measure and provisions that are not dependent on scientific advice. Best efforts will be made to make this electronic process as inclusive as possible; and
 - ii) task the Secretariat with exploring options and potential funding for hosting a WCPFC meeting following SC13, to further progress the development of the Bridging Tropical Tuna CMM.
8. The Commission agreed that the Memorandum of Cooperation on the Exchange and Release of Data with CCSBT should be signed.

9. WCPFC14 will be held from 1-7 December 2017 in the Philippines.