

## **Report from the CCSBT Observer to the 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)**

1-5 December, 2014 (Apia, Samoa)

CCSBT Observer (Korea)

### **I. Overview**

The 11th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) took place in Apia, Samoa from 1 to 5 December, 2015. Around 600 delegates from 41 members, cooperating non-members and participating territory (CCMs) governments, and 45 intergovernmental organizations and NGOs attended the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Charles Karnella (US). Pending the election for a new Executive Director, Dr. Lara Manarangi-trott (Cook Islands), Compliance Manager of the Commission, served as the interim Executive Director.

### **II. Proposals for Consideration of WCPFC 11<sup>1</sup>**

Seven proposals for new conservation and management measures (CMM) were tabled and discussed at WCPFC11:

- ✓ Port State Measures proposal (FFA);
- ✓ Harvest Strategy Proposal (FFA);
- ✓ two proposals on target reference point for skipjack (PNA, Tokelau, and Japan);
- ✓ CMM for provision of operational-level catch and effort data (FFA); and
- ✓ CMM for Fishing Access Agreements and Information (European Union).

A host of other proposals were also submitted to modify or extend the existing CMMs<sup>2</sup>:

- ✓ CMM 2013-01 (Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack);
- ✓ CMM 2010-05 (South Pacific Albacore);
- ✓ CMM 2010-07 (Sharks); CMM 2013-09 (Pacific Bluefin);
- ✓ CMM 2012-07 (Mitigating Impacts of Fishing on seabirds);
- ✓ CMM 2013-02 (Compliance Monitoring Scheme);
- ✓ CMM 2013-03 (Record of Fishing Vessels SSPs); and
- ✓ CMM 2007-01 (Regional Observer Programme) and CMM 2011-02 (Commission VMS).

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<sup>1</sup> source: WCPFC website

<sup>2</sup> these proposals were discussed during WCPFC11 plenary and through a “small working group”

### **III. Key Outcomes**

The CCMs agreed, among others, on:

- ✓ the modification of the tropical tuna measure (CMM2013-01) that i) extended 2014 high seas purse seine effort limits, 2014 purse seine and 2014 longline catch measures for yellowfin tuna to 2015; and ii) included new section related to provision of operational level catch and effort data by CCMs;
- ✓ new CMM on establishing a harvest strategy for key fisheries and stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;
- ✓ new CMM on Sharks, to complement existing shark CMMs and which specifies the measures to be used commencing 1 July 2015 in longline fisheries to mitigate impacts of fishing on sharks;
- ✓ adoption of CMM to establish a multi-annual rebuilding plan for Pacific Bluefin Tuna, as recommended by the Northern Committee;
- ✓ extension of CMM for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme for 2015;
- ✓ approval of refinements to the Record of Fishing Vessels Standards, Specifications and Procedures (CMM 2013-03);
- ✓ establishment of a trial WCPFC Port Coordinators Programme for 2015 and 2016; and
- ✓ adoption of the WCPFC IUU list for 2015 (CMM 2010-06)

### **IV. Election of Officers and Next Meetings**

Mr Feleti Teo ( Tuvalu) was officially appointed as a new WCPFC Executive Director to begin his service from March 2015.

Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian (the Marshalls), the Chair of TCC10, was appointed as a new Commission Chair to preside over the 12<sup>th</sup> regular session of the WCPFC from 3-8 December, 2015, in Bali, Indonesia.

Ms. Alexa Cole (US) was appointed as a new Chair for TCC 11 to take place from 23-29 September, 2015, in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

There was no chairship change for SC and NC: SC11, to be chaired by Mr Ludwig Kumoru (Papua New Guinea) was to take place from 5-13, August 2015, in Pohnpei, FSM; and NC11 was to be chaired by Mr Masanori Miyahara (Japan), in early September, Japan. It was later informed that the NC meeting would take place from 31 August to 3 September, 2015 in Sapporo, Japan.