

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN
and
THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (hereafter IOTC);

NOTING that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPF Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific ocean;

NOTING FURTHER that the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (hereafter IOTC Agreement) seeks to promote cooperation with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of tuna and tuna-like species and to and encourage the sustainable development of such species within the area of competence of the IOTC;

CONSIDERING that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention calls upon the WCPFC to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations, including the IOTC;

CONSIDERING FURTHER that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention provides that, where the WCPFC Convention Area overlaps with an area under regulation by another fisheries management organization, the WCPFC shall cooperate with such other organization in order to avoid the duplication of measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by both organizations;

NOTING that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention specifically calls upon the WCPFC to cooperate with the IOTC and to initiate consultation with the IOTC with a view of reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance, for fish stocks that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations;

NOTING FURTHER that Article XV of the IOTC Agreement calls on the IOTC to cooperate and make appropriate arrangements with other intergovernmental organizations, in particular with any intergovernmental organization or institution dealing with tunas in the area of competence of the IOTC and to seek to promote complementarity and to avoid duplication and conflict;

BEARING IN MIND that there is an overlap of the geographical area that falls within the area of competence of both the WCPFC the IOTC;

CONSCIOUS that some members of the WCPFC and the IOTC are members of both organizations;

AWARE that there are stocks and species covered by both the WCPFC Convention and the IOTC Agreement that migrate through areas of competence of both organizations;

DESIRING to put into place arrangements and procedures to promote cooperation called for by the WCPFC Convention and the IOTC Agreement in order to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of species which are within the competence of both organizations

DESIRING FURTHER to promote complementarity and to avoid duplication in and conflict in the activities of the two organizations;

NOW THEREFORE the WCPFC and the IOTC record the following understandings:

1. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The WCPFC and the IOTC agree to establish and maintain consultation, co-operation and collaboration in respect to matters of common interest to the two organizations, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- i. exchange of data and information consistent with the information-sharing policies of each Commission;
- ii. collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including stock assessments; and
- iii. conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest.

2. MANNER OF COOPERATION

2.1 Cooperation between the WCPFC and the IOTC shall include;

- i. reciprocal participation as observers in relevant meetings of each organization, including those of each organization's subsidiary bodies;
- ii. information sharing about stocks and species of mutual interest;
- iii. development of process to promote harmonization and compatibility of conservation and management measures as relevant, including measures relating to monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement; and
- iv. active and regular exchange of relevant meeting reports, information, research data and results, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest.

2.2 Consultative Meeting of Secretariats

To facilitate the effective development and implementation of cooperative measures, the WCPFC and the IOTC agree to establish an annual consultative meeting of the Secretariats to be known as the WCPFC-IOTC Consultative Meeting.

The WCPFC-IOTC Consultative Meeting will attempt to meet in the margins of meetings at which both Secretariats are represented by appropriate staff as determined by the Executive Secretaries.

A report of the each WCPFC-IOTC Consultative Meeting will be circulated to members of both Commissions.

3. MODIFICATIONS, AMENDMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to modification and amendment by the mutual consent of both Commissions.

4. TERMINATION

Either organization may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months notice of intentions to terminate to the other organization.

ARTICLE 5: SIGNATURE

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission:

Glenn Hurry

Chairman, WCPFC

Chairman, IOTC

Date:

Date: