
**PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION FOR
THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND
CENTRAL PACIFIC**

Fifth session
Rarotonga, Cook Islands
29 September – 3 October

WCPFC/PrepCon/33
3 October 2003

WORKING GROUP III: MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE

Summary report by the Chairman of the Working Group to the fifth session of
the Preparatory Conference

1. Working Group III held two meetings during the fifth session of the Preparatory Conference.
2. In accordance with its tentative work programme as agreed at the third session (WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.6, paragraph 21), and the information note on the work of WG.III at PrepCon V circulated by the Chairman of the Working Group before the fifth session, the Working Group discussed the revised draft boarding and inspection scheme prepared by the Chairman (WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.14/Rev.1).
3. As a result of its discussions on the revised draft boarding and inspection scheme, WG.III requested the Chairman of the Working Group, with the assistance of the Interim Secretariat, to revise the draft boarding and inspection scheme in light of the proposals and suggestions that had been made for further discussion at PrepCon VI. It was noted that the work of the Chairman of the Working Group and the Interim Secretariat would be greatly facilitated if delegations would, in addition to the comments and suggestions noted during the discussion, provide written comments and proposals on the draft scheme to the Chairman during the intersessional period.
4. WG.III also considered its future work programme and priorities for PrepCon VI. The Working Group noted that although it had made substantial progress in elaborating the Commission boarding and inspection scheme, it had not had time to discuss the draft guidelines on the rights, duties and responsibilities for observers captains and crew (WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.17), vessel and gear marking systems (WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.18), and the Commission's vessel monitoring system. WG. III agreed that these matters should be revisited at the next session.
5. It was also agreed that, in addition to completing the discussion on the draft boarding and inspection scheme, the following monitoring control and surveillance needs of the Commission should be discussed in the following order of priority:
 - (a) the Commission's record for vessels and authorization to fish;
 - (b) Commission vessel monitoring system;
 - (c) the observer programme;
 - (d) a vessel and gear marking scheme; and,

(e) Port State control.

6. In relation to the preparatory work needed to further the discussion of the Commission's record for vessels and authorization to fish, WG.III agreed that the next step should be for a small group to work in cooperation with the Chairman and Interim Secretariat to begin the process of developing such a record. Volunteers for participation in this process included Japan, the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency and the European Community.

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