



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SIXTH REGULAR SESSION
Nuku'alofa, Tonga
10-19 August 2010**

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

WCPFC-SC6-2010/GN-IP-01

Date: 1 August 2010

I. Science Services from SPC-OFP

1. The commission renewed the MOU with the Commission's Science Service Provider (Secretariat of the Pacific Community - Oceanic Fisheries Programme; SPC-OFP) who provides science and data management services. This arrangement has been in place since 2006 and Annex 1 of the agreement is refined annually to accommodate the schedule of work for each calendar year. In 2009, the Commission and the SPC agreed to revise the MOU with SPC to provide for a three-year arrangement as directed by the Commission. The components of the services include:

- Data management, statistical analyses and related services
 - Data Management
 - Compilation of catch and effort estimates
 - Data dissemination
 - Technical / policy advice
 - Support of other data-related projects of the Commission
- Stock assessment and related analytical services
 - Stock assessments and auxiliary analyses
 - Model development and refinement
- Management analyses and CMM performance monitoring
 - Conservation and Management Measure performance monitoring
 - Analyses to support development of Conservation and Management Measures
- Other advisory and technical services
- Ecological Risk Assessment and associated activities

2. In addition to producing 28 papers, reports or data summaries for SC6 and providing *ad hoc* advice and support throughout the year, the SPC-OFP i) assisted the West Pacific East Asia Project by participating in the establishment data collection infrastructure in Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam, including assisting various workshops on port sampling, logbook, training database manager, etc.; ii) convened Preparatory Stock Assessment Workshop for the WCPO stocks, and iii) conducted Pacific Tuna Tagging Project (PTTP) and coordinated PTTP Steering Committee Meeting.

II. SC5 Summary Report

3. The Secretariat published electronic and hard copies of the 2010 Commission and its subsidiary meetings, including the 5th Scientific Committee Summary Report. Hard copies were distributed to all CCMs.

III. Cooperation with other organizations

4. The Secretariat was represented at the following science-related meetings during the last 12 months:

- WPEA Consultation Meeting and Port Sampling Workshop in Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam, 2-18 March, 2010;
- WCPFC stock assessment preparatory workshop, 6-10 April 2010, Noumea, New Caledonia;
- Forum Fisheries Committee meeting, 8-14 May 2010, Honiara, Solomon Island;
- OECD Workshop – the Economics of Adapting Fisheries to Climate Change, 10-11 June 2010, Busan, Korea;
- Joint Tuna RFMO Workshop on the provision of scientific advice, MCS, Bycatch and tuna management, 30 May-5 June and 23 June – 1 July 2010, Barcelona and Brisbane;
- WPEA Policy, Legal and Institutional Workshops, 14-18 June 2010, Jakarta and Hanoi
- The 1st Commission's Special Session, 2 July 2010, Brisbane; and
- The 10th ISC and its Statistics Working Group meetings, 16-26 July 2010, Victoria, Canada.

IV. Western Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Project

5. Collection of reliable data collection is one of top priority issues of the Commission's science. Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam waters are estimated to produce over 25% of the total tuna catch in the WCPO, but data provision from that area has been insufficient and identified as one of the biggest sources of the uncertainty in stock assessment. In order to address these data gaps, the Commission has been conducting Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Project (IPDCP) funded by its Members through their voluntary contribution. Following a request from the IPDCP Project Steering Committee, the Secretariat prepared a funding proposal for the GEF to support a long term project to complement the IPDCP – including extending project activities to Vietnam. The project proposal was accepted by the GEF Secretariat in late 2007 with a 3-year budget of about US\$1 million for the three countries. The project initiated on 6 January 2010, focusing on establishing a monitoring system, data enhancement and fishery assessment, and enhancing policy, institutional strengthening and management of tuna fisheries . The Secretariat is currently initiating the second phase of the project. The second WPEA Project Steering Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on 14th August 2010, during the SC6 meeting.

V. Japanese Trust Fund Project

Thirteen project applications were received for 2010, with 11 projects selected for funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund. The number of projects approved is:
SPC – 2, Kiribati - 2, 1 each from FSM, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Tonga, Niue, Samoa, co-funding for WPEA data collection program. The deadline for JTF project application submissions for 2011 is 31 December, 2010. The JTF Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for 11th of August, 2010.

VI. Other Work Programme Activities

- 1) Formulation of the WPEA OFM annual work plan for 2010 and implementation of the activities – to be discussed at the Project Steering Committee meeting;
- 2) Refinement of bigeye parameters Pacific-wide: A comprehensive review and study of bigeye tuna reproductive biology – pilot project report (end of the 2-year Pilot Study Phase) will be presented at SC6;
- 3) Regional study of the stock structure and life-history characteristics of South Pacific albacore – the 2nd year progress report will be presented at SC5;
- 4) Review Workshop on the PTTP – to be reported to SC6
- 5) Utilize underwater videos and other tools to characterize species, size composition and spatial distribution of tunas aggregating around floating objects – to be reported to SC6
- 6) Collection and evaluation of purse-seine species composition data – the 2nd year project report will be presented at SC6;
- 7) Study on FAD management and monitoring – PNG donated funds for this study and the terms of reference and scope of the study may be discussed at SC6 during the Fishing Technology Theme Session
- 8) Participation of experts in Preparatory Stock Assessment Workshop and tuna-RFMO Workshops