



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SIXTH REGULAR SESSION**

10-19 August 2010
Nuku'alofa, Tonga

**Issues to be addressed from the Independent Review of the
Commission's Transitional Science Structure and Functions**

WCPFC-SC6-2010/GN-IP-03

Prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The paper WCPFC-SC5-2009/GN-WP-08 was considered at SC5 identifying summary issues from the *Final Report on Independent Review of the Commission's Transitional Science Structure and Functions* (WCPFC-SC5-2009/GN-WP-07) produced by Marine Resources Assessment Group (UK). The Scientific Committee's response to the issues raised in the paper was recorded as Attachment Q of the SC5 Summary Report.

2. WCPFC6 endorsed SC5's recommendation on paragraph 404 ("*SC5 recommended that issues from Attachment Q that require further discussion be raised with WCPFC and its subsidiary bodies at subsequent meetings*"). The table below lists the issues for further consideration.

Recommended Item	Response from SC5	Options for review at SC6
I. Data Custodianship		
5) Incorporation of ISC data into the WCPFC holdings	5) Will be addressed	5) WCPFC data inventory was developed and delivered to ISC10. ISC's Statistics WG briefly compared the WCPFC and ISC inventories and found few differences. ISC corresponded with SPC's database manager during the meeting to resolve any issues. ISC has not yet provided their data inventory to WCPFC. Given the situation, the Secretariat will continue to liaise with ISC to obtain its data inventory and complete the report on data gaps by October 1 st , 2010. An earlier draft of ST-WP-03 was presented to ISC with options of draft mechanisms for the periodic exchange of data to address gaps in the data for North Pacific stocks. The ISC preferred the option of having annual consultative meetings between ISC and WCPFC, and possibly IATTC. The SC may choose to develop terms of reference for these annual consultative meetings, and to send

		this to ISC and IATTC for their input.
<p>II. Science Structure and Functions</p> <p>5.a) Implement periodic external peer review process</p> <p>6.b) To support robust science within the ISC</p> <p>i. Additional review by the SC and external peer review</p> <p>ii. For transparency, promote wider participation in ISC's assessment activities, and sufficient funding</p> <p>iii. SC and NC, with funding support, request ISC of validation work on key ISC assessments</p> <p>7.b) Specialist working (now Theme) groups and related processes</p> <p>i. Strengthening Stock Assessment Preparatory Workshop (SAPW) by the WCPFC taking ownership of that activity with appropriate funding support</p> <p>ii. Incorporate the BI-SWG and ME-SWG into SAPW</p> <p>iii. Revise the Terms of Reference of the SAPW to include provision for agreement on</p>	<p>5.a) partially addressed and adopted</p> <p>6.b)</p> <p>i. Not addressed</p> <p>ii. Not addressed</p> <p>iii. Not addressed</p> <p>7.b)</p> <p>i. Generally support SAPW, strongly support to remain as an informal meeting, including relevant biological and methodological papers. SPC will facilitate the workshop.</p> <p>ii. Incorporate relevant biology and methods papers into SAPW</p> <p>iii. Revisit at SC6</p>	<p>5. a) WCPFC6 agreed that the 2010 BET assessment should be the target of the peer review exercise. The results of this exercise to be reported to WCPFC no later than WCPFC8 (WCPFC6, para.67). SC6 will further consider and refine Section 10.2 of the SC5 Summary Report including budget implications. SC6 may review a summary table of the Section 10.2 (Attachment 1)</p> <p>6.b) to be discussed at SC6</p> <p>i. SC6 will further consider the need for external peer review of ISC's stock assessment with its budget implications if needed.</p> <p>ii. ISC meetings are open to experts from the WCPFC-SC. SC may consider any budget implications related to this participation.</p> <p>iii. SC6 to develop cooperative measures to validate ISC assessments</p> <p>7.b) This will be discussed at SC6. The current terms of reference for the SAPW is attached (WCPFC-SC6-2010/GN-WP-04)</p>

<p>data inputs, model runs and the setting of an appropriate timetable</p> <p>iv. Identify risks and seek solutions to address such risks when SAPW is expanded</p> <p>v. Promote the participation of ISC and IATTC in the Themes to promote coordination of ocean-wide assessments and include northern stocks in the agenda of the SAPW</p>	<p>iv. Inclusion of presentations within the SC of significant issues as identified in the SAPW</p> <p>v. Funding and time considerations</p>	
<p>III. Implementation</p> <p>8) Implementation of the recommendations</p> <p>a. Develop a work plan for the implementation of these recommendations</p>		

Draft plan for the process of peer review

(Reference: SC5 Report paragraphs 399-401, WCPFC6 Report paragraph 67)

Time	Activity	Remarks
April-July 2010	BE stock assessment	
August 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select reviewers at SC6 Propose detailed budget for the peer review 	Options may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CCMs b) other RFMOs (e.g. IATTC) c) the Center for Independent Experts — a group affiliated with the University of Miami (USA) that provides independent peer reviews of the US National Marine Fisheries Service science nationwide, including reviews of stock assessments for fish and marine mammals d) MRAG.
WCPFC7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt peer review process and budget 	
Sep.2010-Jan2011 (or Jan-Feb 2011, subject to budget issues)	Review 2010 BE SA and submit interim review report to PSAW	
Feb -Apr 2011 (or Mar-Apr 2011, subject to budget issues)	SA group to provide comments on interim report	Reviewer(s) may participate in PSAW (cost)
Jun-Jul 2011	Undertake a short review of the completed 2011 SA report, complete the review report and post on website	
Aug 2011	SC7 will review the completed review report	Reviewer(s) may participate in SC7 (cost)
Dec 2011	The results of the peer review for the WCPO bigeye assessment should be reported to the WCPFC no later than WCPFC8, Dec 2011	