



**WEST PACIFIC EAST ASIA
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

**PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
FOURTH SESSION**

13:30-16:00, Saturday, 11 August 2012
PEARL ROOM, Busan Lotte Hotel, Busan, Korea



WCPFC-SC8-2012/RP-WPEA-08

**KEY NOTES REPORTED TO UNDP FOR 2012 APR /PIR FOR PIMS 4084: WEST PACIFIC
EAST ASIA OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

Description of Indicator	Level at 30 June 2012
1.1.1 Expanded port sampling coverage of tunas and associated species	N/A - the existing scope of port sampling continued as scheduled.
1.1.2 Procedures for the processing of catch data and raising procedures in place	The 3rd Port Sampling Data Review Workshop and the 5th Philippine/WCPFC Annual Tuna Catch Estimates Review Workshop were held during 14-18 May 2012. Estimated annual total catches by species and gear were submitted to WCPFC/SPC for 2012 stock analysis. The progress in Philippines is very satisfactory.
1.1.3 Enhanced operational level data collection (logsheets)	Logbook data collection in Philippines is over 50% - this high coverage rate is due to EU's requirement for the import of fishery products. Logbook data collection continued in 2012 and progress in Philippines is very satisfactory.
1.1.4 Development of strategic plan for observer programme	Philippines conducted a workshop on observer briefing-debriefing and produced two types of Observer Manual: 1) Observer Operations Manual for Ringnet and Purse Seine and 2) Observer Operational Manual for Longline. Data collection from observer programme continued in 2012. Progress of observer programme is very good in Philippines.
1.2.1 Audit of existing pilot port sampling at two sites, in agreed format	Sampling protocol and data collection are usually audited by WCPFC's data manager. In 2012, review of port sampling data is scheduled in November 2012.
1.2.2 Expanded port sampling coverage of tunas and associated species	A new sampling site "Biak" was selected as an expanded port sampling coverage area. Recruitment and training of new port samplers, purchase of sampling equipment and supervision of port sampling was planned in the annual work plan initiating in April 2012 but preparation of port sampling delayed its initiation of data collection. It is expected to start either in July or August 2012.
1.2.3 Capacity building in responsible agencies for processing and assimilation of catch data for tuna and assoc. species	A fishery data manager at the Research Center for Fisheries Management and Conservation (RCFMC), also working for the WPEA project, took an MS SQL database training course for this project. The 3rd Indonesian Tuna Fisheries Annual Catch

	<p>Estimates Workshop was planned to be convened in April but deferred to July 2012. July workshop will be sort of a consultation meeting between WCPFC's data manager and Indonesia's data related staff. Reliable estimation of annual tuna catches in Indonesia may not be available until decent amounts of logbook data are available. So implementation and collection of logbook data are the highest priority in Indonesia. However, for the Indonesian side, the logbook programme is a nation-wide programme and preparation and implementation are a bit slow progress, whereas WPEA project focuses on those in the Pacific-side only.</p>
<p>1.2.4 Pilot operational-level data collection, with progression to expanded data collection</p>	<p>The Fishing Port Authority in Bitung, Kendari and North Gorontalo collected logsheets for Area 716 from captain and they entered logsheet data into their databases. There's a slow process in compiling and analyzing logbook data at central government (DGCF). One of the main reasons in delaying the compilation of logbook data at DGCF (centralizing logbook data) will be insufficient resources (lack of or insufficient technical support, human resources, awareness of the fishermen, low enforcement and financial support) to cover the whole Indonesian waters, including Area 716 and 717, since it is a national level logbook programme. Regarding the possibility of compiling and submitting logbook data in Area 716 and 717 (and archipelagic waters) for WPEA project, an aggregated data from the logbook programme will be the best option. Logbook data can separate catches from territory waters, archipelagic waters, EEZ and high seas for the scientific purposes of the WCPFC. WPEA project will support DGCF for hosting awareness workshops at local provinces to enhance reporting rates of the logsheets.</p>
<p>1.2.5 Strategic plan for observer programme developed and implemented</p>	<p>Observer training workshop was planned to be convened in the later part of 2012. About ten government staff will be trained, subject to the approval of the government. The implementation of observer programme costs too much to be properly conducted under the current scale of project budget (no budget from GEF, all from co-financed budget). So cost-effective use of the budget should be re-considered at this stage.</p>
<p>1.3.1. Port sampling and data collection initiated in three provinces</p>	<p>Data collected from port sampling was reviewed by the Commission's data manager at the Third Vietnam Tuna Fishery Data Collection Workshop at Nha Trang, 22-24 November 2011. During 26-31, training workshops for the identification of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin in Vietnam surface tuna fisheries were convened at Nha Trang, Phu yen and Quy Nhon with port samplers. The first Vietnam Tuna Fishery Annual Catch Estimates Workshop (VTFACE-1) was held in Da Nang, 2-6 April 2012. Relevant workshop reports were produced.</p>
<p>1.3.2 Enhanced capacity in monitoring and data collection and analysis</p>	<p>Field trips for the supervision of port sampling at the three provinces have been conducted by the central government supervisors. National tuna coordinator attended SPC's Tuna Data Workshop to get training courses related to WCPFC data submission requirements.</p>

1.3.3 12 Pilot operational-level data collection, with progression to expanded data collection	Logbook data of LL, PS and gillnet fisheries from Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa have been collected and these data were used to estimate annual tuna catches in Vietnam.
1.3.4 Study tour of port sampling programmes in Philippines	This item was completed in 2011.
2.1.1 Data quality control training	Data managers from Philippines and Vietnam attended SPC's Tuna Data Workshop in April 2012. Logbook data manager in Indonesia is planned to be trained later part of 2012.
2.1.2 Collaborative tuna tagging activity in-country (Philippines, Indonesia)	In Philippines, the number of tuna tags recovered is in total 1514 conventional tags and one archival tag in 2010 and 794 conventional tags in 2011. No tag-recovery was reported in Indonesia and Vietnam, the reason of which is assumed that no tuna fishing operations were conducted beyond their national jurisdictional waters.
2.1.3 National data coordination and research (where currently absent)	The work of national tuna coordinators continued in 2011 - 2012. They are in charge of implementing all WPEA project activities in their countries.
3.1.1 Data analysis and stock assessment training	WPEA used to support participation of the stock assessment scientists of the three participating countries to SPC's Stock Assessment Workshops. In 2012, this workshop was not held because of SPC's peer review workshop in April. Instead, WPEA supports the country's participation in WCPFC's Scientific Committee meeting in August 2012, which includes intensive discussion in stock assessments of key tunas, billfishes and sharks.
3.1.2 Database and analytical training	As done in the previous year, similar activities have been conducted, which includes training of data managers of the participating countries, annual audits of port samplings, and review of tuna catch data collected from port sampling.
3.1.3 Preparation of national fishery status reports	All three countries were planned to submit annual report on tuna fisheries and science to WCPFC. They also developed national tuna fishery profiles, which have been updated and refined. The tuna fishery profile reports will be finalized in October/November 2012.
4.1.1 Review of policy and legal arrangements for WCPFC-related matters;	In the case of Philippines and Vietnam, any progress on the reform of policy, legal and institutional (PLI) arrangements in relation to WCPFC requirements has been reviewed through the PLI workshops. In the case of Indonesia, revisit of the review report was conducted to finalize the review report. All reports are planned to be finalized in October/November 2012.
4.1.2 Review of institutional arrangements	At the review workshop on PLI issues, institutional arrangements were also reviewed and one of the most important issues was collaboration among agencies on WCPFC issues. Establishing a new structure or system within individual government does not seem to be simple at this stage.
4.2.1 Identify reform necessary to existing arrangements	Through PLI review workshops, Philippines and Vietnam reviewed all checklist items and identified any new fishery laws, regulations, and decrees that have been legislated according to the recommendations in the review report. The progress report was produced in the case of Philippines and finalization of the

	progress report is on-going in the case of Vietnam.
5.1.1 Prepare checklist of compliance shortfalls	The PLI-WS reviewed the check-lists of analyzed gaps between each of their national policy, legal and institutional arrangements and WCPFC requirements. Review workshops have been convened to review the progress in addressing the gaps and recommendations identified. This activity will continue.
6.1.1 Establish appropriate KLM in all countries	The WCPFC Commission has the WPEA project website for posting key activity outputs and each country also maintain their website to post their outputs. Each country also invites all relevant stakeholders to local workshops and share views, information and outputs together. Each country maintains the list of emails and contacts for communications with their stakeholders.
6.2.1 National body coordinating provincial and national work	In Philippines, NTIC's activities are active but administrative coordination is not so strong. So WPEA workshop considered how to strengthen the coordination of NTIC activities and identified to hire one staff to fully devote to the work of NTIC. In Indonesia, review report on national level tuna association activities are on the verge of finalization. In Vietnam, national level tuna association, called VINATUNA, was constructed but less experience in tuna association activities made a suggestion of study tour to advanced countries. Korea offered an invitation to Vietnam and coordination of a study tour to Korea is under progress.
7.1.1 Assistance provided to develop NTMPs in two countries and revise in the third	National tuna management plans of the three participating countries were reviewed and updated during the PLI workshop in May and June 2012. Some part of the plan was requested to be updated. The plan will be finalized at October/November PLI workshop.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS – Key outputs delivered

Project Outcomes	Outputs reported as of 30 June 2012
Outcome 1	
	Continued collection of size composition data and landing data contributed to the understanding of sub-regional tuna stock structure and to the regional stock assessment conducted by the WCPFC. It also contributed reliability of stock assessment outputs in 2011. Specifically, more accurate estimates of total catch by species from Indonesia and Philippines, more accurate estimates of species-specific catches by major fishing gear types in both Indonesia and Philippines, and the first size composition data from Indonesian tuna fisheries in more than two decades.
	Review workshops on the sampling protocol and tuna data collected from port sampling and review workshops for annual tuna catch estimates provided better and more reliable annual total catch estimates. These estimated annual catches by gear and species were directly used in the western and central tuna stock assessments.
	In many cases, tuna catch data in the three countries are not specified by gear or by species or by both. Tuna catch data from several sources are compiled first to identify total catch by species. Then logsheet data provided proportion among gear types, which are used to estimate total annual catch by species and gear. In addition, logbook data can provide operational level data, though such quality data are not available at this stage.
Outcome 2	
	The WCPFC has data requirements for its members which are described in the “Scientific data to be provided to the Commission”. Some developing countries like the WPEA participating countries do not have enough capacity to submit such quality data as requested by the Commission. WPEA supported various tools and techniques so that the participating countries fully comply with the Commission’s data requirements. A database programme was updated and maintained, an annual data quality control was conducted, and the audits of data and databases have been conducted on an annual basis.
	Tag recovery programme continued in 2011 and recovered tags were returned to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for the study of the behavior of regional stock movements. Currently WCPO tuna assessment is conducted by six assessment regions and movements between the assessment regions are one of the biggest uncertainty. Fish movements from the tagging data reduce the uncertainty between such regions.
	The three countries initiated the reconstruction of tuna catch histories and started developing tuna data inventory as the first step. This will take more than one year but recovered data will reduce uncertainty in regional stock assessment.
Outcome 3	
	Scientific capacities of the three participating countries used to be very weak, especially related with tuna science. As described in Outcome 1 and 2, assistance to port sampling, logbook programme, and observer programme increased a lot the fishery monitoring capacity, partially satisfying the data submission obligations of the WCPFC members and cooperating non-members. WPEA also supported participation of the country’s scientists in the stock assessment workshops, hosted by the SPC, and in the WCPFC Scientific Committee. This support increased their understanding in tuna stock assessment and better represented at the Scientific Committee with quality questions and responses. The participants also introduced what they learned from WCPFC science to their national scientists through local workshops.

	Continued support to the participation of the country's government staff in the Tuna Data Workshops hosted by the SPC-OFP greatly increased their understanding in why data are needed in tuna management, what kind of data to be collected, what analysis should be done before submission and what kind of data to be submitted to the Commission. Full understanding of these requirements and actual processing with the Commission's data manager by compiling and analyzing their data they brought to the workshop greatly enhanced the country's capacity. The increased capacity also improved the timeliness submission of and quality of country data to the Commission, which in turn provides critical input to regional stock assessments.
	Various activities of the WPEA provided lots of data and information for the country's annual reporting requirements to WCPFC. The work of WCPFC is a region basis and its member's contribution to WCPFC can be interpreted as regional contribution to fishery monitoring, stock assessment and ecosystem management.
Outcome 4	
	Management of highly migratory fish stocks like tunas generally requires four steps: data collection, stock assessment, allocation of total catch and effort, and evaluation of compliance. The level of contribution to the regional tuna management is largely based on the country's awareness of, understanding in, and responsible attitude toward regional-level tuna management. Through various workshops on the review of policy, legal and institutional arrangements in line with WCPFC requirements, on the development of national tuna management plan, on the review of national level tuna association activities, on the development of tuna fishery profile reports, etc., each participating country has greatly improved their awareness and understanding in tuna management. Such improved awareness derived them legislate necessary fishery laws, regulations, and decrees, which then enabled them to fully comply with the WCPFC's conservation and management measures.
	Promotion of collaboration among stakeholders within each participating country is another type of member's contribution to regional management of shared migratory stocks. WPEA workshops invite all relevant stakeholders in the country and share views, positions and information to address awareness gaps among the Commission, government, and industries. This exchange of views and information among the stakeholders blocks unnecessary delay of the Commission's management actions, and contribute to the proper adoption of management measures.
Outcome 5	
	Through several review workshops on the policy, legal and institutional arrangements, each country updated the progress of implementing recommendations made by the previous workshops. The recommendations were how to address gaps between the current legal framework and WCPFC requirements. Though it is inherently slow, but each government developed several new laws and regulations to fully implement WCPFC Convention and conservation and management measures. Nation-wide implementation of logbook system, agreement on becoming full member to WCPFC and regulation of observer programme in Indonesia are examples.
Outcome 6	
	WPEA project has several activities that are require assistance from stakeholders: development of national tuna management plan, review of national level tuna association activities, and development of national tuna fishery profiles. All these activities cannot be achieved without involvement and assistance from tuna industries and tuna associations. Each country convenes several policy and legal workshops and always invited all relevant stakeholders from provinces for discussions, recommendations and conclusions on selected issues and agenda.

Outcome 7	
	<p>Through the exercise on the development of national tuna management plan, each country began to understand key components to be involved in oceanic fisheries management: data collection, assessment, management actions, compliance schemes, evaluations of the plan, etc. One key challenge at this stage is whether we can manage the highly migratory stocks on a local basis and if so, what kind of approaches can be considered. Most countries use quota allocation by species but the question is how such TAC can be calculated on a local basis. This will be a topic for the next workshop in October/November 2012.</p>

COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

1. Tell the Story of Your Project and What has been Achieved this Reporting Period

The West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA) focuses on two components: 1) Fisheries monitoring, data enhancement and fishery assessment; and 2) Policy, legal and institutional strengthening and fishery management. The first component largely focuses on hiring of port samplers and collection of biological size data, and data collection from logbook programmes. The lack of sufficient fishery data leads to high uncertainty in stock assessment, increasing the risk of unsustainable management of regional tuna stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. This project has greatly enhanced the quality of Indonesian and Philippine fishery data that are applied to regional tuna stock assessments conducted for the WCPFC. Specifically, the project has resulted in more accurate estimates of total catch by species from both countries; more accurate estimates of species-specific catches by major fishing gear types in both countries; the first size composition data from Indonesian tuna fisheries in more than two decades; the establishment of operational-level data collection programmes (logsheets) for the industrial purse seine fishery based in the three participating countries; and the initiation of an observer programme on larger purse seine vessels in Philippines. These enhanced data were used for the first time in the skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye stock assessments conducted in 2011 by the Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC). The involvement of SPC in the project has ensured that the new data collection programmes are consistent with established programmes in the Pacific Islands region. Similar progress in data collection occurred in Vietnam and the first annual total tuna catch was estimated in April 2012. For the second component, the three countries developed national tuna management plans, reviewed national policy, legal and institutional arrangements for possible reform to fully comply with WCPFC requirements, reviewed and assisted national level tuna association activities, and developed national tuna fisheries profile reports.

2. Adaptive Management this Reporting Period

Over 50 project activities have been conducted annually to achieve most of the existing targets of the indicators in the project document. The approaches taken in this project were starting most of the activities at once each year and repeat them for three years. For example, for the capacity building in data collection and stock assessment, WPEA project supported the country experts to attend data workshops, stock assessment workshops, and WCPFC Scientific Committee meetings every year and build up their capacities. For the review and possible reform of the country's policy, legal and institutional arrangements in compliance with international norms, especially WCPFC requirements, a workshop has been convened every year to refine and update the review reports. For the development of national tuna management plan, we also developed the plan, revisited the plan every year through workshops, and all relevant stakeholders upgraded the plan. So by revisiting the same issue every year, most topics and targets in the logframe were automatically adjusted along with the previous baseline.

3. Lessons Learned

This project is going to an end this year and each country now fully understands the importance of this project in their countries. As expected, changing or upgrading the working environments at a country-level is not easy and usually slow and time consuming job. Three year contribution of external technical expertise and resources to the participating countries is not enough to settle the changes. Subject to the level of understanding and resource availability of the country, a minimum of 5-6 years of external contribution seems to be adequate. So we are preparing the 2nd phase of the project to continue the current progress. In addition, as mentioned in previous year, each country has distinct aspirations and implementation of project activities varied accordingly. It is not appropriate to have a single regional project plan and apply it in the same way in each country. The key management policies learned include: 1) not to push each country to produce notable results, but rather to encourage them to meet their

objectives, 2) allow sufficient allowances to project team in country, 3) frequent visits to each country in order to facilitate project activities and offer encouragement, and 4) ensure sufficient project management support for project coordination.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS TEMPLATE

Process Outcomes			Process Indicators
Project	Rating	Catalytic	Project
Multi-country agreement on transboundary priority concerns, impacts and causes	HS	All participating countries are motivated by the same obligations as Members and Cooperating Non-Members of WCPFC; enhanced data collection system motivated by member's obligations of the WCPFC; effective review of domestic policy, legal and institutional arrangements through technical input from international experts	Increased capacity of fishery monitoring in country; reduced uncertainty in regional stock assessments; upgraded national tuna management and governance; enhanced capacity of international/domestic collaboration among countries/stakeholders to collaboratively address transboundary concerns within regional (WCPFC) and sub-regional (East Asian Seas) cooperation
Multi-country Agreement on governance reforms and investments to address priority transboundary concerns	HS	Enhanced understanding and efficient implementation of project activities by applying a common model from one country to another; construction of a competitive environment among the participating countries by introducing other country's internal contribution to WPEA project; efficient progress of the WPEA project activities by directly introducing WCPFC requirements into country's policy, legal and institutional arrangements for possible reform; upgraded possibility of governance reform by an input of international experts in the review and reform process of priority transboundary concerns; verifying the improved capacity in fishery monitoring, satisfying obligations in data submission, and governance strengthened by new fisheries laws and regulations driven by WPEA project	Increased fishery monitoring and management of tuna fisheries in country through collection of catch and effort data from various fisheries; enhanced governance in regional level fisheries management by refining annual catch estimates which reduces uncertainty in regional stock assessments; capacity building in domestic governance through addressing a check-list of shortcomings in domestic laws and regulations in complying with WCPFC's conservation and management measures; increased governance by producing and applying national tuna management plan which was developed by WPEA project; assistance from national level tuna associations in addressing priority transboundary concerns; enhancement of cooperation and collaboration in fishery monitoring and governance by applying the same topics and issues to each country
Effective national Inter-ministry Coordination	S	Construction of a collaborative environment among domestic government agencies for the efficient inter-ministry implementation of project activities by introducing minatory obligations as a member of WCPFC	Extended inter-ministry cooperation and enhanced participation by reasonable allocation of project budget to relevant agencies and enhanced awareness in the importance of the project to their agencies

Stakeholder involvement in transboundary waterbody priority setting and strategic planning	HS	Upgraded priority setting and strategic planning could be achieved by applying established models of WCPFC where full stakeholders' involvement has already been accommodated; stakeholder's involvement could be promoted by their government's legislature of new fishery laws and regulations derived from WPEA project activities	Outputs of all fishery related project activities were produced by incorporation of all relevant stakeholder's views and information through their full participation in various workshops and researches; Review of national level tuna association activities have been directly connected to the stakeholder's concerns, which facilitated their involvement in the setting and planning of transboundary issues
Multi-country waterbody legal framework adopted and/or strengthened	S	Upgraded review of legal framework and internationally standardized recommendations produced by collaboration among domestic and international legal experts and provided to the participating government for their review and possible reform	Though no multi-country legal framework was adopted by this project, which is not the target of WPEA project, international level workshops held to develop and adopt recommendations that will address differences between domestic legal framework and international norms required in regional fisheries governance, and actions taken to level off the current unbalanced capacity among the participating countries
Newly established and/or strengthened (existing) transboundary waters institutions		N/A	
Financial sustainability of joint transboundary waters institutions		N/A	