

# **Discussion Summary**

## **Working Group 2**

Maintaining viable fisheries across  
the extent of the stock: yellowfin and  
bigeye longline fisheries

# Review of candidate objectives:

## Biological key points

- **Objective:** Maintain YFT and BET biomass above levels that allow for sustainable fisheries throughout the range
- Need to understand latitudinal dynamics: Capture regional variability in catch and CPUE
- May require multiple objectives / indicators
  - **Example TRP: F(B) that achieves high yield in core area while allowing viable CPUE in high latitudes**
- A need for interim targets in order to prevent the situation from worsening?

# Review of candidate objectives:

## Economic key points

- Some indicators work both for Social and Economic
- Issues of Scale: Consider both national and regional elements
- **Maximize economic yield** - Rent extraction currently focuses too much on catching and processing fish. Consider broader fishery considerations (i.e., MCS employment, value-added, ports, transshipment etc.) – Criteria and objectives will differ depending on national interests
- **Stability and Predictability**– Role of HCRs?

# Review of candidate objectives: Social key points

- **Objective: Affordable protein** – should be *available* protein instead?
  - Article 30(2)b – consideration of artisanal and subsistence needs
  - Need to more strongly consider upstream → downstream effects
- Not currently captured – *social* security as well as *food* security. Empowerment of women

# **Review of candidate objectives: Ecosystem key points**

- **Objective: Minimize catch of non-target species**
- Ambiguity - What is a 'target' species in the WCPO?
- Targets are dynamic
- Need to better account for multi-species , multi-target nature of WCPO tropical fisheries

# Discussion Points 1

- **Importance of tropical tuna catch**
- Many fisheries; inter-connected (purse seine, long line, hand line ...) What one does can affect others (balance sovereign rights with the obligation to cooperate)
- **Is a mgt. objective based on fisheries across the range of stocks appropriate?**
- Balance: Broad, stock-wide, objectives and national interests (e.g. MCS, employment, ports)

# Discussion Points 2

- **Appropriate performance measures:** High yield in core area and viable CPUE in high latitudes
- **Tradeoffs:** are win-wins possible?
  - Some are likely to gain more than others (resource abundance/availability is not homogeneous)
  - Not just about profitability; consider other benefits

# Discussion Points 3

- **What considerations are appropriate for TRP and rebuild?**
- Different fisheries are characterized by different levels of uncertainty (implementation uncertainty)
- Overall level of F needs to be managed (consider all fisheries)
- What should the role of the Commission be when it comes to placing limits on capacity by fishery?
  - A discussion that needs to be had: Comes down to allocation
- Potential usefulness of rights-based approach



# Discussion Points 4

- **Impact-offset mechanisms?**
- What is a 'disproportionate burden'?
  - Concept is used but undefined
  - Downstream impacts: Are these burdens?
- Offset mechanisms should be developed and agreed upon by Commission
- Mechanisms implemented before or after CMM is adopted?
- Cost/benefit analysis can help identify potential areas of disproportionate burden
- With rights come responsibilities

# Future Discussions

- Having a forum for discussion for fundamental issues is important. Informal process has been helpful (incl. observers)
- Refining objectives is a long term process – Cannot wait ‘until everything is in place’ to advance
- Actions must be interim, adaptive, and iterative with refinements explicit as part of the process
- Better to have the discussions than to avoid them
- Possible future forum on tradeoffs – with detailed analysis
- Achievement of Year 3 aspirations will depend on WCPFC10

# Future Discussions

- WCPFC 10 should
  - Consider interim targets
  - Explicitly ask for workplan to continue