



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION**
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**WPEA PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
(August 2015 – July 2016)**

WCPFC-SC12-2016/RP-WPEA-01

Secretariat, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam

I. BACKGROUND

1. The second GEF-funded 3-year project called *Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas*, commenced on 28 October 2014, continued during 2015-2016. The project participating countries are Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam. Though there have been some delays in implementing the project in Indonesia and Viet Nam due to internal approval process, several activities are still on schedule.

II. SUMMARY OF KEY WPEA ACTIVITIES IN 2015-2016

2. According to the Project Document, several similar activities are implemented to each participating country and information from each country are shared among the three countries. Once a year, a three-country workshop is planned to promote information sharing with international experts on specific topics. In 2015 for example, a three-country stock assessment workshop was held to consider the possibility of independent tuna stock assessment in the East Asia Seas. In 2016, the three-country workshop tries to cover issues on impacts of climate change on tuna fisheries and harvest strategy.

3. During 2015 and 2016, the following activities were implemented and will be implemented later 2016 in all three countries:

- a) Support national project coordinators to coordinate WPEA project activities at national level;
- b) Capacity building in science through supporting participation in SPC's Tuna Data Workshop and SC12;
- c) Tuna catch data collection through port sampling, and convene data review and annual catch estimates workshop;
- d) Prior studies and the three countries' review workshops on 1) the impacts of climate change on tuna fisheries, 2) tuna supply chain analysis, 3) eco-labelling and certification scheme, 4) reference points and harvest control rules, and 5) application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management to tuna fisheries; and
- e) Participation in GEF-hosted International Waters Conference and PEMSEA's EAS Congress.

4. Subject to the need of each country, other activities include:

Indonesia

- a) Logbook awareness workshop in tuna landing ports with vessel captains to improve the accuracy and return rate;
- b) Development of a harvest strategy framework for the archipelagic tuna fisheries; and
- c) Authorisation of regional observer program with WCPFC.

Philippines

- a) Extension of observer data collection, observer debriefing workshop, and VMS workshop;
- b) Update *Operational Guide for Filipino Fishermen*;
- c) Conduct of Annual Tuna Catch Estimates Review Workshops;
- d) Conduct of preliminary workshops on EAFM, Harvest strategy, Certification & Eco-labelling,
- e) Review of national fisheries laws and regulations in compliance with WCPFC requirements; and
- f) Updating the *National Tuna Management Plan*.

Viet Nam

- a) Reconstruction of catch histories prior to year 2000; and
- b) Translation of the WCPFC 2015 CMMs into Vietnamese;

5. WCPFC is working with the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) to establish a memorandum of arrangement for a WPEA website development in the PEMSEA server and cooperation in knowledge sharing area.

II. FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN 2016

6. An annual Project Implementation Review process is currently on-going and the second Project Board meeting is scheduled in late October 2016. Future work plan by the end of 2016 includes:

Three-country workshop

- a) Workshop on the impacts of climate change on tuna fisheries and introduction of harvest strategy framework

Indonesia

- a) Workshops on the development of a harvest strategy framework for archipelagic tuna fisheries;
- b) Development of guidelines to adaptively manage tuna fisheries against the impact of climate change; and
- c) Observer training workshop.

Philippines

- a) Expansion of observer data collection, workshop for the use of observer electronic forms in Android tablets, VMS training for regional VMS operators and fisheries officers, and E-logbook training workshop; and
- b) Pilot application of EAFM to tuna fisheries in Davao area.

Viet Nam

- a) Continue to collect tuna fisheries data at coastal provinces of Viet Nam;;
- b) Workshops for the review of prior studies on climate change, tuna supply chain analysis, eco-labeling and certification system;

- c) Prior study and a review workshop on developing reference points and harvest control rules;
and
- d) Pilot application of EAFM to tuna fisheries in Binh Thuan province.