AGENDA ITEM 1  OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 Welcome

The Chair Masanori Miyahara (Japan) will open the Twelfth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC12) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), 29 August – 2 September 2016. He will welcome delegations of WCPFC Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) and observers.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

The Chair will introduce the Provisional Agenda, WCPFC-NC12-2016/02.

According to the Rules of Procedure, the Committee will decide how to manage any supplementary items, if any are requested by a member of the Commission, the Chairman, or the Executive Director, at least thirty days before the opening of the meeting.

Other matters to be discussed, under Agenda Item 8, may be proposed here.

1.3 Meeting arrangements

The Chair will invite NC12 to review the Indicative Schedule (WCPFC-NC12-2016/04) noting logistical arrangements in place to support the meeting, meeting schedule, and any social engagements.

AGENDA ITEM 2  CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1 Report from the Sixteenth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee

NC12 will review the meeting report of the 16th Meeting of the International Scientific Committee (ISC16), especially the status of stocks of highly migratory species in the North Pacific Ocean.

2.2 Report of the Twelfth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee

NC12 will review issues arising from the Twelfth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee
(SC12, Bali, Indonesia, 3-11 August 2016) as they relate to the Northern Committee, including results of the work on determination of the designation of North Pacific blue shark as a northern stock.

2.3 Conservation and management measures for the northern stocks

2.3.1 Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2015-04)

NC will consider any proposals, and recommend a revised or new CMM for the Pacific bluefin tuna stock, including an emergency rule in case of drastic recruitment drops, if appropriate, based on 2016 stock assessment conducted by ISC.

NC12 will review the results of the 2016 Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment conducted by ISC.

2.3.1.1 Review of CCM report

By 31 July 2016, NC members are, under paragraph 12, tasked to submit reports to the Executive Director relating to:

i) measures they used to implement paragraphs 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14 of the CMM; and

ii) results from monitoring the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna.

NC12 will review reports from CCMs on their domestic management measures and trade, and may suggest actions for CCMs to enhance their compliance with this CMM.

2.3.1.2 Multi-annual rebuilding plan and precautionary management framework

NC12 will obtain the new assessment and other work results from ISC and recommend any necessary changes to CMM2015-04, including specific emergency measures in case of recruitment collapse (NC Work Programme).

NC will establish a precautionary-approach based management framework. NC12 will develop the management framework, including appropriate reference points, harvest controls rules and actions to be taken in the event of specific limit reference points (LRPs) being breached, and recommend any changes to the rebuilding program and CMM (NC Work Programme).

2.3.1.3 Catch documentation scheme

NC12 will develop a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna as based on inputs from members (NC work programme), noting that WCPFC CDS Intersessional Working Group meeting is scheduled to be held in Pohnpei, FSM, during 19-20 September 2016.

2.3.2 North Pacific albacore (CMM 2005-03)

NC will consider any proposals, and recommend a revised or new CMM for the North Pacific albacore stock.

2.3.2.1 Review of CCM report

According to the NC work programme, NC12 will review the compiled members’ reports on catch and effort data based on CMM 2005-03 with updated catch and effort tables (Annex A,
Attachment C of NC7 Summary Report) on NP albacore, and identify and rectify any shortcomings. Tasks will include (NC Work Programme):

1. Estimate the proportion of the total catch of albacore in the North Pacific Ocean (in the Convention Area, and/or across the entire North Pacific Ocean, as appropriate) that is effectively subject to the effort limits mandated in the CMM.
2. Determine how total effort across those fisheries has changed from 2002 through a review of members’ reports of annual fishing effort by their vessels “fishing for” North Pacific albacore fisheries.

2.3.2.2 Precautionary management framework

NC12 will review the progress of ISC’s management strategy evaluation (MSE) process for NP albacore, and provide comments/recommendations/requests to ISC for further task.

NC12 will monitor spawning stock biomass against the LRP and continue the establishment of target reference point (TRP) based on MSE (NC Work Programme).

2.3.3 North Pacific swordfish

NC will consider any proposals, and recommend a new CMM for the North Pacific swordfish stock as required.

NC12 will finalize interim management objective and reference points (NC Work Programme).

2.4 Conservation and management measures for other stocks

2.4.1 Bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas (CMM 2015-01)

WCPFC12 adopted CMM 2015-01 (CMM for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean) and NC12 will consider any issues related to, or any impacts of, CMM 2015-01 on tuna fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean north of 20ºN.

2.4.2 North Pacific striped marlin (CMM 2010-01)

Through its work plan, NC encouraged all CCMs to submit North Pacific striped marlin data to the Commission, and make available to ISC.

2.4.3 Sharks (CMM 2010-07, CMM 2011-04, CMM 2012-04, CMM 2013-08 and CMM 2014-05)

WCPFC adopted five shark-related measures. NC12 will review scientific advice from ISC, if any, and consider management options on two shark species (blue shark and shortfin mako shark) and encourage submission of all shark data to ISC.

The Commission tasked the SC to undertake the work on determination of the designation of North Pacific blue shark as a northern stock, based on the information provided by ISC to SC11 (paragraph 458 of WCPFC12 Summary Report). NC12 will review the outcome of SC12’s deliberation on this issue.

2.4.4 Seabirds (CMM 2015-03)

NC12 may review reports from NC CCMs on the implementation of CMMs 2012-07 and 2015-
03, including the status of introducing the mitigation measures to their fleets as required in the Measure for the area north of 20°N.

2.4.5 Sea turtles (CMM 2008-03)

NC12 will review any mitigation research results if available and consider possible management actions.

AGENDA ITEM 3 REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

NC12 will review implementation of ROP for fishing vessels operating in the area north of 20°N.

AGENDA ITEM 4 VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

NC12 will review implementation of VMS for fishing vessels operating in north of 20°N.

AGENDA ITEM 5 DATA

5.1 Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks

The NC Work Programme calls for CCMs participating in the NC to submit complete data on fisheries for northern stocks to the Commission. All CCMs are encouraged to submit to the Commission Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific albacore and North Pacific swordfish data and to make them available to the ISC.

NC12 will review the progress of data submission and identify any additional data gaps.

AGENDA ITEM 6 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

6.1 ISC

NC12 will exchange views on further efforts to strengthen the cooperation with ISC.

6.2 IATTC

The 87th IATTC in 2014 adopted Resolution C-14-06 (Measures for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean 2015-2016). NC12 will continue to exchange views on cooperation with IATTC, especially in relation to Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore.

The NC will review its 2016 task of holding a joint meeting with the IATTC on PBF management.

AGENDA ITEM 7 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 Work Programme for 2017-2019

The Committee will review, and revise as needed, its Work Programme for 2017-2019.

AGENDA ITEM 8 OTHER MATTERS

8.1 Administrative arrangements for the Committee
8.1.1 Secretariat functions and costs

NC12 is invited to review and further consider the operation of the NC Secretariat, and costs related with NC activities.

8.1.2 Rules of Procedure

Subject to any proposals tabled by CCMs, NC12 will consider Rules of Procedure for NC

8.2 Election of officers of the Northern Committee

NC12 will nominate Chair and Vice-Chair of the NC through NC14 for the Commission’s approval.

8.3 Next meeting

The date and place for the Thirteenth Regular Session of the NC will be agreed.

8.4 Other business

NC12 will discuss any other business raised under Agenda Item 1.2.

AGENDA ITEM 9 ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

NC12 will adopt the Summary Report of its Twelfth Regular Session. It will make every effort to adopt its Summary Report by consensus. If consensus is not reached, the Summary Report will indicate the majority and minority views and may include the differing views of the representatives of the members on all or any part of the Summary Report.

AGENDA ITEM 10 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting is scheduled to close on 2 September 2016.