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**PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION FOR  
THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY  
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND  
CENTRAL PACIFIC**

Scientific Coordinating Group (SCG)  
Third meeting, Majuro, Marshall Islands  
19 – 21 August 2004

WCPFC/SCG3/1  
17 June 2004

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**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

1. Introductory remarks
  - Welcome
  - Reviewing the purpose of the SCG 3 meeting; adoption of the agenda
2. Review of the updated stock status statements for the major target species
  - bigeye
  - yellowfin
  - skipjack
  - South Pacific albacore

*The technical discussions related to this item will take place at SCTB17. SCG 3 will review the SCTB summary statements and is expected to produce agreed statements on the current stock status and management implications of the major target species. It is expected that SCTB17 will develop the summary statements for four tuna species. Based on these statements, SCG 3 will develop statements on the current stock status and management implications. For skipjack and albacore no updated stock assessment will be provided at SCTB17. Therefore, the previous summary statements may be carried over.*

3. Response to the requests from PrepCon VI.
  - Advise on the further analyses to support the consideration by PrepCon VII and the first session of the Commission of management options and how these analyses can be carried out in a timely and effective manner.

*Following a discussion of the paper entitled **Management options for bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.24)**, PrepCon VI, had decided that further analysis to support consideration by PrepCon VII and the first meeting of the Commission of management options in two broad groups (national capacity, catch and effort limits and a range of technical measures) should be undertaken. Therefore, PrepCon VI requested SCG 3 to provide advice, through the Interim Secretariat, on the analyses that should be undertaken and how these analyses can be carried out in a timely and effective manner. Based on the updated stock status of these two species which will be obtained through SCTB17, SCG 3 will discuss the technical points of the further analyses which will provide information for consideration of management options (see Appendix).*

4. Discussion of the nature and extent of work required to develop management scenario models, for example development of operating models.

*This item is closely related with the future management advice which will be prepared by the Scientific Committee and the output of this kind of research will be valuable for the consideration for the long term management options. SCG 3 will review the current research on operating modes and related matters and discuss about research plan for this topic.*

5. Provision of advice on ecosystem, bycatch and other scientific issues.
  - Review of the document entitled 'Review of Ecosystem and Bycatch Issues for the Western and Central Pacific Region' (WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.9)

*SCG is expected to review the working paper (WP.9) and recent national and international activities on bycatch issues. SCG will discuss the future direction of bycatch and ecosystem research.*

6. Advice on data standards and other data related issues for the Western and Central Pacific Region

*The Statistics Working Group of SCTB17 will provide a report on this matter for SCG 3 to consider.*

7. Identification of Specialist Working Groups of the Scientific Committee.

*As noted by WG.II at PrepCon VI, the structures of any proposed SWGs will be similar to those of the SCTB working groups. Proposed SWGs of the SC to be discussed further at SCG 3 include, Stock Assessment Working Group (includes consideration of tuna and billfish stocks), Methods Working Group, Statistics Working Group, Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group, and Fishing Technology Working Group. SCG3 will also review some experiences in the other Tuna Commissions such as ICCAT, and will make recommendations.*

8. Adoption of the report of SCG 3

9. Adjournment.

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## APPENDIX 1

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE DURING ITS SIXTH SESSION, 23 APRIL 2004, BALI, INDONESIA

WCPFC/PrepCon/40, Paragraphs 28 and 29

“28. In response to operative paragraph 1 of the resolution adopted by the fifth session of the Conference, the Conference considered a paper prepared by the Interim Secretariat on management options on how the Commission could respond to sustainability concerns in respect of bigeye and yellowfin identified by the second meeting of the SCG (WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.24). PrepCon VI recognized that the full range of options provided in the working paper should be available for consideration by the Commission at its first meeting. The Conference also noted that the paper outlined two broad groups of management measures that could be appropriate and feasible in the short term. Taking into account the unique aspects of the tuna fisheries in the WCPO and that recent stock assessments for bigeye and yellowfin tuna indicate that these stocks are in or may be approaching an overfished state, and the relevant elements raised in the discussions during PrepCon VI, the Conference decided that further analysis to support consideration by PrepCon VII and the first meeting of the Commission of options in these two broad groups (national capacity, catch and effort limits and a range of technical measures) should be undertaken.

29. Therefore, PrepCon VI requested SCG 3 to provide advice, through the Interim Secretariat, on the analyses that should be undertaken and how these analyses can be carried out in a timely and effective manner.”

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