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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION DURING 2010**

**WCPFC6-2010/11
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Prepared by the Secretariat

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HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Commission budget has been responsibly managed and this has been supported by unqualified accounts from the Auditors.
2. The VMS and ROP commenced on time and although there have been limited problems encountered with the first years of operations; indications are that both programmes will perform well into the future.
3. The science and GEF-WPEA projects are continuing to run smoothly.
4. The meetings of the Commission continue to run smoothly with improvements and adjustments continue to be made to improve processes.
5. 2010 saw our inaugural Executive Director Mr Andrew Wright leave and take up the post of Executive Secretary of CCAMLR and our Compliance Manager Andrew Richards departed the Commission into retirement. December will also see the departure of Ken Smithson into retirement and we wish all three officers the best of luck.

1. Introduction

In response to Rule 13 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, which requires the Executive Director to make a report to the Commission at its regular session on the work of the Commission, this paper summarises the main activities of the Commission during 2010. During this period the work of the Commission included:

- a) on-going monitoring of progress with implementation of conservation and management measures (CMMs) and decisions of the Commission;
- b) implementation of the program of work approved at the Sixth Session of the Commission (WCPFC6). Key elements included:

- on-going productive collaboration with the Commission's Science Services Provider (SPC-OFP), including data management, stock assessment and the development of a shark research plan;
- initial implementation of the 3-year West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), AusAID, the US National Marine Fisheries Service, the Government of Japan and the Commission;
- enhancements to the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels;
- implementation of the Commission's vessel monitoring system;
- implementation of the Commission Regional Observer Programme by providing support to CCMs and associated agencies,
- continuation of progress, across a wide geographic range within the Convention Area, with the SPC-OFP led Pacific Tuna Tagging Project;

c) the sixth regular sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, Scientific Committee (SC), Northern Committee (NC), the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC), and a fourth session of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) to be convened in association with WCPFC7;

d) continuing engagement and consultation with other organisations including the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), SPC-OFP, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine resources (CCAMLR) the Northern Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission (NPAFC) and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), including through participation in the informal network of secretariats for tuna-focussed regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) (www.tuna-org.org) and the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC);

e) continuing efforts to establish logistic and administrative support functions at the office of the Secretariat, securing acceptable housing for staff, the recruitment of the Executive Director, the Compliance Manager, and now the Finance and Administration Officer.

f) continuing work by the Secretariat to improve the Commission buildings and the general site.

2. Work of the Commission's Subsidiary Bodies

Scientific Committee

The Sixth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC6) took place at Nukualofa, Tonga from 10-19 August 2010. Dr Miyabe from Japan chaired the restructured meeting, where the Six Specialist Working Groups (Statistics, Stock Assessment, Ecosystems and By-catch, Methods, Fishing Technology and Biology) were dissolved into the plenary session.

A full record of the meeting is available on the website and the outcomes and recommendations will be discussed at WCPFC7.

Northern Committee

The Sixth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC6) took place at Fukuoka, Japan from 7–10 September 2010. The meeting was attended by members from Canada, Cook Islands, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America (USA) and Vanuatu, and several

observers from CCMs and ISC, Greenpeace, WWF-Japan, American Fisherman's Research Foundation, and the WCPFC Secretariat. Mr Masanori Miyahara (Japan) chaired the meeting.

NC6 reviewed the conservation advice for northern stocks formulated by the ISC 10. The record of the meeting including a revised CMM for the Pacific Bluefin tuna is available and will be discussed at WCPFC7.

Technical and Compliance Committee

The Sixth Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC6) was held at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia from 31 September to 5 October 2010. The meeting was chaired by Mr Noan Pakop from Papua New Guinea and over 170 participants representing CCMs and observers attended the meeting.

A full report from TCC6 is available on the website and the recommendations will be discussed in full at WCPFC7.

Finance and Administration Committee

The Fourth Finance and Administration Committee (FAC4), co-chaired by Terry Toomata (Samoa) and Xiaobing Liu (China), will meet just prior to, and throughout, WCPFC7, as necessary. In addition to personnel, work programme and budget matters, the FAC considers a range of administrative matters relating to the work of the Commission including issues associated with the headquarters office, the implementation of the Secretariat's Business Plan and progress with the finalisation of a Strategic Plan for the Commission.

Ad Hoc Task Group [Data]

WCPFC6 tasked the Ad Hoc Working Group to consider data issues relating to charter vessels; however this was not undertaken intersessionally and will be considered further at WCPFC7.

3. Secretariat Activities

Secretariat administrative and establishment matters

Business Plan

The Business Plan is intended to provide guidance on implementation and monitoring of Secretariat-related activities identified in a Strategic Plan for the Commission. The Business plan will lapse this year as it only covered 2008/10. Although the Strategic Plan is still before the Commission for consideration, WCPFC4 adopted a recommendation from the First Session of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC1) relating to a Business Plan for the Secretariat. The Commission needs to consider the status of both the Business Plan and the Strategic Plan for the Commission.

Recruitment of Secretariat staff

The total Secretariat staffing level is 16 staff positions. There are 7 professional staff and 9 support staff. Staff recruited this year in addition to the Executive Director and the Compliance Manager include; Mr Donald David (Pohnpei) from Pohnpei State Fisheries to the post of Data Quality Officer (ROP); Ms Jeannie Nanpei (Pohnpei) Administrative Assistant Data Entry (RFV), Mr Glenn Jano (Pohnpei) who was promoted to the support position of Compliance Officer, and Ms Yolanda Elanzo (Pohnpei) as Treasury Assistant.

IT systems

The installation of a functional corporate network to support the work of the Commission and the Secretariat was completed in late 2008. A Microsoft Small Business Server 2003, with MS Exchange Mail Server, was operating in support of a collaborative work environment within the Secretariat. The network consists of a MS Windows server and an open source Linux server, firewall protection for internet links. All work stations run Windows XP with adequate anti-virus and anti-spam protection. It supports a Virtual Private Network to allow secure access for staff from overseas. In addition, a secondary internet link, via a dedicated satellite terminal, was operating as an alternative to that provided by the local telecommunications provider in the event of disruption to that service. All corporate information is backed up daily consistent with the requirements of the Commission's Information Security Policy.

Financial and administrative arrangements

Financial and administrative arrangements operated satisfactorily during the year. Work load demands continued to frustrate ambitions to introduce QuickBooks Enterprise Version or similar as an automated financial management system, however it is hoped that we will adopted and implement a suitable system in 2011. Management of the headquarters building services and grounds continues to be a challenge, however, notwithstanding the cuts imposed to the proposed 2010 budget, the failure of the headquarters airconditioning systems has been satisfactorily addressed.

Annual Accounts and Contributions

The 2009 financial statements were completed, audited and made available through Commission's website within the specified time frames, together with the External Auditor's Reports. The Auditor reported that the statements and accounts complied with the required accounting standards as well as the Commission's Financial Regulations, and presented a fair view of the financial position (see also WCPFC7-2010-FAC4/04).

Article 18 (3) of the Convention provides that if a member's contributions are in arrears for the preceding two full years it shall not participate in the taking of decisions by the Commission, subject to the Commission permitting such a member to vote.

New Bank Accounts

The following new accounts were opened during 2010:

ANZ Bank, Nukualofa, Tonga

Business Cheque Account 1690140 was opened to support the administration of the Sixth Session of the Science Committee.

Pohnpei State Tax/Headquarters Agreement

The Secretariat finalised arrangements with the FSM Ministry of Foreign Affairs to put into effect the Headquarters Agreement understandings in relation to reimbursement of Pohnpei State Taxes. Provision of an access road to the Pohnpei Peace Corps and Headstart offices has not occurred, but as all buildings concerned have now been vacated and are ready for demolition and removal, it is hoped this will happen in 2011 to enable the Commission unfettered access to its leased property.

4. Contracts and Consultancies during 2010

Commission's science services provider, the SPC-OFP

The SPC-OFP continued in the role of managing fisheries data and analysing stock status of key tuna species and other ecosystem analysis. The SPC-OFP produced 28 papers for the SC6, mostly related with assigned science services. It also provided a broad area of other advice services for the Secretariat's inter-sessional activities.

Other contracts and consultancies

Commission-related activities

- Legal advisory services: international fisheries and marine law (Professor Martin Tsamenyi, University of Wollongong, Australia);
- Rapporteur support to the Secretariat during SC6, TCC6 and WCPFC7 (Mr Mark Smaalders);
- The Commission's public website is covered by an SLA with Eighty Options of Tasmania, Australia which provides for technical support and hosting;
- Taz-e of Australia was the successful developer following a tender in 2009 to develop the Compliance Information Management System (IMS). The contract to develop the first phase of the IMS concluded in the first quarter of 2010. A second contract for enhancements to the IMS as requested by Compliance staff was completed in the fourth quarter of 2010. In addition, an SLA with Taz-e provides specialist technical support to the Compliance IMS and Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) applications. These are necessary given the mission-critical nature of these systems and their importance to the work of the Commission;
- Interim VMS Security Audit by Quick Access Computing.
- The Secretariat also has an SLA with BMC of Pohnpei, Micronesia, for the technical support of the corporate network;
- Andrew Richards for assistance with TCC6 preparation; and
- Gillett Preston and Associates for the Catch Attribution Study.

SC-related activities

- Refinement of bigeye parameters Pacific wide: A comprehensive review and study of bigeye tuna reproductive biology (SPC-OFP) – the second year pilot study focusing on data collection and subsequent analysis to prepare for the next four year Pacific wide study;
- Regional study of stock structure and life-history characteristics of South Pacific albacore (CSIRO, Australia) – a three year project with partial funding support from the Commission, the second year progress report was presented at SC6;
- Identifying provisional limit reference points for the key target species in the WCPFC – a carried over project for consideration at SC7, where SC6 assigned TORs for this consultancy; and
- Collection and evaluation of purse-seine species composition data – the second year of the research.

TCC-related activities

- Further work on the by-catch mitigation database (SPC-OFP);
- Administrative and training support relating to the high seas boarding and inspection scheme by the USCG;
- Technical support relating to cost and budget and the development of a work plan for the Commission VMS (Absolute Communications);
- Gillett Preston_ Catch Attribution study;
- IMS to monitor reporting by CCMs on CMMs; and
- Further work on 'Cross Endorsement of IATTC and WCPFC Observers' (EU).
- Coordination of ROP, debriefers workshop, Philippines training

- Support of regional VMS initiatives including training Philippines, High seas operations
- IMS Development
- Support to FFA, RFV, VMS, and MCS Programmes

In addition to the meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission, the Secretariat participated in the following meetings and workshops during 2010.

- FFC 74, Honiara
- FFA MCS Working group meeting, Honiara, Solomon Islands
- FFC Technical meeting
- FFC Ministerial Meeting, Port Moresby, PNG
- Palau High Seas Boarding and inspection training, Palau
- VMS planning meetings, Wollongong, Pohnpei and Honolulu
- VMS training, Palau and Manila.
- FSM Pacific Islands debriefer meeting, Cairns, Australia
- Data Consultative meeting with SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia
- Observer training and Observer audit, Philippines
- IT discussions with SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia
- SLA meeting Eighty options, Tasmania, Australia
- SLA Agreement Taz-e Sydney, Australia
- Pre-stock assessment Workshop, Noumea , New Caledonia
- ISC10, Victoria, Canada
- OECD Workshop on the economics of adapting fisheries to climate change, Busan, Korea
- INFOFISH, Bangkok, Thailand
- CLIOTOP Steering Committee. Crete, Greece
- GEF East Asian Seas Stocktaking meeting, Manila, Philippines
- WPEA Project related meetings in Indonesia Philippines and Vietnam.

5. Relations with other organisations

Regular exchanges of views on strategic planning and technical advice continued with the FFA, SPC, and IATTC to assist with Secretariat support to CCMs with the implementation of the Commission's decisions. Regular dialogue was also maintained with the ICCAT, CCAMLR, IOTC and CCSBT to share information and exchange views on areas of common interest. During 2010, Secretariat staff attended the Kobe 11 meetings in Barcelona and Brisbane. Other organisations with which productive relations were maintained throughout the year included the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP), FAO, and Birdlife International.

6. Future issues

6.1 The Observer program has started well and managed to provide the required level of observer coverage in the first year but will require a concerted effort between the Secretariat staff and the Commission to continue to improve its effectiveness as we move forward. The ROP will face further challenges with the implementation of the observer program for transshipment in 2011.

6.2 A number of CMM's need to be reviewed now that we are having experience with their practical implementation as some result in data and information flow problems, restricting the flow of information to the science provider in particular.

6.3 Staff levels will remain tight in the Secretariat and if we thought laterally about the issue we use internships which are very useful to the Secretariat and the Commission to advance specific work

projects. This could be extended to secondments if countries were interested in placing officers in the Commission for up to 12 months to give them experience in Commission life. A compromise might be that the member pays the salary to the officer and the Commission picks up the on ground costs. Again it would need to be a scheme that adds value and assistance to the Commission and hence you as members.

6.4 The Commission has limited ability to promote the work of the Commission regionally and internationally. The ED over the years has provided balanced commentary which helps with an understanding of our work but it might be useful to look at a media strategy as we move forward into the future.

6.5 The air-conditioning in the Commission building continues to require maintenance. While it continues to perform reasonably well at the moment it is a maintenance cost that needs to be built into future years budgets.