

Terms of Reference for the Performance Review of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Background

At WCPFC7 the Commission took the following decision to review the performance of the Commission.

436. WCPFC7 agreed that a performance review of the Commission would be undertaken in 2011, and tasked the Executive Director with (i) developing criteria for the review based on input received from members, and reflective of characteristics of the WCPFC; and (ii) proposing a review panel to members for their approval that reflects the input received.

The discussion prior to the decision and reflected in the Commission record (para 435) noted that the review team should include independent experts and Commission members including SIDS representation. The criteria for the review have been developed as determined by the decision of the Commission, are based on the established Kobe principles, and amended to reflect the WCPFC's mandate and membership.

The review will take place in 2011 and focus on the effectiveness of the Commission to fulfill its mandate under the Convention and in line with the review criteria. The review will consider the Convention texts and supporting structure developed and adopted by the Commission and will include the science processes and status of the stocks, and the Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission and the role of the Committees. The review is to be transparent and objective and provide advice to members on areas where and how improvement could be made to the Commissions operations. It is suggested that the structure and reports from the other Tuna RFMOs be used to guide the final report structure of the review panel.

Objective

The objective of the work to be carried out by the review team shall be to submit a report presenting:

1. A review of the WCPFC Convention Basic Texts in terms of the framework they provide to meet the objective of the Convention and the work of the Commission.
2. An assessment of the achievement of WCPFC's objectives against the attached criteria (i.e. are there measures, processes or procedures in place to achieve WCPFC's objectives?)
3. Recommendations on how to improve WCPFC performance.

Methodology

In consultation with the Executive Director, the review team shall determine the review process and methodology using as a basis the criteria contained in Annex 1. The timing of the review has

been structured to allow the Consultants to meet with members of the Commission during the Kobe 3 meeting in July 2011 in California.

Criteria

The criteria attached were developed through the Kobe process and have been modified to reflect the WCPFC Convention as determined by the decision of the Commission. The review team is invited to consider the criteria as a basis for their evaluation.

Work Schedule

The work estimate is based on 30 working days for the completion of the review. Depending on the availability of the review team it is proposed to commence this process so that the report can be available for consideration by the Annual meeting of the WCPFC in December 2011.

1 Consultation

Consultation with members can occur by way of a questionnaire, email or during the Kobe 3 meeting in July 2011 in California. The review team may also take an opportunity to meet with members at other regional meetings as appropriate.

2 Provisional Report

The provisional report will contain the evaluation and the assessment. This report will be sent to the WCPFC Secretariat before 30 September 2011.

3 Revision of the Provisional report

The Chair and Vice Chair along with the Executive Director will review the report and provide any comments to the review team in order for them to finalize their report to the WCPFC.

4 Final Report

The final report will contain the evaluation, the assessment and the recommendations. This final report will be:

- Sent to the WCPFC Secretariat before 21st October 2011.
- Immediately distributed to WCPFC CCMs so that it can be considered at the 8th Annual meeting of WCPFC in Palau 2011.
- Discussed at the annual meeting and the Commission will decide on those recommendations it wishes to progress and the process for doing this.

The Panel Review Coordinator will attend the 8th Annual Meeting of WCPFC.

*Criteria for Reviewing the General criteria and convention Detailed criteria
Performance of Regional consistency
Fisheries Management
Organizations (RFMOs) Area*

1	<i>Conservation and management</i>	Status of living marine resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of major fish stocks under the purview of the RFMO in relation to maximum sustainable yield or other relevant biological standards. • Trends in the status of those stocks. • Status of species that belong to the same ecosystems as, or are associated with or dependent upon, the major target stocks (hereinafter “non-target species”). • Trends in the status of those species.
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Data collection and sharing
WCPFC Article 10 (1(d)), 5 (i), 10(1(e), 5 (j).apply

- Extent to which the RFMO has adopted standards for collection, verification and reporting of data on fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area in accordance with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, including, agreed formats, specifications and timeframes for data submission, taking into account UNFSA Annex I.
- Extent to which RFMO members and cooperating non-members, individually or through the RFMO, collect and share complete and accurate data concerning vessel position, fishing activities (and catches of) target stocks and non-target species and fishing effort, as well as other relevant data in a timely manner.
- Extent to which the RFMO has access to accurate and complete statistical data to ensure that the best scientific information is available, while maintaining confidentiality, where appropriate
- Extent to which the RFMO has adopted standards for exchange of data concerning fishing activities and fishing vessel data among members and with other RFMOs.
- Extent to which the RFMO is addressing any gaps in the collection and sharing of data as required.
- Extent to which the RFMO obtains and evaluates economic and other fisheries –related data and information relevant to the work of the Commission.
- Extent to which the RFMO receives and/or produces the best scientific advice relevant to the highly migratory fish stocks and other living marine resources under its purview, as well as to the impacts of fishing on the marine environment.
- Extent to which the RFMO obtains and evaluates scientific advice, reviews the status of the stocks, promotes the conduct of relevant scientific research and disseminates the results thereof.

Quality and provision of scientific advice
WCPFC Articles 5(e) , 10(1(f))