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Operations Manual for the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)¹

March 2006

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OPERATIONS MANUAL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC (ISC)

Introduction

The ISC was established in 1995 through an intergovernmental agreement between the governments of Japan and the United States of America. Since its establishment and first meeting in 1996, the ISC has undergone a number of changes to its charter and name and has adopted guidelines for its operations. This manual is a compilation of documents that established the ISC and that guide its operations. All documents are amended versions of the originals and reflect changes adopted by the members.

The following is a chronology of events related to the documents:

1994 Governments of Japan and the United States officially agree to establish the **Interim Scientific Committee** for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean.

1995 (Jan) The agreement with “Guidelines” is announced and made available to the public. A Press Release is issued to mark the event.

1996 (May) First meeting of the ISC is held in Tokyo, Japan.

2002 (Jan) The Guidelines are revised to expand membership and participation by “fishing entities,” allowing Chinese-Taipei full status as a member.

2004 (Feb) Rules and Procedures for Conduct of the Committee and Subsidiary Bodies are adopted along with rules for Data Reporting and Exchange Requirements and Protocol.

2005 (Mar) Name of the organization is changed to **International Scientific Committee** for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. The North Pacific Albacore Workshop (established in 1974) is acquired and integrated as a Working Group.

2005 (Dec) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide the relationship between the ISC and the Western-Central Pacific Fisheries Commission is completed.

For historical purposes, the original text of the “Guidelines” and Press Release establishing the ISC are duplicated below:

Guidelines

A. PURPOSES

- 1. To enhance scientific research and cooperation for conservation and rational utilization of the species of tuna and tuna-like fishes which inhabit the North Pacific Ocean during a part or all of their life cycle:*
- 2. To establish the scientific groundwork, if at some point in the future, it is decided to create a multilateral regime for the conservation and rational utilization of these species in this region.*

B. MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Members:*
 - a. Coastal states of the region;*
 - b. States with vessels fishing for these species in the region.*
- 2. Observer Participants:*
 - a. Relevant intergovernmental fishery organizations;*
 - b. Relevant intergovernmental marine science organizations;*
 - c. Other entities with vessels fishing for these species in the region.*

C. PROCEDURES

- 1. The Committee will be composed of representatives with suitable scientific and fisheries qualification from Members.*
- 2. Observer Participants should participate in the Committee in a manner decided by the Members.*
- 3. Other scientific and fisheries experts may be invited to participate in the work of the Committee by consensus of the members.*
- 4. The Committee is expected to meet during 1995 in Japan and thereafter once every two years or as otherwise as may be agreed.*
- 5. The Committee may establish subsidiary bodies which may meet in the interim between Committee meetings with a view to reporting to the Committee.*
- 6. In carrying out its functions, the Committee will take into account the work of other relevant technical and scientific organizations.*
- 7. The Committee will establish by consensus further procedures for its activities.*

D. FUNCTIONS

The Committee will:

- 1. Regularly assess and analyze fishery and other relevant information concerning the species covered;*
- 2. Prepare a report on its findings or conclusions on the status of such species such as trends in population abundance of such species, developments in fisheries, and conservation needs;*
- 3. Strive to adopt reports and findings by consensus of all Members, however, it is not necessary that consensus be achieved on all matters, and reports and findings may reflect options and differing views when a consensus has not been achieved;*

4. *Formulate proposals for conduct of and, to the extent possible, coordinate international and national programs of research addressing such species; and*
5. *Consider any other matters, as appropriate, at the request of one of the members.*

PRESS RELEASE

(January 1995)

The Government of the United States and the Government of Japan announced today the formation of an Interim Scientific Committee to study the tuna and tuna-like species of the North Pacific Ocean. They announced as well that all countries of the region, and states with vessels fishing in the region could participate as Members of the Committee. They indicated that the Committee would cooperate closely with relevant fisheries and scientific organizations, and other entities with vessels fishing in the region.

In forming the Committee, the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan noted the need to develop better information on stocks of tuna and tuna-like species in the North Pacific Ocean, in cooperation with relevant fisheries organizations, to enhance scientific knowledge throughout the entire migratory range of these species.

They described the purposes of the Committee to be:

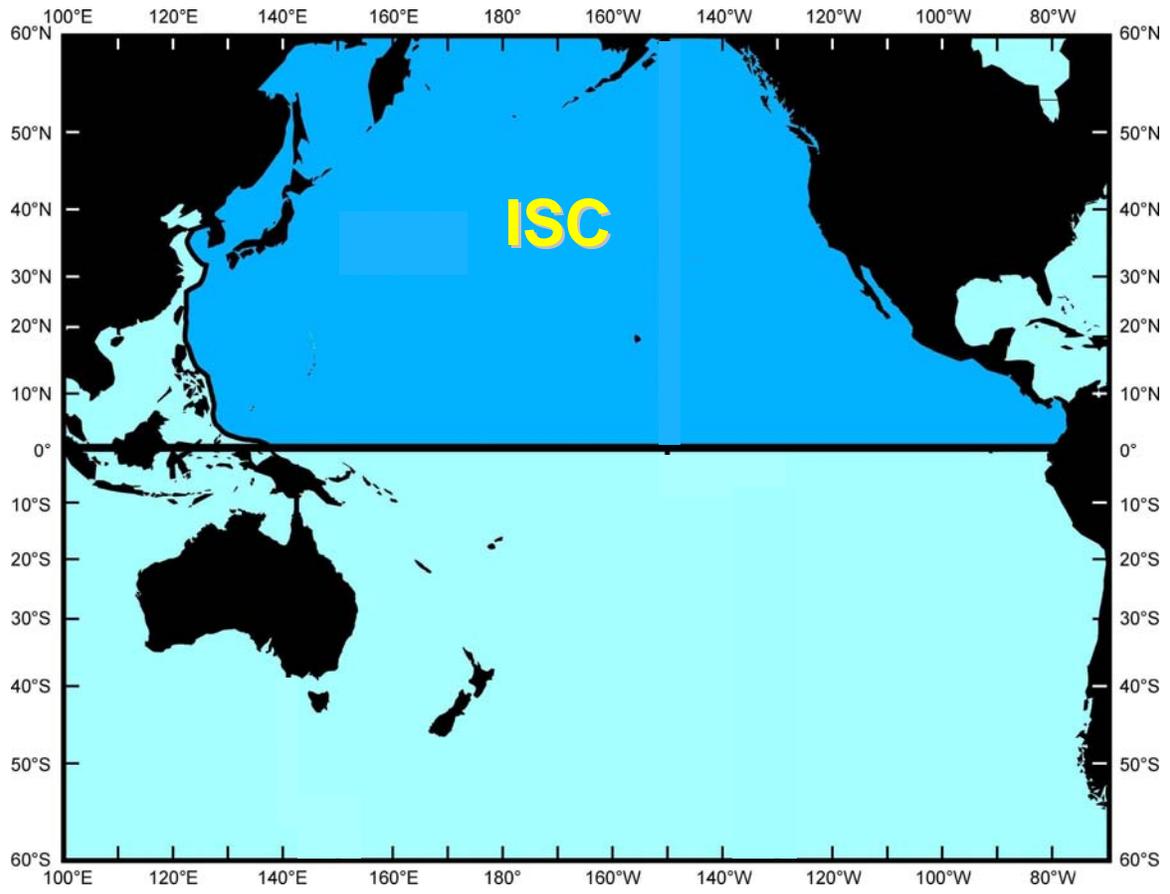
1. *To enhance scientific research and cooperation for conservation and rational utilization of the species of tuna and tuna-like fishes which inhabit the North Pacific Ocean during part or all of their life cycle; and,*
2. *To establish the scientific groundwork, if at some point in the future, it is decided to create a multilateral regime for the conservation and rational utilization of these species in this region.*

It was announced that the Government of Japan intends to host the first meeting of the Committee in 1995, that working groups plan to be formed on specific matters, and that these working groups are expected to report to the second meeting of the Committee which would occur in 1997 in the United States.

In establishing the Committee, the Governments of the United States and Japan indicated that it was their intention that the procedures and functions of the Committee be kept as simple and informal as possible in order to facilitate the full exchange of scientific information. In this regard, they developed a short statement of purposes, procedures and functions to guide the Committee in its work.

March 2006

ISC Area



HMS SPECIES OF THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

| Code | Common English Name | Species name |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| TUNAS | | |
| ALB | Albacore | <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> |
| BET | Bigeye tuna | <i>T. obesus</i> |
| PBF | Pacific bluefin tuna | <i>T. orientalis</i> |
| YFT | Yellowfin tuna | <i>T. albacares</i> |
| SKJ | Skipjack tuna | <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> |
| BILLFISHES | | |
| SWO | Swordfish | <i>Xiphias gladius</i> |
| MLS | Striped marlin | <i>Tetrapturus audax</i> |
| BUM | Blue marlin | <i>Makaira nigricans</i> |
| BLM | Black marlin | <i>M. indica</i> |
| SFA | Sailfish | <i>Istiophorus platypterus</i> |
| SHARKS | | |
| ALV | Common thresher shark | <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> |
| PTH | Pelagic thresher shark | <i>A. pelagicus</i> |
| BTH | Bigeye thresher shark | <i>A. superciliosus</i> |
| SMA | Shortfin mako shark | <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> |
| BSH | Blue shark | <i>Prionace glauca</i> |

Guidelines for the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

(Amended at the third ISC Plenary Meeting on January 29, 2002)

A. PURPOSES

3. To enhance scientific research and cooperation for conservation and rational utilization of the species of tuna and tuna-like fishes which inhabit the North Pacific Ocean during a part or all of their life cycle:
4. To establish the scientific groundwork, if at some point in the future, it is decided to create a multilateral regime for the conservation and rational utilization of these species in this region.

B. MEMBERSHIP

3. Members:
 - a. Coastal states/fishing entities of the region;
 - b. States/fishing entities with vessels fishing for these species in the region.
4. Observer Participants:
 - a. Relevant intergovernmental fishery organizations;
 - b. Relevant intergovernmental marine science organizations;

C. PROCEDURES

8. The Committee will be composed of representatives with suitable scientific and fisheries qualification from Members.
9. Observer Participants should participate in the Committee in a manner decided by the Members.
10. Other scientific and fisheries experts may be invited to participate in the work of the Committee by consensus of the members.
11. The Committee is expected to meet during 1995 in Japan and thereafter once every two years or as otherwise as may be agreed.
12. The Committee may establish subsidiary bodies which may meet in the interim between Committee meetings with a view to reporting to the Committee.
13. In carrying out its functions, the Committee will take into account the work of other relevant technical and scientific organizations.
14. The Committee will establish by consensus further procedures for its activities.

D. FUNCTIONS

The Committee will:

6. Regularly assess and analyze fishery and other relevant information concerning the species covered;

7. Prepare a report on its findings or conclusions on the status of such species such as trends in population abundance of such species, developments in fisheries, and conservation needs;
8. Strive to adopt reports and findings by consensus of all Members, however, it is not necessary that consensus be achieved on all matters, and reports and findings may reflect options and differing views when a consensus has not been achieved;
9. Formulate proposals for conduct of and, to the extent possible, coordinate international and national programs of research addressing such species; and
10. Consider any other matters, as appropriate, at the request of one of the members.

Rules and Procedures for Conduct of the ISC and Subsidiary Bodies

(Adopted at the fourth ISC Plenary Meeting on February 4, 2004,
and Amended at the fifth ISC Plenary Meeting on March 30, 2005)

Background

The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) was established in 1995 for the purpose of enhancing scientific research and cooperation for conservation and rational utilization of tuna and tuna-like species (HMS) of the North Pacific Ocean, and to establish the scientific groundwork, if at some point in the future it is decided to create a multilateral regime for the conservation and rational utilization of the HMS species in the North Pacific Ocean.

The Committee

The Committee is made up of Members from coastal states and fishing entities of the region and coastal states and fishing entities with vessels fishing for HMS in the region, and permanent observers (Observers) from relevant intergovernmental fishery and marine science organizations, recognized by all members. Its functions are to regularly assess and analyze fishery and other relevant information concerning the species covered; prepare reports of its findings or conclusions on the status of the species covered, including trends in population abundance, developments in fisheries, and conservation needs. It promotes research cooperation and collaboration among members by developing proposals for conduct of and, to the extent possible, coordinates international and national programs of research addressing the species covered. Furthermore, it takes into account the work and findings of other relevant technical and scientific organizations in execution of its functions.

- C1. *Membership.*** The Committee consists of representatives with suitable scientific and fisheries qualifications. Current Members shall review the eligibility of prospective Members and permanent Observers before admission. Each Member and Observer shall have the right to appoint one representative (Leader), an alternate, if desired, and to be accompanied by experts or advisors with suitable scientific and fisheries qualifications to participate on the Committee. The Leaders are the main source of contact for ISC communications.
- C2. *Chairperson.*** A Chairperson shall be elected by Members of the Committee. The Chairperson serves as the leader of the Committee and is responsible for advancing the objectives of the ISC in a cost-effective and efficient manner. Responsibilities include chairing meetings of the Committee and supervising the work of subsidiary bodies, organizing meetings of the Committee, ensuring that ISC assignments and commitments are completed in a timely, efficient manner, and coordinates activities with the Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies. Additional duties with respect to preparations for meetings include: (1) distribute a draft meeting agenda 90 days in advance and soliciting comments, (2) coordinate arrangements, (3) ensure that reports of subsidiary bodies and results of assignments are available on a timely basis, (4) appoint and distribute a list of proposed invited experts for approval by

Members in advance of the meeting (see C6), (5) appoint rapporteurs, and (6) perform other matters that are required for smooth preparation and functioning of a meeting. In conducting meetings, the Chairperson shall strive for consensus of all Members in Committee decisions, conclusions and findings.

- Nominees for Chairperson are from Members attending the meeting.
- The Chairperson is elected by secret ballot, one vote per Member and by majority vote of Members attending the meeting. The first round of an election will consist of each voting Member having the opportunity to submit one nominee's name on a secret ballot. If the same name appears on a majority of ballots submitted, that candidate shall be declared the elected Chairperson. If no majority of nominee appears on the ballots, the two nominees receiving the most votes would be the candidates for the second round. Members would vote for one of the candidates in the second round and the candidate receiving the majority of votes submitted shall be declared the elected Chairperson. If a tie vote results, a third round of voting between the two nominees shall be held in order to secure a candidate with majority votes.
- The Chairperson serves for a term of three years and is eligible for re-election for one additional three-year term.

C3. *Vice Chairperson.* A Vice Chairperson shall be elected by members of the Committee. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson assumes all duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson.

- The runner-up candidate in the second or third round of the election for Chairperson shall be declared the elected Vice Chairperson. If only one nominee results from the first round of the election for Chairperson, the Chairperson election process shall be applied to elect a Vice Chairperson.
- The Vice Chairperson serves for a term of three years and is eligible for reelection for additional terms.

C4. *Reports.* Reports of findings, decisions and conclusions are prepared by the Committee for the record and for distribution. In adopting a report, the Committee strives for consensus of all Members; however, if reasonable efforts fail to reach a consensus, reports and findings may reflect opinions and the differing views.

C5. *Exchange of fisheries and biological data.* Timely exchange of complete and accurate fisheries and biological data are primary obligations of participants of the ISC. Each Member and Observer of the Committee shall appoint a Data Correspondent, who shall be responsible for meeting all requirements for timely submission of complete and accurate data as specified by the Data Protocol of the ISC (Attachment).

C6. *Invited experts.* Scientific and fisheries experts, who are not Members of the Committee may be invited to participate in the deliberations or work of the Committee. Decision on inviting experts, nominated by Members, shall be made by consensus of Members of the Committee. The Chairperson will be responsible for

preparing the list of nominees, nominated by Members no later than 90 days before the event, and immediately distribute to Members for approval. If no objections are received by 45 days of the event, the Chairperson shall issue invitations to approved nominees. The manner of invited experts' participation shall be decided by the Members. Invited experts are not eligible to vote on ISC matters.

- C7. *Subsidiary bodies.*** The Committee may establish subsidiary bodies, including Working Groups, which may meet in the interim between Committee meetings, or more frequently, and report to the Committee.
- C8. *Frequency of meetings.*** The Committee shall meet once every two years or more frequently if required and agreed to by the Members. The time and place of meetings shall be decided by the Members. The working language of all meetings will be English and for the plenary sessions of Committee meetings only, with formal interpretation into Japanese.
- C9. *Peer review of function.*** Every five years, or more frequently as may be decided, the Committee shall organize a team of three recognized peers with no Committee affiliation, to review the function of the Committee and subsidiary bodies and to offer recommendations for improvement.
- C10. *Other procedures.*** The Committee will establish by consensus other procedures as required for conduct of activities. It can be dissolved by consensus of Members.

Working Groups

In 1996, the ISC Committee established three species Working Groups (Bigeye Tuna Working Group, Pacific Bluefin Tuna Working Group and Swordfish Working Group) and a Statistical Working Group. A fourth species Working Group, the Marlin Working Group, was created in 1999. In 2004, the Bigeye Tuna Working Group was dissolved and a By-Catch Working Group was created. In 2005, the North Pacific Albacore Workshop was acquired and integrated as the Albacore Working Group. These Working Groups are subsidiary bodies of the Committee and report to the Committee. Each provide a forum for cooperation/collaboration in research by Member and Observer scientists as well as for focused consideration of technical matters assigned by the Committee. The species Working Groups' primarily focus on understanding the dynamics and ecology of the HMS and associated-species populations in order to accurately assess stock condition and status. The Statistical Working Group focuses on collection, exchange and archiving of fishery, biological and other data needed for stock assessments and for monitoring fishery developments and by-catch. The work of these Working Groups is guided by multi-year work plans and demands by the Committee.

- W1. *Membership.*** Working Groups shall be constituted of scientists with appropriate credentials and experience. They are appointed by Members and Observers of the Committee.
- W2. *Chairperson.*** A Chairperson with appropriate expertise and knowledge is to be chosen by members of each Working Group.

The Working Group Chairpersons are responsible for chairing meetings of the Working Groups, facilitating the development of multi-year work plans and coordinating work plan assignments, organizing meetings, including advanced

preparation of agendas, scheduling of presenters, appointing of rapporteurs, providing assignments for reports, and ensuring that Committee assignments are completed as required. The Chairpersons also serves as facilitators of views, to ensure that participants with differing views get an opportunity to be heard. They strive for consensus of all members in reporting of Working Group findings, conclusions and decisions to the Committee.

The Chairperson serves a three-year term and may be reappointed for an additional three-year term, but not for more than two consecutive terms.

- W3.** *Frequency of meetings.* Time and place of Working Group meetings are decided in consultation with the Committee. In general, Working Groups meet between Committee meetings, or more frequently as needed to complete assignments and with a view to reporting findings and results to the Committee in a timely manner.
- W4.** *Invited experts.* Occasionally, a Working Group may have a need for special expertise to assist in assignments or may receive requests for participation from experts. On such occasions, the Working Group Chairperson is responsible for following Rule C6 and consulting with the Committee Chairperson.
- W5.** *Format for species Working Group reports.* The focus of species Working Groups is largely understanding the population dynamics of the concerned species in order to accurately assess stock condition. Sufficient understanding for conducting a stock assessment may not accumulate on a regular, predictable schedule for conducting a stock assessment on a regular basis. Species Working Group findings, therefore, may be progress reports for stretches of time before a "current" stock assessment is available. To maintain consistency among reports of species Working Groups and from one year to the next, the following is an outline for Working Group reports destined for submission to the Committee. This outline may be modified by the Committee to meet changing assignments.
 - A. Introduction
 - B. Review of Recent Fisheries (Description of recent developments and issues of fisheries.)
 - C. Fishery Statistics (Presentation of fishing area by gear, time series of landings or catches, catch-effort or CPUE trends, size composition and other biological statistics, e.g., sex ratio and by-catch.)
 - D. Review of Biological Studies (Research results from biological working papers and summary of comments by participants.)
 - E. Review of Stock Assessment Studies (Research results from stock assessment working papers and summary of discussion.)
 - F. Current Stock Status (If results of stock assessment studies provide a basis for an overall assessment of stock condition, conclusions on current stock condition, including relative to conventional acceptable biological reference points and uncertainty should be provided.)
 - G. Special Assignments. (Advice on assignments from the Committee, including scientific advice on potential biological consequences of fisheries management actions and natural events.)

- H. Research Recommendations and Updated Work Plan (Recommendations should be reported by category, statistics, biological studies and stock assessment and focused for advancing understanding of the resource, particularly for more accurate stock assessments.)
- I. Administrative Matters (A catch-all section for time and place for next meeting, acknowledgments, and discussion of other administrative matters.)
- J. Adjournment

Findings, conclusions, and decisions of Working Groups are to be agreed by consensus; however, if reasonable efforts are made and fail to yield consensus, reports and findings may reflect opinions and the differing views. A research plan that would resolve or clarify the different views might also be proposed.

W6. *Format for the Statistical Working Group report.* The main focus of the Statistical Working Group is the collection of accurate fishery statistics, biological and other data in support of stock assessment research, and to coordinate timely exchange and reporting of those data. As such, Data Correspondents should serve on this Working Group. The following is an outline for reports of the Statistical Working Group:

- A. Introduction
- B. Review of Data Requirements for Stock Assessment and Fishery Monitoring
- C. Review of Data Collected by Participants
- D. Updating of Data Inventory and Depository
- E. Review of Data Reporting Protocol (reporting schedule, data access and availability, data correspondence)
- F. Conclusions, Recommendations and Updated Work Plan
- G. Administrative Matters
- H. Adjournment

Steering Group

The Steering Group is an ad hoc body consisting of the Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Chairpersons of the Working Groups and one to three experienced Committee scientists invited to serve by the Committee Chairperson. This Group is responsible for assisting the Committee Chairperson in planning, organizing and coordinating activities and meetings of the Committee and for providing advice to the Committee Chairperson on administrative matters that arise during the inter-sessional period.

Data Reporting and Exchange Requirements and Protocol

Data Reporting and Exchange

The minimum data required for ISC fishery monitoring and resource assessment fall into three categories:

Category I: total annual catch (round weight by species) total annual effort (active vessels by fishery) Category II: catch-effort (summary of logbook data) Category III: biological data, (size composition, length or weight frequencies, sex information).

CATEGORY I (Total annual catch and total annual effort):

Total annual catch in metric tons (round weight) should be reported by gear, species and country for fisheries in the North Pacific (north of the equator). When established, data should be reported by subarea (see Section 2). If round weight is estimated from processed weight, the conversion procedure is to be noted.

Total nominal effort in numbers of active vessels fishing should be reported by fishery, gear and size category for fisheries in the North Pacific. As with catch, reporting should be done by subarea of the North Pacific. However, if effort cannot be reported by subarea or even for the North Pacific, effort should be reported for a larger area and noted. Vessel size categories to be used in reporting effort are:

| Vessels | Size Category |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Longline | 1. Distant-water and 2. offshore (Chinese-Taipei) 1. Distant-water, 2. offshore, and 3. coastal (Japan) |
| Purse seine | 1. large (>260 cubic meter capacity; ~300 mt) 2. small (<260 cubic meter capacity; ~300 mt) 1. distant-water and 2. offshore (Japan) |
| Harpo Troll, gill net, etc. | aggregated by type |

CATEGORY II (Catch-effort):

Catch and effort (logbook) data should be reported by country, gear type, and month. The resolution is as follows:

| Gear | By Month | Catch Effort | Region |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|---|
| Longline | 5x5 deg. | .no. or wt. | hooks (all species recorded) entire Pacific |
| Purse seine | 1x1 deg.* | wt. | days fishing (include searching) entire Pacific |
| Troll | 1x1 deg. | no. | days fishing (include searching) North Pacific |
| Gill net | 1x1 deg. | no. | tans or net-days North Pacific |
| Harpoon | 1x1 deg. | no. | days fishing North Pacific |
| Handline | 1x1 deg. | no. | no lines North Pacific |
| Pole and line | 1x1 deg. | no. | no poles/successful days North Pacific |
| Other | 1x1 deg. | no. | or wt. as needed North Pacific |

*5x5 degree data if 1x1 is not practicable

CATEGORY III (Biological data):

Size composition (length or weight frequencies) and sex data (for swordfish, striped and blue marlins) should be reported by gear type and with the same area resolution as required for Category II data. However, coarser area resolution may be substituted if this requirement can not be applied. Reporting of length-frequencies should be with intervals of 1 or 2 cm. After standard measurements are established (see Section 2, above), both standard measurement and the actual sampling measurement unit should be reported.

All size composition data should include notes on collection method, e.g. port sampled, observer sampled, fisherman sampled, etc. Accuracy of measurement should also be reported (e.g. to the nearest cm, next larger cm, nearest kg, etc.).

Data Access and Availability

The participants agreed that some extracts from ISC database that do not contain proprietary information should be made available to the general public. Category I data aggregated over the entire North Pacific will be considered public domain (PD) data. The PD data will include the caveat that some discards are not reported in the catch statistics provided. Data provided for use and held by the ISC in whatever form remains the property of the individual contributors¹. Release of these data to the general public may be governed by policies of the contributor.

However, raw Category I data as well as Category II and Category III data contain proprietary information and, therefore, shall be made available to contributors only and to scientists of ISC working groups. Japan will be responsible for managing the central data depository and will designate a control person. When a request for non-PD data is received from a member of the general public, the data manager will notify and seek approval and conditions from the contributors of the specific data requested prior to release. A record of all requests received from the general public and the disposition of the request will be maintained and reported at each meeting of the ISC Plenary.

Requests for non-PD data by contributors for purposes other than ISC stock assessment activities will be handled by the control person, following the same procedures delineated in the previous paragraph.

While there is consensus among all contributors regarding the data access rules, outlined above, there is concern that these rules may be changed at some point in the future without the consent of all contributors. It was recommended that the rules not be changed without consensus of all contributors.

¹ As used here and throughout this report, “Contributors” are all ISC participants who have provided data to ISC for inclusion in its database.

**Memorandum of Understanding between
The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory
Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
and
The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species
in the North Pacific Ocean**

(Adopted December 2005)

Recognizing that, *inter alia*, the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereinafter referred to as “the WCPF Commission”):

- Adopts measures to ensure long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and promote the objective of their optimum utilization;
- Ensures that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area, particularly small island developing States, and taking into account fishing patterns, the interdependence of stocks and any generally recommended international minimum standards, whether subregional, regional, or global;
- Assesses the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks;
- Collects and shares, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, *inter alia*, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort, as well as information from national and international research programs;
- Establishes a committee, which shall be called the Northern Committee, to make recommendations on the implementation of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission for the area north of the 20 parallel of north latitude and on the formulation of such measures in respect of stocks which occur mostly in this area;
- Enters into administrative and financial arrangements as required to utilize scientific services for the purpose of providing information and advice on the fishery resources covered by its Convention and related matters that may be relevant to the conservation and management of those resources and, in order to carry out its functions in a cost-effective manner, shall, to the greatest extent possible, utilize the services of existing regional organizations and shall consult, as appropriate, with any other fisheries management,

technical or scientific organization with expertise in matters related to the work of the Commission; and

- Establishes a committee (the Scientific Committee) to ensure that the Commission obtains for its consideration the best scientific information available through review of research results, encouraging and promoting cooperation in scientific research and assessing status of target or non-target stocks of interest.

Recognizing that the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “the ISC”):

- Enhances scientific research and cooperation for conservation and rational utilization of the species of tuna and tuna-like fishes which inhabit the North Pacific Ocean during a part or all of their life cycle;
- Creates the scientific groundwork, if at some point in the future, it is decided to create a multilateral regime for the conservation and rational utilization of these species in this region;
- Establishes a central database to support the scientific research of the ISC and continues to consider establishing a permanent Secretariat;
- Establishes subsidiary Working Groups to perform the significant scientific work of the ISC.

The Commission of the WCPFC and the ISC, the participants to this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), have therefore reached the following understanding.

Part I: Provision of Scientific Advice

- The Northern Committee may request from the ISC scientific information and advice regarding fish stocks (generally those stocks occurring mostly north of the 20° parallel of north latitude; see Annex 1) for response prior to each meeting of the Northern Committee. This formal request will be transmitted expeditiously to the ISC. The Commission will, if requested, provide data necessary for the scientific analysis to be conducted by the ISC.
- The ISC will provide requested scientific information and advice in accordance with this MOU one (1) month before the annual meetings of the Northern Committee. ISC will also provide the requested scientific information and advice to the Commission and the Scientific Committee. This scientific information and advice will follow the standard presented in Annex 2 for standard (recurring) requests or as mutually agreed upon for special requests (see also Part III below).
- The ISC will provide its normal Committees and Working Group reports, prepared under the Rules and Procedures for the Conduct of the ISC Committee and Subsidiary Bodies,

including relevant background reports, directly to the Northern Committee, the Commission, and the Scientific Committee.

- ISC scientific information and advice will be presented at the annual meeting of the Northern Committee and the Scientific Committee, and may be presented to the Commission by the Chair of the ISC, or a designate, and advisors from the ISC Working Groups, as appropriate. The participation costs of the ISC Chair, or designate, and advisors from the ISC Working Groups will be borne by the Member Governments of the ISC Chair and Working Group advisors.

Part II: Framework for Mutual Cooperation

Participants to this MOU will:

- Encourage reciprocal consultations and regular contacts on matters of common interest regarding scientific research on highly migratory tuna and tuna-like resources;
- Regularly exchange relevant meeting reports, information, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest; and
- Routinely exchange fishery data, in accordance with the rules and procedures for data confidentiality adopted by each organization, to minimize duplicative data collection efforts and enhance fishery monitoring and stock assessment through the use of common data sources.

The Executive Director of the Commission, or designate, including the Chair of the Northern Committee and Chair of the Scientific Committee, will be invited to observe the plenary meetings of the ISC and its Working Groups. The Chair of the ISC, or designate, will be invited to observe the annual meetings of the Commission and meetings of the Northern Committee and Scientific Committee, as well as other subsidiary bodies, as appropriate. The costs of participation will be borne by each Organization respectively.

Part III: Finance

- ISC will provide its normal reports and the reports of its Working Groups, as well as standard (recurring) scientific information and advice, without cost to the Commission.
- The Commission will pay, as mutually decided, costs for special scientific advice requested by the Commission.

Part IV: General Administrative Arrangements

- This MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of the responsible representatives in both the Commission and ISC.
- This MOU may be modified by written consent of both Commission and ISC and signed by the responsible representative in each organization. The modified MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of both the responsible representatives of the Commission and ISC.
- If any dispute should arise between the Commission and ISC on the operation of this MOU, both will make every effort to resolve the dispute themselves, or if necessary, by utilizing a mutually decided arbiter.
- Either Commission or ISC may terminate this MOU by providing 30 days written notice to the other of its intention to withdraw from this MOU. Upon termination of the MOU, any funds provided for special, typically non-recurring, scientific advice shall be refunded to the Commission (see Part III above).
- A full review of the terms and operation of the MOU and its Annexes will be conducted as soon as practicable after the first full 12 months of operation following its signature by the Commission and the ISC and subsequently every three years.

Part V: Signature

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean:

Signed: _____
Date: _____

Signed: _____
Date: _____

Chair
Commission for the Conservation and
Management of Highly Migratory Fish
Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific

Chair
International Scientific Committee for
Tuna and Tuna-like Species
in the North Pacific

Annex 1

Provisional list of species and/or stocks in the North Pacific for which the Northern Committee may request standard (recurring) advice from the ISC:

- North Pacific Albacore
- Pacific bluefin tuna
- Swordfish and other billfishes
- By-catch (fish and non-fish) species

Other species may be added to the list with the mutual written concurrence of the Participants to this MOU.

Annex 2

Standard (recurring) advice required from ISC by the Northern Committee:

For tuna and tuna-like species that occur primarily in the North Pacific, the ISC will report annually to the Northern Committee of the WCPFC on:

1. Performance of the monitored fisheries
2. Progress in stock assessment research and future needs
3. Status of stocks
4. Advice on conservation measures
 - a. Management measures needed
 - b. Evaluation of the effectiveness of exiting measures

Any additional ISC tasks needed to support WCPFC will be delineated in annual service agreements established at the outset of each year and in accordance with Part III.