

**Record of the 11th Scientific Working Group of the Preparatory Conference of the
North Pacific Fisheries Commission (formerly the Multilateral Meeting on
Management of High Seas Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean)**

**Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei
9-10 September 2013**

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The 11th Scientific Working Group (SWG) of the Preparatory Conference of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (formerly the Multilateral Meeting on Management of High Seas Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean) was opened at 9:20 am on Monday, 9 September 2013, by Mr. Chung-Hai Kwoh of Chinese Taipei, who welcomed the attendees and made opening remarks. The delegations and observers then made introductions and opening remarks. A list of attendees appears as Attachment 1.

2. Appointment of Chair and Rapporteur

Dr. Shean-Ya Yeh was appointed to Chair the meeting. Ms. Rini Ghosh agreed to serve as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was reviewed and adopted (Attachment 2). A document list was provided to the participants (Attachment 3).

4. Discussion on the Bottom Fish Stock

The Chair asked for comments on the updated footprint data prepared by the Interim Secretariat (SWG11/WP2). Participants requested clarification on several aspects of the data and provided suggestions for modifying the format of the data for future discussions.

Dr. Masashi Kiyota (Japan) presented the paper titled “Stock Status of the North Pacific armorhead (*Pseudopentaceros wheeleri*) and Management Proposal” (SWG11/WP4/J) and responded to comments and questions on the paper from the participants. The delegations provided suggestions for expanding and improving upon the analysis in the paper. Substantive discussions took place on the paper and the participants could not agree on the application of the analysis for management recommendations. The Russian Federation proposed that Japan and Korea should put together similar data and analysis for the next SWG meeting to develop a more complete stock assessment and the SWG agreed to this proposal.

5. Discussion on the Development of Encounter Protocols on VMEs in the NPFC Convention Area

Dr. Takeshi Hayashibara (Japan) presented the paper titled “Results of the bottom environmental survey of the Emperor Seamount Chain trawl fishing grounds in 2012” (SWG11/WP3/J) and responded to comments and questions on the paper from other delegations. The participants complimented Japan for conducting the research.

The SWG agreed that reporting of species and occurrences of VME components in both

studies and reports would help support the development of encounter protocols.

The United States reminded the participants of the agreement made at the 9th meeting of the SWG to work on the development of encounter protocols for VMEs. Other delegations acknowledged the importance of developing encounter protocols for VMEs, indicating that the steps for moving forward on this matter need additional deliberation. Korea suggested that the SWG define what should be considered VMEs and develop a standardized data sheet for more consistent data collection on this matter.

6. Discussion on the Interim Measures on VMEs and Marine Species

Each delegation reported on its implementation of the interim measures. Japan provided its report in a written document titled “Report on Implementation of the Interim Measures for Bottom Fisheries in the Emperor Seamounts” (SWG11/WP5/J). Chinese Taipei proposed that each delegation use the format in Japan’s report to present its implementation of the interim measures at future meetings of the SWG and the SWG agreed to the proposal.

The United States questioned the overall effectiveness of the interim measures. Canada proposed to evaluate from a scientific basis the effectiveness of the interim measures in future discussions of the SWG. The SWG agreed to consider this matter going forward.

7. Discussion on Science Priorities

Participants discussed the “Summary of discussion held by small working group on science priorities for the NPFC” (SWG11/WP6), which had been developed during the 4th Session of the Preparatory Conference of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC). The SWG agreed that it would focus on the four previously identified priority species (armorhead, splendid alfonsin, Pacific saury and squid) and that fisheries data should be submitted in accordance with the annual report format developed for the NPFC at the 3rd Session of the Preparatory Conference. The SWG agreed that data should be provided for all areas relevant to the assessment of a particular stock, including the high seas and waters under national jurisdiction.

Participants also discussed and agreed to Japan’s proposal to host a workshop on Pacific saury in the spring of 2014 (SWG11/WP7-J). Each delegation agreed to provide the Interim Secretariat with a point of contact by 1 October 2013, in order to work intersessionally on the preparations for the workshop.

8. Other matters

Chinese Taipei suggested that the stock status of pelagic species be discussed at the next meeting of the SWG.

The United States recommended that the SWG progress its work by focusing on the following tasks: (1) development of data systems and standards; (2) development of a systematic approach to stock assessments; (3) modification and refinement of the five year research plan developed by Canada; (4) identification of near term priorities; and (5) development of encounter protocols for VMEs. The United States suggested that a lead be assigned for each task and offered to continue to lead the development of the VME

encounter protocols. Canada offered to continue to lead the development of the five year research plan.

A representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) presented information on the FAO's ongoing work on deep sea fisheries, and the GEF "Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservations of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)" project.

9. Planning of the next SWG meeting

Japan proposed that it hold the next SWG in Japan, subject to the decision of the Preparatory Conference on the location of its next meeting. The SWG agreed to hold the workshop on Pacific saury in Japan in spring 2014.

10. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting

The report of the meeting was adopted at 9:45 am on 10 September 2013.

11. Closing of the Meeting

Participants thanked the Chair for his excellent leadership and the cooperation of the SWG attendees and the meeting concluded.