

**Record of the First Inter-governmental Meeting on Establishment of
New Mechanism for Management of High Seas Bottom Trawling in
the North Western Pacific Ocean**

**Tokyo, Japan
22 – 24 August 2006**

1 Opening

The meeting was opened at 10:00am on Tuesday 22 August 2006 by Mr. Akira NAKAMAE, Deputy Director General of the Fisheries Agency of Japan. Participants from Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America attended the meeting (NWPBT/01/Inf 7). Mr. Katsuma HANAFUSA, Counsellor of the Fisheries Agency of Japan, was elected as chair.

Korea, in its opening statement, proposed urgent establishment of a scientific working group to investigate the current status of the fisheries resources in the high seas area of the North Western Pacific and a level of reasonable fishing capacity to achieve sustainable fisheries in the area (ref).

2 Adoption of Agenda

The meeting adopted NWPBT/01/Inf2 as its agenda.

3 Background Information

Japan provided background information of this meeting (NWPBT/01/Inf 4) and the participants recognized the need to discuss at this meeting that both interim and long-term mechanisms for the management of high seas bottom trawl fisheries.

4 Exchange of Information related to high seas bottom trawling in the North Western Pacific Ocean

Japan, Korea and Russia reported on their high seas bottom trawl fisheries operations in the North Western Pacific Ocean, along with the U.S. provided scientific information related to these fisheries. These presentations were followed by useful exchanges of views.

5 United Nations General Assembly

Japan presented the situation of the UNGA regarding protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, destructive fishing practices and the proposed moratorium on the high seas bottom trawling and its position on this issue (NWPBT/01/Inf 6).

The U.S. explained its proposal to address the issues of bottom trawl fisheries and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems on the high seas in the context of the 2006 UNGA Sustainable Fisheries Resolution.

The participants expressed their preliminary views on the US proposal and further exchanged views on how they should deal with the initiatives discussed at this meeting at the upcoming UN Informal Consultations on the Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions. They recognized that they should work cooperatively at the UNGA for appropriate management of bottom trawling and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas area of the North Western Pacific Ocean.

6 Necessary Actions to ensure sustainable fisheries in the North Western Pacific Ocean

6-1 Necessity of a new mechanism for international management of high seas bottom trawling in the North Western Pacific Ocean

The participants recognized the importance of establishing a new international management arrangement for bottom trawl fisheries on the high sea of the North Western Pacific Ocean in accordance with Paragraph 69 of UNGA Resolution 59/25. They recognized that, in developing any such arrangement, additional consideration would be needed to determine such important issues as the area to be covered, the target fisheries and species, the objective and principles to be incorporated, and the details of any management scheme, among other issues. In this regard, they agreed to continue discussions on this issue on an accelerated basis and agreed to meet again at an early future date.

6-2 Interim measures

At the same time, the participants also recognized that the creation of any formal arrangement would be a lengthy process and that, pending the development of any such arrangement, more urgent action is needed in respect of these fisheries. In particular, they noted that Paragraph 72 of UNGA Resolution 60/31 “Calls upon States urgently to accelerate their cooperation in establishing interim targeted protection mechanisms ...” for these fisheries. In response to this call, the participants discussed an interim targeted protection mechanism including the voluntary interim measures based on the draft previously proposed by Japan (NWPBT/01/WP2 rev1) and refined the draft for further discussions (NWPBT/01/WP2 rev4). In particular the participant noted that the interim measures include a limit on the fishing effort in bottom trawl fisheries on the high seas of the North Western Pacific Ocean to the existing level in terms of the number of fishing vessels and other parameters which reflect the level of fishing effort, fishing capacity or potential impacts on the marine ecosystems. They expressed that they will respect this measure pending the adoption of the whole interim measures.

6-3 Timeframe

The participants discussed and agreed on the timeframe as NWPBT/01/WP3 rev2.

7 Others

7-1 Interim Secretariat

The participants agreed that, Japan would continue to provide secretarial function for these meetings.

7-2 Date and Place of next meeting

The second meeting will be preceded by the 3-5 days scientific working group meeting. The meeting welcome an offer by Korea to host the next session. The second meeting will be convened after the UNGA in 2006.

8 Adoption of record of the meeting

The meeting adopted NWPBT/01/Rec rev2 as its record.

9 Closing of meeting

The meeting was closed at 5:00pm on Thursday 24 August 2006.