

# **Record of the 7<sup>th</sup> Multilateral Meeting on Management of High Seas Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean**

**Bellevue, Washington, U.S.A.  
5-7 August 2009**

## **1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Multilateral Meeting on Management of High Seas Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean (NPO7) was opened at 10:00 am on Wednesday, 5 August 2009 by Mr. William Gibbons-Fly from the United States of America. Representatives from Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea (Korea), the Russian Federation (Russia), Chinese Taipei and the United States of America (U.S.) attended the meeting (Attachment 1).

## **2. Election of Chair**

Dr. Dean Swanson from the U.S. was elected Chair. Ms. Kate Mulvaney from the U.S. agreed to serve as rapporteur.

## **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and adopted (Attachment 2) and a document list was provided (Attachment 3). Japan pointed out that there were two documents, SWG/NPO7/WP4 and SWG/NPO7/WP5, which were not discussed at SWG7 and wished for those documents to be discussed under Agenda Item 4.

### **Remarks of Chinese Taipei and Canada**

This was the first time that Chinese Taipei, as a fishing entity, attended a multilateral meeting on management of high-seas fisheries in the North Pacific. Chinese Taipei described its relevant fishing activities in the North Pacific Ocean and expressed the importance of their attendance in this meeting and future NPO meetings.

The delegate from Canada noted that he did not yet have a formal negotiating mandate from his government and would consequently not be able to express formal positions on the draft Convention Text or participate in decision making.

Chinese Taipei distributed text detailing their North Pacific fisheries (NPO7/Inf3).

## **4. Reports**

### **i) Report from Interim Secretariat on Outcome of the Sixth Inter-governmental Meeting**

The Interim Secretariat presented a summary of the Sixth Inter-Governmental Meeting (meeting report is NPO7/Ref1) held in Busan, Korea, 18-20 February 2009 and of past meetings.

### **ii) Report from the Seventh Scientific Working Group**

Dr. Loh-Lee Low presented the report of the Seventh Scientific Working Group (SWG7) meeting, held 3-4 August 2009 in Bellevue, Washington, U.S.A. (NPO7/WP4) with Participants from Japan, Korea, Russia, and the U.S. The participants agreed to adopt the Meeting Report of SWG7 including the

recommendation for a stock assessment workshop on armorhead assessment to be held in conjunction with SWG8.

iii) **Footprint data**

Japan asked for an explanation on Chinese Taipei vessel Yu-I-Fa's suspected coral dragging activities on the high seas. Chinese Taipei clarified that no Chinese Taipei vessel is authorized to operate in a coral drag fishery on the high seas and that the Yu-I-Fa was investigated by Fisheries Agency officials and no evidence of fishing activity was found. Chinese Taipei reported that the vessel Yu-I-Fa was scrapped in May 2009. Chinese Taipei stated that it has banned coral drag fisheries on the high seas. As a result, any Chinese Taipei vessel engaged in coral drag fishing on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean would be unauthorized and would be held accountable by Chinese Taipei authorities. The U.S. suggested the use of VMS as a tool to ensure that vessels are in their authorized locations. Chinese Taipei agreed that further international cooperation is important in this area. Japan asked that Chinese Taipei, in responding to future issues of suspected illegal, unreported and unregulated activity, provide more reasonable explanations of vessel activity.

In regards to the sighting of the F/V Armela Wonsan in the North Pacific, the Participants requested that the Interim Secretariat contact the United Nations in an effort to gather more information on this matter. The Interim Secretariat agreed to consult with the Participants regarding the letter bringing to attention of UN members the sighting of the F/V Armela Wonsan in North Pacific waters before submission to the UN.

Russia agreed to provide information, when available, on the sighting of a Belizean fishing vessel in the North Pacific. The participants agreed to review and analyze this information in order to determine if the Interim Secretariat should send a letter to the Belizean government to alert them of the activity and to ensure their awareness of international regulations.

**5. Discussion on the revised draft Convention Text.**

The Interim Secretariat presented an overview of the history of the revisions on the Convention Text. The Participants then proceeded to review the revised draft Convention Text (the Text) (NPO7/WP3).

The Participants completed the second reading of Articles 1 through 7 of the Text and discussed plans to prepare a draft of Article 25 of the Text on fishing entities. Japan presented two informational reports related to Article 7(m) and Article 13. The Participants achieved a deeper understanding of the content of those Articles and awareness of the areas that will require further discussion. Russia expressed its view that the development of Article 25 should be in accordance with international law.

The Participants agreed that the Interim Secretariat will no longer be responsible for Secretariat duties upon entry into force of this agreement. Three options for a Secretariat were discussed: 1) creating a separate Secretariat body; 2) utilizing an existing Secretariat for another RFMO with Secretariat responsibilities for this Commission; and 3) merging these management efforts with an existing RFMO such as North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission.

In regards to Article 1, paragraph (i) on fisheries resources, Korea wished to reserve its position in relation to sauries until NPO8.

The Participants agreed to provide comments on the Text to the Interim Secretariat by 15 October 2009. The Interim Secretariat will compile the comments from Participants and circulate a revised text to Participants by 4 December 2009.

## **6. Discussion on the Interim Measures on VMEs and marine species**

The Participants took note of the discussion that occurred in SWG7, in which outstanding issues regarding the implementation of Interim Measures were discussed including the possible application of the Interim Measures to the entire high seas area of the North Pacific Ocean. There was no consensus reached on these matters.

## **7. Requested matters to the Interim Secretariat**

### *a. Fishing Vessel Lists*

Interim Secretariat compiled a list of authorized fishing vessels for 2008 and posted the list on the website.

### *b. Website Maintenance*

Interim Secretariat improved the website by including hyperlinks within the list of acronyms and other terms.

## **8. Timeline for Future Work**

Based on the timing of NPO8, Participants agreed to the following timeline to continue their work:

14 August 2009	Distribution of revised Draft Convention Text resulting from NPO7 to participants
15 October 2009	Comments and text suggestions on Convention Text submitted to Interim Secretariat
4 December 2009	Draft Convention Text incorporating submitted comments distributed to the Participants
18 December 2009	Stock Assessment Data Templates submitted to Interim Secretariat

## **9. Dates and place of the next meeting**

Korea offered to host the next meeting (NPO8) in Jeju, Korea, from 17-22 January 2010 with an understanding that Russia will host the following meeting (NPO9). The Stock Assessment Workshop will be held 17-18 January 2010. SWG8 will be held on 19 January 2010 and NPO8 will be held 20-22 January 2010. The specific venue will be identified as soon as possible.

## **10. Other Matters**

The Participants at the meeting requested that the Interim Secretariat send a letter to Mexico and the People's Republic of China reminding them that they have been invited to participate in this process. Korea as the host country will send notification with details of the next meeting to the Participants, including Mexico and the People's Republic of China.

If requested by the UNGA, the Interim Secretariat will report on progress in the North Pacific Ocean at the UNGA in September 2009.

The Participants expressed appreciation to Jessica Rohde and Marina Koneva of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center as well as Chris Collier of the NOAA Northwest Regional Office for their support of the meeting. Participants also thanked Dean Swanson of the U.S. for his leadership as chair of the meeting.

## **11. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting**

Mr. William Gibbons-Fly of the U.S. acted as chair for adoption of the record of the meeting. The Participants adopted the record of the meeting.

## **12. Closing of the Meeting**

The meeting was concluded at 11:55 am on 07 August 2009.

## **Attachment 1: List of Participants**

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**7th Multilateral Meeting on Management  
of High Seas Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean**

**Bellevue, Washington, U.S.A.  
5-7 August 2009**

**Provisional Agenda**

- 1. Welcome and opening of the meeting**
- 2. Election of chair**
- 3. Adoption of agenda**
- 4. Reports**
  - (i) Report from the Interim Secretariat on the outcome of the 6th Inter-governmental meeting**
  - (ii) Report from the 7th Scientific Working Group on its work**
- 5. Discussion on the revised draft convention text**
- 6. Discussion on the additional Interim Measures on VMEs and marine species**
- 7. Timeline for future work**
- 8. Requested matters to the Interim Secretariat**
- 9. Date and place of the next meeting**
- 10. Other matters**
- 11. Adoption of the record of meeting**
- 12. Closing of the Meeting**

**7th Multilateral Meeting on Management  
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**Bellevue, Washington, U.S.A.  
August 5-7 2009**

**List of Documents**

**Information Papers**

- NPO7/Inf1: List of Documents
- NPO7/Inf2: List of Participants
- NPO7/Inf3: Opening Remarks by Chinese Taipei

**Working Papers**

- NPO7/WP1: Provisional Agenda
- NPO7/WP2: Provisional Annotated Agenda
- NPO7/WP3: Draft Convention Text
- NPO7/WP4: Definition of fishing entity and what provisions are incorporated about fishing entity in other Convention/Agreement/Treaty
- NPO7/WP5: Organizational Structure of RFMOs
- NPO7/WP6/J: Possible ways to handle experimental, scientific, or exploratory fishing operations under the Commission
- NPO7/WP7/J: Dispute Settlement for the Draft Convention to Establish the North Pacific Fisheries Commission
- SWG7/NPO7/WP4: Letter from Taiwan regarding coral fisheries
- SWG7/NPO7/WP5: Unregistered vessel information

**Reference Papers**

- NPO7/Ref1: Record of the 6th Inter-Governmental Meeting
- NPO7/Ref2: 2009 Report to the UN Secretary General on Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas of the Northwestern Pacific