

**Record of the 9th Multilateral Meeting on Management of
High Seas Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean**

**Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia
5-9 September 2010**

Meeting Report

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting

The 9th Multilateral Meeting on Management of High Seas Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean (NPO9) was opened at 9:30 am on Sunday, 5 September 2010 by Mr. Sergey Podolyan from the Russian Federation. Mr. Podolyan welcomed all attendees and made opening remarks. A list of attendees appears as Attachment 1.

2. Election of Chair and Rapporteur

Mr. Podolyan was elected to Chair the Meeting. Ambassador David Balton of the United States continued to serve as Chairman for purposes of negotiating the Convention text. Ms. Maggie Rabb (United States) was elected to serve as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and adopted (Attachment 2) and a document list was provided (Attachment 3).

4. Reports

a. Report from the Interim Secretariat

The Interim Secretariat (I.S.) presented a review of the 8th Multilateral Meeting on Management of High Seas Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean (NPO8) held 20-22 January 2010 in Jeju, Republic of Korea.

b. Report from the 9th Scientific Working Group

Dr. Vladimir Radchenko presented the report of the 9th Scientific Working Group (SWG9) meeting, held 4 September 2010 in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia. The attendees adopted the SWG9 meeting report and the associated recommendations contained within the report.

5. Discussion on the revised draft Convention text

Chairman Balton presented an overview of the revised draft Convention text (NPO9/WP3). The Chairman suggested that most of the work of the attendees could be accomplished in plenary session but recommended that some of the work may be more effectively accomplished in smaller technical groups or friends of the Chair meetings.

The Chair identified six key issues to be addressed:

1. Who can participate in the Convention? (various Articles)
2. Area of application (Article 4)
3. The functions of the Commission (Article 7)

4. Decision-making in the Commission (Articles 8 and 8bis)
5. The Commission budget (Article 9(ter))
6. Types of control measures written into the Convention (various Articles)

The attendees completed an reading of the entire draft Convention text, except for the Preamble and Annexes II and III, and made considerable progress in resolving issues.

With respect to Article 16, paragraph 4 of the draft Convention text relating to the public release of the results of any review of the work of the Commission, it was the general understanding of the attendees that the Commission would need to consider carefully the timing of any such release.

6. Interim Measures on vulnerable marine ecosystems and marine species

a. Report on implementation of Interim Measures

Japan presented an overview of its implementation of the Interim Measures for bottom fisheries in the Emperor Seamounts (NPO9/WP8/J).

Korea summarized its implementation of the Interim Measures for bottom fisheries in the Emperor Seamounts (NPO9/WP9/K).

Russia presented an overview of its implementation of Interim Measures (NPO9/WP11/R).

Attendees agreed that it is difficult to determine the relationship between reduced fishing effort and the percentage reduction of mortality rate. Japan suggested that each participant in the bottom fisheries in the Emperor Seamounts should indicate how to convert the percentage reduction of mortality rate into actual reduction of fishing effort or other measures.

In this regard, Japan highlighted the importance of considering the distribution of fishing effort by month in determining reduction of fishing effort related to closures and requested that attendees provide this data at the next meeting.

b. Modifications to the existing Interim Measures and adoption of Northeast Pacific Interim Measures

The United States presented a proposal for new Interim Measures for the Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the Northeast Pacific Ocean. Attendees thanked the United States for the proposal and agreed that discussion would continue on the development of Interim Measures for the Northeast Pacific at the 10th Multilateral Meeting on Management of High Seas Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean (NPO10). Attendees thanked Japan for their willingness to provide Secretariat services in respect of these Interim Measures once they are agreed.

7. Timeline for future work

The Chairman will submit a draft of the Convention text as it stands at the end of NPO9 to the I.S. by 30 September 2010 for distribution to all attendees. Attendees are invited to submit comments on the draft Convention text to the I.S. and the Chairman by 1 December 2010. The

I.S. will circulate received comments to all attendees. The Chairman will prepare a Chairman's Text and a Draft Final Act and submit it to the I.S. for circulation by 15 January 2011.

Attendees with comments on the draft Interim Measures for the Northeast Pacific Ocean were requested to submit their comments on the draft Interim Measures for the Northeast Pacific Ocean to the I.S. by 1 December 2010 for circulation to all attendees. The United States agreed to take any such comments into account in developing a revised proposal for Northeast Pacific Interim Measures to be sent to the I.S. for circulation by 15 January 2011.

8. Dates and Place of Next Meetings

Canada offered to host the next Multilateral Meeting on the Management of High Seas Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean in Vancouver, British Columbia from 27 February through 4 March 2011. Attendees thanked Canada for offering to host NPO10 and agreed to the proposed location and dates.

Attendees agreed to devote the first day of NPO10 to the negotiation of the Interim Measures for the Northeast Pacific Ocean and to devote the remaining days to the negotiation of the Chairman's text. Attendees expressed the hope that both documents would be concluded during the course of NPO10. Attendees also agreed that the SWG would not meet in Vancouver, but reaffirmed the importance of the work of the SWG and also of reaching agreement on an encounter protocol as soon as possible.

9. Other Matters

The representative of the Faroe Islands expressed the interest of his Government in participating in future meetings as a full participant and offered to present information relating to the real interest of the Faroe Islands in the relevant fisheries at the beginning of NPO10.

Attendees agreed to expand the mandate of the SWG to include providing scientific advice relating to all fisheries to be covered by the draft Convention in the North Pacific Ocean.

10. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting

Attendees adopted this Record of the Meeting.

11. Closing of the Meeting

Attendees thanked the Chairman of the multilateral Meeting, the Chairman of the Draft Convention text negotiations, the Rapporteur, the Interim Secretariat, and the host government for its preparations and arrangements. The meeting concluded at 3:30 pm. on 9 September 2010.

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**9th Multilateral Meeting on Management
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Yushno-Sakhalinsk, Russia

5-9 September 2010

Agenda

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

**9th Multilateral Meeting on Management
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Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia

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List of Documents

Information Papers

-NPO9/Inf1: List of Documents

-NPO9/Inf2: List of Participants

Working Papers

-NPO9/WP1: Provisional Agenda

-NPO9/WP2: Provisional Annotated Agenda

-NPO9/WP3: Draft Convention Text

-NPO9/WP4/CA: Canada's Proposal for additions to Article 5 (Establishment of the Commission) and Article 15 (Cooperation with Other Organizations or Arrangements)

-NPO9/WP5/US: U.S. Proposal on monitoring, control, and surveillance issues

-NPO9/WP6/J: Japan's proposal to amend the Chairman's text

-NPO9/WP7/US: U.S. Proposal on fishing entities

-NPO9/WP8/J: Report on implementation of the Interim measures for bottom fisheries in the Emperor Seamounts, Japan

-NPO9/WP9/K: Report on implementation of the Interim measures for bottom fisheries in the Emperor Seamounts, The Republic Korea

-NPO9/WP10/China: Proposal on Fishing Entities for NPO Convention

-NPO9/WP11/R: Report on implementation of the Interim measures for bottom fisheries in the Emperor Seamounts, Russian Federation

Reference Papers

-NPO9/Ref1: Record of the 8th Multilateral Meeting on Management of High Seas Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean