

8th Scientific Working Group of Multilateral Meeting on Management of High Seas in the North Pacific Ocean

**Jeju, Korea
19 January 2010**

Meeting Report

1. Opening

Mr. Il Jeong Jeong of the Republic of Korea opened the 8th Meeting of the Scientific Working Group at 9:00 am on 19 January 2010 and welcomed all delegations. Representatives from Japan, the Republic of Korea (Korea), the Russian Federation (Russia), and the United States (U.S.) participated in the meeting and Canada, Chinese Taipei, and The People's Republic of China, and the Faroe Islands attended the meeting as observers (Attachment 1). The Chair invited all participants to make introductions.

2. Appointment of Facilitator and Rapporteur

Dr. Dae-Yeon Moon (Korea) was selected as the Facilitator and Ms. Cheri McCarty (U.S.) agreed to serve as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Japan proposed to discuss under agenda item 8 how participation of new members other than the original four members, namely, the United States, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and Japan will be treated in the SWG.

The agenda was reviewed and adopted (Attachment 2). A list of documents used during the meeting was distributed to the participants (Attachment 3).

4. Report from the Stock Assessment Workshop and discussion on the future plan

The Facilitator from the Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW), Dr. Loh-Lee Low (U.S.) gave a report regarding the outcomes of the meeting. The Meeting Report was distributed and adopted (Attachment 4). In adopting the report the SWG approved the proposal from the SAW to hold another workshop in Japan sometime this year.

5. Follow-up of the Outcome of the 7th Meeting of the Scientific Working Group

The participants discussed outstanding subjects from SWG7, including observer data. The Chair invited Russia to give a summary of its document, *Short Report on Russian Activity in open waters of the Northeastern Pacific Ocean in 2009*. In its report, Russia indicated that during the F/V *Tiburón's* research activity, abandoned fishing gear was encountered. Russia explained this gear showed evidence of bottom longline fishing and offered to supply the participants with photos of the gear.

Japan raised the question of consistency between the requirements contained in the UN Resolutions for high seas bottom fisheries and the research activity conducted by the Russian Federation.

The US pointed out that research activities are not exempt from the UN resolution and are subject to the same requirements as fishing activities. Russia stated that the research was conducted according to its National Program protocol.

Participants agreed that having additional catch data, including total catch, by species and CPUE could help to distinguish fishing activities from research activities. The Facilitator asked Russia to provide the requested information during the meeting, if possible, or to provide the data at the next meeting.

6. Discussion of Definition of Encounter with VMEs

The participants discussed the definition of an encounter with VMEs in the Northwestern Pacific Ocean, including whether the threshold levels set by NAFO and SEAFO were applicable to the NPO due to regional differences. The value of an encounter protocol was agreed to; however, it was decided that defining an encounter protocol with VMEs should be postponed until further data can be obtained, including the observer data related to activity in the region of the Emperor Sea Mounts as well as the distribution of trawling time in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Canada has agreed to compile the information from NAFO.

The United States expressed disappointment that further progress could not be made at this meeting.

7. Discussion on the Interim Measures on VMEs and marine species

The Facilitator opened discussion on whether the Interim Measures should be modified. There was agreement that the Northeast Pacific area did require Interim Measures, but that they did not need to be the same as the Interim Measures for the Northwestern Pacific Ocean (FAO Statistical Area 61). The participants agreed in principle to recommend the following steps for the Northeast Pacific: to provide the Interim Secretariat with current and historical catch data and not to increase the current levels of [bottom] fishing effort or expand into new fishing areas. It was requested that the U.S. prepare a short paper to this effect for consideration by the 8th multilateral meeting.

The United States agreed to provide this paper as a first step in a two part process with further elaboration of Interim Measures for the Northeast Pacific to be considered at the 9th Multilateral Meeting, including provisions regarding the conditions under which such expansions could be considered.

8. Other Matters

There was a discussion regarding the participatory status of the non-original members in the SWG. It was agreed that the current formulation of the SWG was established by the Multilateral Meeting to provide advice on the Interim Measures of the Northwestern Pacific Ocean. The SWG could not change its mandate and this decision should be referred to the 8th Multilateral Meeting for decision.

9. Adoption of the record of meeting

The report of the meeting was adopted by consensus at 6:00 pm on 19 January 2010.

10. Closing of meeting

Participants thanked the Facilitator, the Rapporteur, the Interim Secretariat, and the host government for their preparations, arrangements, and running of the meeting.