

3RD WCPFC-IATTC CONSULTATIVE MEETING



PANAMA CITY (PANAMA)
24 JUNE 2008



1. The Secretariats of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) met for a Third Consultation during the occasion of the 78th Meeting of the IATTC at Panama City, Panama, on 27th June 2008. The meeting was chaired by Dr Reynaldo Pérez Guardia (Panama). IATTC and WCPFC members and observers participating in the 78th Meeting attended the Consultation.
2. The agenda at Attachment A was adopted.
3. Dr Guillermo Compeán (IATTC Secretariat), in introducing the agenda, noted that while the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations provided for opportunistic consultations between the two Secretariats, the annual sessions of the two Commissions provided a good opportunity for the members of each organization to contribute to those discussions.
4. Mr Andrew Wright (WCPFC Secretariat) noted that, while the Consultation provided a good opportunity for the Secretariats to exchange information and views on current and emerging issues in each Commission, any suggestions for formal collaboration arising out of the Consultations would require consideration in each Commission prior to deciding on the form such collaboration may take.
5. Due to time constraints, the Consultation was confined to one substantive issue and one issue for noting.

IATTC/WCPFC Draft Agreement on the Exchange of Data

6. Mr Wright introduced a paper that was on the agenda for the 78th Meeting proposing formal arrangements for the exchange of scientific and other fisheries data and information between the two Secretariats. The IATTC Parties had earlier discussed the proposed agreement. Mr Wright advised that the draft Agreement was based on the *Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission* which were adopted by the WCPFC at its Regular Session at Guam in December 2007. The *Rules and Procedures* provide for the development of data exchange arrangements that have the potential to generate mutual benefits for both RFMOs. Dr Compeán noted that the draft Agreement clearly stipulated that any exchange of data would be governed by the data confidentiality arrangements in place for each Secretariat.
7. Several IATTC members present at the Consultation sought clarification on the scope of operational level data, the meaning of “vessels of interest”, and the role of observers of the respective observer programmes of each Commission when vessels on which they are working are operating in the Convention Area of the other Commission. Regarding the role of observers, Dr Compeán noted that there is a reciprocal arrangement in place between the IATTC and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency to resolve this situation for US-flag vessels operating under the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries. Mr Wright noted that there was no similar arrangement in place with the WCPFC at present because the WCPFC’s observer programme is still under development.

WCPO tuna tagging effort

8. Prior to the close of the Consultation, Mr Wright briefed the IATTC on a major tuna-tagging initiative that is currently being implemented in the Western and Central Pacific (WCPO). He advised that, since early 2007, the Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP) had tagged and released in excess of 100,000 tunas. He noted that, while the majority of tagging to date had taken place in the west of the WCPO, a recent subsidiary tagging effort had been successfully undertaken in the central Pacific south of Hawaii.

Mr Wright noted that, if the proposed IATTC tagging program were to be implemented, the two organizations could be seen to be participating in a genuine pan-Pacific tagging initiative that should generate mutual benefits for both Commissions. Mr Wright appealed to processors in Latin America to alert cannery workers to the PTTP and collaborate in the retrieval of tags. The IATTC Secretariat is supporting the PTTP by coordinating the return of tags deployed under the PTTP and retrieved in processing facilities in the eastern Pacific.

Close

9. The meeting closed with the advice that the next Consultation would take place on the occasion of the 5th Regular Session of the WCPFC at Busan, Korea, in December 2008.

Attachment A

AGENDA

	Documents
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening of the meeting 2. Adoption of the agenda 3. Review of areas for collaboration: 4. Other business 5. Place and date of next meeting 6. Adjournment 	<p>IATTC-78-10b</p>