

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

and

THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (hereafter IATTC):

RECOGNISING that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

RECOGNISING FURTHER that the objective of the Antigua Convention for the strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (Antigua Convention) is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by that Convention;

UNDERSTANDING that both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention have provisions to address the conservation of non-target, associated or dependent species which belong the same ecosystem as the target species;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention calls upon the WCPFC to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations, including the IATTC;

NOTING that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention also provides that, where the WCPFC Convention Area overlaps with an area under regulation by another fisheries management organization, the WCPFC shall cooperate with such other organization in order to avoid the duplication of measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by both organizations;

AWARE that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention further calls upon the WCPFC to cooperate with the IATTC and to initiate consultation with the IATTC with a view to reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance, for fish stocks that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention calls upon the IATTC to cooperate with subregional, regional, and global fishery organizations and arrangements and, as appropriate, establish relevant institutional arrangements such as consultative committees, in agreement with such organizations or arrangements, with the goal of promoting the achievement of the objective of the Antigua Convention;

NOTING that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention also provides that, where the Convention Area overlaps with an area under regulation by another fisheries management organization, the IATTC shall cooperate with such other organization in order to ensure that the objective of the Antigua Convention is reached;

AWARE that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention further provides that the IATTC shall strive to agree with another organization with an overlapping area on the relevant measures to be taken, such as ensuring the harmonization and compatibility of the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the other organization, or deciding that the IATTC or the other organization, as

appropriate, avoid taking measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by the other organization;

CONSCIOUS of the fact that there is a geographical area that falls within the purview of both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention;

AWARE that there are stocks and species covered by both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention that migrate through areas that are within the purview of both Conventions;

DESIROUS to put into place arrangements and procedures to make possible the cooperation called for by the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention, and to enhance the conservation and management of species which are covered by the two Conventions;

NOW THEREFORE the **WCPFC** and the **IATTC** record the following understandings:

1. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The WCPFC and the IATTC agree to establish and maintain consultation, cooperation and collaboration in respect of matters of common interest to the two organizations, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- i. exchange of data and information, in a manner consistent with the information-sharing policies of each Commission;
- ii. collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including Pacific-wide stock assessments;
- iii. conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest.

2. MANNER OF COOPERATION

2.1. Cooperation between the Secretariats of the WCPFC and the IATTC shall include:

- i. reciprocal participation in relevant meetings of each organization, including those of each organization's subsidiary bodies;
- ii. information-sharing about stocks and species of mutual interest;
- iii. development of processes to promote harmonization and compatibility of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance; and
- iv. active and regular exchange of relevant meeting reports, information, research data and results, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest.

2.2. Consultative Meeting

To facilitate the effective development and implementation of cooperative measures, the WCPFC and the IATTC agree to establish a consultative meeting between the Secretariats to be known as the WCPFC-IATTC Consultative Meeting. The purpose of the Consultative Meeting will be to review and enhance the cooperation between the WCPFC and the IATTC. The Consultative Meetings shall be open to all interested members of both Commissions and be supported by appropriate staff of both Commissions.

3. MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to modification and amendment by mutual consent of both Commissions.

4. TERMINATION

Either Commission may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months' notice of intention to terminate to the other Commission.

5. SIGNATURE

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission:

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Chairman, WCPFC

Date:

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Director, IATTC