

# **The 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Preparatory Conference for the North Pacific Fisheries Commission**

**Tokyo, Japan**

**1-2 September 2015**

## **Meeting Report**

### **1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Preparatory Conference (PrepCon 7) for the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) was convened in Tokyo, Japan. Mr. William Gibbons-Fly (United States) continued in the role of Chair. Mr. Kenji Kagawa, Deputy Director General of the Fisheries Agency of Japan, welcomed participants and provided opening remarks. A list of participants appears as Attachment 1.

### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Dr. Janelle Curtis (Canada) was appointed to serve as Rapporteur for the meeting.

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

The agenda was reviewed and adopted as amended to move the discussion on the list of interview questions for position of Executive Secretary to the first item on day 2 of the PrepCon 7.

### **4. Status of the Convention**

Korea reported on the status of the Convention. In accordance with Article 25 of the Convention, the Convention entered into force on 19 July 2015, 180 days after Korea received deposit of the 4<sup>th</sup> instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The first four instruments were received from Canada, China, Japan and Russia. Korea submitted the 5<sup>th</sup> instrument of ratification on 17 June 2015. On 27 July 2015, the Depositary also received the delivery of the written instrument from Chinese Taipei as provided in the Annex of the Convention. The United States informed the PrepCon that it is awaiting the passage of the implementing legislation necessary to ratify the Convention and hopes to complete that process soon.

### **5. Discussion on the Secretariat of the Commission**

#### **(1) A set of questions to be presented to candidates of Executive Secretary at interviews**

The Chair provided a draft set of questions to Heads of Delegation that would be asked of each candidate for Executive Secretary. The list of questions was revised and agreed to by the Heads of Delegation.

#### **(2) Agreement regarding Privileges and Immunities of NPFC**

Japan presented PC7/WP2/J and provided an update on the process for finalizing an Agreement regarding Privileges and Immunities of the NPFC, which will require approval by the Japanese Diet. Recognizing the importance of this agreement for the effective functioning of the NPFC Secretariat, no objections were raised by members about the draft text. Participants recommended that the draft Agreement be submitted for adoption by the Commission.

#### **(3) Other matters**

##### **i) Timing for establishment of the Secretariat**

Taking into account the anticipated time required for Japan to ratify the Agreement regarding Privileges and Immunities of the NPFC, the Interim Secretariat proposed that while the Commission could appoint the new Executive Secretary as soon as possible following the selection of a preferred candidate. This individual would begin his duties from his existing place of residence, before assuming his position in Tokyo by the end of January 2016. The Executive

Secretary would hire staff after he relocates to Tokyo. In the meantime, he would operate with support from existing staff in the Interim Secretariat. This proposal was supported by participants.

With regard to hiring the NPFC staff, participants noted the importance of hiring a team with complementary expertise and experience to span fisheries science, fisheries management, information technology, enforcement, administration, and other disciplines relevant to the NPFC issues.

ii) Other matters

No other matters were raised.

#### **6. Budget for the Commission (September 2015- March 2017)**

The draft budget for the Commission was reviewed for the period from September 2015- March 2017 based on Attachment 4 of the Report of the PrepCon 4. The Interim Secretariat agreed to revise the draft budget based on comments from members and the PrepCon 7 agreed to submit the revised draft budget to the Commission for adoption. The Interim Secretariat also confirmed that the NPFC financial account would be established before the end of 2015.

#### **7. Discussion on the Science Related Topics**

The Chair of the SWG13, Mr. Joji Morishita, reported the outcome of the SWG13. Specific recommendations from the SWG13 considered by the PrepCon 7 were:

- a) Establish a Small Scientific Committee (SSC) on North Pacific armorhead to develop an adaptive management approach in collaboration with industry and managers;
- b) Adopt current interim measures and voluntary measures as formal NPFC interim measures and voluntary measures;
- c) Direct the Scientific Committee (SC) to review and refine these formal interim and voluntary measures for consideration by the Commission as formal NPFC measures prior to the 2016 UN Review of Bottom Fisheries;
- d) Establish a SCC on Pacific saury that will meet in 2016 and 2017;
- e) Establish a group that includes members from the SC, TCC and others to review the development of standardized reporting templates (as drafted by Korea);
- f) Develop a list of priority species that will serve to guide the work of the Commission; and
- g) Nominate a representative to serve as the NPFC delegate and observer to the UN Fish Stock Agreements review.

These recommendations were approved by the PrepCon 7 for submission to the Commission, recognizing that discussions of interim measures and voluntary measures would need to involve the TCC and fisheries managers. The SWG recommends to the Scientific Committee to improve reporting and integration of data from all NPFC- related fisheries.

#### **8. Discussion on the Technical and Compliance Related Topics**

The Chair of the TCWG2, Mr. Michael Clark, reported on the outcome of the TCWG2. Participants agreed to final text regarding Information Requirements for Vessel Registration and to submit this document to the Commission for adoption. Participants agreed that further work was required to finalize procedures related to transshipment and high seas boarding and inspection, though progress had been made in advancing both draft procedures. Chinese Taipei agreed to provide intersessionally detailed information on catch data for Pacific saury.

#### **9. Decisions to Be Made in the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Commission**

Participants agreed on decisions to be made at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Commission based on discussion under the agenda items 7 (Science related topics) and 8 (Technical and Compliance related topics). Participants also agreed on a draft Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific saury to be forwarded to the Commission for its consideration and adoption.

## **10. Selection of the Executive Secretary, including Interview**

Interviews for the five candidates for the Executive Secretary were conducted the morning of 2 September. Dr. Dae-Yeon Moon (Korea) was selected based on consensus from Heads of Delegation. The Contract Document for the Executive Secretary was reviewed and recommended for adoption by the Commission.

## **11. Other matters**

### **(1). NPFC logo mark**

No consensus was reached on the proposed NPFC logo designs and it was recommended to consider other designs.

### **(2). Observer report at NPAFC Annual Meetings in May 2014 and May 2015**

Mr. Michael Clark (United States) provided a report on the NPAFC Annual Meetings held in May 2014 and May 2015.

### **(3). Schedule and process for Annual Report submission**

The Interim Secretariat proposed that annual reports (including information on transshipments, and Implementation Report of Interim Measures for Bottom Fisheries) be submitted to the NPFC Secretariat no later than the end of February. Interim data, or data from two years ago, would be acceptable when data from the previous calendar year were not available or incomplete.

### **(4). Draft agenda of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Commission**

The draft agenda of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Commission prepared by the Chair of the PrepCon 7 was amended as attached (Attachment2), to (i) remove reference to the NPFC logo as no consensus on this was reached by participants, (ii) to include a new agenda item for discussion of recommendations from SWG, and (iii) discuss the timing and location of the next meetings of the SC, TCC and Commission.

## **12. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting and Record of Negotiations**

Participants approved the PrepCon 7 meeting record, in addition to the Final Report of the Preparatory Conference.

## **13. Closing of the Meeting and Adjournment of the Preparatory Conference**

Members of the Preparatory Conference thanked the Chair of the Preparatory Conference for his contributions leading up to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Commission. The Preparatory Conference was adjourned at 4:13pm.