

**Record of the Fourth Inter-Governmental Meeting on Management of
High Seas Bottom Fisheries in the North Western Pacific Ocean**

Vladivostok, Russian Federation

14-16 May 2008

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, 14 May 2008 by Mr. Evgeny Kats from the Russian Federation. Participants from Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America attended the meeting (Attachment 1).

2. Election of Chair

Mr. Evgeny Kats of the Russian Federation was elected as chair. LCDR Daniel Schaeffer from the United States of America agreed to serve as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed, and adopted (Attachment 2).

4. Reports

i) Report from Interim Secretariat on Outcome of the Third Inter-Governmental Meeting

The Interim Secretariat presented a summary of the Third Inter-Governmental Meeting held in Honolulu, United States, 24-26 October 2007.

ii) Report from the Third Scientific Working Group

Mr. Vadim Savinykh reported on the outcome of the third Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting, held 12-14 May 2008 (NWPBT/04/WP3). The meeting accepted the report of the SWG.

iii) Report From Participants on Implementation of the Interim Measure

Participants reported on their individual efforts in implementing the interim measures. Participants detailed their actions to freeze the existing footprint, define the existing footprint, and implementation of an encounter clause. Specifically the existing trawl footprint was identified as the summits and the bottom gillnet footprint as the summits and slopes of the following seamounts: Suiko, Youmei, Nintoku, Jingu, Ojin, Koko, Kimmei, Yuryaku, Kammu, Colahan and C-H.

iv) Other Related Reports

- a) The Interim Secretariat submitted a draft, inter-sessionally, of the 2008 report to the UN to Participants for comment. Participants agreed that a clear picture of the efforts of the Participants in the Northwest Pacific would be better

represented by including progress reported and made during this meeting. The United States undertook to provide detailed comments including such progress as soon as possible so that the Interim Secretariat can modify and circulate the revised draft among the other Participants for final endorsement.

- b) Participants discussed the submission of the 2009 report to the UN on actions taken in response to paragraphs 83 to 90 of the 2006 UN resolution UNGA61/105. To meet the end of April 2009 UN deadline for submission, it was agreed that the Interim Secretariat would prepare a draft report for final review by the Participants during the meeting in early 2009, provisionally to be held in Korea.

5. Discussion on the relevant meetings

i) 2007 UN General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolution

The Interim Secretariat presented a summary of the 2007 UNGA Resolution on sustainable fisheries regarding protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and regulation of bottom fisheries. Paper NWPBT/04/WP4 summarizes the relevant parts of the resolution.

ii) FAO Technical Consultation on the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas

The Interim Secretariat presented a summary of the first session of the FAO Technical Consultation held in Rome from February 4 to 8 2008. NWBT/04/WP6 contains the report from the Interim Secretariat.

6. Discussion on the Establishment of Management Mechanisms

Draft Text of Convention

The paper submitted by the U.S. providing comments on the draft convention text, NWPBT /04/WP/07/US1, served as the basis for thorough discussions with respect to modifications of the draft convention text. The Interim Secretariat will use the U.S. comments along with the discussion during the meeting as a basis to modify the draft convention text in the interim period for consideration at the next inter-governmental meeting. It was agreed that participants are encouraged to provide specific drafting proposals as soon as possible to the Interim Secretariat.

Among the key issues discussed, was the U.S. proposal to expand the scope of the draft convention to cover all high seas areas of the North Pacific Ocean (southern boundary to be determined) and to include all species not currently covered under existing international arrangements. The U.S. proposal received strong support from Japan, with Korea also expressing a willingness to consider the proposal favourably if certain concerns could be satisfactorily addressed. The Russian delegation said it was not able to agree to the proposal at this time, but it was open to considering the issue again at the next inter-governmental meeting. The U.S. and Japan noted that a decision on the question would affect many elements of the draft convention text. As a result, the U.S. asked if it might be possible for the Russian side to consult on the issue during the inter-sessional period, with a view to a decision on the matter before the next inter-governmental meeting.

7. Timeframe

- i. Participants discussed timing for the development of the work that needs to be completed in order to meet the requirements stipulated in UNGA Resolution 61/105. Participants agreed to comply with tasking identified in NWPBT/04/WP8(Rev.3). (Attachment 3)
- ii. The Interim Secretariat agreed to develop draft text on standards and criteria for assessments for review by Participants drawing upon text from the FAO Draft International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas, specifically paragraphs 37 through 41, 43, 43bis, 44, 45alt, 46new, 46bis, and 47 as well as relevant work from other management organizations with existing or developing standards and criteria. The draft text will take into account the ongoing work within the FAO and, in particular, any final Guidelines resulting from that process.

8. Date and Place of Future Meetings

Japan offered to host the fourth scientific working group and fifth inter-governmental meeting from 14-18 October 2008 in Tokyo, Japan as well as the fifth meeting of the scientific working group in December 2008. In addition Korea offered to host the next meeting in January or February 2009. Participants gratefully accepted these offers.

9. Rules for Participation of Observers at Future Meetings

The Participants discussed the rules for participation of observers at future meetings and agreed to continue the discussion at the fifth inter-governmental meeting. Japan proposed the following conditions for participation of observers:

- i. Participation of observers should be considered on a meeting by meeting basis.
- ii. Participation of observers should be allowed to plenary sessions only and not to the SWG or closed meetings.
- iii. Participation of observers should be permitted unless any Participant lodges an objection. The Participant that opposes such participation should explain the reason of such opposition clearly.
- iv. Observers should keep confidentiality of data, especially those related to commercial activities.
- v. Observers can make a statement with permission of the chair.
- vi. The conditions above should not prejudice the positions of Participants about articles on transparency in the future Convention.

The Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation supported the proposal by Japan. The U.S. reiterated its concern about a single Participant having a veto over observer participation but agreed to consider the points presented by Japan and to continue discussions on the matter at the next meeting.

10. Other Business

The Interim Secretariat agreed to renew efforts to establish a website and will seek assistance from Participants as needed.

It was agreed that the Interim Secretariat will prepare a short paper showing a list of acronyms, abbreviations and widely used technical terms.

11. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting

Participants adopted the report of the meeting.

12. Closing of the Meeting

The meeting was concluded at 4:30 pm on May 16, 2008

Attachment 1: List of Participants

JAPAN

Shingo OTA (Head of Delegation)
Director for International Negotiations
Fisheries Agency
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907 Japan
Phone: +81-3-3591-1086
Fax: +81-3-3502-0571
Email: shingo_oota@nm.maff.go.jp

Katsumasa MIYAUCHI
Assisitant Director
Intarnational Affairs Division
Fisheries Agency
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907 Japan
Phone: +81-3-3591-1086
Fax: +81-3-3502-0571
Email: katsumasa_miyauchi@nm.maff.go.jp

Masatoshi KUSAKA
Deputy Director
Fishery Division
Economic Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919 Japan
Phone: +81-3-5501-8338
Fax: +81-3-5501-8832
Email: masatoshi.kusaka@mofa.go.jp

Akihiko YATSU
Director
East China Seas Fisheries Resources Division
Seikai National Fisheries Research Institute
1551-8, Taira-machi, Nagasaki 851-2213 Japan
Phone: +81-154-92-1713
Fax: +81-154-91-9355
Email: yatsua@fra.affrc.go.jp

Takashi YANAGIMOTO
Chief Scientist
Oceanic Resources Division
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries FRA
2-12-4 Fukuura Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama 236-8648 Japan
Phone: +81-45-788-7505
Fax: +81-45-788-5004
Email: yanagimo@fra.affrc.go.jp

Toru KITAMURA
Scientist
Japan NUS Co., LTD
1-1, Fukuura, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama 236-0004 Japan
Phone: +81-45-789-2411

Fax: +81-45-789-0890
Email: tkitamura@janus.co.jp

Naohiko AKIMOTO
Manager
Japan Overseas Fishing Association
3-6, Ogawa-machi, Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 101-0052 Japan
Phone: +81-3-3291-8508
Fax: +81-3-3233-3267
Email: naohiko@sol.dti.ne.jp

Takuya WATANABE
Attache
Consulate-General of Japan
Ulitsa Verkhne-Portovaya 46, Vladivostok, Primorsky Krai, 690600 Russia
Phone: +7-4232-26-74-81
Fax: +7-4232-26-75-78
Email: takuya.watanabe@mofa.go.jp

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Chiguk AHN (Head of Delegation)
Deputy Director of International Cooperation Team
MOMAF
140-2 Gye Dong, Jongno-Gu, Seoul, 110-793, Republic of Korea
Phone: +82-2-3674-6994
Fax: +82-2-3674-6996
Email: chiguka62@yahoo.com

Hyunsoo KIM
Legal Advisor
MOMAF
140-2 Gye Dong, Jongno-Gu, Seoul, 110-793, Republic of Korea
Phone: +82-2-3674-6994
Fax: +82-2-3674-6996
Email: khs006@hotmail.com

Sun-Do HWANG
Research Scientist
National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
408-1 Sirang-ri, Gijang-eup, Gijang-gun. Busan, 619-705, Republic of Korea.
Phone +82-51-720-2334
Fax +82-51-720-2337
Email: sdhwang@nfrdi.re.kr

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Evgeny KATS (Head of Delegation)
Head
Law Department
State Committee of the Russian Federation for fisheries
Russian Federation, Moscow, 14 Rozhdestvenskiy blvd

Phone : +7 (495) 623 5135
Fax: +7 (495) 621 95 94
Email: kats@fishcom.ru

Mikhail A. TCHEREVIK
Lead specialist
Department of international cooperation
State Committee of the Russian Federation for fisheries
Russian Federation, Moscow, 14 Rozhdestvenskiy blvd.
Phone: + 7 (495) 621 31 80
Fax: +7 (495) 621 95 94
Email: m.cherevik@fishcom.ru

Konstantin V. GROMOV
Primorsky Department
State Committee of the Russian Federation for fisheries

Sergey A. ROMANOV
Primorsky Department
State Committee of the Russian Federation for fisheries

Vadim F. SAVINYKH
Deputy Director-General
TINRO-Centre
4 Shevchenko Alley Vladivostok , Primorsky Russia 690950
Phone: +7(4232) 400-790
Fax: +7(4232) 300-752
E-mail: savinykh@tinro.ru

Victor TSYGIR
Vice-Head
Department of international cooperation
TINRO-Centre
4 Shevchenko Alley Vladivostok 690950
Phone: + 7 (4232) 300-752
Fax: +7 (4232) 300-752
Email victor_in_net@tinro.ru

Alexey BAYTALYUK
Vice-Chief
Forecast Division
TINRO-Centre
4, Shevchenko Alley Vladivostok, 690950, Russia
Phone: (4232) 400-881
Fax: (4232) 300-881
Email: baitaluk@tinro.ru

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

William GIBBONS-FLY (Head of Delegation)
Director Office of Marine Conservation
Department of State

2201 C. St, NW, Suite 2758, Washington, DC 20520-7818, USA
Phone: +1-202-647-2335
Fax: +1-202-736-7350
Email: gibbons-flywh@state.gov

Keith BENES
Legal
Department of State
2201 C. St, NW, Suite 2758, Washington, DC 20520-7818, USA
Phone: +1-202-647-2335
Fax: +1-202-736-7350
Email: benesJB@state.gov

Dean SWANSON
Chief of International Fisheries Division
DOC, NOAA, NMFS
1315 East-west Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: +1-301-713-2276
Fax: +1-301-713-2313
Email: dean.swanson@noaa.gov

Shannon DIONNE
International Affairs Specialist
DOC, NOAA, Office of International Affairs
14th & Constitution Ave NW, Room 6224 Washington, DC 20230
Phone: +1-202-482-3638
Fax: +1-202-482-4307
Email: shannon.dionne@noaa.gov

Robert HUMPHREYS
Research Fish Biologist
DOC, NOAA, NMFS
99-193 Aiea Heights Drive, Suite 417 Aiea, HI 96701
Phone: +1-808-983-5377
Email: robert.humphreys@noaa.gov

Eric KINGMA
NEPA Coordinator
WPFMC
1164 Bishop St, Ste 1400 Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: +1-808-522-7497
Fax: +1-808-522-8226
Email: eric.kingma@noaa.gov

Daniel E. SCHAEFFER
U.S. Coast Guard Liaison
United States Department of State
Office of Marine Conservation 2201 C Street Washington, DC 20520
Phone: +1-202-647-3177
Fax: +1-202-736-7350
Email: daniel.e.schaeffer@uscg.mil

Dave BENSON
NPFMC Member
NPFMC
5303 Shilshole Ave. NW Seattle, WA 98107
Phone: +1-206-297-6642
Email: dwbenson@comcast.net

Attachment 2: Adopted Agenda

Fourth Inter-governmental Meeting on Establishment of New Mechanism for Management of High Seas Bottom Fisheries In the North Western Pacific Ocean

**Vladivostok, RUSSIAN FEDERATION
14 -16 May, 2008**

Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Reports
 - i) Report from Interim Secretariat on Outcome of the Third Inter-governmental Meeting
 - ii) Report from the Third Scientific Working Group on its work
 - iii) Report from participants on Implementation of the Interim Measure
5. Discussion on the relevant meetings
 - i) 2007 UN General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolution
 - ii) FAO Technical Consultation on the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas
6. Discussion on the Establishment of Management Mechanism
 - i) Draft Text of a Convention
 - ii) Other matters
7. Timeframe
8. Date and Place of the Next Meeting.
9. Rule for Participation of Observers at Future Meetings
10. Other Business
11. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting
12. Closing of the Meeting

Attachment 3: Time Frame
(NWPBT/04/WP8 (Rev.3))

DRAFT TIMEFRAME

June to July 2008: Preparation by the Interim Secretariat of the draft science-based standards and criteria for determining whether individual bottom fishing activities would have significant adverse impacts (SAIs) on marine species and vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), taking into account relevant work of FAO and other RFMOs

25-29 August 2008: FAO Technical Consultation on the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas

Mid-September 2008: Circulation by the Interim Secretariat of the draft standards and criteria, taking into account the finalized FAO Guidelines

14-18 October 2008: 4th Scientific Working Group and 5th Inter-Governmental Meeting

- Exchange of data
- Finalization of the standards and criteria
- Stock assessment of splendid alfonso and North Pacific armorhead
- Discussion on additional management measures on marine species
- Discussion on the draft Convention text

November: Identification of VMEs and assessment of SAIs on marine species and VMEs by individual Members

December 2008: 5th Scientific Working Group

- to review identification of VMEs and assessment of SAIs on marine species and VMEs by individual Members
- to recommend additional interim measures to prevent SAIs on VMEs, if necessary

31 December 2008: Deadline set by the UNGA Resolution 61/105 for identification of VMEs, assessment of SAIs on marine species and VMEs and implementation of necessary measures to prevent SAIs

January or February 2009: 6th Scientific Working Group and 6th Inter-Governmental Meeting

- Report on implementation of the additional interim measures to prevent SAIs on marine species and VMEs by individual Members
- Discussion and finalization of the report to UN on actions taken by States and RFMOs/Aa in response to paragraph 83 to 90 of the UNGA Resolution 61/105
- Discussion on the draft Convention text

April 30th 2009: Deadline for submission of the report to UN