

**Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory
Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

Preparatory Conference for the Establishment of the Commission

Draft Agenda Item III : Draft Rules of Procedure for the Commission

I. INTRODUCTION

1 Article 9(8) of the WCPFC Convention states: “The Commission shall adopt, and amend as required, by consensus, rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings, including meetings of its subsidiary bodies, and for the efficient exercise of its functions.”

2 Paragraph 6(a) of the Resolution establishing the Preparatory Conference states that the Preparatory Conference will “prepare draft rules of procedure of the Commission.”

3 To assist the Preparatory Conference in drafting the rules of procedure for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, a table of the rules of procedure for four existing regional fisheries management organizations has been prepared. The table (annex) includes the rules of procedure for: the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO); the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC); the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC); and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Those four regional fisheries management organizations were chosen because they either manage highly migratory species, have a large membership; and/or have subsidiary bodies similar to those provided for in the WCPFC Convention.

II. DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COMMISSION

4 In developing draft rules of procedure for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies the following factors are relevant and will be important in the Commission’s rules:

- (a) the rules of procedure should be streamlined, clear and concise;
- (b) the rules of procedure should be consistent with generally accepted practices in other regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements;
- (c) the rules of procedure ensure the meaningful participation of all members in the work of the Commission and the subsidiary bodies;

(d) the rules of procedure adequately provide for transparency and, in accordance with Article 21, do not establish an overly burdensome or restrictive mechanism for participation in meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies by representatives of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations or their timely access to pertinent information;

(e) the rules of procedure accommodate the special circumstances of relevant subsidiary bodies; and

(f) the rules of procedure ensure adequate notification and time for members to consider draft resolutions and recommendations prior to Commission meetings and meetings of subsidiary bodies.