

Report from the CCSBT Observer to the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 5-11 December, 2019) - Republic of Korea

1. The 16th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission was held from 5 to 11 December, 2019 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. 31 Members & Participating Territories, Cooperating Non-Members (CNM) and NGOs participated in the meeting.
2. One of the most important issues at WCPFC16 was the review of CMM 2018-01 for the conservation and management of tropical tuna. This CMM required the Commission to agree, by 2019, on a framework for the allocation of a) high seas purse seine effort or catch limits and b) bigeye tuna catch limits in longline fisheries. However, WCPFC was not able to reach an agreement and this task was deferred to the 17th Regular Session of WCPFC.
3. WCPFC16 adopted a new conservation and management measure, CMM on Mobulid Rays.
4. WCPFC16 also adopted a comprehensive CMM for Shark by combining the existing species-specific measures and adding some new elements. This was one of the remarkable achievements at WCPFC16.
5. WCPFC16 amended and/or updated the following conservation and management measures :
 - a) CMM for Pacific Bluefin Tuna
 - b) CMM for North Pacific Albacore
 - c) CMM on Cooperating Non-Members
 - d) CMM on IUU Vessel List
 - e) CMM for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme
 - f) CMM for Charter Notification Scheme
6. WCPFC 16 adopted a Resolution on Climate Change which is non-binding but calls for the Commission's action to address the potential impacts of climate change on highly migratory fish stocks.
7. WCPFC 16 agreed to grant cooperating non-member status to Curaçao, El Salvador, Ecuador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam for 2020.

8. No new vessel was added to the WCPFC IUU Vessel List. Three existing vessels - the Neptune, Fu Lien No.1 and Yu Fong 168 - remained on the List.

9. There wasn't any discussion on CCSBT-related issues at WCPFC 16.