Ministère des transports, de l’équipement, du Tourisme et de la Mer

Service des Affaires maritimes de Polynésie française

N° /SAM

Papeete, le 11 septembre 2007

Le Haut-commissaire de la Polynésie française

Mr the Director of WCPFC

Subject: authorized inspection vessels
Reference: CMM 2006-08
Enclosure: three descriptions of Navy ships

According to articles 12, 13 and 14 of Conservation and Management Measure N° 2006-08 adopted at Apia on 15th December 2006, I send you attached for registration of authorized inspection vessels and authorities, a list of three Navy ships in Papeete available for inspections on high seas. These three vessels are the French surveillance frigate « Prairial » and two patrol crafts « La Railleuse » and « La Tapageuse ».

In compliance with French law dated the 9th January 1852 amended, captains and their substitute (chief officer) of French Navy vessels are allowed to control fisheries activities and fishing vessels and to establish infringements of fisheries regulations. These ships are clearly marked and identifiable as French Navy ships. Their captains and substitutes « have received and completed training in carrying out boarding and inspection activities at sea in accordance with standards and procedures as may be adopted the Commission. » A special training has been organized this year to improve their knowledge about recent resolutions adopted by WCPFC in 2006. These captains control frequently fishing vessels inside EEZ and territorial waters of French Polynesia.

The operational authority of these vessels is the Admiral « Frédéric Maurice », Head of Armed Forces in French Polynesia. The administrative authority for fisheries procedures is the High Commissioner of French Polynesia, representative of French Government in French Polynesia. This administrative responsibility is delegated to the head of « Maritime Affairs » in French Polynesia who has in charge, according French law, seizure of fish, equipment or hull of fishing vessels in infringement. This authority is « fully familiar with the fishing activities to be inspected and the provisions of the convention and management measures in force » and « has received and completed training in carrying out boarding and inspection
activities at sea in accordance with French standards and procedures as adopted by the Commission ».

I expect that all these informations will allow these three Navy vessels to be registrated as authorized inspection vessels on the high seas by the WCPFC commission.

Yours sincerely

The High Commissioner
of French Polynesia

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