This letter was received by WCPFC Secretariat on 14 November 2013
File Reference: 13.11.86

12th November 2013

Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director
Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Federated States of Micronesia

Re: Declaration of Purse Seine Effort Limit for the Cook Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under CMM2012-01

Kia orana Professor Hurry,

In accordance with CMM 2012-01 paragraph 14, I am writing to you to advise the Commission of the purse seine effort limit, that the Cook Islands has established for our EEZ.

Accordingly, the Cook Islands would therefore like to declare the following limits for purse seine fishing for our EEZ:

• Catch limits of skipjack tuna is limited to an accumulative total of 30,000 metric tonnes in any consecutive four quarterly period.
• Effort limits for purse seine fishing is limited to 1,250 fishing days per annum.

Moreover, these limits have been adopted and legislated for pursuant to the Cook Islands Marine Resources Act 2005 and in particular, the Marine Resources (Purse Seine Fishery) Regulations 2013 and the Purse Seine Fishery Plan (2013).

We have established this limit with historical effort, geographical distribution of stocks and future fishery developments in mind. The declaration of this limit is provided, without prejudice to our future position on the above named fisheries, and our ability to revise and adjust our fisheries management frameworks, including catch or effort limits.

I ask that you please advise Commission members of this declaration.

Yours faithfully,

Ben Poni
Secretary of Marine Resources

cc. Hon. Henry Puna, Prime Minister and Minister of Marine Resources