

**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS AND
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES**

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Letter from FFA – FFA Members’ priorities for WCPFC through 2013

Dear All

Please find attached a letter from the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency which presents the members’ priorities for the Commission through 2013.

This letter is circulated as requested by the FFC Chair.

Thanks



Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director



FFA

24 May 2013
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Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356
Kolonias
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Professor Hurry,

FFA Member's priorities for WCPFC through 2013.

I write in my capacity as the Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee on behalf of all FFA Members.

FFA Members, as expressed in previous years, are keen to see further rationalisation of Commission and subsidiary body meeting agendas to provide sufficient time for proper consideration of priority items. As such, we herein convey work items we consider important and should be prioritised in the development of agenda, particularly for TCC9 and WCPFC10.

Development towards a new CMM for the management of tropical tuna will notably take precedence, though we consider the development of a new south Pacific albacore of similar importance, and something the Commission should strive to achieve this year. FFA Members will work towards the delivery of a proposed measure for consideration at TCC9.

In relation to the TCC9 agenda, given that the CMS is a core function of the Technical and Compliance Committee, we propose that any agenda items and issues relating to the evaluation of compliance be aligned within the CMS process. All other 'regular' technical matters should be dealt with separately, to avoid duplication of efforts and improve time efficiencies. The primary task in regard to the CMS should be how to implement it in a way that seeks efficiency and promotes achievement of the mandate of TCC under the Convention.

FFA Members will seek to deliver a technical paper and proposal to establish regional standards that would help build the foundations of a WCPFC CDS for IWG-CDS and TCC9 consideration. With good progress being made in the development of national and regional (WCPFC) information management systems, a WCPFC CDS will be well supported with the incorporation of established national mechanisms, and provide guidance for those yet to be developed.



FFA

Development of regional standards for Port State measures, the review of the transshipment and eastern high seas pocket measures are important components of WCPFC work that require due consideration this year. FFA Members look forward to working with all CCMs so that proposals are ready for WCPFC10.

Though unsuccessful last year, FFA Members will again endeavour to have a shark measure adopted at WCPFC10, and as such will submit a proposal for TCC9 consideration.

FFA members also note that the Eastern High Seas Pocket special management area is due for review this year and draw CCMs attention to the Communique of the Pacific Island Leaders (Heads of State) in August 2012 as follows:

23. Leaders expressed concern over ongoing illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Special Management Area of the eastern high seas pocket and the exclusive economic zones of the Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Kiribati. Leaders commended the efforts undertaken thus far by both Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) members and DWFNs to adhere to the principles of ensuring the long term sustainability of the highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific ocean, and urged continuation of such efforts. In that connection, closing off the Eastern high seas pocket to any form of fishing activity by the DWFNs in the foreseeable future would be a significant step in that direction.

Finally, implementation of Article 30 and incorporating the development aspirations of SIDS and Territories into Commission measures has remained a challenge. We take this opportunity to reiterate just how important development opportunities through fisheries activities are, and the need to strengthen our vulnerable domestic economies. We will continue to promote the tangible implementation of Article 30 and encourage other CCMs to actively seek ways to support our endeavour beyond the provision of the much welcome AID that has been provided to date.

Please distribute this letter to all CCMs and to the subsidiary body Chairs to ensure that sufficient priority is placed on these items in 2013.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Chris Ramofafia

Chair

Forum Fisheries Committee