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

**Circular No.: 2017/51**  
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**DRAFT BRIDGING MEASURE FOR TROPICAL TUNAS REV. 4**

Dear All,

I am writing to provide an update on the bridging measure for tropical tunas. Thank you for the wide range of input you have provided on our drafts to date.

Attached is the latest version of a Draft Bridging Measure Rev4 (Consultative Draft), which builds on the work we have done together over the last year.

Let me reiterate the importance of this measure for the Commission. The existing CMM 2016-01 expires at the end of 2017. At the same time, the Commission has agreed to develop the Harvest Strategy framework for the key tuna species and a work plan is underway to this end. However, this work could take some time. Without a bridging measure, the Commission would not have a clear set of mechanisms after the expiry of CMM 2016-01 to ensure healthy stock levels.

What's in Rev4:

Much of the content in Rev4 will be familiar to you, as it is based on CMM 2016-01 and your input into earlier drafts. Between Rev1 and Rev4, Members have provided specific text, proposals or views and these are fully reflected in the latest draft. For ease of reference, Rev4 includes an Explanatory Note which highlights how your feedback has been incorporated.

The four main differences in Rev4 are:

- **Harvest Strategy.** More explicit inclusion of Harvest Strategy elements already agreed by the Commission.
- **A combined focus on species-based and fisheries-based management.** This is to reflect the species focus of the Harvest Strategy framework and the multi-species approach required for effective management of both purse seine and longline fisheries.
- **Additional management options.** In addition to existing management measures, some new options are included that take account of feedback from CCMs related to exemptions, catch and effort limits and zone-based versus flag-based management.

- **Format.** A simplified format to address your feedback that elements of CMM 2016-01 lack clarity.

I am grateful to the Commission's Executive Director, Legal Adviser, and Science Service provider for their assistance in the work required to prepare Rev4.

What happens next:

WCPFC13 agreed that an inter-sessional working group would convene in 2017 to progress a bridging measure. This work will take place from 22-24 August in Honolulu, Hawaii and I would like to thank the U.S. for hosting the meeting.

Based on Members' feedback to date, the Honolulu session has a singular purpose: an advanced draft (Rev5) to take to the Commission's Annual Session in December.

The three-day schedule will be framed around the work needed to reach Rev5, by focusing on options for both purse seine and longline fisheries management. Naturally, I welcome any feedback or questions on Rev4 before we meet.

The Honolulu meeting is our most important mechanism before the Annual Session to make progress on a key priority for the Commission. I therefore ask that Members attend with a preparedness to take decisions that will move us forward.

Sincerely,



Rhea Moss-Christian  
Chair