



COMMISSION
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
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**PROPOSAL FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AN IMPROVED SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE MEASURE**

WCPFC14-2017-DP14
3 November 2017

Proposal by FFA Member CCMs



3 November 2017

Feleti P. Teo OBE
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356, Kolonia
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Feleti,

Conservation and Management Measure for the Development of an Improved South Pacific Albacore Measure

I write on behalf of the 17 members of the Forum Fisheries Agency in my capacity as the Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee.

Attached is a proposed framework to establish plans that will guide the work of the Commission in developing a comprehensive measure for the management of fisheries for South Pacific Albacore Tuna. This future measure will set agreed limits, establish effective fishery monitoring processes, and act to implement the elements of the Harvest Strategy relating to this stock and its fisheries.

FFA members look forward to discussing this proposal at the meeting in Manila. We would welcome any inquiries, which should be directed to New Zealand (Sarah.Williams@mpi.govt.nz) or the FFA Secretariat (tim.adams@ffa.int).

Yours sincerely

Jenny Baldwin

Chair
Forum Fisheries Committee

Application of CMM 2013-06

The following information is offered to assist the Commission to meet the requirements of CMM 2013-06 in respect of this draft CMM.

a. Who is required to implement the proposal?

All CCMs will be required to implement this proposal in their cooperation to develop workplans for south Pacific albacore tuna.

b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what way(s) and what proportion?

Establishing the management objectives for the fishery will help to guide future work in the Commission to add value to a fishery that is currently in economic decline and could be viewed as impacting all participating CCMs. Further, this measure concerns the South Pacific Albacore stock and the development of workplans regarding setting limits, improving monitoring of the longline and troll fisheries, and harvest strategy for the stock. South Pacific albacore only occurs in the Pacific south of the equator. And in practice is taken primarily only by vessels fishing south of 5°S. It therefore concerns coastal States with EEZs extending south of the equator, and the flag or chartering CCMs of vessels fishing on the high seas south of the equator.

c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other regional fisheries management organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?

Yes. The CMM requires dialogue with IATTC and relevant IATTC members in order to take account of the smaller proportion of the stock that occurs within the IATTC Convention area. This CMM has linkages to the WCPFC Harvest Strategy workplan established under CMM 2014-06.

d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities for SIDS?

No. This proposal seeks to establish management objectives for the stock and agree to several work plans. Development of the work plans will contribute to effective management and conservation of the WCPO south Pacific albacore tuna stock. Moving towards binding limits has obvious implications in terms of capping the development opportunities that SIDS have in their waters and on the high seas. However, that ability has already been severely compromised by the state of the fishery, and so overall limitation is essential. This measure does not establish limits itself, but focuses on the development of workplans to address limits. Other work would lead towards improvements in the monitoring and management of the fishery which contributes to development opportunities by ensuring a valuable fishery.

e. Does the proposal affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations?

Yes, as described above.

f. What resources, including financial and human capacity, are needed by SIDS to implement the proposal?

SIDS will need assistance in participating in the development of the workplans under this CMM. These issues are recognised priorities. There is available assistance to participate in the development of the workplans provided by the SPC, FFA, the PNAO and the WCPFC.

g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?

Not applicable to this specific measure, which only seeks to develop work plans to advance several key issues to improve the management and monitoring of the albacore fisheries. The Commission will however need to monitor progress of work under these plans, and identify any undue impacts or disproportionate burdens on SIDS that may arise from future implementation of the mechanisms identified for implementation, and find ways of addressing them.

h. What assistance mechanisms and associated timeframe, including training and financial support, are included in the proposal to avoid a disproportionate burden on SIDS?

Current and projected programmes of assistance are expected to meet the medium-term needs for training and technical assistance to SIDS participation in this work.

Consultative DRAFT

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IMPROVED SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE MEASURE

Conservation and Management Measure 2017 xx

In accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

Recalling the advice of the Scientific Committee (SC13) that fishing mortality and catch of south Pacific albacore be reduced to avoid further declines in vulnerable biomass especially for longline catches of adult albacore;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted CMM 2014-06 on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and a Work Plan to guide the development of key components of a Harvest Strategy, including the recording of management objectives;

Noting that a component of the stock is within the IATTC Convention Area;

Further noting that some fisheries are experiencing significant declines in profitability

Recognizing the overwhelming dependence on this species in the fisheries of Small Island Developing States and Territories, and the need to maintain and protect the profitability of these fisheries;

Noting that Article 30(1) of the Convention requires the Commission to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States that are Parties to the Convention, in particular small island developing States and territories and possessions, in relation to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and development of fisheries on such stocks;

Noting further that Article 30(2)(c) of the Convention requires the Commission to ensure that conservation and management measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions;

Desiring to implement Articles 10.3 of the Convention in a tangible way to increase the participation of Small Island Developing States in WCPO tuna fisheries;

Aware that the current state of south Pacific albacore prevents Small Island Developing States and Territories from increasing their participation in, and benefits from fisheries for resources in their exclusive economic zones and in the high seas and therefore represents a disproportionate burden stemming from the lack of compatible conservation action;

Noting Article 8(1) of the Convention requires compatibility of conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted a limit reference point (LRP) for south Pacific albacore of 20% of the estimated recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing;

Recognising further the interactions that occur between the fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack tuna and south Pacific albacore;

Recognising the need for improved confidence in catch monitoring and verification in longline and troll fisheries;

Recognising the need to discuss limit setting in the longline and troll fisheries for South Pacific albacore; and

Adopts, in accordance with the Articles 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

Purpose

- 1) The purpose of this Conservation and Management Measure is to:
 - a) Establish management objectives for the South Pacific albacore stock;
 - b) Determine work plans for: determining limits for South Pacific albacore; development of improved monitoring in the albacore fishery; and for South Pacific albacore harvest strategy.

Scope

- 2) This CMM shall apply to the high seas and to the EEZs of coastal States and participating territories in the WCPFC Convention Area south of the equator.

Management Objectives

- 3) The Commission agrees the following management objectives for South Pacific albacore:
 - a. Spawning biomass remains above the agreed Limit Reference Point
 - b. Maintain spawning biomass at a level that supports longline catch rates higher than the levels observed in recent years
 - c. Manage the fishery in a way that prevents large inter-annual variations in catch and effort.

Workplans

- 4) The Commission agrees to develop workplans in time for adoption at WCPFC14 (2018) which address:
 - a. Limits. Specifically this workplan will address actions needed to:
 - i. implement an interim catch limit for the south Pacific Albacore fishery
 - ii. set the proportion of the fishery that is to be taken on the high seas and the proportion that is to be taken within the EEZs of coastal states and territories;
 - b. Improved Monitoring of the Southern Longline and Troll fisheries, including but not limited to, eCDS with independent verification, while acknowledging

the ongoing work of the ER and EM working group, and other improvements currently underway.

- c. Harvest Strategy. Acknowledging CMM 2014-06 and the Commission's harvest strategy workplan.

Review

- 5) The Commission shall review this CMM annually to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect.