



**COMMISSION
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Manila, Philippines
3 – 7 December 2017

UPDATE ON DRAFT BRIDGING MEASURE FOR TROPICAL TUNAS REV.5

**WCPFC14-2017-09A
19 October 2017**

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

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Draft Bridging Measure for Tropical Tunas Rev. 5

Dear All,

I'm writing to update you on negotiations to adopt a **Bridging Measure for Tropical Tunas** at the Commission's 14th Regular Session in December. We are just seven weeks from WCPFC14 and some work is required now to ensure that we emerge from the meeting with an outcome, not a stalemate.

At the end of our August session in Honolulu, the Traffic Light Status Report on key Bridging Measure issues showed:

- 47% of issues were red;
- 42% of issues were orange;
- 11% of issues were green.

The number of red issues is obviously still too high. Significant disagreement remains in both the purse seine and longline fisheries management discussions around the following areas:

- Combinations of zone-based vs CCM/flag-based approaches to catch and effort limits
- The need for capacity limits
- The need for exemptions
- Necessary monitoring and verification measures.

It is clear we need a balance of measures in the purse seine and longline fisheries that reflect equitable compromises amongst members. As such, I am asking members to actively engage through meetings or conference calls with key counterparts over the next four weeks to make some progress.

If we leave all key discussions until Manila, my belief is that the Measure will not get finalized. The negative implications of this scenario for the Commission's reputation are significant. Ultimately nobody wins if we don't get the job done.

However, it doesn't need to come to that. Your collective efforts to progress drafts over the last 15 months is evidence of your desire for an outcome and Honolulu was particularly encouraging as an example of decentralized leadership in action. Delegations came to the table ready to talk.

I understand some Members have had the opportunity to talk again since the Honolulu meeting and that there is potential for real compromise. I commend your continued spirit of cooperation and strongly encourage further intersessional discussion as soon as possible.

Please keep me updated on any progress on intersessional consultations. I am ready to assist at any point.

Sincerely,



Rhea Moss-Christian
Chair

cc: Feleti Teo, WCPFC Executive Director
Jung-re Riley Kim, WCPFC Vice-Chair