



COMMISSION
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
Faleata Sports Complex, Apia, SAMOA
1 - 5 December 2014

PROPOSAL: IMPACT OF DATA GAPS ON THE COMMISSIONS COMPLIANCE WORK

WCPFC11-2014-DP21
25 November 2014

Proposal by FFA Members

At TCC10 FFA Members highlighted the implications of data deficiencies on the Commission's compliance and monitoring functions, derived from the TCC9 Record, para. 304, listed below. It was recommended that TCC10 forward these to WCPFC11 in an effort to address these issues to ensure that the Commissions functions are not compromised.

FFA Members seek the Commissions recognition of the necessity to address outstanding data gaps to facilitate and improve the functions of the Secretariat and the Commission, in support of the Commission's work programs and obligations in accordance with the Convention.

- i. high seas VMS data cannot be integrated with catch and effort data, such as to ensure interpretation of VMS data is correct, verify manual reporting information and verify operational data against VMS;
- ii. transshipment reporting cannot be verified;
- iii. the volumes of catch reported as transhipped cannot be reconciled with reported catches;
- iv. the effectiveness of different mitigation methods on specific non-target species cannot be determined;
- v. the WCPFC can't use operational data to ensure that the Commission's "3 vessel rule" for public domain data is respected, and therefore cannot provide a complete set of catch and effort data for the public domain;
- vi. many aspects of the effectiveness of measures cannot be assessed, especially where there are spatial elements;
- vii. the effects of targeting shifts on catches and catch rates cannot be determined, reducing understanding of the effectiveness of measures, creating exactly the kind of uncertainty seen when evaluating the effectiveness of the bigeye catch limits for bigeye;
- viii. some charter vessel catch attribution issues can't be resolved; and
- ix. the inability to distinguish between impacts in EEZs and high seas risks transferring greater burdens to SIDS.