

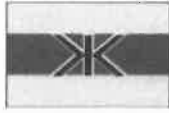


**COMMISSION
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
10 – 14 December 2018

RE: LETTER REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF CMM 2017-01 PARAGRAPH 29

**WCPFC15-2018-DP22
4 December 2018**

Japan



FISHERIES AGENCY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907, Japan

December 3, 2018

Mr. Feleti Teo
Executive Director
WCPFC

Dear Mr. Teo:

I noted the letter from US Commissioner to WCPFC dated on November 29, 2018 (Circular No.: 2018/75) to provide information on the implementation of paragraph 29 of CMM 2017-01. We appreciate provision of the information which indicates that the amount landed by United States flagged purse seine vessels in American Samoa for the canneries in 2018 is likely to be increased by 3,500 short tonnes from that in 2017.

While this information will facilitate discussion on this issue at the upcoming annual meeting, I would like to point out that the letter does not provide another important piece of information. Para 29 of CMM 2017-01 says, "the United States shall endeavor to ensure that its purse seine vessels do not use any increased high seas effort in the high seas west of 180 degree." We understand that this is not a binding measure, but we are keen to know whether US has made effort to implement this as well as its result.

For the sake of transparency, I would appreciate it if you could circulate this letter to all CCMs.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Shingo OTA
Japanese Commissioner to WCPFC