



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

**SUPPLEMENTARY LETTER REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF CMM 2017-01
PARAGRAPH 29**

**WCPFC15-2018-DP23
6 December 2018**

United States of America



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Office of the Assistant Administrator
Silver Spring, MD 20910

December 6, 2018

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

Re: WCPFC15 Priorities and Paragraph 29 of CMM 2017-01

Dear Feleti,

I would like to respond to Japan's December 3, 2018, letter regarding implementation by the United States of paragraph 29 of CMM 2017-01 (distributed through Circular 2018/76). Japan is correct that paragraph 29 includes a provision that I did not address in my letter to you of November 29, 2018. Paragraph 29 states that "The United States shall endeavour to ensure that its purse seine vessels do not use any increased high seas effort in the high seas west of 180 degrees."

We can confirm that the U.S. purse seine fleet did not increase its fishing effort on the high seas west of 180° longitude in 2018. Data available as of November 30, 2018, indicate that the fleet expended 81 fishing days on the high seas west of 180°, which is less than half of the effort expended on the high seas west of 180° in 2017 (170 fishing days), and substantially less than the fishing effort expended in 2016 (143 fishing days) and 2015 (119 fishing days). The United States did not take any regulatory action to avoid an increase in fishing effort on the high seas west of 180°, given the nonbinding nature of this provision, but monitored the distribution of fishing effort on the high seas in case further action would be justified consistent with paragraph 29. Paragraph 29's expectation regarding deliveries to the American Samoa canneries created an incentive to fish in relative proximity to American Samoa, which is situated east of 180°, disfavoring an increase in fishing effort on the high seas west of 180°.

Thank you for making this letter available to other delegations to WCPFC15.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel D. Rauch III".

Samuel D. Rauch III
U.S. Federal Commissioner to the WCPFC

