



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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**PROPOSAL FOR A CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR
PROTECTION OF MARINE MAMMALS FROM LONGLINE FISHING
OPERATIONS**

**WCPFC-TCC15-2019-DP02_rev1¹
30 August 2019**

Paper by the Republic of Korea

¹ Revision 1 does not differ substantially from the original version. A minor editorial correction was made.

Proposal for a Conservation and Management Measure for Protection of Marine Mammals from Longline Fishing Operations

Explanatory Note

I. Introduction

According to a technical paper by FAO (Bycatch in longline fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species : A global review of status and mitigation measures), marine mammals such as cetaceans and seals are known to interact with longline gear although information on marine mammal interaction with longline fisheries is limited. WCPFC has Conservation and Management Measure for protection of cetaceans from purse seine fishing operations (CMM 2011-03) but there are no management measures that pertain to the issue of operational interactions between marine mammals and longline fisheries.

This proposal seeks to introduce measures which require safe release of marine mammals and a total ban on retention. In addition, we included a reporting requirement which is the same as the one in the CMM for protection of cetaceans from purse seine fishing operations.

II. Consideration of CMM 2013-06

a. Who is required to implement the proposal?

This proposal applies to all CCMs that have tuna longliners fishing in Western Central Pacific Ocean.

b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what ways and what proportion?

No fishery under the purview of WCPFC is known to target marine mammals so this proposal would have very little or no impact on any CCMs.

c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?

No, there aren't.

d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities of SIDS?

No, this proposal does not affect development opportunities of SIDS.

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

No, this proposal does not affect SIDS domestic access to resources or development aspirations.

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

No resources are required for SIDS to implement this CMM.

g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?

No mitigation measures are included.

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

This proposal does not place a disproportionate burden on SIDS.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON PROTECTION OF MARINE MAMMALS FROM LONGLINE OPERATION

Conservation and Management Measure 2019-XX

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission;

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

Recognizing the ecological and cultural significance of marine mammals in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO);

Mindful that pelagic longline fishing grounds overlap with the distributions of most cetacean species and that marine mammal interactions with longline fisheries do take place in the Convention Area;

Concerned about the potential adverse impacts of longline fisheries on marine mammal populations and that a measure to prevent and/or minimize marine mammal mortality in the longline fisheries is non-existent;

Required, by Articles 5(e) and (f) of the Convention, to adopt measures to minimize catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, and to protect biodiversity in the marine environment;

Acknowledging that the conservation of marine mammals depends on co-operative and coordinated activity at the international level, and that Regional Fisheries Management Organizations can play an integral role in protecting marine mammals;

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measure in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention:

1. For the purpose of this Conservation and Management Measure, marine mammals include but are not limited to cetaceans, dugongs and seals.

2. CCMs shall prohibit all longline vessels flying their flag from retaining onboard any part or whole carcass of marine mammals in the Convention Area.

[3. CCMs shall require their longline vessels to:

(a) use circle hooks that have a maximum wire diameter of 4.5mm (0.177 inches), 10 degree offset or less, containing round (non-flattened) wire that can be measured with caliper or other appropriate gauge in the pelagic longline fisheries; and

(b) establish a minimum 2.0mm (0.079 inches) diameter for monofilament leaders and branch lines, and a minimum breaking strength of 400 pounds (181kg) for any other material used in the construction of a leader or branch line.]

4. CCMs shall require, in the event that a marine mammal is incidentally hooked on or entangled with longline gear, the master of the vessel to :

(a) ensure and supervise the prompt and safe release of the individual; and

(b) report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag State, including the number of individuals, when and where it occurred, steps taken to ensure safe release, and an assessment of the life status of the marine mammal on release (dead or alive).

5. Until such time that the Commission adopts marine mammal handling and release guidelines and relevant information placard, CCMs whose longline vessels operate in the Convention Area shall develop their own marine mammal handling and release guidelines and relevant information placard that serve the objectives of this CMM. Longline vessels shall have this information placard on board the vessels at all times while they operate in the Convention Area.

6. In taking steps to ensure the safe release of the marine mammal as required under paragraph 4(a), the safety of the crew shall remain paramount and CCMs shall require the master of the vessel to follow any guidelines that the Commission may adopt or that the CCM has developed in accordance with paragraph 5.

7. CCMs are encouraged to provide their longline operators with outreach and education on the protection of marine mammals in the Convention Area.

8. CCMs shall include in their Part 1 Annual Report any instances in which marine mammals were incidentally caught by the longline hooks of their flagged vessels, including the details required under paragraph 4(b).

9. This Conservation and Management Measure shall enter into force on [January 1, 2020].