



**COMMISSION
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
5 – 11 December 2019

PITIA Position Statement WCPFC16

**WCPFC16-2019-OP19
9 Dec 2019**

**Submitted by
PITIA**



Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association

PITIA Position Statement WCPFC 16

Dear Chairlady,

Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association would like to thank the Western and Central Pacific Tuna Commission (WCPFC) to extend its invitation for PITIA to participate in the 16th Annual meeting of the WCPFC in Port Moresby Papua New Guinea.

Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association (PITIA) would like to congratulate the incoming chairlady on her appointment as the Chair of the Western and Central Pacific Tuna Commission (WCPFC) and PITIA is looking forward to work with you and the commission in progressing the work of the commission.

PITIA would like to acknowledge the WCPFC15 for making big decisions during the WCPFC15 annual meeting, including adopting a target reference point for South Pacific Albacore, Resolution 2018:01 on Labour standards for crew on fishing vessels and not to increase the allocations for big eye tuna in the review of the CMM 2017-01. The commission in making strong decisions like these have shown that the commission is responsible in its role to manage this fishery under its charge. This will gain the confidence of all the stakeholders that involve in the fishery that the commission is doing its mandate to manage the WCPO's highly migratory tuna resources.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. HARVEST STRATEGIES

Whilst PITIA acknowledge the WCPFC15 for agreeing to an interim Target Reference Point (iTRP) for the South Pacific Albacore during the WCPFC15. PITIA is concerned with the slow progress in the work on harvest strategies since the timeframe for adoption of harvest strategies in the workplan for harvest Strategies in the CMM 2014-06 have lapsed. The commission has to step up in progressing the work in agreeing to a harvest strategy for the 4 key tuna species as agreed to in the workplan.

Where a wholistic management measure and governance at the WCPFC level is critical for management and sustainability of the region's tuna resources.

c/o Fiji Fishing Industry Association, P.O BOX 178, Suva, Fiji Islands
PH: +679 9292899 (Fiji) Email: jmaefit@pacifictuna.org
website: www.pacifictuna.org



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2. Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting.

PITIA acknowledges the work done by the EM and ER working group and supports the time line given to have an EM and ER CMM by 2020. PITIA would like to encourage the WCPFC to learn from the experiences in the success and challenges from the trial that is done in the Pacific region. These trials have shown success in the EM and the program is ready to be rolled out. PITIA would like to see this program roll out across all the fleets in the WCPO and not only targeting the low risk domestic fleet which is the case for the EM trials. PITIA would also encourage the WCPFC to use the experiences of the regional and other subregional RFMOs EM and ER tools which have been trial and successfully used for the last couple of years which is successful as well.

3. Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing Vessels

PITIA acknowledges the WCPFC15 for adoption of the Resolution 2018-01 on Labour Standards for crew on Fishing Vessels. The resolution should be seen as a work in progress and gaps within the resolution should be improved to align the working condition to international labour regulations like the IMO's Cape Town Agreement, ILO's c188 and social accountability Standards like the Social Accountability International's SA8000 standard and then progress the work on to a social standards CMM.

4. Observer Engagement in WCPFC Processes.

PITIA acknowledges the improved observer engagement at the WCPFC meetings which is important for transparency in the decision-making processes and accountability in the management of the Western and Central Pacific tuna resources. PITIA acknowledges the concerns raised in the WCPFC 16 working paper 14 on the draft guidelines for observer participation in the closed meeting for the commission and its subsidiary bodies which considers the compliance monitoring report. PITIA would like to support the NGOs statement on this issue and encourage the commission to encourage the participation of observers in accordance with international fisheries law and international law more generally, non-State actors should be afforded the opportunity to participate in RFMO meetings. In doing so, RFMOs, such as the WCPFC, give effect to:



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- Article 12 of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement ‘States shall provide for transparency in the decision-making process and other activities of subregional and regional fisheries management organisations and arrangements’, and ‘...shall be afforded the opportunity to take part in meetings ... as observers’
- Article 7.1.9 of the FAO Code of Practice for Responsible Fishing ‘States and subregional or regional fisheries management organisations and arrangements should ensure transparency in the mechanisms for fisheries management and in the related decision-making process’, and
- Article 21 of the WCPFC Convention and Rule 36 of the WCPFC Rules of Procedure.
- Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development provides that ‘Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens’ and ‘States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available’.

PITIA is looking forward to participate in the WCPFC16 meetings and would like to wish all the CCMs, NCCMs and observer a fruitful and successful discussion during the WCPFC16.

ABOUT PITIA

The Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association (PITIA) is the regional body that represents the national fisheries industry in Pacific Island Countries.

PITIA have permanent observer status with the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations like Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

Objectives of the organisation remain very much tied to the welfare of its members:

1. To provide a united voice for the Forum Island Countries’ domestic fishing and associated industries with particular focus on influencing policy.
2. To facilitate and encourage the promotion of the economically and biologically sustainable use of tuna and tuna-related resources by Forum Island Countries’ domestic tuna fishing and associated industries in the region.
3. To undertake, co-ordinate and promote liaison and negotiations with national, regional and international bodies and other entities having an interest in or an effect on the fishing or associated industries of the Forum Island Countries.