



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
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June 30, 2010

Dr. SungKwon Soh
Interim Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 2356
Kolonia
Pohnpei, FM 96941

Dear Dr. Soh:

I am writing to notify you of the status of the United States' implementation of "Conservation and Management Measure on the Application of High Seas FAD Closures and Catch Retention" (CMM 2009-02). When the Commission adopted CMM 2009-02, it agreed to permit some flexibility in the implementation of the measure for those CCMs whose "domestic regulations are compatible with, but not identical to, the PNA rules" (paragraph 272 of the record of WCPFC6). As we explained during WCPFC6, the United States is such a CCM.

On August 4, 2009, the United States issued final domestic regulations to implement all the purse seine-related elements of CMM 2008-01. The catch retention provisions of the CMM are conditional on there being 100 percent observer coverage on purse seine vessels. The Secretariat confirmed in early 2010 that observer coverage on purse seine vessels had reached 100 percent, and on May 14, 2010, we issued a follow-up rule announcing the dates of applicability of the catch retention requirements.

As agreed at WCPFC6, CCMs with "compatible" FAD closure and catch retention requirements are to submit copies of their domestic regulations to the WCPFC Secretariat prior to the 2010 FAD closure. Attached for that purpose are the two purse seine-related rules referred to in the previous paragraph. Please let me know if you need any further information about this matter.

Sincerely,

Charles Karnella
International Fisheries Administrator

Attachments

cc: William Gibbons-Fly, U.S. Department of State
Ufagafa Ray Tulafono, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Celestino O. Igisomar, CNMI Department of Lands and Resources
Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero, Guam Office of the Lieutenant Governor

