



THIRD REGULAR SESSION

Apia, Samoa

11-15 December 2006

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES
FOR BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN TUNA
IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

Conservation and Management Measure 2006-01

The Western and Central Pacific fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recalling the resolutions adopted at the fourth session of the MHLC and the 3rd session of the PrepCon in November 2002 in which participants *inter alia* urged all states and other fishing entities concerned to exercise reasonable constraint in respect of any regional expansion of fishing effort and capacity.

Recognizing that the Scientific Committee has recommended reductions in fishing mortality in order to maintain the bigeye and yellowfin stocks at levels capable of producing the maximum sustainable yield;

Recalling that the Commission at its second regular session in December 2005 adopted a conservation measure for bigeye and yellowfin tuna and agreed to review annually the measure (2005-01).

Further recalling that the Commission requested the Scientific Committee to review the catch of bigeye and yellowfin in other commercial fisheries in the Convention Area and provide advice to the Commission so that conservation and management measures can be developed;

Recalling Article 8 (4) of the Convention that obliges the Commission to pay special attention to the high seas in the convention Area that are surrounded by exclusive economic zones.

Adopts, in accordance with the Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention the following provisions to be read as part of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2005-01:

Other Commercial Tuna Fisheries¹

1. Beginning in 2007, CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the total capacity of their respective other commercial tuna fisheries for bigeye and yellowfin tuna, including purse-seining that occurs 20 north and 20 south, but excluding artisanal fisheries and those fisheries taking less than 2000 tonnes of bigeye and yellowfin , do not exceed the average level for the period 2001-2004 or 2004.
2. CCM's whose vessels operate in other commercial tuna fisheries for bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the Convention area will provide the Commission with complete and accurate data relating to the catch of these vessels.

Purse Seine Fishery²

3. Beginning in 2007, CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of purse seine fishing effort by their vessels in areas of the high seas does not exceed 2004 levels or the average of 2001-2004.
4. CCMs whose vessels fish in areas beyond national jurisdiction shall develop management plans for the use of FADs (anchored and drifting) in areas beyond national jurisdiction which shall be submitted to the Commission by 1st January 2008.
5. Management plans for the use of FAD's shall include strategies to limit the interaction with juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna.
6. Recognizing the urgent need to reduce fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna from fishing on FADs, the Commission will adopt a measure at its next session to reduce juvenile bigeye and yellowfin mortalities from fishing effort on FAD's, taking into account any existing measures.
7. The Commission asks the CCM's to urgently collaborate on research to reduce fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin from fishing on FADs. This research should include collaboration with industry to explore technical and industry based solution to the FAD closures, identify areas with high concentrations of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, consider areas of closure and determine a regime for observer coverage and reporting for adoption at the next session of the Commission.
8. This research should be coordinated by the Secretariat of the WCPFC and the TCC and Scientific Committee chairs and representatives of industry organisations³.

¹ "Other commercial fisheries" are those fisheries not addressed in CMM 2005-01, i.e. fisheries other than longline and tropical (20°N-20°S) purse seine. These include: hand-line, pole and line, purse seine fisheries north of 20°N or south of 20°S, ring-net, troll and unclassified fisheries.

² Paragraphs 3 to 9 below apply between 20°N and 20°S.

³ The meeting noted that much of the information on concentrations of juvenile bigeye could be found in the "closures paper" prepared for the meeting by the Executive Director or in the long-term records of the SPC.

Catch retention

9. Prior to the 2007 session of the Technical and Compliance Committee, each CCM with purse seine vessels fishing in the Convention Area shall develop and provide to the Executive Director plans to require all purse seine vessels to retain on board and then land all skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna, except for fish unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size, including provisions outlining how such requirement would be implemented and enforced. The TCC will review such plans and make a recommendation to the Commission with respect to the adoption of such a measure at WCPFC4.

Port Controls

10. Each CCM shall prohibit landings, transshipment and commercial transactions in tuna and tuna products that are positively identified as originating from fishing activities that contravene any element of the Commission's conservation and management measures.