



**COMMISSION
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Manila, Philippines
3 – 7 December 2017

FFA PROPOSAL TO AMEND PARAGRAPH 21 OF CMM 2013-10

**WCPFC14-2017-DP10
3 November 2017**

Proposal by FFA Member CCMs



3 November 2017

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

Dear Feleti,

FFA Proposal to Amend Paragraph 21 of WCPFC 2013-10

I write on behalf of the 17 members of the Forum Fisheries Agency in my capacity as the Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee.

FFA Members are pleased to submit for WCPFC14 consideration a proposal to amend paragraph 21 of CMM2013-10 on the Record of Fishing Vessels. The proposal seeks an amendment to enable flagged vessels that are fishing exclusively within CCMs' EEZs to offload their catch in an adjacent CCM's port.

The proposed amendment builds upon current efforts to gradually reverse economic difficulties faced by domestic albacore longline fishing vessels of developing CCMs. While Article 30 specifically provides for special requirements of SIDS, some SIDS are further disadvantaged by the geographical location of their EEZs relative to other jurisdictions. The Convention provides specific provisions for CCMs under these situations (e.g. Articles 30(2)(b) and 10(3)(h)). The continual and prolonged reduction of catch rates for South Pacific Albacore has resulted in economic hardship for SIDS domestic longline fleets leading to essential modifications of their fishing operations.

In order to mitigate, in part, the impact of economic hardships and to ensure continual operation of SIDS domestic longline fleets, the proposed amendment seeks to remove RFV listing requirements for CCMs' domestic longline vessels that fish solely in their EEZs, to offload their catch to canneries and processing plants in an adjacent CCM's port. The arrangements for landing catches into PagoPago from adjacent CCMs were in place well before the Commission, bearing no additional costs to small-scale fisheries operations.

FFA Members are committed in their efforts to combat IUU fishing and this proposal does not intend to facilitate any form of IUU fishing. Instead it seeks to reduce high operational costs incurred by some CCMs' boat owners in regard to configuring their domestic fleets. These details are set out in the CMM2013-06 analysis below.

Please distribute this letter to all CCMs and we welcome comments or queries about the proposal, which should be directed to the FFA Secretariat (vivian.fernandes@ffa.int)

Proposed amendments to paragraph 21 of CMM 2013-10.

21. Paragraphs 17 to 19 do not apply in respect of vessels that operate entirely in the Exclusive Economic Zone of a CCM and that are flagged to that CCM

21 bis. Paragraphs 17 to 19 do not apply to vessels in paragraph 21, that seek to use an adjacent CCM's port solely for the purpose of unloading its catch in that port.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J Baldwin". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Jenny Baldwin

Chair

Forum Fisheries Committee

CMM 2013-06 SIDS Impact Assessment

a. Who is required to implement the proposal?

The proposal is targeted to support the continued operation of Samoa's domestic longline fleet that fishes exclusively in Samoa's EEZ. No additional implementation requirements would be necessary.

b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what way(s) and what proportion?

Since the proposal is for a targeted fleet, it is intended to support the domestic development aspirations of Samoa's domestic longline fleet, critical for its survival and viability. This proposal will allow this fleet to directly offload to American Samoa instead of the current practice of landing and containerising fish in Samoa, and then shipping to American Samoa. The current practice is costly further impacting on the economic hardship experienced by Samoa in this fishery as a result of prolonged reductions in catch rates in the albacore fishery.

c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other regional fisheries management organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?

N/A

d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities for SIDS?

The proposal aims to enhance the ongoing operations and future planned developments of Samoa's domestic longline vessels. Other SIDS may be in the same geographical circumstance as Samoa, could potentially benefit from this proposal to address economic constraints in future.

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

The proposal will not affect Samoa's access to resources, rather to support its development aspirations. by allowing vessels described in CMM 2013-10, para. 21, and enabling them to transit across an adjacent EEZ to offload their catch. In addition, the proposed offloading activities will support the onshore processing operations and economic benefits derived from these activities by American Samoa.

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

There are no additional resources required to implement the proposal apart from the current MCS activities already implemented to control the activities of these vessels including licensing, dockside boarding and inspection, catch and effort reporting and reporting to the FFA VMS, and other broader measures of the Commission consistent with domestic laws.

g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?

No additional mitigation measures are required. The proposal has been carefully drafted to limit its application to Samoa's domestic fleet, whilst maintaining the integrity of paragraph 21 in CMM 2013-10.

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

N/A

4. In cases where the transfer of a disproportionate burden of conservation action has been demonstrated by a SIDS or territory, CCMs shall cooperate, to mitigate the burden for the implementation by the relevant SIDS and territories of specific obligations including through:

- a. Phased or delayed implementation of specific obligations; (*Not Applicable*)
- b. Exemption of specific obligations; (*Not Applicable*)
- c. Proportional or rotational implementation; (*Not Applicable*)
- d. Establishment of a compensatory funding mechanism in accordance with the financial regulations of the Commission. (*Not Applicable*)

There is no transfer of a disproportionate burden of conservation action to SIDS and territories.