EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/B2/FM/FH

Dear Mr López,

I would like to thank the Long-Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) for its advice for the 23rd Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC23).

We have read the advice attentively as part of our preparations for WCPFC23. Allow me to offer a brief response to some of the issues raised.

On the **management of tropical tunas**, the EU welcomes the progress being made by WCPFC in the development and implementation of management procedures. The adoption of the management procedure for skipjack was a key achievement in this regard. The EU supports the adoption of a management procedure for bigeye tuna at WCPFC23, based on the recommendations of the special meeting of the Scientific Committee. The management procedure should be comprehensive in scope, robust and likely to achieve the agreed management objectives, and achieve a good balance between conservation and socio-economic considerations. We note your comments about the management of yellowfin tuna, which should indeed be given due consideration. The EU supports increased observer coverage for the long-line fleets and the use of electronic monitoring to achieve this objective.

As regards other tuna species, the EU supports the adoption of a Pacific Bluefin Tuna management procedure and related implementing arrangements subject to the advice of the special session of the Scientific Committee and consistent with the approach of the IATTC. On South Pacific Albacore, the EU will support implementing measures, including an allocation framework, that ensure a good balance between conservation and socio-economic considerations and include fair and transparent arrangements based on the criteria in the Convention.

The **management of sharks** remains a key priority for the EU. We welcome the most recent scientific information indicating positive signs for oceanic white tip sharks and silky sharks, following the implementation of various mitigation measures. The EU remains convinced that the ‘fins naturally attached’ policy is the most effective way to combat

Mr. Ivan López
Chairman Long Distance Advisory Council
ivan.lopez@pesqueraancora.com
C/Núñez de Balboa nº 49, 3º izquierda
ES-28001 MADRID
SPAIN

shark finning. We will therefore continue to push for greater scrutiny on the use of alternatives measures and for their gradual elimination. Consideration will also be given to the best practices adopted by other RFMOs, including IATTC and IOTC, for the review of WCPFC CMM 2025-06 in 2027. This should ensure that the practices adopted by WCPFC are effective, implementable and harmonised with other RFMOs as far as possible.

We share your long-standing concerns about the **monitoring of transshipments at sea**. The EU has consistently advocated for the elimination of transshipment at sea in WCPFC and remains committed to strengthening WCPFC's rules on transhipment. The specific recommendations outlined in LDAC's advice will be very useful in this regard.

Concerning the **electronic Catch Documentation Scheme** (e-CDS), we share LDAC's view that it is an effective mechanism to monitor catches and to prevent IUU fishing. The EU supports the work carried out by the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC CDS Working Group, the workplan for establishing an e-CDS for Pacific bluefin tuna, and maximum alignment with the best practices of established e-CDS schemes.

On the strengthening of **port state measures**, it is regrettable that very little progress has been achieved since the establishment of the WCPFC working group for the review of CMM 2017-02. We agree on the need to adopting a binding measure that is aligned as closely as possible with the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), including on the specific points mentioned in your advice.

Finally, regarding **marine pollution**, and in particular abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), the EU supports the strengthening of CMM 2017-04, including efforts to recover ALDFG in line with EU legislation. In addition, the EU supports transitioning to biodegradable dFADs, aligning as closely as possible with standards already established in other RFMOs, and considering relevant technical and supply constraints.

I look forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you need any clarification or have any questions about this reply, please contact our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu .

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

Electronically signed on 26/11/2026 18:35 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121