



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/B2/LaM(2023)

Dear Mr López,

I thank the LDAC for its advice on the recommendations for the 20th Regular Session of the Commission of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC20). Even though the advice was sent only just before the start of the meeting, I nonetheless want to take the opportunity to provide some feedback on your main recommendations. In order to maximise the opportunity for the Commission to take into account the advisory council's recommendation, I would encourage you to provide such advice well in advance of RFMO meetings.

I take good note of your recommendations on the revision of the tropical tunas conservation and management measure. On the possible adoption of the purse seine high seas effort hard limit, there are many divergent views in the WCPFC, including on the total allowable effort and its allocation. The EU will support proposals that are based on the best available scientific advice, that do not undermine the sustainability of the fisheries and that ensure the economic viability of the EU fleet in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Your suggestion to task the FAD working group with an assessment of the retrieval of FADs is very relevant.

On the monitoring of transshipments at sea, the EU will strongly support proposals to revise the current measure during the annual meeting. This is needed to bring the transshipment measure closer to the FAO voluntary guidelines on transshipment. Given that this WCPFC measure has not been updated since 2009, a revision is long overdue.

As regarding your advice on the climate change considerations, the EU will support the recommendations of the Scientific Committee to develop ecosystem and climate indicators and climate related report cards, to allow future management decisions to account for climate change considerations.

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I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

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