



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
MARE.B.1/ND/ae/ARES(2012)

Mr Antonio Cabral
Chairman of the LDRAC
C/Dr Fleming 7, 2ºD
28036 Madrid
SPAIN

Dear Mr Cabral,

I would like to thank the LDRAC again for its recommendation for the next WCPFC Annual meeting (R-09-11/WG1) and its interest in the future of the conservation measure for tropical tunas in the area.

Having read your recommendation and following consultation of Member States, on behalf of the EU we have submitted a proposal for a measure on the conservation and management of tropical tunas (bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack) in line with scientific advice and to defend the following position:

- to replace the current ineffective 3 months FADs fishing closure with a 3 months full closure;
- to freeze developed countries active purse seine capacity and that small island developing states elaborate structured and well framed fleet development plans for realising in a responsible manner their development rights and aspirations (as recognised in the WCPFC Convention – Article 30);
- to re-open to fishing the two currently closed high sea pockets. We will also propose that the re-opened pockets be subject to a special entry/exit reporting regime for fishing vessels. A "Compensatory fund" fuelled by fees to be paid by vessel operators fishing specifically in the high seas pockets with an exemption for developing states would complete the package;
- to keep the total retention provision;
- to strengthened FADs management requirements to prevent catches of juveniles;
- with regard to the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme, the EU would support the re-establishment of an Advisory Group on operational issues that arise in the functioning of this very ambitious programme. The EU would also continue to defend the importance of making observer reports available to the flag state for compliance and enforcement purposes.

For the sake of completeness, please find attach a copy of our proposal. Please note that the EU would maintain the proposals tabled for several consecutive years on the adoption of Port State Measures and of a Catch Documentation Scheme for the WCPFC, in keeping with the FAO Agreement and the EU's IUU Regulation, respectively.

I trust that this position is in line with the spirit of your recommendation. I look forward to the continuation of our good cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lowfi Evans', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lowfi Evans