

## **LDRAC position for the next WCPFC annual meeting, which will be held in Palau**

Status: adopted by the Executive Committee

Reference: R-09-11/WG1

In the framework of the WCPFC, a Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) has been in force since 2008 till nowadays, and it will be replaced by a new one in the next annual meeting.

The LDRAC would like to express its interest in the future CMM to be more effective than the previous one, and therefore,

Taking in consideration that during the last Compliance Committee it was verified that the reported observer coverage was only 45.5% and 32.5% during 2009 and 2010 FAD closures respectively;

Considering that in CMM 2008-01 there was established the closure of two High Seas Pockets (HSP) areas in the WCPFC, and considering the lack of effect of that closure on the conservation of the tuna species because the effort exerted in those HSP has been transferred to the PNA EEZ, and has not disappeared, as stated by SPC (2010) and restated during the 2011 Scientific Committee Meeting;

Considering that SPC (2010) and the Scientific Committee have reiterated that CMM 2008-01 exceptions have been detrimental for the effectiveness of CMM 2008-01 to achieve the target management objective of reducing big eye fishing mortality by 30% as recommended by the Scientific Committee,

The LDRAC proposes:

- To support the proposal presented last year by the EU for a total closure to all purse seine fishing that will replace the existing FAD closure, in order to facilitate compliance of this measure. The expected effect of 2 months closure would be effective in reducing 30% the bigeye fishing effort as requested by the Scientific Committee. To adopt this measure will also help for the management of the other target species for the purse seine fleet, like yellowfin and

skipjack, as recommended by the Scientific Committee. The transfer of fishing effort to other areas should also be prevented.

- The immediate adoption of a scheme to assess and eliminate overcapacity and allocate resources based on fair and transparent social and environmental criteria, starting by a freeze of total capacity in the WCPFC Convention Area for all the gears targeting to tropical tunas, with special consideration to the rights of the coastal states. Such freeze shall be a first step to ensure capacity doesn't increase in the region pending the development of the capacity and allocation scheme mentioned above.
  - The extension of the HSP closure in 2008 to cover all HSP and include all fishing vessels – not just purse seiners, establishing a similar regulatory measure as established for the Eastern HSP (CMM 2010-02), and at the same time to propose a management regime for the High Seas similar to the Vessel Day Scheme established in PNA EEZ, with an allocation criteria based on the historical rights, with some proportion allocated to the future expansion of the eventual fleet development plans for the Small Island Developing States.
  - The continuation with the total retention provision, as it is reflected in point 27 of CMM 2008-01.
  - The application of FAD Management plans in WCPFC, and to promote strategies to limit the capture of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna and incidental by-catch reduction as well as its application by all the WCPFC members, as it is reflected in points 23-24 of CMM 2008-01.
  - The improvement of the functioning and reporting of the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme that will include best practices for good governance of the National Observer Programmes, through an absolute transparent system.
  - The future CMM should apply without exemptions to all fleets and WCPFC members.
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In addition to those elements, the CFFA wanted to support the following as effective part of the future CMM:

In addition, to extend the current three months FAD closure to six months, to decrease the catches of juvenile bigeye tuna and increase the productivity of tuna stocks in the region

## References:

- SPC, 2010. Review of the implementation and effectiveness of CMM 2008-01. WCPFC7 -2010/15.rev 1
- SPC, 2011. Projections Based on the 2011 Stock Assessments. WCPFC-TCC7-2011/31