



**COMMISSION  
NINTH REGULAR SESSION**

Manila, Philippines

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**Japan – Proposal on Response to Reported Fishing Gear Damages**

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**WCPFC9-2012-DP09**

**5 November 2012**

**Response to Reported Fishing Gear Damages**  
**Paper prepared by Japan**

As modern commercial fishing methods include the usage of large-scale fishing gears such as longline which stretches out as long as 100km long or a large number of FADs, a fishing vessel sometimes comes into a conflict with another vessel over entanglement or collision between their gears.

The increasing number of vessels, however, intensifies competition and increases the number of accidents and conflicts among fishing vessels over their fishing gears.

**In light of the situation mentioned above, Japan proposes that the Commission to adapt the following conservation and management measure:**

1. When a fishing vessel fishing WCPFC-managed species on the high seas in the Convention area experiences any damages to its equipment or fishing gear possibly caused by unnatural causes, a flag CCM of the fishing vessel may report the Secretariat details of such incident, including relevant information of the date, time, location, vessel, damage of vessel, gear and crew, and possible cause.
2. Upon receipt of such a report from a CCM, the Secretariat shall;
  - consult with its VMS data and identify a list of vessels which navigated within XX miles from the location within YY hours before or after and, therefore, might be related to the reported incident;
  - inform the flag CCMs whose vessels are on the list of such reported incident without providing identification information of the vessel reported such incident with the information of the listed vessels; and
  - provide the flag CCM which reported the incident with the list of CCMs whose vessels are on the list.

3. The concerned CCMs should make best efforts to resolve the matter in a peaceful and mutually acceptable manner.
4. The Secretariat shall compile the information of such reported incidents in an appropriate form and report annually to the TCC. The TCC shall review the reported incidents and make recommendations to the Commission if necessary. Any private information shall be dealt with in a confidential manner.