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Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) report to the Fifth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC5)

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Prepared by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)

The following report on the implementation of the VDS has been prepared by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), consistent with the reporting requirements detailed in paragraph 325 of the 'Summary Report' of the Fourth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC4).

The VDS was implemented by the PNA on 1 December 2007. Table 1 shows the days allocated for the first year, days utilized as at 31 October 2008 and the days remaining or balance available as at 31 October 2008 for the first management year for individual members of the PNA and multi-lateral arrangements (FSMA and US Treaty). Note days utilized have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table 1: Allocation of fishing days for the first year, days utilized as at 31 October 2008 and the days remaining or balance as at 31 October 2008.

	Allocation of fishing days for first year	Days utilized as at 31 October 2008	Balance of days as at 31 October 2008
Federated States of Micronesia	6,253	4,688	1,564
Kiribati	6,194	3,571	2,622
Marshall Islands	2,727	427	2,300
Nauru	1,452	1,229	223
Papua New Guinea	7,907	10,267	-2,360
Palau	595	115	480
Solomon Islands	2,361	1,448	913
Tuvalu	979	424	555
Total Party Allowable Effort (PAEs)	28,469	22,169	6,297
FSM Arrangement	3,907	2,979	928
US Treaty*	3,362*	4,602	-1,240
Total Allowable Effort (TAE)	35,738	29,750	5,985

* Note the allocation of fishing days provided to the US Treaty is a 'nominal allocation' and no hard limit restriction on fishing days applies to vessels fishing under the US Treaty.

Under the VDS members of the PNA can transfer up to 100% of their allocations of fishing days received annually (i.e. Party Allowable Effort or PAE) between years over a 3-year period (i.e. Management Period). Once a member of the PNA has utilized the PAEs allocated over each of the 3-years of a Management Period the only mechanism available to have additional days fished within their waters is to have days transferred from other members of the PNA. Other members of the PNA may only transfer days from allocations that have not been fished in their waters.

Members of the PNA have also limited the total number of days that can be fished under the 'Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement for Regional Access' or FSMA. The FSMA is a multi-lateral arrangement for regional access amongst members of the PNA. The total number of days that can be fished by vessels licensed under the FSMA in the first year of the VDS has been set at 3,907 days.