



FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

Tumon, Guam, USA

3-7 December 2007

DECISION IN RELATION TO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF YELLOWFIN AND BIGEYE TUNA

WCPFC4-2007/31

7 December 2007

Text proposed by the Chairman for insertion into the Summary Report of WCPFC4

1. Recognizing the failure of the Fourth Regular Session of the Commission to adopt a measure to address concerns relating to over-fishing of bigeye and yellowfin tuna, particularly in relation to purse seine fishing on fish aggregating devices, as agreed at WCPFC3 in December 2006, the Commission agreed that, at its next meeting in December 2008, it will adopt a supplementary CMM for bigeye and yellowfin tuna.
2. The CMM will be based upon the most recent scientific advice. Future or pending scientific studies will not be used as an excuse to delay the adoption of the Measure. The CMM must have the potential to deliver tangible results in terms of an improvement in the status of the WCPO stocks of bigeye and yellowfin.
3. The CMM will apply to purse seining, longlining and other commercial fisheries that catch yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the Convention Area.
4. The Commission tasks the Fourth Regular Sessions of the Scientific Committee and Technical and Compliance Committee to provide advice and recommendations that will support the development of the CMM.
5. The advice and recommendations will, *inter alia*, include consideration of the status of the stocks, the potential for technological solutions to minimize the selectivity of fishing gear for juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna while minimizing the impact on the skipjack fishery, fairness and equity and enforceability including the status of the implementation of MCS measures in the Commission particularly the ROP and the VMS.
6. The Commission committed to the implementation of the ROP and VMS during 2008 as critical elements that are required to support the implementation of the new Measure. In preparation for the implementation of this Measure in 2009, CCMs will implement these Measures in their purse seine and longline fleets during 2008.
7. The development of the draft CMM will include consultation with industry, particularly the World Tuna Purse-seine Organization, and will identify research currently being conducted which will improve our understanding of how to deal with this conservation challenge.