



Government of the Cook Islands
MINISTRY OF MARINE RESOURCES

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Mr. Andrew Wright
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission,
Kaselehieh Street,
PO Box 2356,
Kolonia,
Pohnpei State. 96941
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Kia orana Drew,

Re: **ASSISTANCE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST PERSISTENT IUU
ACTIVITY IN COOK ISLANDS EEZ – FV Athena F**

On the 25th May 2007, the Cook Islands wrote to you requesting that FV Athena F be listed on the WCPFC IUU List. I understand that at the Technical and Compliance Committee meeting held recently, CCMs agreed for the vessel to be placed on the provisional list which will be considered by the Commission in December this year, and if agreed vessels will be placed on the WCPFC IUU vessel list.

In accordance with paragraph 14 of CMM2004/01 the Cook Islands must with a heavy heart bring this vessel again to the Executive Director and Commissions attention.

On the 14 and 15 November 2007 during a routine aerial surveillance patrol, this vessel was detected fishing within in the WCPFC Convention Area, and the Cook Islands EEZ respectively. This vessel is not licensed to fish in our EEZ. Fishing without a license in the Cook Islands EEZ is an offence pursuant to the Cook Islands Marine Resources Act 2005. This offence is punishable by a penalty not exceeding NZ\$1,000,000. I also note that the vessel is still not on the WCPFC Record of vessels maintained by the Secretariat in Pohnpei, and as such this is a direct violation of CMM2004/01.

The Cook Islands Ministry of Marine Resources has photographic evidence of this activity and would like to draw this completely unacceptable behaviour to the attention of the Commission, and request the Commissions assistance in bringing the operators, beneficial owners and captain of this vessel before the courts in the Cook Islands for their illegal fishing activities.

WCPFC4-2007/IP07 [Cook Islands - IUU List]

The Ministry of Marine Resources calls upon other CCMs to support the IUU listing of the Athena F at this years' Commission Meeting, as well as the IUU listing of all other vessels located within the Convention Area who share the same operator or beneficial owner as the Athena F.

The Cook Islands, calls upon all other CCMs to cooperate in assisting the Cook Islands in bringing the operator, beneficial owner and captain of the Athena F to face a trial in the Cook Island Courts.

The Cook Islands notes paragraphs 1(c), 1(f), 1(h) and 13 of CMM2004/01 and would like to remind other CCMs of these obligations, particularly in respect of the provision of port facilities or services for this vessel. It is the Cook Islands view that the provision of port services is a direct contradiction of CMM2004/01.

Pursuant to paragraph 16 of CMM2004/01 the Cook Islands requests that this information be circulated to other CCMs so that it may in addition to the measures set out in paragraph 13 take appropriate action consistent with the Convention as they see fit to bring this vessel and those connected to it, to face legal proceedings.

We intend to make a statement about the activities of this vessel at this years' Commission Meeting to ensure the Commission is aware of the vessels activities, but would also appreciate any comments, views or support that other CCMs may be able to offer us in respect of this gravely serious matter.

Respectfully,



Ian K Bertram

SECRETARY OF MARINE RESOURCES