



**FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**  
**Tumon, Guam, USA**  
**3-7 December 2007**

---

**AUSTRALIA: DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR EASTERN SKIPJACK PURSE SEINE FISHERY  
NORTH OF 20 DEGREES SOUTH**

---

**WCPFC4-2007/DP06**  
**3 November 2007**

**Background:**

Australia intends to further develop Australia's skipjack fishery in the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) and on adjacent areas of the high seas. The Skipjack tuna fishery (SJTF) comprises the Eastern Skipjack Tuna Fishery and the Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery, encompassing the entire area of the AFZ (excluding Australia's Antarctic islands) including authorisation to operate on the high seas.

Australia grants access to its skipjack resources by way of fishing concessions. There are currently 33 fishing concessions in the SJTF although there has been minimal fishing effort since 2001. There has been no fishing effort north of 20 degrees south.

Conservation and Management Measure 2005-01<sup>1</sup> requires CCMs to produce a development plan for the fishing for skipjack north of 20 degrees south. The following describes proposed management arrangements to meet the requirements of CMM 2005-01.

**Development Plan:**

To investigate the issues associated with skipjack fishing, Australia will authorise up to 20 boats to fish for skipjack using the purse-seine method in the AFZ and on adjacent areas of the high seas north of 20 degrees south in 2008 under the following conditions:

- A prohibition on the use of Fishery Aggregation Devices.
- 100% observer coverage on all fishing trips as per the requirements in CMM 2005-01.
- Minimise bigeye and yellowfin tuna catch through the following catch limitations:

Retain on board and then land all bigeye and yellowfin tuna taken and the total live weight that may be taken must not exceed:

1. Two percent (2%) of the total live weight of skipjack tuna taken with the use of the boat during the season commencing 1 July in any year and ending on 30 June in the following year, and
2. In any trip, fifty percent (50%) of the total live weight of skipjack tuna taken during that trip.

Should these conditions be exceeded, Australia will consider "move-on" provisions or similar arrangements to ensure negligible impact on species other than skipjack.

- Compulsory use of integrated computer vessel monitoring system (ICVMS).

---

<sup>1</sup> WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2005-01: Conservation and Management Measures for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

- Adequate levels of unload and at-sea monitoring and surveillance to ensure effective implementation of the catch limitations.
- Purse seine catch in the area north of 20 degrees south will be recorded separately in annual reporting to the Commission.

**Review:**

- The provisions of this development plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- In particular, catches of yellowfin and bigeye tuna may be brought under quota arrangements that are currently being implemented.

DRAFT