



COMMISSION
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Da Nang City, Vietnam
28 November to 3 December 2022

**INFORMING THE COMMISSION OF THE DESIRE TO PRESRIIBE THE USE OF
CARRIER VESSELS WITH FREEZING CAPACITY IN HIGH SEAS POCKET 1
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA (HSP1-SMA)**

WCPFC19-2022-DP10
7 November 2022

Philippines



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
Fisheries Building Complex, Bureau of Plant Industry Compound,
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October 24, 2022

MS. JUNG-RE RILEY KIM
Chairperson
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

THRU : MR. FELETI PENITALA TEO, OBE
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

SUBJECT : Informing the Commission of the desire to prescribe the use of carrier vessels with Freezing Capacity in High Seas Pocket 1 Special Management Area (HSP1-SMA).

Dear Madam Chairperson,

Recalling the measure of the Philippines in Attachment 2 of CMM 2021-01 for high seas pocket 1 with the limit of 36 catcher vessels;

Recalling as well that the Philippines submitted Delegation Paper in 2015 (WCPFC12-2015-DP23) and Information Paper in 2020 (WCPFC-SC16_2020/ST-IP-14), respectively, indicating substantial losses of fish caught in the high seas pocket no. 1 as a result of the lack of refrigeration;

Informing that the Philippines promulgated Republic Act number 10611 entitled "An Act to Strengthen the Food Safety Regulatory System in the Country to Protect Consumer Health and Facilitate Market Access of Local Foods and Food Products, and for other Purposes";

Informing further, that the said law specifically provides for adoption of measure to ensure compliance to international food safety standards which requires the use of refrigeration equipment to ensure compliance to the said measure;

Recalling further that the limit prescribed in Attachment 2 of CMM 2021-01 refers specifically to the number of catcher vessels;

Whereas, it has been determined that the continuous use of non-refrigerated carrier vessels constitute grave hazard and direct contravention of the law;

Wherefore, the Philippine delegation would like to inform the Commission of its intention to prescribe the use of refrigerated carriers in the high seas to ensure compliance with this food safety regulation.

For the Commission's information and appropriate action.

Very truly yours,


ATTY. DEMOSTHENES R. ESCOTO

Officer-in-Charge
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources