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**APPENDIX 9 - REPORT OF THE JOINT RFMO TECHNICAL WORKING
GROUP ON TRADE AND CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEMES, RALEIGH,
USA, 22-23 JULY 2007**

WCPFC4-2007/DP24

4 December 2007

**RECOMMENDATION TO TUNA RFMOS ON
HARMONIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF TRADE TRACKING PROGRAMS**

Joint Proposal from Canada, European Community and United States

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need for an effective global program for the tracking of harvest and trade of tuna and tuna-like species;

RECALLING The Course of Action adopted in Kobe in January 2007 by the *Joint Tuna RFMO Meeting*, which encouraged the establishment and implementation of a system to monitor catches from catching vessels to markets;

NOTING that Tuna RFMOs already implement a variety of trade tracking programs for some tuna and tuna-like species;

RECOGNIZING the respective responsibilities of fishing states, port states and importing states in the effective monitoring and control of trade in tuna and tuna-like species;

It is recommended that Tuna RFMOs work cooperatively in the development and implementation of a harmonized trade tracking program for tuna and tuna-like species.

It is encouraged that such a trade tracking program would be implemented for all tuna and tuna-like species subject to conservation and management measures. Species for which there are concerns related to stock recovery and/or IUU, such as bluefin and bigeye tunas and swordfish, would deserve special attention.

It is also encouraged that a harmonized trade tracking program be linked to existing monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures, such as Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), Observer programs and port state control measures.

The objectives of such a trade tracking program would include:

1. Compliance – ensuring that all aspects of existing management measures, including TACs and quotas, are fully adhered to.
2. Data – confirmation of harvest and trade data for use by scientific bodies in stock assessment and analysis.
3. IUU – use of trade tracking systems and data by compliance authorities to enforce monitoring and control measures in the aim of eliminating IUU harvesting.

Best practices of such a trade tracking program would include:

1. Traceability – ensuring that trade in tuna and tuna-like species can be effectively traced from original catch to final market to meet the needs of governments, traders and consumers.
2. Catch Documentation – generation of a trade tracking document at the time of catch to improve monitoring and control.
3. Verification – improve the means to verify that all shipments of tuna and tuna-like species entering trade are from an authorized harvest. Verification should occur in a timely manner and could also be linked to MCS measures.
4. Efficiency – development of mechanisms to avoid undue burdens on the trade of legitimate catches and on inspectors.
5. Communication and Information Sharing – to ensure effective lines of communication, possibly by way of centralized electronic means, to ensure the sharing of trade information between all relevant parties occurs in a timely manner.
6. Fraud prevention – development of mechanisms for document security and protection.
7. Tagging systems – where effective and feasible, standardized effective control required.
8. Harmonization – implementation of a consistent program between all tuna RFMOs will increase efficiency, and will minimize the duplication of reporting and will aid in combating IUU activities.