



FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

Tumon, Guam, USA

3-7 December 2007

BELIZE: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WCPFC4-2007/OP5

3rd December 2007

ADDENDUM TO BELIZE'S APPLICATION FOR COOPERATING NON-MEMBER STATUS OF THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION DATED 23RD AUGUST 2007

We are hereby submitting additional information which was not requested by your Executive Director in his e-mail to us of 6th March 2007.

1. Conservation and Management Measure 2006-01

With reference to Para 1, as you are aware from our Catch Data, our fishing vessels (all longliners) catch less than 2000 tonnes of bigeye and yellowfin tunas.

2. Conservation and Management Measures 2006-02

We have commenced the implementation of IPOA-Seabirds and are, inter alia, requiring our fishing vessels to report on any interactions with seabirds. We have informed our vessel Owners/Operators of the various mitigation measures. Currently we are awaiting the outcome at the 2007 Annual Meeting with regard to the minimum technical specifications for the mitigation measures as envisaged by Para 3 so as to ensure compliance within the deadlines laid down in Para 12.

3. Conservation and Management Measure for Swordfish in the South West Pacific 2006-03

We have no vessels which have fished for swordfish during the period 2000-2005 in the Convention area south of 20 degrees south.

4. Conservation and Management Measures for Striped Marlin in the Southwest Pacific.

We are limiting the number of fishing vessels targeting striped marlin in the Convention area south of 15 degrees south to 2 vessels pursuant to Para. 1. This is the maximum number of fishing vessels which shall be permitted under Para. 4 to fish for striped marlin in the area south of 15 degree south.

5. Conservation and Management Measures for Sharks in the WCPC 2006-05

- **As you will observe from our Catch Reports for 2006, our fishing vessels do not target sharks in the WCPO.** We are in the process of implementing the IPOA Sharks. In the meantime, we do require our fishers to fully utilize any retained catches of sharks. For your guidance, our vessels target sharks in the EPO and which are landed in Puntarenas, Costa Rica with fins attached to each carcass in compliance with the Costa Rican regulations. For your guidance some of our fishing vessels target shark in the EPO. None of our vessels target any endangered species listed on Appendix II of CITES.

6. Resolution to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish Species on Sea Turtles 2005-04

Belize is a signatory to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. We require our fishing vessels to carry onboard the necessary equipment for the prompt release of incidentally caught sea turtle. We shall collect and provide to WCPFC information on interaction with sea turtles together with our Annual Report in 2008.

7. Conservation and Management Measure for South Pacific Albacore 2005-02 and North Pacific Albacore 2005-03

- In accordance with Para.1 we shall not increase the number of our fishing vessels actively fishing for south pacific albacore in the Convention area south of 20 degree south above our historical catch level for 2004 of 2 fishing vessels.
- In 2005 we had 5 longliners which targeted north pacific albacore in the Convention area north of the equator. The total weight of albacore caught in the north in 2005 was 117.78 MT. The number of vessel days fished was 362. In accordance with Para. 1, we shall not increase our total level of fishing effort for north pacific albacore beyond the aforementioned level. Our catches in 2006 by 3 vessels were 76 MT and the number of vessel days fished was 224.


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