

WCPFC4-2007/OP06
3 December 2007

Honourable Chair, The Executive Director, Commission members and delegates and fellow observers.

Greenpeace welcomes the 4th Regular Session of the WCPFC.

Time and tuna are running out. This Commission needs to change course as it is currently following the footsteps and failures of the other tuna RFMOs.

We all saw the unacceptable results of the recent meeting of International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas on the non-action to halt the imminent commercial extinction of the bluefin tunas. Many of the countries present at ICCAT are also lined up here this week and participating in the decision making of this committee. They will have to do better here than they did in Turkey. We simply cannot afford to let the Pacific tuna resources slip away like they have done in other oceans.

This Commission has been tasked with a huge and important role to sustainably and equitably manage the resource that the Pacific people's lives and economies depend on. Greenpeace will be working internationally this week to put spotlight into the events of this meeting. It might be the world's most remote tuna meeting but it is making decisions over the most significant tuna resource left on the planet. This is an issue of huge importance to Pacific people whose livelihood depends on this resource.

In order for the countries participating in this meeting to walk out of here on Friday and say that they have done their job, Greenpeace is calling on the WCPFC members to adopt the following:

- **Implement a 50% reduction in tuna fishing effort across the entire WCPO sector based on the average of 2001-2004 levels, taking a precautionary approach to account for unknowns and uncertainties in the data.**
- **Ban all at sea transshipments**
- **Establish a no-take marine reserve for species under the competence of the WCPFC in the enclosed high seas area bounded by the Pacific Island country EEZs.**

Our Forum Island Leaders were resolute in their Communique of their 38th session through the **Vavau Declaration**. The same firm resolve is required at this 4th session.

In the words of the 17 resource owners of the Forum Island regional fisheries leaders are "CONSCIOUS of the imperative need for us to take immediate and decisive collective action to ensure that, within the next three to five years, we secure our peoples' future livelihoods, regional food security, and environmental sustainability of our seas and their ecosystems".

I thank you.
(Lagi Toribau, Greenpeace Pacific Fisheries Campaigner)