



THIRD REGULAR SESSION

Apia, Samoa

11-15 December 2006

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES
FOR BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN TUNA
IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

WCPFC3-2006-DP01

10th November 2006

Proposal Submitted by FFA members

The Western and Central Pacific fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recognising that the Scientific Committee has recommended reductions in fishing mortality in order to maintain the bigeye and yellowfin stocks at levels capable of producing the maximum sustainable yield;

Recalling that the Commission agreed in 2006 to review annually WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2005-1, and to implement compatible measures as required under Article 8 of the Convention, to ensure that purse seine effort levels do not exceed 2004 levels on the high seas in the Convention Area;

Further recalling that the Committee requested the Scientific Committee to review the catch of bigeye and yellowfin in other commercial fisheries in the Convention Area and provide advice to the Commission so that conservation and management measures can be developed;

Noting the advice of the Scientific Committee that such fisheries account for large shares of the catches of bigeye and yellowfin in the Convention Area

Adopts, in accordance with the Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention the following provisions to be read as part of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2005-01:

Other (Commercial/Tuna) Fisheries

1. Beginning in 2008, CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that catches of bigeye by their vessels in fisheries that are not subject to WCPFC Conservation and

Management Measure 2005-01 shall not exceed the average annual catches for the years 2001-2004 or the year 2004.

2. Paragraph 1 does not apply to CCMs that caught less than 2,000 tonnes in such fisheries in 2004. Each CCM that caught less than 2,000 tonnes of bigeye in these fisheries in 2004 shall ensure that their annual catch does not exceed 2,000 tonnes.

Purse Seine Fishery

3. Beginning in 2007, CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of purse seine fishing effort by their vessels in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the Convention Area does not exceed 2004 levels or the average of 2001-2004.

4. Paragraph 3 shall not apply to those CCMs whose numbers of purse seine vessels operating in the Convention Area between 20N and 20S remains at five vessels or less.

5. CCMs whose vessels fish in areas beyond national jurisdiction shall develop management plans for the use of FADs (anchored and drifting) in areas beyond national jurisdiction which shall be submitted to the Commission.

6. Recognising the urgent need to reduce fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin from fishing on FADs, the Commission will adopt a measure at its next session to limit fishing effort on FADs. The Commission directs the Scientific Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee to provide advice to the Commission on a measure to reduce fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin from fishing on FADs for consideration at the next session of the Commission. The advice from the Technical and Compliance Committee shall include advice on requirements for implementation and compliance with the measure. The Executive Director shall ensure that the Scientific Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee are provided with the information necessary to provide advice on a measure to limit fishing on FADs.

Longline Fishery

7. CCMs whose vessels caught more than 2,000 mts of bigeye in 2004 shall ensure that catches of bigeye by their longline vessels for the next 3 years shall not exceed 75 per cent of the levels determined by paragraph 17 of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2005-01.