



**THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

Apia, Samoa

11-15 December 2006

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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR  
SWORDFISH IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC**

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**WCPFC3-2006-DP02**

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

**Proposal Submitted by FFA Members**

*The Commission For The Conservation And Management Of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks In The Western And Central Pacific Ocean*

*In accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the provisions of UNCLOS:*

*Noting that the first regional assessment undertaken for swordfish in the Southwestern Pacific region has indicated consistent declines in stock abundance in recent years, and most model projections predict further declines at current levels of fishing mortality;*

*Further noting that the Scientific Committee has recommended as a precautionary measure that there be no increases in fishing mortality on this stock until estimates of stock status are more certain, as increases in fishing mortality are likely to move the stock towards an overfished state;*

Adopts, in accordance with the Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs) shall limit the number of their fishing vessels catching swordfish in the Convention Area south of 20°S, to the number in any one year between the period 2000 – 2004.

2. Paragraph 1 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of small island developing State and Territory CCMs, in the Convention Area who may wish to pursue a responsible level of development of their own fisheries for swordfish in the Convention Area south of 20°S from 2000 - 2004 levels, and the legitimate rights and obligations of coastal states who may wish to pursue a responsible level of development within their fisheries waters.

3. CCMs shall cooperate to protect the long-term sustainability and economic viability of the fisheries for swordfish in the Southwest Pacific, and in particular shall cooperate on research to reduce uncertainty with regard to the status of swordfish stocks.

4. In accordance with paragraph 1, CCMs shall provide information to the Commission, by date [x], on the number of their vessels that have recorded swordfish catches in the Convention area south of 20<sup>0</sup>S, during the period 2000 – 2004, and in doing so, nominate the maximum number of vessels that shall continue to be permitted to catch swordfish in the area south of 20<sup>0</sup>S. CCMs shall report annually to the Commission the number of vessels that have caught swordfish across the Convention Area, and in the area south of 20<sup>0</sup>S. CCMs shall report annually to the Commission the total catch of swordfish across the convention area, and in the area south of 20<sup>0</sup>S.

5. The Executive Director shall compile and disseminate the information provided to the Commission by CCMs in accordance with para 4. The Technical and Compliance Committee shall monitor and review compliance with this measure and make recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary.