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Comments by Japan on the EU Proposal of WCPFC IUU Vessel List

WCPFC3-2006-DP12

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Comments submitted by Japan

Japan appreciates the initiative by the EU regarding IUU Vessel List. We observe that the proposal is almost identical with those already adopted by other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Taking into consideration the global and mobile natures of tuna resources, tuna fishing and distribution of the harvest, consistency of the measures across other tuna RFMOs is critical in implementing the measures. For this reason, Japan in principle supports the proposal although further consideration at the Commission may be necessary.

In this context, Japan wishes to emphasize that the statistical documentation scheme, that is already adopted and implemented by other RFMOs, is an indispensable tool to implement this IUU Vessel List scheme. Most of the IUU fishing is driven by the commercial profits through the international trade of tuna and tuna products. In many cases, the flag state of the IUU fishing vessels is not aware that tuna and tuna products are harvested under the flag of that nation and exported from it as the origin.

Combined with the IUU Vessel List scheme, the statistical document scheme is effective for the CCMs to undertake counter measures against the IUU fishing vessel by prohibiting tuna and tuna products from IUU fishing. Without the statistical document scheme, the elements “e” and “f” of the paragraph 17 of the proposal would be ineffective. Japan therefore suggests that the IUU vessel list scheme and statistical document scheme should be adopted by the Commission as a package.

In addition to the above, Japan's comments on the specific part of the original EU proposal are as follows. Japan reserves its right to make further comments if revised proposal is tabled.

1. In terms of the formality of the document to be adopted by the WCPFC as its Conservation and Management Measure, the last line of the preamble of the proposal should be amended as “*Adopts*, in accordance with the Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:”.
2. In the same manner, the words such as “Party”, “non-Party”, and “CPCs” on the text should be WCPFC terms such as “Member”, “non-Member”, and “CCMs” respectively.
3. The first sentence of the paragraph 16 should be amended as “Once the Commission adopts the IUU Vessel List, it shall request each flag Member/non-Member with vessels of the WCPFC IUU Vessel List to:”, because such notification may be necessary also for the Member whose vessel is on the List.
4. Taking account of the purview of the Convention, the paragraph 26 should be amended as “This conservation and management measure shall apply to any fishing vessel operating on the high seas of the Convention area”.