



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR FISHERIES AND MARITIME AFFAIRS

External Policy and markets
International and regional arrangements

Brussels, 14/11/2006
FISH/B-2 SE/ms D(2006) 12860

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Subject: IUU measures - Proposal for Comm3

Dear Mr Wright,

Further to the discussions during this year's meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee (Section 5.9 of the TCC report), please find enclosed a revised version of the EC proposal for consideration at the up-coming Annual Meeting (**Attachment A**).

This proposal has been modified following written comments we have received from Canada, FFA Members and Japan. It would be useful that the comments given by FFA Members also be made available to all CCMs, if FFA States so agree.

Given the comments given in particular FFA Members, we propose that this draft Conservation and Management measure apply initially only to non CCM vessels with the hope that the measure could gradually be extended to apply also to CCM vessels once the issues raised by FFA States have been examined in full detail by the TCC. We have therefore amended our proposal accordingly and we would recommend that the Commission adopt this proposal at its 2006 Annual Meeting.

We believe in fact that there is an urgency in adopting effective measures vis-à-vis Non CCM vessels which are active in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. By carrying the flag of States which have not signed up to the principles of the Convention, these vessels are not bound by WCPFC measures and can therefore choose to ignore them. These activities are thereby causing a considerable threat to the sustainability of the tuna resources of the Area. These activities have also been highlighted in various reports of Non Governmental Organisations.

It should also be stressed that the notions of a negative list and of a positive list are internationally seen to complement each other. Both these measures are in fact necessary since they are significantly different in their objective and process. The WCPFC record of vessels is therefore neither a sufficient nor a fully appropriate mechanism to combat IUU activities. This was also highlighted by a number of other CCMs in expressing their support for this proposal during the TCC meeting, which is reflected in paragraph 100 of the 2006 TCC report.

I would be grateful if this correspondence and the attached proposal be made available to CCMs as soon as possible.

"signed"
John SPENCER
Head of the EC Delegation
to WCPFC

Enclosures: 2



THIRD REGULAR SESSION

Apia, Samoa

11-15 December 2006

Proposal for a Conservation Measure to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the Western And Central Pacific Ocean

**WCPFC3-2006-DP14
17th November 2006**

Proposal Submitted By The European Community

The Western and Central Pacific fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recalling that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU). This plan stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory way.

Concerned that IUU fishing activities in the Convention area undermine the effectiveness of the conservation measures adopted by the WCPFC.

Further concerned that there is a possibility that vessel owners engaged in such fishing activities may have re-flagged their vessels to avoid compliance with WCPFC measures.

Determined to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of counter-measures to be applied in respect to vessels, without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of flag States under the relevant WCPFC instruments.

Considering the action undertaken in other regional tuna fisheries organizations to address this issue;

Conscious of the need to address, as a matter of priority, the issue of vessels conducting IUU fishing activities; and

Noting that the situation must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with the relevant rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement;

Adopts the following conservation and management measures in accordance with Article 10 of the Conventions:

Identification of IUU activities

1. At each Annual Meeting, the Commission will identify those vessels which are not flying the flag of Commission members, cooperating Non Members and participating territories (collectively "CCM:s") and which have engaged in fishing activities for species covered by the Convention in a manner which has diminished the effectiveness of WCPFC measures in force, and shall establish a list of such vessels (the IUU vessel list), in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out in this Conservation Measure.

2. This identification shall be documented, *inter alia*, on reports from CCM:s relating to WCPFC Conservation Measures in force, trade information obtained on the basis of relevant trade statistics such as Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) data, Statistical documents and other national or international verifiable statistics, as well as any other information obtained from Port States and/or gathered from the fishing grounds which is suitably documented. Information from CCMs should be provided in the format approved by the Commission.
3. For the purposes of this Conservation Measure, vessels fishing for species covered by the WCPFC Convention are presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the Convention Area when a CCM present evidence that such vessels, *inter alia*:
 - a. Harvest species covered by the WCPFC Convention in the Convention Area and are not on the WCPFC Register of authorized vessels, or
 - b. Harvest species covered by the WCPFC Convention, when its flag state is without or has exceeded its quotas, catch limit or effort allocation established by WCPFC Conservation Measures, or
 - c. Do not record or report their catches made in the Convention Area, or make false reports, or
 - d. Take or land undersized fish in contravention of WCPFC Conservation Measures, or
 - e. Fish during closures in contravention of WCPFC Conservation Measures, or
 - f. Use prohibited fishing gear in contravention of WCPFC Conservation Measures, or
 - g. Transship with, participate in joint fishing operations with, support or re-supply vessels included in the IUU Vessel List, or
 - h. Are without nationality and harvest species covered by the WCPFC Convention in the Convention Area, or
 - i. Engage in fishing activities contrary to any other WCPFC Conservation Measures, or
 - j. Are under the control of the owner of any vessel on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List.

Information on Alleged IUU fishing activities

4. CCMs shall every year, and at least 120 days before the Annual Meeting of the Technical and Compliance committee (TCC), transmit to the Executive Director a list of vessels presumed to be carrying out IUU activities in the Convention Area during the current and previous year, accompanied by the supporting evidence, as provided in paragraph 2, concerning the presumption of this IUU activity.

Draft IUU Vessel List

5. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 4 and any other information at his disposal, the Executive Director shall draw up a draft WCPFC IUU Vessel List and shall transmit it, together with all the supporting evidence provided, to all CCMs, as well as to non-CCMs with vessels on the List, at least 90 days before the Annual Meeting of the TCC.
6. CCMs and non-CCMs shall transmit, at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting of the TCC, their comments to the Executive Director, as appropriate, including verifiable evidence and other supporting information, showing that the vessels neither have fished in contravention of WCPFC Conservation Measures nor had the possibility of fishing for species covered by the WCPFC Convention.
7. The Executive Director shall request each Flag State with vessels on the draft IUU Vessel List to notify the owner of the vessels of their inclusion in that List, and of the consequences of their inclusion being confirmed in the IUU Vessel List.

8. Upon receipt of the draft IUU Vessel List, CCM:s shall closely monitor the vessels included in that List in order to determine their activities and possible changes of name, flag or registered owner.

Provisional IUU Vessel List

9. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 6, the Executive Director shall draw up a provisional WCPFC IUU Vessel List, and transmit it, two weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting of the TCC, to the CCMs and the non-CCMs concerned, together with all the evidence provided.
10. CCMs may at any time submit to the Executive Director any additional information which might be relevant for the establishment of the IUU Vessel List. The Executive Director shall circulate the information, together with all the evidence provided, to the CCMs and to the non-CCMs concerned, at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting of the TCC.
11. At its Annual meeting, The TCC shall:
 - (i) Following consideration of the draft IUU Vessel List and information and evidence circulated under paragraphs 5, 9 and 10, adopt a Provisional IUU Vessel List and submit it to the Commission for approval;
 - (ii) Following consideration of the current IUU Vessel List and the information and evidence circulated under paragraph 9, recommend to the Commission which, if any, vessels should be removed from the current IUU Vessel List.
12. A vessel shall be included in the provisional IUU Vessel List only if one or more of the criteria in paragraph 3 have been satisfied.
13. The Technical and Compliance Committee shall remove a vessel from the provisional WCPFC IUU Vessel List if the vessel's flag State demonstrates that:
 - a. The vessel did not engage in any of the IUU fishing activities described in paragraph 1, or
 - b. Effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution, and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity.
14. Following the examination referred to in paragraph 11, the Technical and Compliance Committee shall recommend that the Commission approve the provisional IUU Vessel List, as amended by the Technical and Compliance Committee.
15. The Draft IUU Vessel List, Provisional IUU Vessel List and the IUU Vessel List shall contain the following details for each vessel:
 - (i) name and previous names, if any;
 - (ii) flag and previous flags, if any;
 - (iii) owner and previous owners, including beneficial owners, if any;
 - (iv) operator and previous operators, if any;
 - (v) call sign and previous call signs, if any;
 - (vi) Lloyds/IMO number;

(vii) photographs, where available;

(viii) date first included on the IUU Vessel List;

(ix) summary of activities which justify inclusion of the vessel on the List, together with references to all relevant documents informing of and evidencing those activities.

IUU Vessel List

16. Once the Commission adopts the IUU Vessel List, it shall request non-CCM:s with vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List to:

a) notify the owner of the vessels of its inclusion on the IUU Vessel List and the consequences which result from being included in the List, and

b) take all the necessary measures to eliminate these IUU fishing activities, including, if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration or the fishing licenses of these vessels, and to inform the Commission of the measures taken in this respect.

17. CCMs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU, to:

a. ensure that fishing vessels, support vessels, mother ships or cargo vessels flying their flag do not participate in any transshipment or joint fishing operations with, support or re-supply vessels on the IUU Vessel List;

b. ensure that vessels on the IUU Vessel List that enter ports voluntarily are not authorized to land, transship, refuel or re-supply therein but are inspected upon entry;

c. prohibit the chartering of a vessel on the IUU Vessel List;

d. refuse to grant their flag to vessels on the IUU Vessel List in accordance with paragraph 1 f) of Section A in Conservation and Management Measure 2004-01;

e. prohibit commercial transactions, imports, landings and/or transshipment of species covered by the WCPFC Convention from vessels on the IUU Vessel List;

f. encourage traders, importers, transporters and others involved, to refrain from transactions in, and transshipment of, species covered by the WCPFC Convention caught by vessels on the IUU Vessel List;

g. collect, and exchange with other CCMs, any appropriate information with the aim of searching for, controlling and preventing false import/export certificates for species covered by the WCPFC Convention from vessels on the IUU Vessel List.

18. The Executive Director shall take any measure necessary to ensure publicity of the IUU Vessel List, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, including placing it on the WCPFC website. Furthermore, the Executive Director shall transmit the IUU Vessel List to the FAO and to other regional fisheries organizations for the purposes of enhancing co-operation between the WCPFC and these organizations aimed at preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing.

19. Without prejudice to the rights of CCMs and coastal states to take proper action, consistent with international law, the CCMs shall not take any unilateral trade measures or other sanctions against vessels on the draft or provisional IUU Vessel Lists, pursuant to paragraphs 5 or 9, or that have been removed from the IUU Vessel List, pursuant to paragraph 13, on the grounds that such vessels are involved in IUU fishing activities.

Deletion from the IUU Vessel List

20. Anon-CCM with a vessel on the IUU Vessel List may request the removal of the vessel from the List during the intersessional period by providing information demonstrating that:

- a) It has adopted measures that will ensure that the vessel complies with all WCPFC measures;
- b) it will be able to assume effectively its responsibilities as regards the monitoring and control of the vessel's fishing activities in the Convention Area;
- c) it has taken effective action in response to the IUU fishing activities that resulted in the vessel's inclusion in the IUU Vessel List, including prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity.
- d) the vessel has changed ownership and that the new owner can establish that the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in the vessel or exercises control over it, and that the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing activities.

Inter-Sessional modification of the IUU Vessel List

- 21. The non CCM shall send its request for the removal of a vessel from the IUU list to the Executive Director, accompanied by the supporting information referred to in paragraph 20.
- 22. The Executive Director will transmit the removal request, with all the supporting information, to the CCMs within 15 days following the receipt of the removal request.
- 23. Each Commission Member shall examine the removal request, and notify the Executive Director in writing of its decision regarding the removal of the vessel within 30 days following the notification by the Executive Director. Decisions on the request to remove the vessel shall be made in accordance with Rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure.
- 24. If the Commission members agrees to the removal of the vessel from the IUU Vessel List within the period stipulated in paragraph 23, the Executive Director will inform the non CCM which made the removal request, the FAO and other regional fisheries management organisations, and remove the vessel from the IUU vessel List, as published on the WCPFC Website.
- 25. If Commission Members disagrees to the request for the removal of the vessel from the IUU vessel list, the vessel will be maintained on the IUU list and the Executive Director will inform the non CCM which made the removal request.

Final provisions

- 26. This conservation and management measure shall apply to any fishing vessel operating on the high seas of the Convention Area.