



**DRAFT NON STATUS
RESOLUTION BY WCPFC
TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF FISHING FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ON SEA
TURTLES**

WCPFC2-2005/DP. 07
5th November 2005

Proposal Submitted by FFA Members

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

Resolves as follows:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating non-Members, and participating Territories (called CCMs) shall implement the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations (the Guidelines) in order to reduce the incidental catch of sea turtles and to ensure the safe handling of all turtles that are captured, in order to improve their survivability.
2. The WCPFC shall encourage CCMs to collect, and provide to the WCPFC, all available information on interactions with sea turtles in the WCPO, including both incidental and direct catches and other impacts on sea turtle populations.
3. Taking due account of the relation with sea turtle conservation efforts undertaken in other international organizations and agreements, the WCPFC should explore the development of a program that could include mitigation of sea turtle bycatch, biological research on sea turtles, improvement of fishing gears, industry education and other techniques to improve sea turtle conservation.
4. Encourages CCMs to enhance the implementation of their respective turtle mitigation measures that are already in place, and urges them to foster collaboration with other CCMs in the exchange of information in this area.
5. The Commission should establish a voluntary fund to assist developing CCMs to reduce incidental mortality of sea turtles from fishing.

6. The Scientific Committee shall take the steps necessary to ensure comprehensive recording and monitoring of turtle interactions in the Convention area; the Technical and Compliance Committee shall monitor the progress of members in compliance with this resolution and report to the Commission, and develop relevant compliance strategies for the further consideration of the Commission.