



WORLD TUNA PURSE SEINE ORGANIZATION

2nd Floor, Arcade One, East Asia Royale Hotel
National Highway, General Santos City, Philippines

19 October 2005

MR. ANDREW WRIGHT

Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPFC Headquarters, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear *Mr. Wright*:

Thank you so much for your letter inviting the World Tuna Purse Seine Organization (WTPO) to attend the WCPFC 2 meeting as an NGO observer.

We wish to inform you of our desire to attend the meeting.

The WTPO Declaration, herewith attached, during our 5th Annual meeting in Manila, Philippines last 20-21 September 2005, indicates our concern to ensure responsible tuna fishery worldwide and our desire to work with all established RFMO to address this concern.

One of our major issues is fleet capacity and the need to create a vessel registry under an RFMO.

We are also encouraging the WCPFC in particular to immediately take actions similar to those of the IATTC.

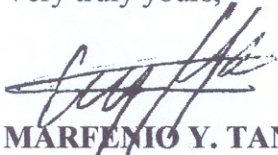
Among members, we have discussed possibility of attending RFMO meetings as a regular NGO observer and we plan to pursue this after WCPFC2.

We shall advise you of our delegation but room accommodation should not be a problem since most of our members are already set to attend the meeting as part of their flag state delegation.

We hope participating members of WCPFC will not object to our participation.

Thank you and hoping to hear from you again.

Very truly yours,




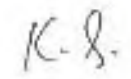
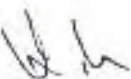
MARFENIO Y. TAN
Chairman



WTPO DECLARATION 5TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY


*Manila, Philippines
20-21 September 2005*

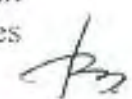
 The World Tuna Purse Seine Organization (WTPO) members control more than 300 tuna purse seiners that account for more than 60% of the World Tuna Purse Seine catch;


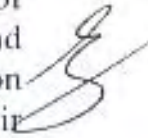

 Concerned about the state of the World Tuna Resources and recognizing the concerns raised by different Scientific Committees of the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) on the status of bigeye tuna and yellowfin stocks;

Concerned about the increase of the World Tuna Fleet capacity;

Considering the recommendations provided by the RFMOs on the reduction of fishing effort;

 Recognizing that the Government of Taiwan, in cooperation with the fishing and shipbuilding industry, have instituted laws to address the issue of new tuna fishing capacity built in Taiwan;

Well resolved to contribute to the optimal and sustainable exploitation and utilization of tuna resources, in full cooperation with the different tuna RFMOs – Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC); 

 Urge all RFMOs managing tuna resources, to assess tuna capacity considering, the elements proposed by the FAO Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity and develop and implement efficient, equitable and transparent Fleet Capacity Management Schemes in every ocean, in conjunction with other appropriate management measures, for tuna fisheries under their jurisdiction. 

Urge all RFMOs to open a register of authorised vessels, if not yet in place, considering the following:

- Only ships flying the flag of the members or cooperating parties (CPC) of the RFMOs which are actually fishing in the RFMO competency area, or which will really fish in that area during the subscription year should be listed on these registers,
- A ship should only be registered on one RFMO register and exchange registers among RFMOs,
- Any future change of the registers shall only be done under the flag state request and with preliminary agreement of the RFMO.
- Tuna fishing, unloading, transshipment, warehousing, marketing, exportation, and importation will be allowed ONLY to the boats registered in the respective RFMO. Ships that are not registered in an RFMO shall be strictly and efficiently forbidden to carry out any activity mentioned above.
- In order to link Responsible Fisheries with Responsible Markets, apply a marketing certificate, exclusive for every boat included in the RFMO Registry with a good standing, compulsory for the commercialisation of tuna products.
- Apply trade sanctions to countries that have been identified as IUU.

Consider that in view of the difficulties for the application of a Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) in tuna fisheries, the controversy among Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) members for the allocation of VDS and hoping to have effective management measures applied by WCPFC; the application of the VDS in the Western Central Pacific Ocean should be postponed;


Encourage all tuna RFMOs to take direct and urgent management actions, especially at IOTC, to preserve the sustainability of the tuna resources;

Encourage WCPFC to take direct and immediate management actions similar to those applied by IATTC with regards to fleet management scheme and multi-annual time closure;



WTPO members shall continue to engage in research plans to mitigate the possible adverse effects of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) on the oceanic ecosystem (undesired incidental catch) to improve selectivity of purse seining with FADs.

Done this 21st Day of September 2005 in Manila, Philippines.


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Ecuador


YVON RIVA

France


MARFENIO Y. TAN

Philippines


KWANGSEE LEE

South Korea


MILAN KAMBER

Federated States of Micronesia


KAZUO SHIMA

Japan


JULIO MORON

Spain


CHARLES CP LEE

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