



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

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CATCH RETENTION PLAN

**WCPFC-TCC3-2007/24
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Paper prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. Paragraph 9 of Conservation and Management Measure-2006-01 (CMM-2006-01) states, “Prior to the 2007 session of the Technical and Compliance Committee, each CCM with purse seine vessels fishing in the Convention Area shall develop and provide to the Executive Director plans to require all purse seine vessels to retain on board and then land all skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna, except for fish unsuitable for human consumption for reasons other than size, including provisions outlining how such requirement would be implemented and enforced. The TCC will review such plans and make a recommendation to the Commission with respect to the adoption of such a measure at WCPFC4.”

2. To assist CCMs in this endeavor, and to promote standardization of the information to be included in the catch retention plans (CRP), the Commission Secretariat, in Circular 2007/11 distributed on 5th June 2007, invited CCMs with purse seine vessels fishing in the Convention Area to provide guidance on the elements of the plan that should be covered in the guidelines. Two CCMs, the United States of America and Chinese Taipei responded to this invitation.

3. Subsequently, in Circular 2007/14 distributed on 6th August 2007, the Secretariat prepared a set of guidelines for the completion of CRPs (the guidelines circulated are at Attachment 1). CCMs were invited to provide comments on the guidelines and to submit their completed Catch Retention Plans by close of business on Tuesday 28 August 2007. The Secretariat received CRPs from Vanuatu and New Zealand (Attachment 2 and 3 respectively).

Recommendation

4. The Third Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee is invited to provide further guidance on a strategy to meet the obligation described at paragraph 9 of CMM-2006-01 in respect of CRPs.

**GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF A CATCH RETENTION PLAN
FOR EACH CCM
(in accordance with CMM-2006-01)**

1. Provide the dates for which the Catch Retention Plan (CRP) is valid.
2. Append a copy of the logsheet, logbook or other forms that will be used to monitor operational-level catch and effort, including catch retention, that will be used by each of the CCM's flag purse seine fishing vessels during fishing trips in the Convention Area.
3. Describe the measures to be implemented to monitor the application of this CRP for CCM flag purse seine fishing vessels.
4. Provide details of the CCM's fisheries observer programme in place, including the number of trained fisheries observers currently available for placement on purse seine fishing vessels and any plans to increase the number of trained fisheries observers.
5. Describe the respective roles and responsibilities for vessels' captains, masters and crew in respect of implementation of this CRP.
6. Append a copy of the Tuna Discard Record (TDR) that is to be used by officers on board for each CCM flag purse seine fishing vessels during fishing trips in the Convention Area.
7. Provide details of plans to publicise (fishing companies, purse seine fishing vessel officers) the details of the CCM's CRP.
8. Provide details of annual reviews of the CCM's CRP to determine its effect and effectiveness and the provision of the results of such reviews to the Commission.

CATCH RETENTION PLAN

(In accordance with CMM-2006-01)

VANUATU



OBJECTIVE

All catch made in the purse seine fishery must be retained and then landed in port. This does not include fish that is unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size.

INTRODUCTION

Vanuatu has a total of 25 single Vanuatu flagged purse seine vessels in good standing on the FFA VMS Register that are operating in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Estimated catch by these vessels in 2005 was 73,218 metric tonnes (mt) with estimated effort of 2,104 days and for 2006, 70,962 mt with estimated effort of 1,913 days.

Table 1: Showing Vanuatu flagged purse seiners and place of fishing

No.	Name of flag purse seine vessel	International Radio Call Sign	Place of fishing (name of EEZ, territorial, archipelagic waters)	Type of form used to monitor operational-level catch and effort used ¹
1	Eastern Marine	YJRE 2	Pacific ocean	South Pacific Regional Purse Seine Logsheets
2	Eastern Star	YJUC 6	Pacific ocean	
3	Fair Champion 707	YJSQ 4	Pacific ocean	
4	Fair Pioneer	YJSY 9	Pacific ocean	
5	Fair Rich No. 707	YJUN 9	Pacific ocean	
6	Fair Victory 707	YJSK 6	Pacific ocean	
7	Fair Winner 707	YJRA 3	Pacific ocean	
8	Fong Seong No. 168	YJSS 4	Pacific ocean	
9	Fong Seong No. 196	YJSJ 9	Pacific ocean	
10	Fong Seong 666	YJRJ 6	Pacific ocean	
11	Fong Seong No. 668	YJUD 2	Pacific ocean	

¹ Attach each form with this document.

12	Fong Seong 696	YJRJ 7	Pacific ocean	
13	Fong Seong No. 818	YJSS 9	Pacific ocean	
14	Fu Fa No. 88	YJSJ 9	Pacific ocean	
15	HF No. 88	YJSE 2	Pacific ocean	
16	Hsiang Fa No. 8	YJSF 5	Pacific ocean	
17	Hsiang Hao No. 8	YJSR 9	Pacific ocean	
18	Oriental Marine	YJRD 9	Pacific ocean	
19	Shun Fa No. 8	YJST 7	Pacific ocean	
20	Tuna Queen	YJTA 3	Pacific ocean	
21	Yuh Fa No. 2	YJSZ 3	Pacific ocean	
22	Yuh Fa No. 3	YJSZ 4	Pacific ocean	
23	Yuh Fa No. 6	YJUM 9	Pacific ocean	
24	Yung Da Fa No. 168	YJSX 8	Pacific ocean	
25	Fries Land		Pacific Ocean	

In 2002 the Tuna Fishing (Vanuatu) Ltd was appointed the authorized management body for Vanuatu flagged vessels, by the Vanuatu Government. The Vanuatu Fisheries Act provides that Government agents must ensure that all Vanuatu flagged vessels comply with all obligations and requirements of any Scheduled Treaty applying to their fishing and related activities in waters outside Vanuatu waters.

The provisions in the Vanuatu Tuna Management Plan (TMP) give support to a Catch Retention Plan. The TMP is the principal plan that governs the management of all tuna resources in Vanuatu, and any activities that involve tuna resources.

This Catch Retention Plan is in compliance with Paragraph (9) of the WCPFC 2006-01 CMM which stipulates that all CCMs that have purse seine vessels fishing in the Convention Area must develop a plan to require its purse seine vessels to retain on board and land all skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna.

This Plan is based on the information collected from the Department, the industry, vessel register authorized by Vanuatu Government and data from logsheets of these purse seiners.

A. MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED TO MONITOR THE APPLICATION OF CRP

- **Log-sheet, Logbook**

To maintain the current system and arrangement for all flagged purse seiners to make regular submissions to the Vanuatu Government at the end of each trip. All purse seiners flagged under Vanuatu must continue to use the approved South Pacific Regional Purse Seine logsheet. Vanuatu Fisheries will not accept any other type of logsheet. All logsheets are to be completed and sent electronically or hardcopy to Vanuatu Fisheries through the vessel agent.

- *To ensure the existing condition that all flagged purse seiners submit their logsheets at the end of each trip, using the approved logsheet. All*

logsheets must be completed and submitted electronically to Vanuatu Fisheries.

- **Landing ports**

Currently, Japan is the only country that records catch that is landed by Vanuatu flagged longliners, and reports it to Vanuatu Fisheries through the OPRT. No information or report is given to Vanuatu Fisheries from other ports that Vanuatu flagged vessels land their catch on as there are no bi-lateral arrangements in place at the moment between Vanuatu and landing countries to have a mechanism in place.

A bi-lateral arrangement between Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea (PNG) would allow for a mechanism to be put in place for the PNG Ports to report effectively on the 25 Vanuatu flagged purse seiners. The purse seiners mainly off load their catch in Papua New Guinea to supply the tuna canneries. Such an arrangement will be beneficial to Vanuatu in terms of monitoring the CRP.

- *It is recommended that Vanuatu establish bi-lateral agreements with landing countries which their ports are used in order for a mechanism to be developed in terms of reporting of catch data.*
- *Vanuatu Fisheries is to request to both the FFA to supply a list of the Ports and the Government Agent to supply a list of ports which it currently uses for Vanuatu flagged purse seiners. These Ports would form the basis for negotiation for bilateral arrangements between Vanuatu and landing countries.*
- *Mechanism for reporting would include for a vessel to advice Vanuatu Fisheries through their Agent in advance (e.g. 48hrs in advance) which port it will land its catch, and the Authority (Vanuatu Fisheries) under the bi-lateral arrangement contact the reporting Port.*
- *The landing port under the bilateral arrangement record catch from Vanuatu flagged purse seiners, Vessel agent then sign the landing certificate and report back to Vanuatu Fisheries.*

Vanuatu Fisheries is to maintain the existing practice whereby flagged vessels' agent report to Vanuatu Fisheries when a vessel lands its catch. Such information enables Vanuatu Fisheries to contact authorities at a given port for the record of the catch landed.

- **Observers**

There are currently two trained observers in Vanuatu. Without an observer programme it is foreseen that Vanuatu should make arrangements with other FFA member countries to place their observers on all flagged purse seine vessels.

- *.All Vanuatu flagged Purse Seine vessels will be obligated to allow for an observer on board.*

- **Other Measures**

- **Regional Register;** to maintain and ensure that all purse seiners flagged by Vanuatu operating in the Convention area must register with FFA.
 - **Vessel monitoring system;** once Vanuatu flagged purse seiners are registered at FFA it will be easy for Vanuatu Fisheries to monitor them on the VMS. Most Vanuatu purse-seiners have two systems, ARGOS and IMARSAT
 - **Landing certificates;** catch landing certificates are issued against what the vessel reported. This system is already in place and will be maintained.
- *To maintain the existing practice where all purse seiners flagged by Vanuatu that are operating in the Convention area must be registered with FFA and the industry.*

B. FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAMMES

There is currently no national observer programme in place. However, the Vanuatu Fisheries Department is in the process of developing a national observer program which will enable placement of trained observers in all Purse seine vessels operating under the Vanuatu flag. Vanuatu Fisheries has recently submitted a proposal to the government for institutional strengthening, awaiting endorsement, which includes the need to develop a national observer programme. It will be considered that funding for this activity will be derived from part of the foreign fishing vessel (FFV) license fees collected. In the past US\$ 1000 was deducted from each FFV license for observer programme.

At this stage, it may be more practical for Vanuatu to make arrangements with other FFA member countries that already have observers to working on these fishing vessels, or who have an observer programme in place, to provide them with information.

- *Need to establish a pilot national observer programme. it will be more practical to employ the observers on contractual basis, rather than as government employees. This would cut down on costs for Vanuatu Fisheries.*
- *Prior to establishing an observer programme, the existing FFA administered SPC observer programme must be utilized to place observers onboard the vessels.*
- *As there are only 25 vessels it is more appropriate and practical to endorse a 100% observer coverage plan as part of the CRP on all flagged purse seiners in all Convention areas. However, with no observer programme in place it is more practical for Vanuatu to make arrangements with other FFA countries to use their observers on Vanuatu flagged purse seiners.*
- *All Vanuatu flagged Purse Seine vessels will be obligated to allow for an observer on board.*

C. RESPECTIVE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VESSELS' CAPTAINS/MASTERS AND CREW

Vessels' captains/masters must ensure that their crews are fully aware of what is required of them.

- *The followings will be implemented:*
 - *To maintain and ensure that all vessel captains/masters and fishing masters record all catch and by-catch, using approved logsheets, and submitted to Vanuatu Fisheries via their agent,*
 - *Carry observers to monitor the implementation of the CRP*
 - *Contribute to annual Observer programme budget.*
- *A fishing day will be deducted from the Vessel fishing days as per the allocation under the VDS if contravenes the conditions of the CRP. All flagged purse seiners must participate and comply to the VDS and conditions of the VDS under other RFMOs.*

D. PUBLICATION OF DETAILS OF CRP

The CRP is a plan that will be used by Vanuatu flagged purse seiners that fish outside Vanuatu waters. Thus, authorization must be obtained from the Government of Vanuatu for publication of details of CRP. The CRP will be published in the websites that can be accessed by interested parties. These websites may be:

- WCPFC website;
- FFA website;
- Government agent website; and/or
- Other RFMOs.

E. REVIEWS OF CRP

This Catch Retention Plan must be reviewed every five years to determine its effectiveness. However, it is recommended that there is an annual consultation on this plan. Changes can be made on an annual basis, and these changes will be taken into account when the CRP is being reviewed.

F. SUMMARY

In summary, the outline of what Vanuatu intends to do, in terms of implementing, monitoring and reviewing the plan is as follows:

1. *It is recommended that Vanuatu establish bi-lateral agreements with landing countries which their ports are used in order for a mechanism to be developed in terms of reporting of catch data.*
2. *Vanuatu Fisheries is to request to both the FFA to supply a list of the Ports and the Government Agent to supply a list of ports which it currently uses for Vanuatu flagged purse seiners. These Ports would form the basis for negotiation for bilateral arrangements between Vanuatu and landing countries.*

3. *Mechanism for reporting would include for a vessel to advise Vanuatu Fisheries through their Agent in advance (e.g. 48hrs in advance) which port it will land its catch, and the Authority (Vanuatu Fisheries) under the bi-lateral arrangement contact the reporting Port.*
4. *The landing port under the bilateral arrangement record catch from Vanuatu flagged purse seiners, Vessel agent then sign the landing certificate and report back to Vanuatu Fisheries.*
5. *To maintain the existing practice where all purse seiners flagged by Vanuatu that are operating in the Convention area must be registered with FFA and the industry.*
6. *Need to establish a pilot national observer programme. it will be more practical to employ the observers on contractual basis, rather than as government employees. This would cut down on costs for Vanuatu Fisheries.*
7. *Prior to establishing an observer programme, the existing FFA administered SPC observer programme must be utilized to place observers onboard the vessels.*
8. *As there are only 25 vessels it is more appropriate and practical to endorse a 100% observer coverage plan as part of the CRP on all flagged purse seiners in all Convention areas. However, with no observer programme in place it is more practical for Vanuatu to make arrangements with other FFA countries to use their observers on Vanuatu flagged purse seiners.*
9. *All Vanuatu flagged Purse Seine vessels will be obligated to allow for an observer on board.*
10. *To maintain and ensure that all vessel captains/masters and fishing masters record all catch and by-catch, using approved logsheets, and submitted to Vanuatu Fisheries via their agent,*
11. *Carry observers to monitor the implementation of the CRP*
12. *A fishing day will be deducted from the Vessel fishing days as per the allocation under the VDS if contravenes the conditions of the CRP. All flagged purse seiners must participate and comply to the VDS and conditions of the VDS under other RFMOs.*

New Zealand Proposal for a Catch Retention Plan for yellowfin and bigeye tuna taken by purse seine in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean in the area between 20 north and 20 south

General considerations

- 1 Consideration of the requirement in paragraph 9 of WCPFC CMM 2006-01 to develop a catch retention plan for all purse-seine vessels fishing in the Convention Area has raised issues regarding the scope and jurisdiction of any plan and the respective roles of flag states, coastal states, port states and the Commission in implementing and enforcing such a plan. In order to develop a plan for consideration by the TCC we have made a number of assumptions about these issues and these are outlined below.
- 2 We have assumed that it will be the role of the Commission to make a measure on catch retention by purse-seine vessels fishing in the Convention Area between 20N and 20S and that such a measure will apply to all purse-seine vessels equally regardless of flag nationality and whether the vessels are fishing on the high seas or within EEZs. If this were not to be the case, and instead every CCM was to develop its own catch retention plan for application to their flagged vessels only, then there is likely to be widespread confusion as to the application and enforcement of the various plans depending on where the vessels are fishing and under what authority (e.g. high seas authorisation from flag state, coastal state access agreement, charter arrangements).
- 3 We have set out to develop a catch retention plan that would apply to all purse-seine vessels fishing in the Convention Area between 20N and 20S as called for by paragraph 9 of WCPFC CMM 2006-01. TCC will then consider all plans submitted by WCPFC CCMs before making recommendations to the Commission as to the form of an overall measure on catch retention at WCPFC 4.
- 4 The measure is interpreted literally. That is it relates to the retention of fish onboard. Fish may be released prior to being brought on board but only if the fishing operation is at a stage that it has not led to damage and likely subsequent mortality of fish to be released. Substantial conservation benefits are likely to be realised if small bigeye and yellowfin are released prior to any fishing related mortality, as well as yield benefits with respect to skipjack.
- 5 The measure adopted in December 2006 was in respect to the conservation and management of yellowfin and bigeye tuna and not skipjack tuna. As part of a range of measures to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna it was agreed that all yellowfin and bigeye tuna would be retained. Notwithstanding the wording of paragraph 9 of WCPFC CMM 2006-01, it was not agreed to our recollection, that all skipjack should be retained on board.

Therefore, the New Zealand proposal for a Catch Retention Plan does not require retention of skipjack tuna.

Duration

- 6 This catch retention plan is for the period 200? -2010 and subject to annual review by members with respect to its application to their flagged vessels in July of each year.

Purpose

- 7 The purpose of this plan is to outline how a requirement that all purse seine vessels fishing in the Convention Area between 20N and 20S retain onboard and then land all yellowfin and bigeye tuna, except for fish unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size would be implemented and enforced.

Implementation

- 8 The plan is to be implemented via a measure to be agreed by WCPFC.
- 9 Implementation of the plan should be common for all members and cooperating non-members to ensure that consistent measures are taken across all jurisdictions.

Conditions of the plan

- 10 It is a condition of this catch retention plan that:
- i) All purse seine vessels fishing in the Convention are between 20N and 20S shall retain onboard all bigeye or yellowfin tuna taken from within the specified area except for fish unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size.
 - ii) Any discarding of bigeye or yellowfin tuna unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size is to be recorded in log sheets (shown in Appendix I) and copies of these log sheets are to be furnished quarterly to the flag state and in turn to the Secretariat.
 - iii) Bigeye and yellowfin tuna may be released at the Captain's discretion while in the water as long as the release occurs prior to the net being *bunched* alongside the vessel and the fish to be released are likely to survive.

Monitoring of conditions

- 11 Monitoring of plan conditions will be by:
- i) Observer coverage: proposed coverage is ?% of trips
 - ii) Analysis of landed catch information and observer information
 - iii) Port sampling

- iv) Annual review with vessel owners

Observer programme

- 12 An observer programme will need to operate to monitor compliance with the catch retention measure. In advance of the establishment of the WCPFC regional observer programme, observers will be drawn from regional and national observer programmes operative in the region, including the FFA/SPC programme.
- 13 New Zealand has approximately 60 trained fisheries observers that could be placed on purse seine vessels in the area covered by this catch retention plan. Trip by trip availability is determined by other observer duties within New Zealand fisheries waters.

Roles

- 14 Roles in relation to the implementation of the plan are as follows:
 - i) Vessel owners: to ensure vessel masters are familiar with the requirements of the plan.
 - ii) Vessel masters: to ensure that crew are aware of the requirements of the plan and that the plan is implemented.
 - iii) Vessel owners: to agree to the collection of landings data.
 - iv) Flag State: to liaise with national observer programme coordinators and/or FFA/SPC observer programme coordinators.
 - v) Flag state: to conduct comparative data analysis.
 - vi) Flag states and coastal states: to facilitate annual plan review and report to the Technical and Compliance Committee of WCPFC.

Annual review of the catch retention plan

- 15 To be conducted in July. Interim outcome of review reported to following TCC. Full review conducted at the end of the five year period.

