

ASIAN MEMBER OF WTPO
China, Japan, Korea, Philippine and Taiwan
Canberra, Australia
1 April 2008

We strongly urge Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (CCMs) should freeze the total number of purse seining fishing vessels in WCPFC Convention Area at current level to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of tuna resource for present and future generation.

Recalling the resolution adopted at the fourth session of MHLC on 19 February 1999, and the third session of Prepcon on 22 November 2002 in which the participants, inter alia, urged all States and other entities concerned to exercise reasonable restraint in respect of any regional expansion of fishing effort and capacity, and the resolution adopted at the fifth session of Prepcon, on 3 October 2003, in which the participants strongly urged states, territories, fishing entities and other entities who have continued to breach these resolutions since the original MHLC IV resolution to reduce any capacity they have created,

And resolution-2005-02 adopted at the second session of WCPFC on 12-16 December 2005.

No matter how all members agreed and adopted those resolutions, still new entrants are increasing therefore we urge Commission to address each states, territories, fishing entities and other entities, current number of purse seining vessels and long liners operating in Convention area and number of vessels under construction.

If CCMs can not make concrete and workable Conservation and Management Measure, it will be led (invited) to undermine the tuna resource, especially BET & YFT, within few years due to over catching capacity with tuna purse seining fishing vessels and long line fishing vessels.

Therefore we strongly repeat to freeze the total numbers of tuna fishing vessels as current level first.