



FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

8-12 December 2008

Busan, Korea

INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION POSITION STATEMENT

WCPFC5-2008/OP09

9 December 2008



International Game Fish Association Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum

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The international Game Fish Association (IGFA) is a non-profit organisation that represents recreational anglers throughout the world. IGFA was established in 1939, and has active members in 123 countries, is the governing body for international recreational fishing, and provides rules for ethical angling practices. Many of IGFA's members target highly migratory species managed by the WCPFC.

IGFA has an International Committee of Representatives in 80 countries, who have been chosen for their integrity, fishing knowledge, sportsmanship and conservation work. These representatives report to IGFA on issues affecting our interests and are the primary way that IGFA participates in the recreational fishing community.

In addition to compiling decades of catch information from around the world, IGFA staff, trustees and international representatives participate in international cooperative research and management efforts. Presently, IGFA represents its members and recreational anglers in general on numerous regional, national and international fisheries management panels, and also funds and participates in research relating to game fish and their habitats. When participating in cooperative research or management, IGFA's core purpose is to provide a link and facilitate interaction and information exchange between recreational anglers and fisheries scientists and managers.

IGFA is extremely interested in the progress of the WCPFC and is hopeful that it will be more successful in managing catch, effort and stocks than many of the other international fisheries management organisations. IGFA requests that the WCPFC management plan takes into consideration the economically and socially important recreational fishery.

IGFA understands that the management plan must also take into consideration the artisanal fishers of the region.

IGFA believes that spatial management should also be taken into consideration. IGFA would be pleased to consult and advise member states on the economic importance of recreational fishing and the related tourism benefits that it creates.

IGFA requests that your statistics and scientific reports reflect the effect on the stocks targeted by recreational fisheries including all marlins. IGFA believes it can make a meaningful contribution to the meeting as an observer and help in decisions to keep the conservation of fish stocks to levels that are economically viable to the commercial and recreational industries.

The International Game Fish Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping.