



FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

8-12 December 2008

Busan, Korea

STATEMENT OF ECUADOR REGARDING SORTING GRIDS

WCPFC5-2008/OP14

12 December 2008



Regarding paragraph 26 of the conservation and management measure for Bigeye and Yellowfin tuna recently approved at WCPFC5, Ecuador would like to announce that, with the assistance of the IATTC staff, is carrying out a new Project consisting of the development of a sorting grid called "Arrue" (so named after the skipper who designed it) for the release of juvenile tuna and by-catch in the purse seine fishery.

The Ecuadorian Under Secretariat of Fishery Resources issued a compulsory resolution, requiring, beginning 1 January 2009, all vessels greater than 400 MT to have a sorting grid attached to its net before leaving port. This is the first fleet to start a project like this.

On behalf of the Under Secretary of Fishery Resources, Ecuador would like to take this opportunity to invite all technical and scientific experts from any WCPFC members or CNMs that are interested in participating with Ecuador in this project, to contact Ecuadorian government.

December 12th, 2008