



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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**STATEMENT ON REVIEW OF CMM 2008-01 HIGH SEAS VESSEL DAY SCHEME –  
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS ON BEHALF OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAURU  
AGREEMENT**

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**WCPFC-TCC6-2010-DP/21**

**11 October 2010**

**Paper prepared by Republic of the Marshall Islands on behalf of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement**



## **STATEMENT BY CHAIR OF PNA ON AGENDA ITEM REVIEW OF CMM 2008-01 PARA. 21 OPTIONS FOR A HIGH SEAS VDS**

Chair, on the issue of the High Seas VDS, you will recall that I May 2009, PNA responded to the WCPFC's Secretariat proposal on a HS VDS. That response had three main points:

- a) the high seas VDS must not unfairly limit small island developing state participation in high seas purse seine fishing. Para 10 of CMM 2008-01 exempts small island developing states. Without that exemption, Commission Members such as Kiribati would not be able to participate in high seas purse seine fishing, even in waters adjacent to our EEZ. That outcome is unacceptable, and developed fishing states need to come to terms with PNA's intentions to see tropical high seas fishing opportunities transferred in an orderly way to Pacific Island Countries;
- b) the high seas VDS limit should be based on historical effort in the open areas of the high seas as set out in Table 2 and not include historical effort from the pockets that will be closed because this would lead to a transfer of effort that would reduce the effectiveness of CMM 2008-01; and
- c) Thirdly, the high seas VDS should be separate from the in-zone VDS and compatible in-zone limits, and days should not be transferable between the high seas and EEZs. This is our understanding of CMM 2008-01 as it stands. We think that maintaining that separation is important again to avoid the transfer of effort that the Scientific Committee has identified as a risk to the effectiveness of CMM 2008-01.

However, since then, PNA Leaders and PNA Fisheries Ministers have decided to close additional high sea areas from 1 January 2011 to purse seine vessels licensed to fish in PNA waters. This proposal raises doubts about the necessity of a high seas VDS, in particular, for purse seine licensed to fish in PNA waters. We therefore do not see this as something we need to do.