



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FIFTH REGULAR SESSION**

10-21 August 2009
Port Vila, Vanuatu

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS**

WCPFC-SC5-AR/CCM-28

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

From: service pêche [mailto:speche@mail.wf]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 8:52 AM
To: WCPFC
Cc: François PERINET
Subject: SC5 in Port-Vila and update on tuna industry in Wallis and Futuna
Importance: High

Attention: Mr Andrew WRIGHT, Executive Director

Dear Executive Director

On behalf of Wallis and Futuna Head of Administration, I hereby apologize for missing the ongoing SC in Port-Vila. For the second year in a row, Wallis and Futuna seat will remain empty.

The reason for this is twofold:

- Tuna fishery hasn't started yet in the country,
 - None in the Fisheries staff couldn't make time to be away from office for more than two weeks.
- (Fisheries staff is currently made of two people)

However, I have to advise the Commission that tuna industry is on the good way to start by the end of this year. Actually, a new local company is about to purchase a freezer long-liner in French Polynesia. This vessel is currently registered in WCPFC database under number FR-2121. It is forecasted to start operating in our EEZ around October 2009.

Legal frame for off-shore fishing activities is still pending. A short act will be submitted to next Territorial Assembly meeting due august 20th, providing that any company willing to operate in the EEZ will need to be licensed. Meanwhile, and until legal frame is set up, the above company will operate under a private agreement.

Expected total catch for this longliner is nearing 160 mt a year, but the agreement caps the sales on domestic market to 90 mt, in order to save room for the artisanal fishery's products.

We'll let the commission know when the vessel registration in Wallis and Futuna is completed.

Many thanks in advance for your understanding.

Best regards

Bruno MUGNERET
Fisheries Main Officer
Wallis and Futuna Fisheries