



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Fifth Regular Session**  
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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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**FFA – STATEMENT ON HIGH SEAS VESSEL DAY SCHEME – MEASUREMENT OF FISHING EFFORT**

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**WCPFC-TCC5-2009/DP-22**  
**5 October 2009**

1. FFA Members thank the Secretariat for WP21. This paper touches on a number of subjects which are likely to be important longer term issues for the Commission, but which we do not have time to discuss in detail at this meeting. For this reason, we will direct these remarks to the first two questions in para 12.
2. Firstly, on the metric for the measurement of a fishing day, we support the recommendations from the Statistics Specialist Working Group of the Scientific Committee. This group recommended:
  - a) *That CCMs identify what they have defined as their “fishing day” unit in the data presented in Table 2 of WP21*
  - b) *That, in the interim, the WCPFC adopt as their definition of “fishing day” a day when a set was made, or a day that included any “searching” effort.*
  - c) *That the Secretariat commission research in 2010 into a meaningful standard metric of “fishing day” that encapsulates effort and/or fishing mortality to defined levels.*
3. On the second issue in para 12, we agree that the information contained in Table 2 is an accurate representation of high seas purse seine fishing effort for the period 2001-2004 with some qualifications. The first qualification is that the Table does not accurately reflect the limits applying under CMM 2008-01 because it does not include the SIDS exemption in para 10 of the CMM nor the provision for effort under the Treaty in para 7 and these must be taken into account in this table. Secondly, we are not sure what definition of vessel days was used, and that is still open for further consideration. Thirdly, we would like it recorded that our response to this table does not prejudice the national position of any FFA Member in respect of the use of this data for a future allocation of fishing effort.