



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
Fifth Regular Session
1-6 October 2009
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

FFA Statement on application of 2000 Mt limit to fleets of Pacific Island countries and territories presented by Fiji

WCPFC-TCC5-2009/DP-19
5 October 2009

I would like to support the comments made by my colleague from the Federated States of Micronesia with respect to Table 3 on page 18. I have some additional comments to make on behalf of FFA members.

On Table 3 of Attachment 2 (page 18) there is a column marked CMM 2005-01 and CMM 2008-01. Within this column on page 18 there are figures of 2000 Mt included against the fleets of Pacific Island countries and territories. The inclusion of this 2000 Mt figure implies that a limit of 2000 Mt applies to Pacific Islands fleets – this is not correct.

Please let me make it clear.

First, in accordance with 2005-01, paragraph 6 states, and I quote:

“Nothing in this decision shall prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations of those small island state Members and participating territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their own domestic fisheries.”

Therefore, paragraph 6 of 2005-01, means that it is not appropriate to include the figure of 2000 Mt in table 3 on page 18.

Second, in respect of 2008-01, paragraph 6 states, and I quote:

“ Unless otherwise stated, nothing in this measure shall prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their own domestic fisheries.”

The non-applicability of the longline bigeye catch limits in 2008-01 to Pacific Island fleets is further emphasised in paragraph 34 which says that:

In accordance with paragraph 6, the limits for bigeye tuna established in paragraphs 31 to 33 above, shall not apply to small island developing State members and participating territories in the Convention Area undertaking responsible development of their domestic fisheries..

Therefore paragraph 6 and 34 of 2008-01 mean that it is not appropriate to include the figure of 2000 Mt in Table 3 on page 18, as a reference to limits that are applicable to Pacific Island fleets in accordance with 2008-01.

So to sum up, FFA members request that the Secretariat make it more clear in Table 3 of Attachment 2, that in accordance with paragraph 6 of 2005-01, the 2000 Mt bigeye longline catch limit by Pacific Island States fleets did not apply from 2006 – 2008. Also in reference to applicable bigeye longline catch limits from 2009 onwards, in accordance with paragraph 6 and 34 of CMM 2008-01 the 2000 Mt bigeye longline catch limit and reductions in paragraph 33 do not apply to Pacific Island fleets.