



SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
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JAPAN's PROPOSAL
ON LARGE-SCALE PURSE SEINE FISHING CAPACITY AND EFFORT

WCPFC7-2010-DP/02
5 November 2010

Explanatory Note

Japan respects and fully supports SIDs and other coastal developing countries' aspirations to develop and manage their domestic tuna fisheries, and it commits itself to providing sound assistance to promote such countries' fishery development and management. As an island country heavily depending on tuna and other fishery resources in the WCPO region, Japan considers such cooperation is one of our important responsibilities.

In the WCPO region, rapid expansion of purse seine fishing capacity and effort has been observed over the last decade, and such increase is still continuing. We have grave concern over severe and irreversible damage on tuna stocks to be caused in the near future. This might well deprive all members including SIDs of the sustainable use of tuna resources.

This proposal must not be interpreted as the intention to interfere with the legitimate/sovereign rights of SIDs to develop and manage their fisheries. As a matter of fact, this proposal is carefully designed for SIDs to make their own decisions on purse seine fleet composition and effort attribution in their EEZs. Even within the existing fishing capacity, SIDs can develop their own purse seine fishery by replacing distant-water vessels with their domestic vessels. The objective is simply to prevent further expansion of the total large-scale purse seine fishing capacity in the region.

Japan would like to seek careful consideration of CCMs to this proposal. We look forward to constructive and rational deliberation on this important issue at the coming WCPFC7 meeting in Honolulu.

DRAFT

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE
ON
LARGE-SCALE PURSE SEINE FISHING CAPACITY AND EFFORT**

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

Acknowledging the legitimate rights of developing States, in particular SIDs, to develop and manage their domestic tuna fisheries;

Noting that paragraph 2, Resolution2008-01 stipulates that “developed CCMs shall make concerted efforts and consider innovative options to reduce and or restructure their fleet so as to accommodate aspirations of SIDs and Territories in the Convention Area to develop their own fisheries”;

Recognizing that almost all the major fishing grounds for purse seine fishery are formed within the EEZs of FFA members and other coastal states; and

Being Concerned that the fishing capacity and effort of large-scale purse seine fishing vessels in the WCPO region have increased drastically during the last decade and that such increase is still continuing;

Also Concerned that the increasing fishing capacity and effort significantly diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission’s existing CMMs, in particular CMM2008-01;

Noting the need for adopting precautionary measures for skipjack tuna stock, which is a major target species in purse seine fishery, taking into account the rapidly increasing fishing mortality as well as declining biomass;

Aware that paragraph 2, Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention stipulates the Commission adopt measures relating to “limitations of fishing capacity, including measures relating to fishing vessel numbers, types and sizes” as well as “the level of fishing effort”;

Noting that no CMM shall prejudice the sovereign rights of coastal states granted under UNCLOS; and

Adopts, in accordance with the Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

1. This CMM shall not be deemed or applied to undermine the legitimate rights of developing Coastal States, in particular SIDs, to develop and manage their domestic fisheries set forth in Article 30 of the WCPFC Convention.
2. This CMM shall apply to purse seine fishing vessels which are equipped with

freezing storage and operating in the Convention Area bounded by 20N and 20S.

3. CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of purse seine fishing capacity in the number of their-flagged vessels fishing on the high seas does not increase from the current level, and to ensure that the level of purse seine fishing effort in days fished on the high seas does not increase from the levels of 2004 or the average of 2001-2004.
4. Coastal CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the total number of purse seine fishing vessels within respective EEZ or combined EEZs will remain at the current level through FFA/PNA or, where appropriate, any other applicable arrangements.
5. CCMs shall ensure that the effectiveness of these measures is not undermined by a transfer of fishing capacity or effort into areas within the Convention Area south of 20S. In order not to undermine the effectiveness of these measures, CCMs shall not transfer fishing effort or capacity to areas within the Convention Area north of 20N.