



SIXTH REGULAR SESSION
Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia
7-11 December 2009

GREENPEACE – OPENING STATEMENT

WCPFC6-2009/OP05

7 December 2009

Submitted by Greenpeace

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Mr Chairman, delegates and participants

Greenpeace welcomes the incoming chair Ambassador Satya Nandan and also wish to express our gratitude to the leaving of The Executive Director, Mr. Andrew Wright and MCS Manager Mr. Andrew Richards.

This 6th Commission meeting is a critical meeting, since tuna is increasingly seen around the world as under threat giving this meeting the opportunity to set things right and will not be the next causality of rampant global overfishing.

The future of the Pacific and its people will be in the hands of the decisions you make this week.

Greenpeace would like to commend the leadership and strive by Pacific Island countries that are members of the Commission in securing the future of this fishery. In particular The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) for taking the bold and positive step by agreeing to the implementation of the 3rd Implementing Agreement from 1st January 2010 and we urge this Commission to adopt compatible measures.

The world's markets are beginning to reject unsustainable tuna, following the debacle of bluefin tuna under ICCAT's mismanagement. Greenpeace has been working to unveil the shadowy networks of international tuna trade and corporate power holders in the multibillion-dollar fishing industry. The failure by RFMOs and the continuing increase catches against science advice will be brought to the public spotlight.

Greenpeace eight-week voyage into the Pacific high seas pockets this year again proved the vulnerability of the high seas pockets to IUU fishing in particular by longline fleets. During the expedition we found illegal transshipments by long-liners that transhipped without the authorization of the licensing coastal

state. We also documented longline vessel fishing in the high seas and illegally in the EEZ of a PIC. It is highly likely many unreported activities are taking place in these areas.

The expedition was also during the FAD ban period allowing us to show that the two-month ban of FADs is inadequate and we spotted ten devices in the two major high seas pockets. We also documented a fishing support vessel tending a FAD during the close period and vessel fishing on FAD utilising its exemption that was granted by the Commission.

The WCPFC scientific advice now recommends fishing effort for bigeye tuna to be reduced by 34-50% to return stocks to sustainability. This is welcomed and should be urgently adopted for implementation by the Commission.

Greenpeace proposes that WCPFC6 agreed to:

- ❑ A 50% reduction in tuna fishing effort across the entire WCPO fisheries, based on the average 2001-2004 levels. This will be in line with Scientific Committee recommendation in particular to the bigeye stock but is required by the precautionary approach to account for the high levels of unknown and uncertainties in fishing data.
- ❑ The closure of the 4 high seas pockets to all fishing and removal of fishing effort that occurs in these areas.
- ❑ A ban on all at-sea transshipments with no exemptions granted to any vessel. CCMs should also adopt compatible measures as outlined under article 8 of the Convention and prohibit all in zone at-sea transshipments.
- ❑ A permanently ban on the use of FADs in association with purse seine fishing in order to protect juvenile tuna and other marine life..

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