



**COMMISSION  
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**Background Paper for Discussion Proposal (Regarding Agenda 2.3.1.1- IATTC/ WCPFC overlap  
area discussion)**  
**By Korea**

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## **Background Paper for Discussion Proposal (Regarding Agenda 3.1.2)**

**By Korea**

### **1) Background**

Korea would like to raise an issue of the bigeye catches made in the overlap area as part of the IATTC catches being counted with the catches from the WCPFC Area (which may happen vice versa). This can sometimes result in a technical over catch in the IATTC or WCPFC Areas, especially when unusually high catches are made in the overlap area due to various factors. This can happen to any country that is a member of both IATTC and WCPFC. Against this backdrop, there needs to be a mechanism through which the issue can be addressed so that the catches in the overlap area are not considered to be an over catch, which is a technical non-compliance, not a substantial non-compliance.

To put it into perspective:

Korea is a member of both the WCPFC and IATTC whose catch limits allocated by the Commissions are 15,014 tonnes and 11,947 tonnes, respectively. In 2011, Korea consumed only a half of the IATTC limits and some of which were caught in the overlap area. These catches in the overlap area, which were legitimately made within the IATTC limits, were counted against the WCPFC limits, which were still available to Korea. This resulted in a technical non-compliance.

### **2) Suggested way forward**

Korea suggests that the Commission consider applying and managing combined bigeye catch limits of the IATTC and WCPFC Pacific-wide, as one of the options for the above-mentioned mechanism. Korea hopes that open discussions will take place on options to address this issue.