



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE  
NINTH REGULAR SESSION**

26 September – 1 October 2013  
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

---

**UNITED STATES LETTER: SEABIRDS MITIGATION MEASURES IN NORTH  
PACIFIC**

---

**WCPFC-TCC9-2013-DP05**

**26 July 2013**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700  
(808) 944-2200 • Fax (808) 973-2941

July 26, 2013

Professor Glenn Hurry  
Executive Director  
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission  
P.O. Box 2356  
Kolonia  
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Glenn:

This letter provides information for SC9 and TCC9 regarding the use of seabird mitigation measures by small longline vessels in the North Pacific Ocean.

#### 1. Longline vessel sizes, for SC9

The following information is provided to satisfy the WCPFC9-endorsed SC8 recommendation that statistics on vessel length (for vessels less than and greater than or equal to 24 m) for the period 2008 through 2012 be presented to SC9 by those CMMs conducting longline fishing in the North Pacific to the north of 23° N latitude (see: paragraph 89 of the SC8 report):

**Table 1 Number of U.S. Longline Vessels < 24 m and ≥ 24 m fishing in the North Pacific portion of the WCPFC area**

Year	Number of Vessels < 24 m	Number of Vessels ≥ 24 m
2008	99	30
2009	98	29
2010	94	29
2011	97	32
2012	98	30

#### 2. Constraints on using mitigation methods, for TCC9

TCC8 recommended that CCMs report to TCC9 on any practical or technical constraints facing their small vessels with respect to the use of seabird mitigation methods in the North Pacific, as well as descriptions of any mitigation methods that could be used by such vessels (paragraph 387, TCC8 report). This information may be used by TCC9 to evaluate the constraints and opportunities for small vessels to employ seabird mitigation measures in the North Pacific (paragraph 10 of Conservation and Management Measure 2012-07 on Seabirds). The following information is provided to satisfy this requirement:

Since 2005, the United States has implemented seabird mitigation measures consistent with those required under CMM 2012-07 for longline vessels that shallow-set (targeting swordfish) at any latitude in the Convention Area, and for longline vessels that deep-set (targeting tuna) north of 23° N latitude. These mitigation requirements apply equally to all such longline vessels, regardless of size, and the U.S. longline fleet includes vessels as small as 14 meters in length. Our experience indicates no practical or technical implementation constraints for even the smallest vessels in the U.S. longline fleet in the North Pacific. As such, we believe that all of the methods required under CMM 2012-07 in the North Pacific Ocean can be readily employed by longline vessels of any size covered within the U.S. longline fleet. We note, however, that U.S. mitigation measures do not require tori lines, so we cannot provide any experiential information regarding constraints or opportunities for small vessels with respect to that method.

We ask that you make this information available to SC9 and TCC9. If you have any questions about this submission please contact Tom Graham at 808-944-2219 or Tom.Graham@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Clarke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raymond" and last name "Clarke" clearly distinguishable.

Raymond Clarke  
Fisheries Biologist

cc: William Gibbons-Fly, U.S. Department of State  
Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources  
Arnold Palacios, CNMI Department of Lands and Resources  
Joseph Cameron, Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources