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ADVICE ON PURSE SEINE EEZ LIMITS – UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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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

October 22, 2013

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

Dear  Professor Hurry:


The purpose of this letter is to report on U.S. implementation of paragraphs 14 and 31 of CMM 2012-01

On May 23, 2013, NOAA Fisheries issued a final rule to implement the purse seine provisions of CMM 2012-01 for the United States. Regarding purse seine effort management in EEZs (paragraphs 12-14), paragraph 14 is applicable to the United States. The rule limits fishing days for the US purse seine fleet in the WCPFC Area on the high seas and in the US EEZ (combined) to 2,588 fishing days in 2013. This effort limit, along with this report of the limit, fulfills the requirements of paragraph 14 of CMM 2012-01, and is consistent with effort limits previously adopted by NOAA Fisheries to implement the purse seine provisions of CMM 2008-01 and 2011-01.

Paragraph 31 of CMM 2012-01 requires CCMs to provide the Commission with estimates of fishing effort for commercial fisheries other than purse seine and longline fisheries, except those taking less than 2,000 mt of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack. The United States and its Participating Territories have small-scale tropical troll, handline, and pole-and-line fisheries, but none of them are expected to catch 2,000 mt or more in 2013. Therefore, the United States has determined that the requirements of paragraph 31 are not applicable to the United States or its Participating Territories.

If you have any questions about this information please contact Valerie Chan at +1 808-944-2161 or valerie.chan@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,


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