



TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION
Bali, Indonesia
3 - 8 December 2015

**JOINT LETTER EXPRESSING VIEWS ON HARVEST CONTROL RULES AND
REFERENCE POINTS**

WCPFC12-2015-OP06
19 November 2015

**Paper by various Non-Government Organisation and Fishing Industry Organisation
Observers**

November 18, 2015

Dear Delegates,

This letter is submitted on behalf of the undersigned non-governmental organizations and fishing industry organizations that participate in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) process, or may seek to do so in the future.

Collectively our organizations have thousands of staff working in offices and partner organizations in more than 100 countries and engage suppliers and provide advice to retailers, buyers and food service sectors regarding improvements in tuna sustainability. In addition, the undersigned industry organizations represent many purse seine, longline, pole and line and handline vessels active in tuna fisheries and we recognize that the sustainability of tuna stocks is integral to our businesses as well as the health of the marine environment.

We are writing to bring to your attention our views on harvest control rules and reference points – issues we believe are fundamental to sustainable fisheries management -- and one that necessitates immediate action by the WCPFC.

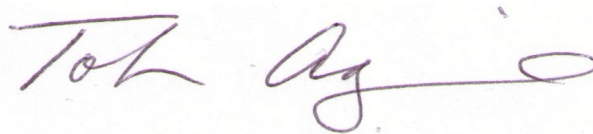
We recognize that the Commission has made some progress in recent years to establish basic science-based management measures to ensure the sustainability of the world's largest tuna fishery in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Specifically, the Commission committed itself to develop and implement a six-part harvest strategy approach for each of the key fisheries or stocks under its management (CMM 2014-06). We support this initial action. We encourage the Commission to apply the Precautionary Approach using the limit reference points adopted by the Commission and as called for by the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

As you prepare for the upcoming 12th Regular Session of the Commission, we urge members to continue the recent momentum. Specifically, we call on members to support adoption of the proposed work plan for harvest strategies as called for in CMM 2014-06, including the clear timelines to adopt appropriate biologically-based target reference points and associated harvest control rules and the other elements of the harvest strategy approach, for skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin and south Pacific albacore tuna. In addition, we request your support for proposals that would establish precautionary target reference points for skipjack and south Pacific albacore. Finally, in order to optimize harvest control rules for all tuna stocks in the future, we suggest that the Commission request regular updates from your scientific

advisors regarding reference points and performance indicators, and consider a monitoring scheme.

We urge the WCPFC to take these actions at its upcoming Commission Meeting as a matter of priority.

Sincerely,



Margaret Spring



Monterey Bay
Aquarium®



Alfred Lee Cook Jr.



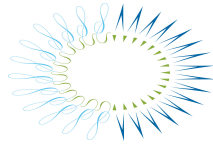
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