



TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION

Bali, Indonesia

3 - 8 December 2015

FFA Proposal for revised Albacore CMM

WCPFC12-2015-DP04_rev3

7 December 2015

2220

Paper by FFA

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE
FOR SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE**

Conservation and Management Measure 201~~50-XX~~05¹

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

In accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

Recalling that the Scientific Committee ~~notes that there are critical biological uncertainties for South Pacific albacore~~ has advised the Commission that longline fishing mortality and longline catch be reduced to avoid further decline in the vulnerable biomass so that economically viable catch rates can be maintained;

Further recalling the recommendation by the Technical and Compliance Committee that the data requirements of CMM 2010-05 needed to be revised in order to make it more verifiable;

Noting that ~~while current catch levels from the South Pacific albacore stock appear to be sustainable~~, given the age-specific mortality of the longline fleets, any significant increase in effort would reduce CPUE to low levels with only moderate increases in yields. CPUE reductions may be more severe in areas of locally concentrated fishing effort.

Further noting that ~~while future increases in albacore catch are likely to be sustainable~~, estimates of MSY are highly uncertain because of the extrapolation of catch and effort well beyond any historical levels. Projections demonstrated that longline exploitable biomass, and hence CPUE, would fall sharply if catch and effort were increased to MSY levels. Therefore, the economic consequences of any such increases should be carefully assessed beforehand.

Adopts, in accordance with the Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs) shall not increase the number of their fishing vessels actively fishing for South Pacific albacore in the Convention Area south of 20°S above 2005 levels or recent historical (2000-2004 average) levels.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of small island developing State and Territory CCMs in the Convention Area for whom South Pacific albacore is an important component of the domestic tuna fishery in waters under their national jurisdiction, and who may wish to pursue a responsible level of development of their fisheries for South Pacific albacore.
3. CCMs that actively fish for South Pacific albacore in the Convention Area south of the equator shall cooperate to ensure the long-term sustainability and economic viability of

¹ By adoption of this CMM (CMM 201~~50-XX~~05) the Commission rescinds CMM 20~~1005-052~~ which has been revised and replaced.

the fishery for South Pacific albacore, including cooperation and collaboration on research to reduce uncertainty with regard to the status of this stock.

4. CCMs shall report annually to the Commission the annual catch levels taken by each of their fishing vessels that have taken South Pacific Albacore ~~as a bycatch as well as the number and catch levels of vessels actively fishing for South Pacific albacore~~ in the Convention area south of 20°S. Catch by vessel shall be reported according to the following species groups: albacore tuna, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, swordfish, other billfish, and sharks. Initially this information will be provided for the period 2006-2014 and then updated annually. CCMs are encouraged to provide data from periods prior to these dates.

5. This measure will be reviewed annually on the basis of advice from the Scientific Committee on South Pacific albacore.