



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

**Seventh Regular Session**

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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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**EUROPEAN UNION ON NEW CMM ON TROPICAL TUNAS**

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**WCPFC-TCC7-2011-DP/11**

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**Paper prepared by European Union**



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND MARKETS  
 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, LAW OF THE SEA AND REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS

Brussels, **06 JUIN 2011**  
 MARE-B.1/PN/ae/ARES(2011)

**Subject: New WCPFC conservation and management measure on tropical tunas**

Dear Prof Hurry, 

**Please circulate this letter to all CCMs.**

The EU would like to thank you for the document entitled '*Review of 2008/01 CMM for bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tuna*' concerning the next steps in the process of agreeing a new measure on the conservation and management of tropical tunas. This is the key challenge facing WCPFC this year and it is important that we have a clear and consistent process for addressing it. Furthermore, in order to advance on the substance of the measure, it is desirable, as you also point out, that CCMs begin to share proposals, ideas and expectations as early as possible in 2011.

The EU would like to provide some comments both on process and substance of a new CMM for tropical tunas.

**Process:**

WCPFC7 Summary Record (para 308) outlines the process of developing a new measure on tropical tunas (bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack). We appreciate your endeavour to establish in your communication to CCMs a more precise timeline for the different stages of the process and we are available to take full part in them.

Nevertheless, it seems to us that the schedule proposed by you is different from the one enshrined in para 308 (vi) which describes a process normally followed by any RFMO: first scientific advice should be delivered by SC7 and then a proposal, a straw-man or similar could be developed by the Chair, Vice Chair and relevant subsidiary bodies Chairs with the assistance of the Executive Director.

Therefore the EU suggests that instead of steps 1 and 2 in your proposed schedule, the ED is tasked to develop an inventory of all proposals put forward to WCPFC7 in relation to the conservation and management of tropical tunas. This inventory could contain a short summary of each proposal and highlight advantages and difficulties as expressed by CCMs during WCPFC7 and recorded in the relevant sections of the Summary Record. This inventory could be completed by the second half of June so that CCMs have time to communicate to you any comments, additional proposals and ideas they may want to have included.

The finalised inventory would be useful to kick start **an informal discussion** on the fringes of Kobe 3 (11-15 July). However, this inventory should not be viewed as an exhaustive list of possible options as it will be mainly developed from last year's proposals to modify 2008-01. It is clear from the Summary Record para 308 (i) that the objective is to develop a new CMM on tropical tunas. This in our mind implies that CCMs should explore alternative approaches to what is already in place. An additional objective of the informal meeting on the fringes of Kobe 3 could be for CCMs to indicate any red lines for a future measure.

Then the steps outlined in your proposed schedule in points 4, 5 and 6 could be followed.

For step 7 we would prefer to keep the original wording of para 308 (vii) stipulating that TCC will provide advice and recommendations for consideration by WCPFC8. Thus TCC may decide to invite the Chair and his associates to revise the draft in the run-up to WCPFC8, but it may also recommend to WCPFC8 to look at select proposals of individual CCMs, or may decide to develop a new proposal during the TCC meeting itself. Hence we prefer step 7 to be more open-ended as it is intended in the WCPFC7 Summary Record.

#### **Content of a new CMM on bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack:**

I would like to share with CCMs some EU views on the possible content of a new measure. These views are preliminary in the sense that we are waiting for the outcome of the stock assessments and the conclusions of the Scientific Committee as well as the first WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Report. Nevertheless, it is clear from the analysis presented at WCPFC6 and 7 that CMM 2008-01 is not achieving its objectives.

The EU, therefore, would not support the continuation of CMM 2008-01 in its current shape nor its revision. Accepting to continue with 2008-01 in any form, even as an emergency measure, would in practice mean accepting to continue to fail in our conservation and management efforts. The EU cannot subscribe to that.

We call on our partners to consider together alternative approach(es) that ensure the sustainability of tropical tunas in the WCPO, which are highly migratory species. In particular, the EU would aim for the new conservation and management measure for tropical tunas:

- to be precautionary, straightforward and create preconditions for fair sharing of the burden;
- achieve the recommended by the SC reduction in fishing mortality;
- encourage compliance and facilitate control;
- grant exemptions only where they would unequivocally contribute to the legitimate development needs and aspirations of SIDS and to the protection of artisanal fisheries;
- take into account the geographical distribution of the tropical tunas between Eastern and Western Equatorial region;
- take into account the fact that 80% of bigeye catch in the WCPO is in EEZs and archipelagic waters and only 20% is on the high seas.

Once again, I would like to reiterate the EU's commitment to work constructively with other CCMs on the development of a new measure to replace 2008-01. This would be without any prejudice to our right to submit an EU proposal on tropical tunas should we consider it necessary. We are also available for a meeting with the Chair at his earliest convenience, as suggested in the final paragraph of your proposed schedule.

Yours sincerely,



Roberto Cesari

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