



**COMMISSION
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
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**CONSULTATIVE DRAFT MEASURE TO ESTABLISH A LIMIT FOR SOUTH PACIFIC
ALBACORE**

**WCPFC13-2016-DP13
4 November 2016**

Proposal from FFA Member CCMs



FFA

4 November 2016

Feleti P. Teo OBE
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356, Kolonia
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Feleti,

Consultative draft measure to establish a limit for south Pacific albacore

I write on behalf of the 17 members of the Forum Fisheries Agency in my capacity as the Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee. FFA members are pleased to present this consultative draft bridging measure for south Pacific albacore for discussion at WCPFC13.

South Pacific albacore management reform remains amongst the FFA members' highest priorities. At TCC12 FFA members noted that they were considering proposing development of a new CMM to support effective management of south Pacific albacore.

Given that FFA members' preference is to remove south Pacific albacore from the tropical tuna measure, the consultative draft attached is framed as a bridging CMM in the same vein as the bridging tropical tuna CMM circulated by the WCPFC Chair.

This consultative draft CMM provides a framework for discussion within which the South Pacific Albacore Tuna stock can be progressively more effectively managed. FFA members consider this draft CMM should be developed and implemented alongside the tropical tuna bridging CMM, such that all four key tuna stocks have in place robust management arrangements until harvest strategies have been fully developed and implemented.

We are committed to working proactively with the Chair and other CCMs in supporting development of a bridging albacore CMM, working towards the albacore harvest strategy, and we look forward to discussing this with CCMs during WCPFC13. We would greatly appreciate if you could make this letter available to other CCMs please and would welcome any inquiries, which should be directed to the FFA Secretariat (tim.adams@ffa.int or wez.norris@ffa.int).

Yours sincerely

Christopher Arthur
Chair, Forum Fisheries Committee

Consultative DRAFT

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO ESTABLISH A LIMIT FOR SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

Conservation and Management Measure 2016 xx

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

Endorsing the advice of the Scientific Committee that fishing mortality and catch of south Pacific albacore be reduced to avoid further declines in vulnerable biomass and possibly exceeding the biomass limit reference point;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted CMM 2014-06 on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and a Work Plan to guide the development of key components of a Harvest Strategy, including the recording of management objectives;

Noting that a component of the stock is within the IATTC Convention Area;

Further noting that 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;

Recognizing the overwhelming dependence on this species in the fisheries of Small Island Developing States and Territories, and the need to maintain and protect the profitability of these fisheries;

Desiring to implement Articles 10.3 and 30 of the Convention in a tangible way to increase the participation of Small Island Developing States in WCPO tuna fisheries;

Aware that the current state of south Pacific albacore prevents Small Island Developing States and Territories from increasing their participation in, and benefits from fisheries for resources in their exclusive economic zones and in the high seas and therefore represents a disproportionate burden stemming from the lack of conservation action;

Noting Article 8(1) of the Convention requires compatibility of conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction;

Noting that the Participants to the 2014 Tokelau Arrangement for the Management of South Pacific Albacore are implementing a cooperative management arrangement for this stock in their exclusive economic zones and Parties to the Palau Arrangement have adopted and implemented a Vessel Day Scheme for long line fishery;

Acknowledging that the Commission has adopted a limit reference point (LRP) for south Pacific albacore of 20% of the estimated recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing;

Recognizing further the interactions that occur between the fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack tuna and south Pacific albacore; and

Fully aware of the requirements of Article 8 of the Convention for compatibility of conservation and management measures, and the need to ensure that such measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions;

Adopts, in accordance with the Articles 10 and 30 of the WCPFC Convention that:

Objectives

- 1) The purpose of this Conservation and Management Measure is to:
 - a) Implement an interim limit for the south Pacific Albacore fishery to regulate further expansion and to facilitate cooperative management of the high seas and EEZ fisheries to provide for a robust transitional management regime while the Commission continues to develop and establish harvest strategies pursuant to CMM 2015-06;
 - b) Determine the shares in the fishery between high seas fishing and the EEZs of coastal states; and
 - c) Provide for the implementation of zone based measures that optimise economic benefits to the economies of small Island Developing States and Territories (SIDS).

Principles for Application

- 2) Compatibility
Conservation and management measures established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction shall be compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of the south Pacific albacore stock in its entirety.
- 3) Small Island Developing States
Unless otherwise stated, nothing in this Measure shall prejudice the rights and obligations of those small island developing State Members and Participating Territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their domestic fisheries.

General Provisions

- 4) This measure applies to all catch of albacore tuna in Exclusive Economic Zones and High Seas in the Convention Area south of the equator.
- 5) All catch and effort within EEZs shall be attributed to the coastal State or Territory. Catch and effort on the high seas shall be attributed to the flag state, except that catch and effort of vessels notified as chartered under CMM 2012-05 shall be attributed to the chartering CCM.
- 6) The Commission encourages CCMs to work individually and collectively to develop and implement additional measures in pursuit of the objectives of this CMM.

Reference points

- 7) The risk of breaching the Limit Reference Point for south Pacific albacore ($20\%SB_{F=0}$) shall be less than X%.
- 8) The target reference point for south Pacific albacore is X% of spawning biomass in the absence of fishing using the base case assessment assumptions.

- 9) The Science Committee shall provide annual updates on the need to take management action to meet this standard.

Interim Limits and proportional shares

- 10) As an interim management arrangement, while a harvest strategy is being developed, members of the Commission shall cooperate to ensure that total harvest of albacore in the South Pacific Ocean does not exceed the interim limit of XXXX.
- 11) Consistent with paragraphs 6 and 8 this interim limit shall be allocated between the high seas and EEZs in the following proportion:

EEZ	High Seas
XX%	XX%

Monitoring and Implementation

- 12) [Mechanisms for monitoring and compliance are to be developed]

Review

- 13) [An appropriate review period is to be determined]