



**COMMISSION
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Denarau Island, Fiji
5 – 9 December, 2016

**PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES ON MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE WCPO
TROPICAL PURSE SEINE FISHERY (20°N – 20°S)**

**WCPFC13-2016-DP22
5 November 2016**

Proposal from United States of America

Proposal by the United States on Management Objectives for the WCPO Tropical Purse Seine Fishery (20°N – 20°S)

Explanatory note:

The United States has developed a proposal on management objectives for the tropical purse seine fishery, based upon the concepts in the MOW strawman document of 2013 and subsequent discussions at TCC12. Two important aspects of the MOW strawman are that the candidate objectives are oriented around fisheries rather than stocks, and that it documents the connections among the fisheries, including competition and upstream-downstream links. The United States has incorporated both those aspects in a proposed set of objectives for the tropical purse seine fishery, and envisions the Commission would develop similar sets of objectives for the tropical longline fishery and the southern albacore fishery.

At TCC12, the Commission Chair asked CCMs to be prepared to record the objectives listed in the MOW strawman. As described in the harvest strategies work plan, the United States understands that the "recording" of objectives is not meant to constitute agreement or to lock in the recorded objectives. Nonetheless, the United States is hesitant to record a list of objectives that has been subject to very little discussion by the Commission, and which was intended to be a list of "candidate objectives", some of which have little chance of ever being adopted. At least for some fisheries, different CCMs have widely different objectives, and the United States does not expect the Commission to be able to reconcile all those objectives and agree on a set of objectives that goes much beyond those already established in the Convention. For these reasons, the United States favors recording objectives that are consistent with the Convention and the Commission decisions to date. As further evaluations are undertaken and CCMs agree upon more ambitious objectives (such as for the southern albacore fishery), they can be adopted.

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The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Noting the work conducted during the Second Management Objectives Workshop in 2013;

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

the management objectives for the WCPO tropical purse seine fishery between 20°N – 20°S to achieve a thriving tropical purse seine fishery in the Convention Area are as follows:

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- Maintain fish stock sizes at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield;
- Minimize adverse impacts on other fisheries, including:
 - Downstream fisheries like longline fisheries;
 - Competing fisheries like troll, pole-and-line, and non-tropical purse seine fisheries;
- Take into account the special requirements of developing states and territories;
- Minimize adverse impacts on NADSs; and
- Adhere to the other principles and provisions of the Convention.