



**COMMISSION
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**VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE NEXT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
MEASURE FOR THE TROPICAL TUNAS**

**WCPFC13-2016-DP24
5 November 2016**

Proposal from United States of America

Views of the United States on the next Conservation and Management Measure for the Tropical Tunas

The following are views of the United States on general principles and content for consideration in the development of the next conservation and management measure for tropical tunas.

General criteria for any conservation and management measure:

1. Must have a measurable and credible conservation benefit
2. The conservation burden must be equitably distributed among CCMs and industry sectors
3. Must be able to be effectively implemented, monitored and enforced by all CCMs
4. Must be able to assess its intended effect on fishing mortality of relevant stocks

General attributes of the next conservation and management measure for the tropical tunas:

1. The CMM should focus on fisheries for the principal tropical tuna stocks in the WCPO - skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, and bigeye tuna – and should not address fisheries for South Pacific albacore.
2. The duration of the CMM should be at least three years.
3. The proposal should be as straightforward as possible, with limited exceptions and special provisions.
4. Since the Commission has partially developed harvest strategies for the relevant fisheries, including limit reference points for all three tropical tuna stocks and a target reference point for WCPO skipjack tuna, the CMM should point to those harvest strategies to serve as its objectives.
5. Like the harvest strategies, the CMM would be best structured around fisheries, as in CMM 2015-01, rather than around stocks.
6. The CMM should not include MCS-related requirements such as VMS and observer requirements; such requirements should be included in the CMMs devoted to those tools.
7. The CMM should rely to the extent possible on flag-based limits and requirements so as to cover the range of the stocks as needed and promote compatibility in the application of measures on the high seas and areas under national jurisdiction. This would not preclude coastal CCMs from imposing, for their own purposes, limits and requirements in waters under their jurisdiction.

Specific elements of the next conservation and management measure for the tropical tunas:

1. For the tropical purse seine fishery:
 - a. Flag-based annual limits on fishing effort
 - b. Flag-based limits on numbers of FAD sets
 - c. Limits on vessel numbers, starting with a freeze at current levels, requiring reductions in future years for non-SIDS fleets in a manner similar to that proposed by Japan (WCPFC12-DP14rev1), and allowing reasonable increases in sizes of SIDS fleets

2. For the tropical longline fishery:
 - a. Flag-based annual limits on bigeye tuna catches, focusing on areas of high exploitation
 - b. Limits on vessel numbers