



**The Intersessional Meeting to Progress
the Draft Bridging Measure for Tropical Tunas**

Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa

Honolulu, Hawaii

22 – 24 August, 2017

ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS TO REV4 OF THE DRAFT BRIDGING MEASURE ON TROPICAL TUNAS

WCPFC-SS2-2017-03B

16 August 2017

This paper was distributed to CCMs and Observers with WCPFC Circular 2017-58 on 16 August 2017

**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS**

Circular No.: 2017/58

Date: 16 August 2017

No. pages: 5

Proposal by Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu

Dear All,

I received the attached additional proposals and text to Rev4 of the Draft Bridging CMM on Tropical Tunas from the following group of CCMs: Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu, who have requested circulation of their proposed text to all CCMs in advance of the Honolulu meeting next week.

I suggest that these additional proposals be taken up at the relevant point in the Agenda along with the other proposals in Rev4 under Agenda Item 5. CCMs will also have the opportunity to introduce their proposals initially under Agenda Item 4.

If anyone wishes to seek further clarification on the attached text submitted by the aforementioned group of CCMs, please contact Ben Ponia via email at b.ponia@mmr.gov.ck.

Yours sincerely,



Rhea Moss-Christian
Chair



Ministry of Marine Resources
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

14 August 2017

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Re: Proposal of Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu to DRAFT BRIDGING MEASURE FOR TROPICAL TUNAS REV 5.

Kia Orana Rhea,

Thank you for the circular dated 21 July 2017 and your efforts to progress the bridging measure for tropical tunas through the Draft Bridging Measure Rev4 that was provided.

Upon receiving the draft the Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu have jointly developed a **Rev5**, with the assistance of the FFA.

I write on behalf of the group to submit our proposal in the form of an explanatory note and text which is attached to this letter.

It would be appreciated if you could circulate this in advance to the meeting participants of the WCPFC inter-sessional working group that will convene in Honolulu, 22-24th August.

Anyone wishing further information or wanting to propose discussions with the group can contact me directly (b.ponia@mmr.gov.ck).

On behalf of the group we look forward to the due consideration and fruitful consultations of members, moving forward.

Yours Faithfully,

Ben Ponia
Secretary, Marine Resources

**Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu:
DRAFT BRIDGING MEASURE FOR TROPICAL TUNAS REV. 5**

Explanatory Note

1. The Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu are SIDS, WCPO coastal states, founding members of the WCPFC, members of the FFA and parties to The Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries Between Certain Governments of the Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America. These States play an active role in the management of the WCPFC fisheries but are not currently members of the PNA.
2. The States have all declared conservative EEZ purse-seine effort limits taking into account historical catches, geographical and biological information.
3. The declared EEZ limits are Cook Islands (1,250 vessel days), Fiji (300 vessel days), Niue (200 vessel days), Samoa (150 vessel days), Tonga (250 vessel days), and Vanuatu (200 vessel days), totalling **2,350 vessel days**.
4. Most States have limited purse-seine catch history, and none have exceed the threshold of 1,500 vessel days set out in paragraph 22 of CMM 2016-01.
5. None of the States have yet achieved their aspirations to fish their EEZ purse seine effort limits and fully develop domestic fisheries.
6. These States are exempt from restrictions to fishing on the High Seas. One State has purse seine vessels on the WCPFC RFV, but the rest have no immediate intentions to register vessels under their flag.
7. In order to utilise their SIDS aspirational rights and develop rights in respect of the fisheries resources in their EEZs these States are seeking a measure under the Tropical Tuna CMM that will enable their EEZ limits to be transferred between their EEZs and other (cooperating) EEZs, or to the High Seas areas to vessels flagged to other CCMs, subject to a specified notification processes.
8. The States will continue to honour the EEZ vessel days committed to existing treaties and partnerships and these vessel days will only be expended within EEZs and not eligible for transfer to the High Seas. Currently 950 vessel days are committed to States EEZs under the US Treaty leaving a maximum of **1,400 vessel days** that could potentially be transferred to the High Seas.
9. States will limit the transfer of their EEZ effort limits to the 2016 skipjack stock assessment **Region 3**, as this geographical area has biological connectivity to their EEZs
10. The States also acknowledge the status of High Seas Pockets in Region 2 and Region 3, adjacent to States EEZ and commit not to transfer effort or vessel days to those High Seas pockets.

Proposed Preamble Text

Small Island Developing States

In giving effect to this CMM, the Commission shall note;

- i) that Article 30(2)(b) of the Convention requires the Commission to avoid adverse impacts on subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers; and,*
- ii) that Article 10(3)(h) of the Convention requires the Commission to take into account, inter-alia, the special circumstances of a State which is surrounded by the exclusive economic zones of other States and has a limited exclusive economic zone of its own;*

1. Proposals for section titled “Zone-based purse seine effort control”

Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu support the PNA proposal in paragraph 22 of the Chair’s Rev 4 measure. The limits to be specified for these States in the proposed table would be:

CCM/Group	Effort/Catch limit	Comment
Cook Islands	1,250	These CCMs are developing joint arrangements under the “South Pacific Purse Seine Strategy”, which may incorporate measures such as pooling and transferability of limits between EEZs. These CCMs will therefore be required to limit effort to 2,350 days as a collective obligation.
Fiji	300	
Niue	200	
Samoa	150	
Tonga	250	
Vanuatu	200	

Remove paragraph 23 and footnote 3.

2. Proposals for section titled “High seas purse seine effort control”

Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu: Effort Limits

23) The declared EEZ effort limits of the Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu shall be eligible for transfer to the high seas including to be used by vessels flagged to another CCM pursuant to the following conditions:

- i. The details of the proposed transfer, including the number of vessel days and details of any participating vessel are to be notified to the Executive Director at least 10 days before fishing in the high seas takes place; and*
- ii. Transfer of effort to the High Seas will only occur in the geographical limits for High Seas transfer shown in the map attached.*

Area of Interest

