



**COMMISSION
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**FFA MEMBERS DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE CMM FOR SOUTH PACIFIC
ALBACORE**

**WCPFC8- 2011- DP/03
7 November 2011**

Paper prepared by FFA Members



FFA

4 November 2011

Dr Charles Karnella
Chair
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356
Kolonia
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Dr Karnella,

FFA members' draft proposal for amendments to south Pacific albacore

I write in my capacity as the Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee on behalf of the 17 FFA Members.

Last year FFA members proposed amendments to the south Pacific albacore CMM to include better reporting provisions that would allow the Commission to better monitor implementation of the vessel limits contained therein.

We understand that there are still weaknesses in reporting and that there has been a continuation of some CCMs increasing their catch and effort for this stock, perhaps in contravention of the existing measure.

At TCC7, FFA members noted our significant concerns about this stock and reminded CCMs of the reliance of our domestic longline fisheries on albacore. We have previously signalled our intention to develop zone based management arrangements that provide a better avenue for the domestication and development of this fishery in line with numerous provisions of the Convention.

FFA members have therefore prepared the attached proposed revisions to the CMM for consideration at WCPFC 8. We would be grateful if you could circulate this to other CCMs.

Should you or others require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Wez Norris (wez.norris@ffa.int).

Yours Sincerely

Faalavaau Perina Sila
Chair
Forum Fisheries Committee

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE
FFA Proposed Amendment to Conservation and Management Measure-2010-05**

The Commission For The Conservation And Management Of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks In The Western And Central Pacific Ocean

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

Recalling that the Scientific Committee notes that there are critical biological uncertainties for South Pacific albacore;

Noting that while current catch levels from the South Pacific albacore stock appear to be sustainable, given the age-specific mortality of the longline fleets, any significant increase in effort would reduce CPUE to low levels with only moderate increases in yields. CPUE reductions may be more severe in areas of locally concentrated fishing effort.

Further noting that while future increases in albacore catch are likely to be sustainable, estimates of MSY are highly uncertain because of the extrapolation of catch and effort well beyond any historical levels. 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.

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

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs) shall not increase the number of their fishing vessels actively fishing for South Pacific albacore in the Convention Area south of 20°S above 2005 or 2000-2004 levels. ~~current (2005) levels or recent historical (2000-2004) levels.~~

1 bis. CCMs shall limit the catch of south Pacific albacore by their fishing vessels in the high seas to 2005 or 2000-2004 levels

2. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 1 bis shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of small island developing State and Territory CCMs in the Convention Area for whom South Pacific albacore is an important component of the domestic tuna fishery in waters under their national jurisdiction, and who may wish to pursue a responsible level of development of their fisheries for South Pacific albacore.

3. CCMs that actively fish for South Pacific albacore in the Convention Area south of the equator shall cooperate to ensure the long-term sustainability and economic viability of the fishery for South Pacific albacore, including cooperation and collaboration on research to reduce uncertainty with regard to the status of this stock.

4. CCMs shall report annually to the Commission the catch levels of their fishing vessels that have taken South Pacific Albacore as a bycatch as well as the number and catch levels of vessels actively fishing for South Pacific albacore in the Convention area south of 20° S. Initially this information will be provided for the period 2006-2010 and then updated annually.

5. This measure will be reviewed annually on the basis of advice from the Scientific Committee on South Pacific albacore.