



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

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Update: Meeting to Progress the Draft Bridging CMM on South Pacific Albacore

Dear All,

Please find enclosed a letter from New Zealand providing an update on arrangements to the meeting to progress the Draft Bridging Measure on South Pacific Albacore including an updated edition of the draft measure. This letter is circulated as requested by New Zealand.

Yours sincerely,



**Feleti Penitala Teo, OBE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



14 September 2017

Feleti Penitala Teo OBE, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2356, Kolonia, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia
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Dear Mr. Teo OBE

I am writing to provide two documents for the upcoming 4 October intersessional meeting on the draft bridging Conservation and Management Measure for South Pacific albacore.

As you will recall that WCPFC13 agreed to task New Zealand, on behalf of FFA, with advising members early in 2017 of the proposed process for progressing the Bridging CMM on South Pacific albacore.

The Bridging CMM on South Pacific albacore is intended to be a transitional measure to keep the fishery stable during the shift to the Harvest Strategy approach. South Pacific albacore management reform is among FFA members' highest priorities. FFA's consultative draft proposes a framework for supporting progressively improved management of the South Pacific albacore stock and provides a starting point for implementing harvest control rules as they are agreed.

The proposed bridging measure would initially be based on a limit on the catch of albacore in the Convention area south of the equator. The bridging measure seeks to establish proportional EEZ and high seas shares in the fishery with members cooperatively managing fisheries in each respective zone and on the high seas. The bridging measure would establish an interim total catch limit until the TRP is adopted, to provide a starting point to work towards the new limit (from the TRP) using HCRs when adopted.

While the overall aim of the consultation would be to contribute to the development of a CMM the meeting will be used as a constructive opportunity to explore CCM objectives for South Pacific albacore and seek ways to accommodate these. The full participation of all CCMs with an interest in fishing South Pacific albacore is critical to ensure all CCM's views are considered in the development of the CMM.

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To help facilitate this discussions, attached are the latest version of the CMM and an updated catch and allocation options spreadsheet. The draft CMM includes changes proposed by New Zealand based on comments received to date. The spreadsheet provided includes several options for a TAC and proportional EEZ and high seas shares and includes updated catch level through 2015. 2016 catch has also been provided but has not been included in the calculations.

Finally, an annotated agenda will be provided shortly.

Comments may be provided directly me at Sarah.Williams@mpi.govt.nz

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Williams
Senior Policy Analyst, International Fisheries Management



FFA

Consultative DRAFT

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

Conservation and Management Measure 2017 XX

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

Recalling the advice of the Scientific Committee (SC13) that fishing mortality and catch of south Pacific albacore be reduced to avoid further declines in vulnerable biomass especially for longline catches of adult albacore;

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 some fisheries are experiencing significant declines in profitability

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;

Noting that Article 30(1) of the Convention requires the Commission to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States that are Parties to the Convention, in particular small island developing States and territories and possessions, in relation to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and development of fisheries on such stocks;

Noting further that Article 30(2)(c) of the Convention requires the Commission to ensure that conservation and management measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions;

Desiring to implement Articles 10.3 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;

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 on 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 catch limit for the south Pacific Albacore fishery;
 - b) To facilitate cooperative management of the high seas and EEZ fisheries for south Pacific albacore;
 - c) Set the proportion of the fishery that is to be taken on the high seas and the proportion that is to be taken within the EEZs of coastal states;
 - d) Provide for the implementation of zone based measures that optimise economic benefits to the economies of small Island Developing States and Territories (SIDS); and
 - e) To provide for cooperation in the management of a catch limit for south Pacific albacore on the high seas in the WCPFC convention area below the equator.

Principles for Application

- 2) Measures to implement this 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.

General Provisions

- 3) This measure applies to all catch of South Pacific albacore tuna in Exclusive Economic Zones and High Seas in the Convention Area south of the equator.
- 4) 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.

- 5) 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

- 6) In accordance with CMM 2014-06, CCMs shall cooperate to develop a formal Harvest Strategy for South Pacific albacore including agreeing on Target Reference Points and Harvest Control rules.

Interim Limits and proportional shares

- 7) 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 catch limit of XXXX.
- 8) Consistent with paragraphs 3 and 7 this interim limit shall be allocated between the high seas and EEZs in the following proportion:

EEZ	High Seas
XX%	XX%

Compliance with current CMMs

- 9) CCMs that catch South Pacific albacore shall not increase the number of their fishing vessels fishing for South Pacific albacore in the Convention Area south of 20°S above the 2005 levels or above 2000-2004 levels.

Monitoring and Implementation

- 10) Members are to cooperate to ensure that limits established for the high seas and EEZs are not exceeded and report to WCPFC on the mechanisms agreed to achieve this.
- 11) [Mechanisms for monitoring and compliance are to be developed. For example: Obligations on the Commission to monitor and report on implementation]

Contribution to research

- 12) 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.

Review

- 13) The Commission shall review this CMM annually to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect.