



3 October 2017

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Dear Mr. Teo OBE

I am writing to provide a revised draft bridging Conservation and Management Measure for South Pacific albacore for discussion purposes at the WCPFC intersessional meeting on 4 October 2017.

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

Yours sincerely,
Sarah Williams

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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 compatible 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;

Recognising further the interactions that occur between the fisheries for bigeye, yellowfin, skipjack tuna and south Pacific albacore;

Recognising the need for improved confidence in catch monitoring and verification in longline and troll fisheries; and

Fully aware of the requirements of Articles 8 and 30 of the Convention on the need to ensure that measures adopted for high seas and EEZs are compatible, taking into account measures previously adopted by subregional fisheries management arrangements and 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:

ObjectivesPurpose

- 1) The purpose of this Conservation and Management Measure is to establish management and monitoring processes in fisheries for south Pacific albacore that will support the development and implementation of harvest strategy elements by:
 - a) Setting forth agreed objectives for the management of the south Pacific albacore stock;
 - a)b) Determining a work plan for development of improved monitoring mechanisms in the albacore fishery that will be necessary to;
 - i. To facilitate cooperative management of the high seas and EEZ fisheries for south Pacific albacore;
 - ii. implement an interim catch limit for the south Pacific Albacore fishery
 - iii. 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;
 - iv. Provide for the implementation of zone based measures that optimise economic benefits to the economies of small Island Developing States and Territories (SIDS) ~~and~~

Principles for Application

- 2) Measures to implement this conservation and management measure established for the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) shall be compatible in order to ensure comprehensive conservation and management of the south Pacific albacore stock in the Convention Area in its entirety.

General Provisions

- 3) This measure applies to all catch of 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.

Management Objectives

- 7) The Commission hereby agrees that the following management objectives for south Pacific albacore: [To be completed based on discussion in agenda item 4.1]

Improved Longline and Troll Fishery Monitoring

- 8) The Commission hereby agrees to prioritise collaborative work on the following:
 - a. Expedited adoption of data and process standards for electronic reporting of catch and effort by both vessel captains and ROP observers;
 - b. Phase-in of compulsory real-time electronic reporting commencing in [2019], recognising the need for CCMs, vessel captains and the Commission to build the capacity to use this technology;
 - c. Finalisation of a CMM that sets forth data, process and system standards of a Catch Documentation Scheme framework that will be applied to all south Pacific albacore catch by [2020];
 - d. Adoption of data and process standards for electronic monitoring (camera systems) by the end of [2018], and development of an agreed program to increase coverage of the fishery to at least 20% by [2020].
 - e. Actions to address the role that at-sea transshipment can play in masking under-reporting and misreporting, such as through increased observer coverage, e-monitoring, greater use of ports or other means by [2018].

Interim Limits and proportional shares

- 6)9) 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.

~~7~~10) 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 ¹
XX%	XX%

Compliance with ~~current~~ previous CMMs

~~8~~11) Other than SIDS, 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.

Implementation

~~9~~12) Members are to cooperate to ensure that the collective limits established for the high seas (noting footnote 1) and the collective limit for EEZs are not exceeded and report to WCPFC on the mechanisms agreed to achieve this.

~~10) [Mechanisms for monitoring and compliance are to be developed. For example: Obligations on the Commission to monitor and report on implementation] Monitoring and~~

Contribution to research

~~11~~13) 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 and limits of this stock.

Review

~~12~~14) The Commission shall review this CMM annually to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect.

¹ Until such time as more formal arrangements can be established, including allocation of high seas limits amongst all relevant CCMs, the high seas proportion shall be set for fleets of non-SIDS only.