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EXPLANATORY NOTE

EU PROPOSAL FOR A WCPFC CMM ON PORT STATE MEASURES

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Explanatory Note

EU Proposal for a WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure on Port State Measures

The proposed CMM is intended to contribute to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, and in particular of highly migratory stocks, in the WCPFC Area through strengthened, harmonized and transparent port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

At the same time the implementation of such measures should by no means place directly or indirectly a disproportionate burden on small island developing States in terms of their resources and capacities. Technical and financial assistance must be available and accessible to SIDS, through existing WCPFC funds, bilateral programmes and through co-operation among developed CCMs to establish, as appropriate, additional WCPFC funding mechanisms to assist SIDS in meeting the requirements of port State measures, including in terms of technology for electronic-based data collection and reporting.

WCPFC has by far adopted a number of CMMs aiming at the conservation and responsible exploitation of its stocks and intended to minimize the impact of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the WCPFC area. In this context, port State measures provide an additional powerful and cost-effective tool of preventing, deterring and eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

To accommodate with concerns expressed by some CCMs, according to this proposal, a port State CCM may decide not to apply this CMM to vessels chartered by its nationals exclusively for fishing in areas under its national jurisdiction.

WCPFC6 noted that 'implementation of the provisions of the Port State Measures Agreement is a priority for the Commission and decided that the matter be progressed through electronic means for further discussion at TCC6' (para 348 of WCPFC6 Summary Report).

In order to be consistent notably with the decisions of WCPFC6 and the recommendations of the Kobe II workshop on MCS, and in view of improving the results of the WCPFC measures for conservation, it is desirable to implement port State measures contributing namely to a better management of stocks in the Convention area.

A second draft was discussed at WCPFC 7. WCPFC7 directed TCC7 to consider the issue. TCC7 reiterated that PSM is a priority issue for the Commission and expressed a strong desire to continue working toward development of a CMM on this topic. CCMs were encouraged to provide any further comments to the EU with a view to further consideration of the issue at WCPFC8.

This revised draft of the EU proposal on CMM on port State measures draws on the discussions that took place at TCC6, WCPFC7, TCC 7 and on comments received from CCMs. The EU would like to acknowledge the contributions of all those parties and has endeavoured to incorporate in its revised draft as many of those suggestions as feasible.

The EU looks forward to a fruitful discussion on those elements at WCPFC8.