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**Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) report to the Eighth Regular Session of the
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC8)**

**WCPFC8-2011-DP/23
9 March 2012**

Paper prepared by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)



PARTIES TO THE NAURU AGREEMENT

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Background

PNA members agreed in 2007 to provide an annual report to the WCPFC on the implementation of the VDS. CMM 2008-01 limits effort in PNA EEZs to 2004 levels taking into account existing rights granted under Agreements registered with the Commission in accordance with para 7 of CMM 2008-01. The CMM 2008-01 in-zone purse seine effort limits do not apply to domestic vessels, but domestic vessels are covered by the VDS limits. The VDS does not apply to US vessels which operate within the limits of vessel numbers established in the Treaty between the United States and Pacific Island Parties.

The annual reports provided by PNA have, in the past, mainly focussed on the total allowable effort under the VDS and the days fished in PNA waters. As such, these reports have been used by some CCMs to place a higher degree of scrutiny on PNA arrangements than any other CCMs are subject to.

PNA have always noted that the VDS would be under constant review to ensure that it was achieving its objectives, hence would be evolving as issues are encountered and addressed, especially in the first few years.

VDS Progress in 2011

In 2011, the PNA Purse Seine VDS entered its fourth Management Year (MY4) with renewed changes and commitment by PNA to improve the Scheme. The changes included the application of a hard limit of 28,469 days and no longer allowing Parties to transfer days between Management Years.

In 2011, PNA have made outstanding progress on a number of key issues in support of the successful implementation of the VDS. This has included prolific trading between the Parties, closure of at least 2 EEZs to fishing upon reaching their PAEs and the setting and use of a regional benchmark value for a fishing day.

The combination of these achievements, significantly strengthen the VDS for both conservation and management. There are areas that PNA have identified for improvement over the next few years, such as potential pooling arrangements between the Parties.

Fishing Activity in 2011

The following table shows the PAEs allocated to PNA members and the actual VMS days fished in their EEZs in 2011, the fourth Management Year (MY4).

Table 1: Agreed PAEs and actual days fished in MY4: 2011

	PAEs	Days fished
Federated States of Micronesia	5,522	5,041
Kiribati	5,450	4,376
Marshall Islands	2,234	2,236
Nauru	1,653	1,697
Palau	514	543
Papua New Guinea	10,073	11,613
Solomon Islands	2,146	1,898
Tuvalu	877	941
Adjusted TAE/Total days fished	28,469	28,345
FSMA days	3,907	5,550
US Treaty days	2,760*	7,696

*Note that the allocation of fishing days to the US is a 'nominal allocation' and no hard limit restrictions on fishing days, applies to vessels fishing under the Treaty with the US.

Fishing activity in 2010

The following table shows the PAEs allocated to PNA members and the actual VMS days fished in their EEZs in 2010, the third Management Year (MY3).

Table 2: Agreed PAEs and actual days fished in MY3: 2010

	PAEs	Days fished
Federated States of Micronesia	6,556	5,648
Kiribati	6,470	4,528
Marshall Islands	2,652	566
Nauru	1,962	2,096
Palau	610	32
Papua New Guinea	11,959	16,503
Solomon Islands	2,548	2,568
Tuvalu	1,041	973
Adjusted TAE /Total Days Fished	33,798	32,913
FSMA days	3,907	5,592
US Treaty days	3,027*	8,920