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**IMPELEMENTATION OF PURSE SEINE CAPACITY LIMITS IN THE WCPFC FOR
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

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Paper prepared by RMI

RMI proposal

Implementation of Purse Seine Capacity Limit in the WCPFC for Small Island Developing States.

Introduction:

The Republic of the Marshall Islands, like all members of the WCPFC, is concerned with the Capacity issue, in particular, the purse seine operation in the WCPFC. Like all members of the commission, the RMI, as a Small Island Developing States, is very much dependent on the tuna resources in the region for a number of reasons, including socio economic prospects. For this reason, the RMI, like other SIDS and developing countries, are concerned with several proposals tabled by non SIDS states through the WCPFC, where it will have adverse effect on the Aspirations for domestic development purposes. The RMI is conscious and appreciates good willed proposals from NON-SIDS, for its intents on assisting SIDS development goals. However, we have always maintained that our domestic aspirations will be dictated and set in the direction of SIDS and by SIDS only. In 2008, the RMI spearheaded a SIDS Resolution 08/01, where it sets out Aspirations for SIDS domestic development. While the Resolution is broad with SIDS issues, this delegation paper is concerted on the purse seine fishery capacity in the WCPFC. It aims to operationalize both the issue of capacity limit/reduction/transfer in the context of SIDS aspirations.

Over 50% of Purse Seine operation is taking place within PNA member waters, with over 260 purse seine vessels registered in the WCPFC. This opportunity has been largely exploited by developed fishing states, with some vague intentions for SIDS development opportunities.

Proposal:

The RMI proposes that:

1. the number of purse seine in the region be reduced and capped at 220 vessels.
2. the capped number of purse seine will be transferred to PNA in the region, as an example:

Total	Palau	FSM	PNG	Tuvalu	Nauru	Kiribati	SI	RMI
220	15	30	45	20	25	30	30	25

Developed States shall develop plans in accordance with objectives and requirements of SIDS Domestic development aspirations. At a minimum, PNA Domestic criteria under the FSMA shall be used. Developed States shall report to the commission their implementation plans where they will reduce, transfer and assist SIDS in their development aspirations. Unless otherwise existed, Developed States and SIDS shall enter into bilateral arrangements in order to give effect to **Implementation of Purse Seine Capacity Limit in the WCPFC for Small Island Developing States.**

PROPOSED MEASURE

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish

Stock in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

Recognizing the sovereign rights of coastal States, in particular Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and territories in the Convention Area, and their aspirations to develop and manage their domestic fisheries;

Acknowledging that the Commission shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States, in particular SIDS and territories, in relation to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and development of fisheries for such stocks;

Mindful that nothing in the Convention or in measures adopted by the Commission shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under the 1982 Convention and the Agreement;

Further acknowledging that the Commission shall function without prejudice to the sovereign rights of the coastal States, in particular SIDS and territories in the Convention Area, for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing highly migratory fish stocks within areas of national jurisdiction;

Conscious of the vulnerability of developing States, in particular SIDS and territories, which are dependent on the exploitation of marine living resources for socio economic prospects, including for meeting the nutritional requirements of their populations or parts thereof;

Mindful that over 50% of the purse seine skipjack fishery is taken in waters under national jurisdictions of coastal states, in particular SIDS, in the convention area.

Desiring to give operational effect to **Resolution 08/01**, while recognizing in full the special requirements of SIDS and SIDS Development Aspirations.

Adopts the **Implementation of Purse Seine Capacity Limit in the WCPFC for Small Island Developing State** as conservation and management measures in accordance with Articles 10 and 30 of the Convention:

CCMs shall cooperate directly or through the Commission, to reduce and restructure purse seine capacity in the WCPFC area.

Developed CCMs shall make concerted efforts and develop innovative options to reduce and or restructure their fleet so as to accommodate aspirations of SIDS and territories in the Convention Area to develop their own fisheries.

CCMs commit to ensuring that by 2018, the domestic fishing and related industries of developing States, in particular, the least developed SIDS and territories, accounts for 220 (capped and reduced) total number of Purse Seine fishing in the WCPFC.

Review of Implementation

Developed CCMs shall provide an annual report (Part 2 report) to the Commission on the implementation of this measure.

The Commission at each annual session shall review implementation of this measure.