



**COMMISSION
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**Proposal by the European Union, Japan and the United States on the Management of Purse
Seine Fishing Capacity in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Convention Area**

**WCPFC8- 2011-DP- 52
30 March 2012**

**Proposal by the European Union, Japan and the United States on the
Management of Purse Seine Fishing Capacity in the Western and Central
Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention Area**

The Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CCMs) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission:

Concerned that the fishing capacity and effort of tuna purse seine fishing vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area have increased drastically during the last decade and that such increase is still continuing;

Also Concerned that the increasing fishing capacity and effort significantly diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's existing CMMs;

Acknowledging the legitimate rights of developing States, in particular small island developing states to develop and manage their domestic tuna fisheries; and

Noting also that no CMM shall prejudice the sovereign rights of coastal states granted under UNCLOS;

Agrees, in accordance with the Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention, that:

1. Commission Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CCMs) that are not small-island developing States will not increase the number of purse seine vessels larger than 24 meters with freezing capacity actively fishing between 20 degrees N and 20 degrees S above current levels, as shown in the attached table. Each CCM shall provide the full list of its flag vessels to the Secretariat no later than May 1, 2012.¹
2. The concerned CCMs shall ensure that the construction of new vessels, or purchase of vessels previously flying other flags, will only be authorized or allowed to replace vessels that have sunk or that have been removed from the fleet and have not reflagged or are not otherwise operating in the WCPFC Convention Area under the jurisdiction of another flag State.
3. The concerned CCMs shall ensure that any new vessel constructed or purchased to replace a previous vessel or vessels, shall have a carrying capacity or well volume no larger than the vessel(s) being replaced. In such case, the authorization of the replaced vessel(s) shall be revoked immediately.

¹ CCMs covered by this CMM shall provide by [date] information on vessels currently under construction or acquisition, including documentation sufficient to verify the status of such vessels.

4. The concerned CCMs shall provide the Secretariat with information that demonstrates the compliance with the above procedures in paragraphs 2 and 3 within 60 days of any such vessel construction or purchase.
5. The provisions of this measure shall not apply to vessels flagged to small-island developing States.
6. The Commission shall in the future work to develop a regional capacity management plan to ensure that as small-island developing States develop their domestic fisheries, the overall capacity of the tuna purse seine fleet in the region does not exceed levels commensurate with the sustainability of the tuna resources in the WCPFC Convention Area, with a view to reaching a level of 220 vessels by 2020. Such a plan should encourage market based mechanisms for the voluntary transfer of capacity from developed fishing States to small-island developing States.

Table 1.

China	
European Union	4
Japan	36
Korea	
Philippines	
Chinese Taipei	
United States	40