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**DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A CMM FOR PACIFIC STRIPED MARLIN NORTH OF THE EQUATOR**

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WCPFC6-2009/24  
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**Submitted by the Striped Marlin Ad-hoc Management Working Group**

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**Version 4**

~~Next Meeting: Morning tea; Wednesday, Dec. 9.~~

**DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A ~~DRAFT~~ CMM FOR PACIFIC STRIPED MARLIN NORTH OF THE EQUATOR**

**Conservation and Management Measure for ~~Northern~~ Pacific Striped Marlin**

*Observing* the best available scientific evidence on ~~North~~ Pacific ~~s~~Striped ~~m~~Marlin from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) shows that the species is experiencing fishing mortality above levels that are sustainable in the long term;

*Noting* that the scientific advice from the ISC is that the fishing mortality rate of striped marlin (which can be converted into effort or catch in management) should be reduced from the current level (2003 or before);

*Further noting* that the advice from the ISC is that until appropriate measures are taken to reduce the fishing mortality rate the fishing mortality rate should not be increased;

*Recognizing* the ongoing work of the Northern Committee's working group on striped marlin, which is tasked with – among other things – “examining fish ~~behavior~~behaviour and fishing technologies in order to identify potential strategies to reduce striped marlin catches without unduly affecting catches of target species, while minimizing adverse impacts on fishermen.” and;

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

1. While the conservation advice from the ISC states that fishing mortality should be reduced from the current level ~~to levels recorded in~~ (2003 or before), in the interim the objective of this measure is to prevent any further increases in fishing mortality from the 2003 current level ~~with an eye on long-term sustainability of the stock.~~

[2. The Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (herein referred to as CCMs) shall take measures necessary to limit the ~~catch amount~~ of ~~North~~ Pacific ~~s~~Striped ~~m~~Marlin caught in the area north of the Equator to the ~~catch amount caught (by weight) in~~ [2001, 2002 or] 2003. ~~With~~ The WCPFC Secretariat ~~shall to~~ provide advice to ~~all CCMs the Commission on~~ catch ~~totals caught by each CCM in for~~ [2001, 2002 and] 2003~~2003.~~

2 (alt.) The Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (herein referred to as CCMs) shall be encouraged to promote the use of mitigation measures to reduce catch to [2001, 2002 or] 2003 levels and reduce the mortality of the released catch. The WCPFC Secretariat shall provide advice to all CCMs on catch totals for [2001, 2002 and] 2003.

~~3. All CCMs shall provide annual catch and effort data for Pacific Striped Marlin north of the equator to the WCPFC annually as part of their Part 1 reporting requirements. The reports for both catch and fishing effort shall be made by gear type. Catches shall be reported in terms of weight. Fishing effort shall be reported in terms of the most relevant measures for a given type, including at a minimum for all gear types, the number of vessel days fished.~~

34. CCMs shall endeavour to conduct research for identifying potentially ~~practical method~~effective mitigation methods that could serve to reduce catch rates and post-release mortality rates for all gear types in longline fisheries. CCMs shall also endeavor to conduct fishing trials with the aim of assessing the practicality and effects – both beneficial and adverse – of such methods. This may include but not limited to measures in Appendix 1. CCMS shall report to the Secretariat on the progress of their efforts and research annually. In particular, CCMs should consider research and fishing trials in the following areas:

- ~~Modifying the configuration of longline gear to keep hooks out of the shallow zone, such as removing the shallowest hooks or lengthening floatlines or branchlines;~~
- ~~Using alternative hook types and sizes;~~
- ~~Identifying and avoiding specific geographical areas and/or periods or specific oceanographic conditions that tend to result in particularly high catch rates;~~
- ~~Examining observer data and other data to estimate rates of survival of longline caught striped marlin upon being boated;~~
- ~~Using tagging and other data, as well as information on other billfish species, to estimate post-release survival rates of striped marlin after capture by longline; and~~
- ~~Employing post capture handling and release methods to reduce the mortality rate of discarded fish.~~

45. CCMs shall encourage fishermen to work with scientists and managers in an effort to develop measures in order to achieve the objectives of paragraphs 2 and 3. cooperate to the extent possible with each other and with other appropriate partners in the conduct of such research and fishing trials.

56. The Scientific Committee shall, in coordination with the Secretariat of the Pacific ~~Comm~~Committee~~ission~~, and the ISC, and, other scientific bodies conducting scientific reviews of this stock, including the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), monitor-report on the measures tested by CCMs and the status of North Pacific sStriped mMarlin and report to the Commission at on the status of the stock at each annual meeting. The Commission shall consider future actions with respect to North Pacific striped marlin based on the recovery of the stock relative to future biological reference points selected by ,and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary to achieve effective conservation.

~~7. The Commission shall consider future actions with respect to northern Pacific Striped Marlin based on recommendations of the Scientific Committee and Technical and Compliance Committee.~~

~~8. CCMs shall work to maintain, and as necessary reduce, the level of fishing mortality on northern Pacific Striped Marlin within the Convention Area commensurate with the long-term sustainability of the stock.~~

69. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this CMM to the IATTC and where appropriate the two Commissions shall engage in consultations with a view to reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures for ~~North~~northern Pacific sStriped mMarlin, with consistent reporting and compliance measures where conformity can be achieved.

740. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for ~~northern~~North Pacific sStriped mMarlin is limited, but

that have a real interest in, and history of, fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Northern Pacific Striped Marlin in the future.

1844. For the purposes of these measures, vessels operated under charter, lease or other similar mechanisms by developing island States and participating Territories, as an integral part of their domestic fleet, shall be considered to be vessels of the host State or Territory. Such charter, lease or other similar mechanism shall be conducted in a manner so as not to charter known illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) vessels.]

9.12 Unless otherwise stated, nothing in this measure shall prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their own domestic fisheries.

10. As an interim measure, until the Commission adopts a scheme relating to compliance with CMMs which includes responses when a flag State exceeds any limits assigned to it, if the catch of vessels flying the flag of a CCM exceeds the total catch specified for them under paragraph 2 above, that CCM will be subject to a reduction in their catch limit in the next year equal to the exceeded amount. The reduction will apply in the year immediately after it has been determined that the catch limit has been exceeded.

~~13. For the purpose of evaluating implementation of paragraph 2:~~

~~a. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director a list of their specific fisheries or fleets that have recorded catch of northern Pacific Striped Marlin and a description of the particular measures, as well as monitoring mechanisms, they have established to ensure that fishing effort in each of the fisheries or fleets does not increase above the 2003 level; and~~

~~b. the WCPFC Secretariat shall compile all the reports submitted under paragraph 3 and present the compilation to the seventh regular session of the Northern Committee and the seventh regular session of the Scientific Committee.~~

#### Appendix 1: Research and Fishing Trials

1. Modifying the configuration of fishing methods to avoid interactions with striped marlin (e.g., using alternative hook types and sizes).
2. Identifying and avoiding specific geographical areas and/or periods or specific oceanographic conditions that tend to result in particularly high catch rates.
3. Examining observer data and other data to estimate rates of survival of released striped marlin upon being boated.
4. Using tagging and other data, as well as information on other billfish species, to estimate post-release survival rates of striped marlin after capture.
5. Conducting research for identifying effective methods of tag and release of juvenile north Pacific striped marlin caught live in their fisheries.
- ~~6. Employing post-capture handling and release methods to reduce the mortality rate of discarded fish.~~