



**COMMISSION
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
5 – 11 December 2019

ADVICE ON PURSE SEINE EEZ LIMITS FOR PHILIPPINES EEZ

**WCPFC16-2019-DP25
9 December 2019**

SUBMITTED BY THE PHILIPPINES



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
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December 9, 2019

MR. FELETI P. TEO, OBE
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
Kaselehlie Street, Kolonia, Pohnpei State, 96941
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear **Executive Director Teo**,

The Philippines was required to submit its limits of its purse seine effort and/or catch of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna within their EEZs in accordance with the effort limits established and notified to the Commission as required under paragraph 25 of CMM 2017-01. The Philippines submitted its notification seasonably last year.

During the 15th Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee meeting, the submission of the Philippines was considered unclear as the effort limit was in number of fishing vessels instead of number of fishing vessel days. With the assistance of other delegations during the TCC15, the Philippines was provided with guidance. The Philippines sincerely appreciate those gestures.

Hence, the Philippines has finalized, after due consultation with its stakeholders, its purse seine limits in its EEZ. This is set at 42,000 fishing vessel days in lieu of the original submission. This is based on the current capacities and conditions of the small purse seine fishing vessels operating in the Philippines' Pacific seaboard EEZ. These include wooden hulled ring net/purse seine fishing vessels.

I remain,

Truly yours,


EDUARDO B. GONGONA
Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Undersecretary for Fisheries, Department of Agriculture