



COMMISSION
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
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8 – 15 December 2020

**REQUEST TO AMEND THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR BIGEYE,
YELLOWFIN AND SKIPJACK TUNA IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN
(CMM 2018-01), ATTACHMENT 2 MEASURE FOR THE PHILIPPINES**

WCPFC17-2020-DP06
7 November 2020

Submission by the Philippines



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
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04 November 2020

FELETI PENITALA TEO, OBE

Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Kaselehlie Street, PO Box 2356
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Subject: **Request to amend the Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (CMM 2018-01), Attachment 2 Measure for Philippines.**

Dear **Mr. TEO**:

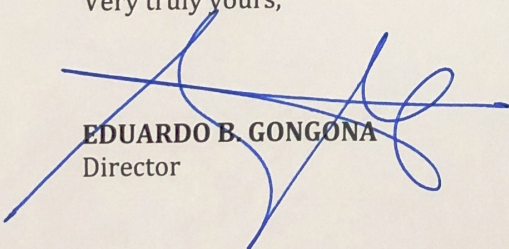
At the outset, please allow us to acknowledge the measure that the Commission has put in place for the operations of Philippine-flagged group seine fishing vessels in High Seas Pocket 1 (HSP-1) which lessens fishing pressures in Philippine waters including its EEZ.

However, catch preservation has been challenged by the complexity of the fishing ground in terms of distance/area and fishing duration. The catch landed by ice-chilled carrier boats from HSP-1 were observed to be of reduced quality, thus resulting to lower market value. Deterioration of fish quality prior to landing negatively affects its market value; hence, considered as losses in post-harvest fisheries. Moreover, fish transported by ice-chilled carrier boats from HSP-1 recorded an estimated loss of 17.25%. There is also the matter of compliance to Republic Act number 10611 entitled "An Act to Strengthen the Food Safety Regulatory System in the Country to Protect Consumer Health and Facilitate Market Access of Local Foods and Food Products, and for other Purposes". This law enacted in 2012 requires producers to put in place measures to ensure that the food items being sold in the markets are food safe.

In view of this, we are respectfully requesting the amendment of *Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (CMM 2018-01) Attachment 2 Measure for Philippines*, to remove "traditional fresh/ice chilled" in Section 1, and allow the use of carrier boats with freezing system to sufficiently preserve the quality of the catch. This will reduce losses in post-harvest fisheries, ensure compliance to food safety standards and thereby increase the potential income of HSP-1 players.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,


EDUARDO B. GONGONA
Director