



**DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW WCPFC TROPICAL TUNA MEASURE
WORKSHOP 1 (TTMW1)
Electronic Meeting
26-30 April 2021**

**PNA SUBMISSION TO THE FIRST WORKSHOP ON THE NEW TROPICAL TUNA
MEASURE**

**WCPFC-TTMW1-2021-DP04
27 March 2021**

Submitted by Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) + Tokelau



26 March 2021

PNA Submission to the 1st WCPFC Workshop on the Tropical Tuna Measure

The PNA¹ support the views of FFA Members set out in their submission for the First WCPFC Workshop on the Tropical Tuna CMM, including advocating a precautionary approach to changes to the current measures in the CMM and supporting the FFA comments on the workshop hours.

Some elements of the FFA submission are particularly relevant to the PNA, and the PNA take this opportunity to elaborate on those elements in a way that we hope other CCMs will find helpful.

On Objectives, the PNA support the FFA positions to maintain the current bigeye and yellowfin objectives, provided the measures agreed in the CMM are consistent with meeting those objectives. For skipjack, the PNA support the proposed FFA formulation to maintain the intention of the current skipjack objective in a way that allows for the changes in the assessment model underpinning the current objective. The PNA do not support proposals to change the currency and balance of the current objectives.

The PNA also consider that the Objectives need to reflect the balance of interests of CCMs in the fisheries, including the special requirements of developing coastal states, in particular SIDS. Most of the catch of tropical tunas in the WCPO is taken in the waters of the PNA and other FFA SIDS Members, who are heavily dependent on those resources. More generally, 80% of the catch of tropical tunas is made in the waters of developing coastal states. The Objectives for the new Tropical Tuna CMM need to reflect the relative importance of the tropical tuna stocks and fisheries to developing coastal state CCMs, in particular SIDS, in accordance with Article 30.

The balance in the CMM between fisheries and CCMs is particularly important to the PNA. The value and importance of the purse seine fishery to the PNA continues to increase. While most PNA Members also have longline fisheries that are important at the national level, the relative value to the PNA overall of the longline fishery and longline bigeye catches in particular is declining. This is largely because the failure of the Commission to effectively control high seas longlining and encourage transshipment in ports has incentivised longline vessels to move from PNA EEZs to the high seas as the PNA have strengthened the management of longlining in their zones.

As a result, the FAD Closure is costing the PNA more, and the benefits of the FAD closure are increasingly for others and not for the PNA, increasing the unfairness and disproportionate nature of the burden associated with the FAD closure.

Despite the heavy costs and increasingly disproportionate burden of the FAD closure, the PNA support maintaining the current FAD closure as part of taking a precautionary approach to the development

¹ Parties to the Nauru Agreement plus Tokelau

of the new CMM set out in the FFA submission, provided the integrity of the current FAD closure arrangements is maintained, and the other elements of the package of measures that conserve bigeye are also maintained, such as the Longline Bigeye Catch Limits, the High Seas FAD Closure and the High Seas Purse Seine Effort Limits. For the same reason, the PNA attach high priority to the actions to strengthen longline catch monitoring, especially in the high seas, proposed in the FFA submission.

The PNA look forward to making substantial progress with other CCMs and the WCPFC Secretariat on work on the Tropical CMM at this 1st Workshop.

Yours sincerely,



John Kasu
PNA Chair