



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

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**RESPONSE TO REPORTED FISHING GEAR DAMAGES**

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**Paper prepared by Japan**

## Response to Reported Fishing Gear Damages

Paper prepared by Japan

When operating in the vast ocean, accidents happen and one of them is damage to fishing gear. Since modern commercial fishing operations employ large scale fishing gears such as longline which stretches as long as 100km or many number of FADs, conflicts among these gears by different vessels sometimes inevitable.

There has been unwritten code of conduct among fishermen which they have honored to avoid dangerous conflict on the ocean, such as not setting longline crossing other line or not setting on somebody else's FADs. However, as more and more vessels are out there and the competition intensifies, Japanese fishermen are feeling that such unwritten code is often ignored and fishermen are losing trust each other.

Japan is concerned the situation and afraid that it might get worse to a degree something unwanted happens, if CCMs do not pay attention properly on the issue. Therefore, Japan is now considering a measure to deal with the issue that could include the following elements. Japan would appreciate CCMs inputs on the proposal and hopes to provide a draft CMM at WCPFC9.

### **Elements to be included in the possible draft CMM on response to damaged fishing gear**

1. When a fishing vessel fishing WCPFC-managed species on the high seas in the Convention area experiences any damages to an equipment or a fishing gear of the vessel possibly caused by unnatural causes, a flag CCM of the fishing vessel may report the Secretariat details of such incident, including relevant information of the date, time, location, vessel, damage of vessel, gear and crew, and possible cause.
2. The Secretariat shall compile the above information of incidents in an appropriate form and report annually to the TCC. Any private information may be dealt with in confidential manner. The TCC shall review the reported incidents and make recommendations to the Commission if deemed necessary.