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**CONCEPTUAL PROPOSAL ON PURSE SEINE MANAGEMENT IN WCPO**

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**WCPFC-TCC8-2012/DP10**

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**Paper from Japan**

## **Conceptual Proposal on Purse Seine Management in WCPO**

### *Japan*

#### **Background**

In SC8, SPC reported the following analysis based on the fishing activity data up to 2011 (SC8-MI-WP06).

- The total estimated number of FAD sets made in 2011 was record high, largely due to increased purse seine effort overall.
- Purse seine effort has expanded continuously since the introduction of CMM 2008-01, with approximately 31% increase in effort from 2004 to 2011 .
- About 90% of Bigeye catches by purse seiners were from FAD sets.
- For the scenario best approximating the fishery in 2010, F/FMSY declines and is at a projected level of 0.96 in 2021.

Based on the report of SPC, SC8 recommended the Commission to consider;

- A reduction of the total number of FAD sets to the levels no greater than those in the fishery in 2010;

Also, according to the analysis by SPC, the number of FAD sets in 2010 was around 15,000 (p22, SC8-MI-WP06).

#### **Proposal**

The result of the analysis by SC8 demonstrated the problem of the CMM2008-01, that is the insufficient level of effort control of FAD sets used by purse seine vessels in the months of non FADs-closure period. Therefore, as suggested by the SC, the reduction of total number of FAD sets throughout the year should be introduced immediately in order to resolve the above problem. Japan therefore proposes the following restrictions for the management of tropical purse seine fisheries in the WCPO by replacing paragraph 16 in Chair's draft (TCC8-2012/27).

1. An annual limit for the total number of FAD sets used by purse seine vessels of CCMs in the tropical WCPO will be established at 15,000.
2. The annual FAD sets limit (15,000) will be allocated to each CCM based on the proportion of the average purse seine total catches in 2008-2010. An alternative allocation scheme may be considered for Small Island Developing States and Territories (SIDs) including FSMA vessels.

3. Unused annual FAD sets limit in any given year will be rolled over for two years. Out of roll-overed FAD set limit, non SIDs CCMs can utilize its 50% and the rest shall be re-allocated to SIDs CCMs in addition to the allocation of that year based on the paragraph 2 above.
4. FAD closure period and the high sea pocket closure will be repealed.
5. For monitoring the measure:
  - A fishing master will be required to obtain signature from Observers on board in completing a logbook every day;
  - The fishing master will be required to send the logbook to the Flag CCM authority every two weeks; and
  - The Flag CCM authority will be required to compile data and send the total number of FADs sets to the Secretariat every month.