



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE: EUROPEAN UNION PROPOSAL FOR A CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON A WCPFC YELLOWFIN, BIGEYE AND SKIPJACK
TUNAS AND SWORDFISH CATCH CERTIFICATION SCHEME**

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Explanatory Memorandum

EUROPEAN UNION PROPOSAL FOR A

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON A WCPFC YELLOWFIN,
BIGEYE AND SKIPJACK TUNAS AND SWORDFISH CATCH CERTIFICATION
SCHEME**

Goal: this proposed CMM is intended to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by WCPFC by improving the availability of data on catches of tropical tunas and swordfish falling under the WCPFC competence and by controlling its trade flows in order to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

New elements: the proposal has been updated and improved with a simplified Catch Certificate in order to take into consideration the needs of small island developing countries CCMs (requiring one single Catch Certificate for catches from different vessels) and a provision on processed products to better reflect the economic reality.

Rationale: catch documentation schemes as market measures have been internationally recognized as one of the most effective tools to fight against IUU and act upon the management of stocks and catches, in addition they are also an invaluable instrument for gathering huge amount of data.

To achieve all these goals, it is necessary to establish an effective control of the movements of these catches through the traceability of the product from the net to its final market, including reprocessing in intermediate countries. The Catch Certificate foreseen in the WCPFC Catch Certification Scheme will help determine whether tropical tunas and swordfish taken in the Convention Area are caught in a manner consistent with WCPFC conservation measures. As mentioned, it will also improve data collection on catches and trade of tropical tunas and swordfish.

Under this CMM Flag States would have the duty to ensure that their vessels conduct their fishing activities in a responsible manner, fully respecting WCPFC conservation and management measures. In addition, port States and importing States remain responsible to promote the effectiveness of management measures adopted by WCPFC by ensuring compliance with WCPFC CMMs.

The current Resolution is in conformity with international law, notably as regards the World Trade Organization (WTO), and in line with the standard practice in other RFMOs.