



## TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

### Second Regular Session

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### PROPOSAL FOR A CONSERVATION MEASURE TO ESTABLISH A LIST OF VESSELS PRESUMED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN

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#### Paper submitted by the EU Delegation

*The Western and Central Pacific fisheries Commission (WCPFC):*

Recalling that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU). This plan stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory way.

*Concerned* that IUU fishing activities in the Convention area undermine the effectiveness of the conservation measures adopted by the WCPFC.

*Further concerned* that there is a possibility that vessel owners engaged in such fishing activities may have re-flagged their vessels to avoid compliance with WCPFC measures.

*Determined* to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of counter-measures to be applied in respect to vessels, without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of flag States under the relevant WCPFC instruments.

*Considering* the action undertaken in other regional tuna fisheries organizations to address this issue;

*Conscious* of the need to address, as a matter of priority, the issue of vessels conducting IUU fishing activities; and

*Noting* that the situation must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with the relevant rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement;

*Resolves as follows:*

#### **Identification of IUU activities**

1. At each Annual Meeting, the Commission will identify those vessels which have engaged in fishing activities for species covered by the Convention in a manner which has diminished the effectiveness of WCPFC measures in force, and shall establish a list of such vessels (the

IUU vessel list), in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out in this Conservation Measure.

2. This identification shall be documented, *inter alia*, on reports from an WCPFC Party, cooperating non-Party, fishing entity or regional economic integration organization (collectively "CPCs") relating to WCPFC Conservation Measures in force, trade information obtained on the basis of relevant trade statistics such as Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) data, Statistical documents and other national or international verifiable statistics, as well as any other information obtained from Port States and/or gathered from the fishing grounds which is suitably documented. Information from CPCs should be provided in the format approved by the Parties.
3. For the purposes of this Conservation Measure, vessels fishing for species covered by the WCPFC Convention are presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the Convention Area when a CPC present evidence that such vessels, *inter alia*:
  - a. Harvest species covered by the WCPFC Convention in the Convention Area and are not on the WCPFC Register of authorized vessels, or
  - b. Harvest species covered by the WCPFC Convention, when its flag state is without or has exceeded its quotas, catch limit or effort allocation established by WCPFC Conservation Measures, or
  - c. Do not record or report their catches made in the Convention Area, or make false reports, or
  - d. Take or land undersized fish in contravention of WCPFC Conservation Measures, or
  - e. Fish during closures in contravention of WCPFC Conservation Measures, or
  - f. Use prohibited fishing gear in contravention of WCPFC Conservation Measures, or
  - g. Transship with, participate in joint fishing operations with, support or re-supply vessels included in the IUU Vessel List, or
  - h. Are without nationality and harvest species covered by the WCPFC Convention in the Convention Area, or
  - i. Engage in fishing activities contrary to any other WCPFC Conservation Measures, or
  - j. Are under the control of the owner of any vessel on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List.

#### **Information on Alleged IUU fishing activities**

4. CPCs shall every year, and at least 120 days before the Annual Meeting of the Commission, transmit to the Executive Director a list of vessels presumed to be carrying out IUU activities in the Convention Area during the current and previous year, accompanied by the supporting evidence, as provided in paragraph 2, concerning the presumption of this IUU activity.

#### **Draft IUU Vessel List**

5. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 4 and any other information at his disposal, the Executive Director shall draw up a draft WCPFC IUU Vessel List and shall transmit it, together with all the supporting evidence provided, to all CPCs, as well as to non-parties with vessels on the List, at least 90 days before the Annual Meeting of the Commission.
6. CPCs and non-parties shall transmit, at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting of the Commission, their comments to the Executive Director, as appropriate, including verifiable

evidence and other supporting information, showing that the vessels neither have fished in contravention of WCPFC Conservation Measures nor had the possibility of fishing for species covered by the WCPFC Convention.

7. The Executive Director shall request each Flag State with vessels on the draft IUU Vessel List to notify the owner of the vessels of their inclusion in that List, and of the consequences of their inclusion being confirmed in the IUU Vessel List.
8. Upon receipt of the draft IUU Vessel List, CPC:s shall closely monitor the vessels included in that List in order to determine their activities and possible changes of name, flag or registered owner.

### **Provisional IUU Vessel List**

9. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 6, the Executive Director shall draw up a provisional WCPFC IUU Vessel List, and transmit it, two weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting of the Commission, to the CPCs and the non-parties concerned, together with all the evidence provided.
10. CPCs may at any time submit to the Executive Director any additional information which might be relevant for the establishment of the IUU Vessel List. The Executive Director shall circulate the information, together with all the evidence provided, to the CPCs and to the non-parties concerned, at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting of the Commission.
11. At each Annual meeting, The Technical and Compliance committee (TCC) shall:
  - (i) Following consideration of the draft IUU Vessel List and information and evidence circulated under paragraphs 5, 9 and 10, adopt a Provisional IUU Vessel List and submit it to the Commission for approval;
  - (ii) Following consideration of the current IUU Vessel List and the information and evidence circulated under paragraph 9, recommend to the Commission which, if any, vessels should be removed from the current IUU Vessel List.
12. A vessel shall be included in the provisional IUU Vessel List only if one or more of the criteria in paragraph 3 have been satisfied.
13. The Technical and Compliance Committee shall remove a vessel from the provisional WCPFC IUU Vessel List if the vessel's flag State demonstrates that:
  - a. The vessel did not engage in any of the IUU fishing activities described in paragraph 1, or
  - b. Effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution, and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity.
14. Following the examination referred to in paragraph 11, the Technical and Compliance Committee shall recommend that the Commission approve the provisional IUU Vessel List, as amended by the Technical and Compliance Committee.
15. The Draft IUU Vessel List, Provisional IUU Vessel List and the IUU Vessel List shall contain the following details for each vessel:
  - i. name and previous names, if any;
  - ii. flag and previous flags, if any;
  - iii. owner and previous owners, including beneficial owners, if any;
  - iv. operator and previous operators, if any;

- v. call sign and previous call signs, if any;
- vi. Lloyds/IMO number;
- vii. photographs, where available;
- viii. date first included on the IUU Vessel List;
- ix. summary of activities which justify inclusion of the vessel on the List, together with references to all relevant documents informing of and evidencing those activities.

**IUU Vessel List**

16. Once the Commission adopts the IUU Vessel List, it shall request non-parties with vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List to:
  - a. notify the owner of the vessels of its inclusion on the IUU Vessel List and the consequences which result from being included in the List, and
  - b. take all the necessary measures to eliminate these IUU fishing activities, including, if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration or the fishing licenses of these vessels, and to inform the Commission of the measures taken in this respect.
17. CPCs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU, to:
  - a. ensure that fishing vessels, support vessels, mother ships or cargo vessels flying their flag do not participate in any transshipment or joint fishing operations with, support or re-supply vessels on the IUU Vessel List;
  - b. ensure that vessels on the IUU Vessel List that enter ports voluntarily are not authorized to land, transship, refuel or re-supply therein but are inspected upon entry;
  - c. prohibit the chartering of a vessel on the IUU Vessel List;
  - d. refuse to grant their flag to vessels on the IUU Vessel List, unless the vessel has changed owner, and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel or, having taken into account all relevant facts, the flag CPC determines that granting the vessel its flag will not result in IUU fishing;
  - e. prohibit commercial transactions, imports, landings and/or transshipment of species covered by the WCPFC Convention from vessels on the IUU Vessel List;
  - f. encourage traders, importers, transporters and others involved, to refrain from transactions in, and transshipment of, species covered by the WCPFC Convention caught by vessels on the IUU Vessel List;
  - g. collect, and exchange with other CPCs, any appropriate information with the aim of searching for, controlling and preventing false import/export certificates for species covered by the WCPFC Convention from vessels on the IUU Vessel List.
18. The Executive Director shall take any measure necessary to ensure publicity of the IUU Vessel List, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, including placing it on the WCPFC website. Furthermore, the Executive Director shall transmit the IUU Vessel List to the FAO and to other regional fisheries organizations for the purposes of enhancing co-operation between the WCPFC and these organizations aimed at preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing.
19. Without prejudice to the rights of CPCs and coastal states to take proper action, consistent

with international law, the CPCs shall not take any unilateral trade measures or other sanctions against vessels on the draft or provisional IUU Vessel Lists, pursuant to paragraphs 5 or 9, or that have been removed from the IUU Vessel List, pursuant to paragraph 13, on the grounds that such vessels are involved in IUU fishing activities.

#### **Deletion from the IUU Vessel List**

20. A CPC or a non-party with a vessel on the IUU Vessel List may request the removal of the vessel from the List during the intersessional period by providing information demonstrating that:
  - a) It has adopted measures that will ensure that the vessel complies with all WCPFC measures;
  - b) it will be able to assume effectively its responsibilities as regards the monitoring and control of the vessel's fishing activities in the Convention Area;
  - c) it has taken effective action in response to the IUU fishing activities that resulted in the vessel's inclusion in the IUU Vessel List, including prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity.
  - d) the vessel has changed ownership and that the new owner can establish that the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in the vessel or exercises control over it, and that the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing activities.

#### **Inter-Sessional modification of the IUU Vessel List**

21. The CPC or non Party shall send its request for the removal of a vessel from the IUU list to the Executive Director, accompanied by the supporting information referred to in paragraph 20.
22. The Executive Director will transmit the removal request, with all the supporting information, to the CPCs within 15 days following the receipt of the removal request.
23. Each CPC shall examine the removal request, and notify the Executive Director in writing of its decision regarding the removal of the vessel within 30 days following the notification by the Executive Director.
24. If no Party objects to the removal of the vessel from the IUU Vessel List within the period stipulated in paragraph 23, the Executive Director will inform the CPC or the non Party which made the removal request, the FAO and other regional fisheries management organisations, and remove the vessel from the IUU vessel List, as published on the WCPFC Website.
25. If A Party objects to the request for the removal of the vessel from the IUU vessel list, the vessel will be maintained on the IUU list and the Executive Director will inform the CPC and the non Party which made the removal request.

#### **Final provisions**

26. This conservation measure shall apply to any vessel fishing operating on the high seas.