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**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS AND  
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES**

**Circular No.: 2014/52**

**Date: 30 June 2014**

**No. pages: 3**

**Letter regarding WCPFC Management Objectives Workshop process from certain  
concerned seafood companies and catch sector associations**

Dear All,

Please find attached a joint letter from a combined group of seafood companies and catch sector associations who have expressed views regarding the WCPFC Management Objectives Workshop process. This letter is provided for your information.

Thanks,



Professor Glenn Hurry  
Executive Director

27 June 2014

Professor Glenn Hurry, Executive Director  
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission  
P.O. Box 2356  
Kolonia, Pohnpei, 96941  
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Professor Hurry

### **WCPFC Tuna Management Measures**

We the undersigned seafood companies and catch sector associations are committed to the long-term ecological and socioeconomic sustainability of tuna fisheries in the Convention Area of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Our objective for these fisheries is that, at a minimum, they would pass an assessment against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standard, whether currently certified as such by a third party certification scheme or not. The achievement of this standard is increasingly needed to satisfy client sustainability expectations and to retain market share.

WCPFC will be aware that MSC certification of tuna fisheries is conditional in part upon implementation, by the responsible Regional Fisheries Management Organization, of limit reference points (LRPs) set above a level at which there is appreciable risk of impairing a stock's reproductive capacity, target reference points (TRPs) that maintain a stock at a level consistent with  $B_{MSY}$  or similar precautionary management target, a harvest strategy responsive to the state of the stock and designed to achieve the management objectives, and Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and tools consistent with the harvest strategy that reduce fishing mortality as a LRP is approached and which account for uncertainty. Failure to implement these fundamental elements of modern fisheries management compromises third party certification of tuna fisheries, reflects poorly on WCPFC's capability to manage stocks in accordance with UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and threatens the long-term sustainability of WCPO tuna stocks.

We urge the WCPFC Secretariat to ensure updated terms of reference are developed for the third Management Objectives Workshop (MOW3), and that every effort is made to ensure MOW3 goes ahead this year, prior to the annual meeting. We support having MOW3 review and discuss a straw-man CMM so that progress can be made prior to the annual meeting.

We note that WCPFC10 (par. 150) agreed to the development of candidate TRPs, and to robustness testing of HCRs, for skipjack in preparation for MOW3. While MOW2 participants additionally called for further development of TRPs and HCRs for other tuna species, it appears that no such work is currently planned during 2014.

We request the WCPFC Secretariat to strive to secure the necessary financial and scientific resources to ensure that candidate TRPs and HCRs are additionally developed for albacore, bigeye and yellowfin, for consideration by MOW3 during 2014 and for consideration for adoption by WCPFC11 in December 2014. As SPC's

scientists are heavily committed to three stock assessments this year it may be necessary to obtain funding to support additional providers to undertake this work.



We additionally request the Scientific Committee to vigorously promote the development of an integrated management strategy to underpin clear and transparent decision-making around catch and effort limits for albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks in the WCPFC convention area, for adoption by the Commission.


We submit that these critical management measures are an essential component of any responsible fisheries management system and that their development and implementation should be pursued by WCPFC as a matter of the highest priority.



Yours sincerely,

  
ANOVA Technical Services, LLC


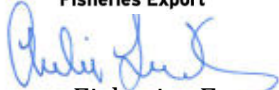
  
  
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