



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Pacific Islands Regional Office
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Mr. Feleti Teo
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 2356
Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Mr. Teo:

The United States would like to update the WCPFC with respect to the application of measures of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the WCPFC to U.S. fishing vessels in the area of overlap between the two organizations. The United States sent a letter to the WCPFC on January 12, 2015, that explained the United States started a rulemaking process to implement the joint decision of the WCPFC (paragraph 80 of the report of WCPFC9) and the IATTC (Recommendation C-12-11) on the area of overlap. The United States has completed the rulemaking to establish which of the two organizations' conservation and management measures will be applied to U.S. fishing vessels in the area of overlap.

The United States published a final rule in the *Federal Register* on April 26, 2016 (81 FR 24501), and the rule became effective on May 26, 2016. The rule provides that U.S. vessels will be subject to the conservation and management measures of the WCPFC while operating in the area of overlap. Management measures of the IATTC no longer apply to U.S. fishing vessels operating in the area of overlap, with the exception of regulations governing the IATTC Regional Vessel Register.

Sincerely,

Raymond Clarke
Fisheries Biologist

cc: Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director, IATTC
William Gibbons-Fly, U.S. Department of State
Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Arnold Palacios, CNMI Department of Lands and Resources
Joseph Cameron, Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

