
**PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN
AND CENTRAL PACIFIC**

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PROPOSAL ON RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS

Submitted by the delegation of Japan

1. Each member of the Commission shall, for the purposes of effective implementation of the Convention, maintain a record of fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag and authorized to be used for fishing in the Convention Area beyond its area of national jurisdiction, and shall ensure that all such fishing vessels are entered in that record.
2. Each member of the Commission shall provide by [1 January 2005] to the Commission the information set out in Annex IV to the Convention with respect to each fishing vessel entered in the record required to be maintained under paragraph 1 of this decision, with specification on which of the following two categories the vessel falls under. Each member shall also notify promptly the Commission of any modifications to such information when they occur.
 - (a) Fishing vessels authorized before 1 January 2000 (hereinafter referred to as “category (a) vessels”).
 - (b) Fishing vessels authorized on and after 1 January 2000 (hereinafter referred to as “category (b) vessels”)
3. The Commission shall establish and maintain the WCPFC Fishing Vessel Record (hereinafter referred to as “the Vessel Record”), based on the information provided to it pursuant to the paragraph 2 of this decision. The Vessel Record shall consist of all category (a) vessels. Category (b) vessels may be included in the Vessel Record when they are:
 - (a) flagged to the small island developing members and considered to serve for the sound and genuine development of their tuna fisheries in and beyond their areas of national jurisdiction,
 - (b) replacement of the category (a) vessels, or
 - (c) category (a) vessels transferred to other members from the original members who nullified the authorizations for those vessels and did or will not authorize their replacement.

For inclusion of a category (b) vessel in the Vessel Record, a member shall submit to the Commission the information and evidences on the reason of (a), (b) or (c) in this paragraph. The Commission shall review the information and evidences.

4. Fishing vessels not included in the Vessel Record shall be deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land tuna and tuna like species beyond the area of national jurisdiction of flag states in the Convention area.

5. (a) Members of the Commission shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit fishing for, retaining on board, transshipment and landing of tuna and tuna-like species by fishing vessels not included in the WCPFC Record.

(b) To ensure the effectiveness of the WCPFC conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by WCPFC Statistical Document Programmes:

- (i) Flag members of Commission shall validate statistical documents only for vessels on the WCPFC Record,
- (ii) Members of the Commission shall require that species covered by Statistical Document Programmes caught by vessels on the WCPFC Record in the Convention area, when imported into the territory of a member, be accompanied by statistical documents validated for vessels on the WCPFC Record and,
- (iii) Members of the Commission importing species covered by Statistical Document Programmes and the flag States of vessels shall cooperate to ensure the accuracy and legitimacy of statistical documents.

Explanatory Note on the proposed decision concerning the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels

This proposal is intended to add two new elements to the relevant articles of the Convention concerning Record of Fishing Vessels. Those elements are measures based on the past resolutions and measures by use of statistical documents.

1. Measures based upon the resolutions

At the Fourth Session of the Multilateral High Level Conference on 19 February 1999, the resolution was adopted that urges all States and other entities concerned to exercise reasonable restraint in respect of any regional expansion of fishing effort and capacity. However, there is a state or fishing entity who continues to expand fishing capacity significantly inconsistent with the resolution. The stocks of yellowfin and bigeye tuna are turned and to be in an over or fully exploited status, requiring prompt introduction of conservation and management measures. In view of these, Japan would like to propose differentiating fishing vessels built before and after the 1999 resolution so that the Commission can review the effectiveness of compliance with the resolutions adopted in its preparatory process. Nonetheless, this proposal is not intended by any means to hinder sound fishery development of coastal developing states as clearly mentioned in paragraph 3a).

2. Control measures

To assist the Commission's effort for elimination of IUU fishing operations, measures should be implemented by use of statistical documents, as were done in all the other tuna RFMOs. This proposal follows the recommendation by ICCAT concerning the establishment of an ICCAT record of vessels over 24 meters authorized to operate in the Convention Area (02-22).
