

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

Circular No.: 2013/08
Date: 8 February 2013
No. pages: 6

Letter from EU – Follow-up to WCPFC9

Dear All

Please find attached a letter from the European Union which presents various issues as follow-up from WCPFC9.

This letter is circulated as requested by the European Union.

Thanks



Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director



COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES AFFAIRES MARITIMES ET DE LA PÊCHE

AFFAIRES INTERNATIONALES ET MARCHÉS

AFFAIRES INTERNATIONALES, DROIT DE LA MER ET ORGANISATIONS RÉGIONALES DE PÊCHE

Brussels,
MARE/B.1/ND/ARES(2013)

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P.O. Box 2356, Kolonia, Pohnpei
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Subject: Follow-up to WCPFC9 – different issues

Dear Prof. Hurry,

Please find below for your attention the following information.

Comments on the WCPFC9 draft record

Following WCPFC Circular 2012-95, please find hereunder the EU comments on the WCPFC9 draft record.

- Para. 87: you will find attached to this letter the EU report on Article 30. I would be grateful if it could be attached to the meeting report and if a reference could be added in paragraph 87.

In addition, the following correction should be introduced: "Key areas mentioned were consideration of SIDS needs when drafting proposals for the Commission; numerous ~~regional and national~~ fisheries projects in the WCPO at regional and national level, and trade actions to facilitate SIDS's imports to the EU."

- Para. 127: Please replace "BET and SKJ" with "tropical tuna"
- Para. 139: Please add the underlined wording: "The EU continues to recommend a total closure period for the fishery (rather than a FAD closure) as it is concerned with the enforcement of the FAD closure. The EU is also concerned about the increase in fishing effort in archipelagic waters since 2004."
- Para. 404: Please modify as follows: "It noted a similar proposal has been adopted by ICCAT and IOTC ~~considered by ICCAT and IATTC~~."

I would be grateful if those comments could be taken into account in the revised draft.

Comments on CMM 2012/01

Following WCPFC Circular 2012-93 on CMM 2012/01, we have noted that the dates in Article 24 and 25 should be updated (2013 instead of 2009). The text should be adapted to reflect the correct date.

IWG-CDS

WCPFC9 adopted the terms of reference for the IWG-CDS. It was also decided that the location and Chair for the first meeting of the IWG-CDS would be agreed inter-sessionally. Given current budgetary constraints and the high number of WCPFC meetings already scheduled for this year, we would strongly favour this working group to work electronically whenever possible.

We would therefore propose that CCMs first elect a Chair, noting the proposal for this WG to be chaired by Mr. Alois Kinol of PNG. The newly elected chair would then - based on the Terms of Reference of this WG - produce a draft text on which comments would be sought in an electronic way. The final text could be discussed and agreed upon during a dedicated session of the annual meeting. We consider this could be an efficient way of proceeding and hope that other Members will support this approach.


New Head of Delegation to WCPFC

Last but not least, I would like to take the opportunity to inform you that Angela Martini will be replacing Roberto Cesari as the Head of the EU Delegation to WCPFC. Please make the necessary changes in your official correspondence.

I would kindly ask you to circulate this letter for information to all WCPFC Members and Cooperating Non Members.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Kind regards,


(s.) Veronika VEITS
Head of Unit

Encl.: 1

Report of the European Union on Article 30 of the Convention and Resolution 2008-01 of WCPFC

XX November 2012

The main EU source of support to the Pacific region is the European Development Fund. For the period 2008-2012 (EDF9/10) some 42 million USD have been allocated for fisheries projects in the Pacific to pursue the double objective of promoting sustainable management and ensuring maximum economic benefits for the region from these resources. This includes about 22 million USD allocated to fishery under the EDF10 regional program.

The projects funded by the EU are in their majority implemented by the two regional agencies: FFA and SPC and directly benefit the work of WCPFC. In addition, individual EU Member States also provide assistance to the region, for example the Netherlands have in 2010 contributed nearly 26 000 USD to the WCPFC Western Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project. The definition of the priorities and the implementation take into account the need of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The involvement of SIDS in the process is a key principle of our action. The European Consensus on Development (2005) reflects the EU's willingness to eradicate poverty and build a more stable and equitable world. One of the key principles is that the EU is not imposing solution. To the contrary, developing countries are mainly responsible for their own development - based on national strategies developed in collaboration with non-government bodies, and mobilising domestic resources. EU aid is aligned with these national strategies and procedures.

The Communication on a renewed EU-Pacific development partnership published in 2012 also highlights the importance of cooperation on fishery. With a strong focus on adaptation to Climate Change, the Communication puts the focus on the need to step up political cooperation and pursue a coherent agenda in terms of development assistance, sustainable exploitation of national resources and trade. The EU is willing to pursue and step up its dialogue and cooperation with the countries of the region and the regional agencies, FFA and SPC.

The projects funded by the EU are along 4 axes:

1. Domestic industry development in the Pacific

The first cycle of DEVFISH €4m concluded successfully in 2009. A second cycle, DEVFISHII of 11 million USD started in 2010. It builds on the achievements of the first project with an overall objective to contribute to the establishment of a policy and economic environment conducive to the further development of Pacific islands owned fishing and processing operations and to an increased contribution of foreign fleets to the economic development of those countries. On regional level it provides assistance with analysis, consultation and training on shared and common aspects of tuna development. On national level it helps strengthening the cooperation between government and private sector, understanding and complying with seafood safety requirements, and provides training to competent authorities, fishery companies as well as small scale processors supplying local markets.

After supporting a number of projects in 2010-2011 (Report of the European Union on Article 30 of the Convention and Resolution 2008-01 of WCPFC of 29 March 2012), this work has continued in 2012. Recent activities at regional and national level include training the authorities responsible for certifying fish exports to Europe from Fiji, PNG and Solomon Islands; strengthening of national fishing industry associations; and the development of new

IT systems to monitor licensing and fishing activities in the region. Workshops to discuss issues of fisheries management and development have been held in Cook Islands, PNG, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu bringing together national associations and other important stakeholders. The project installed IT systems in Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, RMI, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu, to enhance countries' capacity to analyse illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Examples of concrete achievements in 2012 include:

- A survey of Tuna transshipment in PICs, and reports on the Strategic position for MSG in the future management and development for South Pacific albacore fisheries and on Market and Industry Dynamics in the Global Tuna Supply Chain were published in June and July 2012.
- Six (6) Solomon Islands students in Marine Resources studies at University of Natural Resources and Environment in Papua New Guinea undertook their graduate development training program with Soltai and NFD in Noro, SI.
- Printing and circulation of the newly developed regional purse seine training curriculum and guides to all PIC training institutes
- Pre-feasibility assessment of a pilot project in **mobile telephone** as a sea safety tool was undertaken in PNG in April 2012. Mobile sea safety tool in small tuna fisheries phone technology is widely accessible in certain countries of the region. This important technological tool is assessed be employed to address safety at sea
- Printing and circulation of the newly developed **manual for fishing cooperatives** for PNG.
- Workshop organised for the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association

2. Improved conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks through collection, reporting, verification, exchange and analysis of fisheries data and related information and 3. Stock assessment and scientific research

These two axes are supported by two programmes:

SCICOFISH will provide a reliable and improved scientific basis for management and decision making in oceanic and coastal fisheries. It also aims to ensure that P-ACP governments, private sector and communities are equipped to monitor coastal fisheries to provide scientific advice in support of sustainable management of these resources. Examples of recent achievements (2011/12) under the project:

- completed important regional assessments for the main species of tuna,
- tagged over 4,000 bigeye tuna in the central Pacific Ocean,
- carried out recent tuna data audits in FSM, Fiji, RMI and Vanuatu resulting in the identification of missing data and more complete estimates of national catches for those countries;
- launched an online training programme for management of sea cucumber and
- provided training to fisheries staff in Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu in the monitoring and management of sea cucumber resources in their countries

ACP FISHII aim to ensure that fisheries resources under the jurisdiction of ACP countries are exploited in a sustainable manner. It has two result areas: Improvement of fisheries policies, legislation and management plans at regional and national level; and Strengthened MCS Capabilities. In the Pacific during 2012 the project has organised workshops on regional monitoring and on design of national MCS strategies, provided technical assistance to develop

a standard national MCS operations manual in five countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Tonga and Vanuatu), technical assistance for officers in formulating policy instruments. In total for 2012-2013 8 projects will be implemented or have already been implemented for this period, (5 were implemented under the period 2010-11); 24 workshops will be organized; and over 600 people will be trained.

4. monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement, including training and capacity-building at the local level, development and funding of national and regional observer programmes and access to technology and equipment

DEVFISHII, SCICOFISH and ACPFISHII all contribute in different ways to MCS and the fight against IUU

Under ACPFISHII workshops were organised on regional monitoring and on design of national MCS strategies and technical assistance to develop a standard national MCS operations manual was provided in five countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Tonga and Vanuatu),

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In 2011 the European Commission adopted a strategic document proposing principles to guide the actions of the European Union in its external fisheries policy¹. It expresses strong commitment to ensure coherence of the EU's policies in fisheries, development, trade, research and innovation, among others.

The EU strongly supports the process of reviewing the steps taken in recognising the special requirements of Small Island Developing States and Territories. The EU will continue to report regularly on relevant new initiatives.

¹ Commission Communication on the External Dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy (COM(2011) 424 final)