



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Islands Regional Office
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JAN 12 2015

Mr. Aaron Nighswander, Interim Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 2356, Kolonia
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Mr. Nighswander:

I would like to update the Commission with respect to the application of WCPFC and IATTC conservation and management measures to U.S. fishing vessels in the area of overlap between the two organizations. Specifically, the area of overlap includes the waters bounded by 150° and 130° W. longitude and 4° and 50° S. latitude.

In accordance with the joint decision of the WCPFC (paragraph 80 of the report of WCPFC9) and the IATTC (Resolution C-12-11), the United States has initiated the rulemaking process necessary to decide which of the two organizations' conservation and management measures will be applied to U.S. fishing vessels in the area of overlap, as well as to apply them accordingly through regulations. We anticipate the rulemaking process to be completed in 2015 and will inform the Commission when the U.S. regulations are in place. Until rulemaking is completed, the U.S. government will continue to apply the management measures of both organizations to U.S. fishing vessels in the area of overlap, as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray Clarke".

Raymond Clarke
Fisheries Biologist

cc: David Hogan, 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
Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director, IATTC

