



**COMMISSION
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Denarau Island, Fiji
5 – 9 December, 2016

**PROPOSAL ON MANAGEMENT OF PURSE SEINE FISHING CAPACITY IN THE WESTERN
AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (WCPFC) CONVENTION AREA**

**WCPFC13-2016-DP26
11 November 2016**

Proposal from Japan

Proposal by Japan on Management of Purse Seine Fishing Capacity in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention Area

Explanatory Note:

As shown at the previous meetings, Japan believes the over-capacity is one of the most important problems the Commission has to solve expeditiously.

WCPFC10 made important decisions to address this issue; 1) freeze the number of purse seine vessels of CCMs other than SIDS and Indonesia larger than 24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S as of the current level and 2) development of a scheme to jointly reduce the capacity of those purse seine vessels flying their flag to the level of 31 December 2012 among CCMs other than SIDS.

For the purpose of execution of the 2nd decision above, Japan submitted the joint reduction proposal for discussion at WCPFC11 and WCPFC12. However, little discussion took place at those meetings.

For WCPFC13, Japan submits the proposal putting more focus on comprehensive capacity management of purse seine vessels larger than 24m with freezing capacity authorized to fish in the Convention area between 20N and 20S (LSPSVs). The most significant difference from the previous ones is the addition of a paragraph to freeze the number of LSPSVs as of 31 October, 2016. In addition to this Japan expects the transfer of capacity from non-SIDS CCMs to SIDS will take place under the proposed scheme.

Japan looks forward to constructive discussion on this proposal.

Application of CMM2013-06:

a. Who is required to implement the proposed revised provisions of the CMM?

Commission Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CCMs)

b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what way(s) and what proportion?

Mostly on Commission Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CCMs), other than SIDS, which are required to develop a scheme to jointly reduce the capacity of LSPSVs.

c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other regional fisheries management organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?

None

d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities for SIDS?

The proposal may affect in a short term development opportunities for SIDS adversely because it proposes the freezing of the total capacity. In the medium to long term, however, it is expected to contribute to the fishery development of SIDS by facilitating transfer of capacity from non-SIDS to SIDS while maintaining or further reducing the overall capacity, which will contribute to sustainable use of tuna resources.

e. Does the proposal affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations?

See the above answer to d.

f. What resources, including financial and human capacity, are needed by SIDS to implement the proposal?

None

g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?

None; in the medium to long term, however, it is expected to contribute to the fishery development of SIDS by facilitating transfer of capacity from non-SIDS to SIDS while maintaining or further reducing the overall capacity, which will contribute to sustainable use of tuna resources.

h. What assistance mechanisms and associated timeframe, including training and financial support, are included in the proposal to avoid a disproportionate burden on SIDS?

None; in the medium to long term, however, it is expected to contribute to the fishery development of SIDS by facilitating transfer of capacity from non-SIDS to SIDS while maintaining or further reducing the overall capacity, which will contribute to sustainable use of tuna resources.

Proposal by Japan on Management of Purse Seine Fishing Capacity in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention Area

The Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CCMs) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission:

Concerned that the fishing capacity and effort of tuna purse seine fishing vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area have increased drastically during the last decade and that such increase is still continuing;

Also Concerned that the increasing fishing capacity and effort significantly diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's existing CMMs;

Noting that paragraph 49 of CMM 2015-01 stipulates that "Other than SIDS and Indonesia, CCMs shall not increase the number of purse seine vessels flying their flag larger than 24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S above the current level.";

Noting also that paragraph 54 of CMM 2015-01 stipulates that "CCMs, other than SIDS, shall jointly develop a scheme to jointly reduce the capacity of LSPSVs to the level of 31 December 2012 and submit it to WCPFC11";

Concerned that little discussion took place at WCPFC 11 and 12 on the proposal to achieve such joint reduction of the capacity of LSPSVs;

Acknowledging the legitimate rights of developing States, in particular SIDS, to develop and manage their domestic tuna fisheries;

Recognizing that the capacity management will contribute to the conservation of resources in combination with the VDS; and

Noting that no CMM shall prejudice the sovereign rights of coastal States granted under UNCLOS;

Adopts, in accordance with the Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention, that:

1. The total number of purse seine vessels larger than 24m with freezing capacity which are authorized to fish in the Convention area between 20N and 20S (hereinafter "LSPSVs") shall not be increased above XXX (*the level as of 31 October 2016: figure will be provided from the service provider*).
2. As an initial step towards the capacity reduction of LSPSVs flying the flag of non-SIDS CCMs, any non-SIDS CCM which increased the number of LSPSVs flying its own flag from the level as of 31 December 2012 shall reduce the number to the level as of 31 December 2012 by the end of 2017. The reduced number shall be reserved to increase the number of LSPSVs flying the flag of developing Members.
3. No later than 2019, non-SIDS CCMs shall jointly develop a scheme to further reduce the capacity of LSPSVs to the level of 31 December 2012.
4. In developing the scheme in paragraph 3, non-SIDS CCMs shall consider: (1) transfer of capacity to SIDS; (2) scrapping of capacity; and (3) transfer of capacity to other oceans, provided that there is no over-capacity in those oceans. If a non-SIDS CCM reduces the number of its LSPSVs from the level as of 31 December 2012 by transferring them to SIDS, such reduced number shall be counted as the capacity reduction of LSPSVs in the same way as the reduction of capacity by scrapping.