



TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION
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**REVISIONS TO CMM 2012-07 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE
TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF FISHING FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH
STOCKS ON SEABIRDS
– EXPLANATORY NOTE AND APPLICATION OF CMM 2013-06**

**WCPFC12-2015-DP02a
30 October 2015**

Proposal by Japan

Revisions to CMM 2012-07 Conservation and Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Seabirds

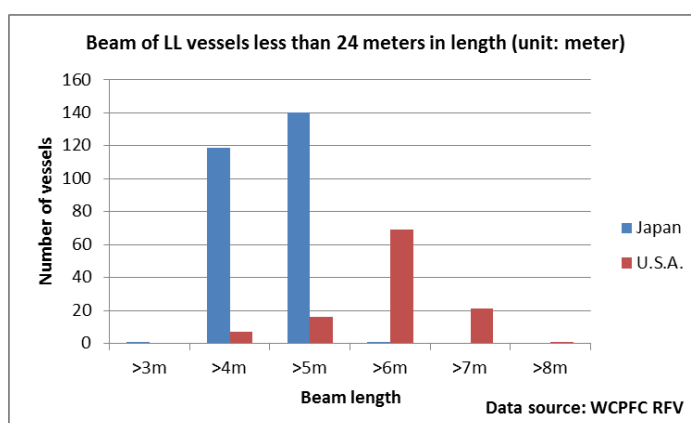
Proposal by Japan

Explanatory Note:

In relation to paragraph 10 of CMM2012-07, this proposal is to set the date, 1 January 2017, by which CCMs have to ensure that their longline vessels less than 24 meters in length (small longline vessels) employ at least one seabird mitigation method when those vessels fish in the Convention Area north of 23° North latitude.

In the past three (3) years, Japan submitted SC the results of research on this matter. At SC9 Japan evaluated the effectiveness of various mitigation measures on longline operations in the North Pacific Ocean (WCPFC-SC9-2013/ EB-WP-11 Rev 1). The results clearly showed that the single use of tori line measure effectively reduced seabird attack and bycatch rates in pelagic longline operations in the Western and Central North Pacific Ocean even without using weighted branch lines. At SC10 Japan presented information on the utilization of seabird mitigation techniques voluntarily used in Japanese small longline vessels operated in the North Pacific Ocean (WCPFC-SC10-2014/ EB-WP-07). In that survey, almost all fishing masters were concerned about usage of long streamers, double tori line and towing devices, because those devices caused tori-line entanglement with fishing gear in rough sea. This fishing masters' concern also suggests that careful examination is necessary before deciding appropriate designs of tori line for small scale longliners for safety reason as well as for fishing efficiency. At SC11 Japan evaluated the effectiveness of the 2 designs of tori line, including tori-line without streamer, on small longline vessels (Hanei-Marun No. 188, 19 GRT) in the North Pacific Ocean (WCPFC-SC11-2015/ EB-WP-10 Rev 1). The results indicated that both designs of tori-lines deployed in this experiment substantially reduced seabird bait attack and by-catch without showing major difference between 2 designs. This survey also shows that trial implementation of a light streamer tori line caused entanglement of fishing gear during the line setting. Taking into consideration those results, the proposal contains a new specification of tori line for small longline vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of 23° North latitude. (Annex 1, 2 c).

In relation to the proposal, i.e. new sentence added to paragraph 2, this proposal also considered the difference in size of beam between Japanese small longline vessels and U.S.A.'s one, which are related to ensuring safety of operations.



Application of CMM2013-06:

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

All CCMs with longline vessels less than 24 meters in length used for fishing in the Convention Area north of 23° North latitude.

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

All CCM as described in response to question (a) will have to take action to ensure that its affected longline vessels employ specific seabird mitigation methods in areas north of 23° North latitude, and bear the associated costs.

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 this proposal affect development opportunities for SIDS?

To the extent any SIDS wants to develop a longline fishery involving vessels less than 24 meters in length operating north of 23° North latitude, this proposal could affect that opportunity by potentially bringing greater operational costs to the fishing vessels under the responsibility of such SIDS.

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

This proposal will not affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations.

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

All SIDS that develops a longline fishery involving vessels less than 24 meters in length operating north of 23° North latitude will have to ensure that the operators of such vessels employ the required seabird mitigation requirements. This could require financial investments into mitigation equipment and training of vessels operators and crew. Vessel operators would be able to choose among several mitigation methods, as described in paragraph 2 of the CMM, so the financial costs would depend on the methods chosen and whether the affected vessel operators would have invested in the equipment in any case. The equipment options could include bird curtains, reconfiguring the vessel deck to accommodate side-setting, tori lines, weights for branch lines, blue dye, and/or deep-setting line shooters. Two of the mitigation options, night-setting and management of strategic offal discharge, would not require direct investment into equipment but might bring operational costs associated with using the methods. SIDSs might also have to invest in outreach/training for fishermen to ensure they have the capacity to employ the mitigation methods as required.

g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?

None

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