



FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

8-12 December 2008

Busan, Korea

VIEWS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON THE DRAFT CMM FOR BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN TUNA

WCPFC5-2008/DP34

11 December 2008

The Republic of Korea, as a member of this Commission and as a responsible fishing state, is in support of a 30% reduction in fishing mortality on bigeye tuna over the next 3 years, having due regard to the advice from the Scientific Committee. To this end, Korea can go along with the FAD closure for a certain period of time and the VDS in a cooperative manner and spirit.

However, we do think it reasonable to remove Paragraph 15 and Paragraph 15 Alternative in the Chair's draft CMM(WCPFC 2008-DP01 Rev 4). As the Commission is heading towards the adoption and implementation of conservation and management measures for bigeye and yellowfin tuna for the high seas such as the FAD closure and the VDS, the Republic of Korea does not, at this moment, believe these Paragraphs are necessary and appropriate.

To be more specific, we in the Commission are expecting the FAD closure to be adopted and implemented in 2009. At this stage, as we are now considering the introduction of the VDS, we don't need any additional measures of HS pockets closure. Again, we think the HS pockets closure is incompatible with EEZ measures.

In relation to Paragraph 12(b), we do recognize the PNA position, as reflected in the Third PNA Arrangement. However, as far as we are concerned, our understanding is that the Arrangement is a PNA measure. We therefore believe that it may not be appropriate to include the detailed conditions in this CMM.

The Republic of Korea, as a responsible fishing state, has, as ever, sincerely complied with conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. We continue to commit ourselves to fishing on the high seas in a responsible manner and to work together with other CCMs to prevent IUU fishing on the high seas.

Finally, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of the coastal states to implement and enforce their own effective measures, it is to be noted that the conservation and management measures for the high seas are supposed to be adopted in full consultation and cooperation between fishing and coastal states, preferably by consensus.