



**COMMISSION  
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea  
5 – 11 December 2019

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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO ESTABLISH  
A LIST OF VESSELS PRESUMED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT  
ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE WCPO**

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**Conservation and Management Measure 2019-07<sup>1</sup>**

*The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):*

*Recalling* that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU). This plan stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory way.

*Concerned* that IUU fishing activities in the Convention Area undermine the effectiveness of the conservation measures adopted by the WCPFC.

*Further concerned* that there is a possibility that vessel owners engaged in such fishing activities may have re-flagged their vessels to avoid compliance with WCPFC measures.

*Determined* to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of measures to be applied in respect to vessels, without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of CCMs and non CCMs under the relevant WCPFC instruments.

*Considering* the action undertaken in other regional tuna fisheries organizations to address this issue;

*Conscious* of the need to address, as a matter of priority, the issue of vessels conducting IUU fishing activities;

*Noting* that efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with other international obligations, including the rights and obligations established under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement; and

*Recalling* Articles 23 and 25 of the WCPF Convention regarding the obligations of members of the Commission and provisions for compliance and enforcement;

*Adopts the following conservation and management measures in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention:*

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<sup>1</sup> This CMM revises and replaces CMM 2010-07

## Identification of IUU activities

1. At each annual meeting, the Commission will identify those vessels which have engaged in fishing activities for species covered by the Convention within the Convention Area in a manner which has undermined the effectiveness of the WCPF Convention and the WCPFC measures in force, and shall establish, and, as necessary, amend in subsequent years, a list of such vessels (the IUU Vessel List), in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out in this conservation measure.
2. This identification shall be suitably documented, *inter alia*, on reports from Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (collectively CCMs) relating to WCPFC Conservation measures in force, trade information obtained on the basis of relevant trade statistics such as Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) data, statistical documents and other national or international verifiable statistics, as well as any other information obtained from port States and/or gathered from the fishing grounds that is suitably documented. Information from CCMs should be provided in the format approved by the Commission.
3. For the purposes of this conservation measure, vessels fishing for species covered by the WCPFC Convention are presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities, as described in the IPOA on IUU fishing, in the Convention Area when a CCM presents suitably documented information that such vessels, *inter alia*:
  - a. Harvest species covered by the WCPFC Convention in the Convention Area and are neither on the WCPFC record of authorized vessels nor a fishing vessel fishing exclusively in waters under the jurisdiction of its flag State, or
  - b. Conduct fishing activities in waters under the jurisdiction of a coastal State, without permission of that State, or in contravention of its law and regulations, or
  - c. Do not record or report their catches made in the Convention Area consistent with WCPFC measures, or make false reports, or
  - d. Take and land undersized fish in a way that undermines WCPFC conservation measures, or
  - e. Fish in a closed area or during a closed season in a way that undermines WCPFC conservation measures, or
  - f. Use prohibited fishing gear in a way that undermines WCPFC conservation measures, or
  - g. Tranship with, participate in joint fishing operations with, support or re-supply vessels included in the IUU Vessel List, or
  - h. Are without nationality and harvest species covered by the WCPFC Convention in the Convention Area, or
  - i. Engage in any other fishing activities that undermine the provisions of the WCPF Convention or any other WCPFC conservation measures, or
  - j. Are under the control of the owner of any vessel on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List. (Procedures for applying this paragraph are attached as Annex A)

### **Information on alleged IUU fishing activities**

4. At least 70 days before the annual meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC), CCMs shall transmit to the Executive Director their list of vessels presumed to be carrying out IUU activities in the Convention Area during the current or the previous year, accompanied by suitably documented information, as provided in para 2, concerning the presumption of this IUU activity.
5. Before or at the same time as transmitting a list of presumed IUU vessels to the Executive Director, the CCM shall notify, either directly or through the Executive Director, the relevant flag State of a vessel's inclusion on this list and provide a copy of the pertinent suitably documented information. The flag State shall promptly acknowledge receipt of the notification. If no acknowledgement is received within 10 days of the date of transmittal, the CCM shall retransmit the notification through an alternative means of communication.

### **Draft IUU Vessel List**

6. The Executive Director shall draw up a draft IUU Vessel List incorporating the lists of vessels and suitably documented information received pursuant to para 4, and any other suitably documented information at his disposal, and shall transmit it, together with all the supporting information provided, to all CCMs, as well as to non-CCMs with vessels on the list, at least 55 days before the TCC's annual meeting.
7. The Executive Director shall request each CCM and non-CCM with vessels on the draft IUU Vessel List to notify the owner of the vessels of their inclusion in that list, and of the consequences of their inclusion being confirmed in the IUU Vessel List.
8. Upon receipt of the draft IUU Vessel List, CCMs shall closely monitor the vessels included in that list in order to follow their activities and possible changes of name, flag or registered owner.
9. As appropriate, CCMs and non-CCMs with vessels on the list should transmit, at least 10 days before the TCC's annual meeting, their comments to the Executive Director, including suitably documented information, showing that the vessels have fished in a manner consistent with WCPFC conservation measures or the laws and regulations of a State when fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of that State, or have fished exclusively for species not covered by the WCPFC Convention.
10. The Executive Director shall re-circulate the draft IUU Vessel List, 7 days in advance of the TCC's annual meeting, to the CCMs and the non-CCMs concerned, together with all the suitably documented information provided pursuant to paras 4 and 9 above.
11. CCMs and non-CCMs may at any time submit to the Executive Director any additional suitably documented information regarding any vessels on the draft IUU Vessel List. The Executive Director shall circulate this additional information to all CCMs and to the non-CCMs concerned immediately upon receipt of such information.

### **Provisional and current IUU Vessel List**

12. The WCPFC's IUU Vessel List adopted during the previous year, as well as any new suitably documented information regarding this list, including intersessional amendments, shall be transmitted to CCMs and the non-CCMs concerned in conjunction with the draft IUU Vessel List and materials outlined in para 6.

13. CCMs and non-CCMs with vessels on the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List should transmit at least 30 days before the annual meeting of the TCC, but may submit at any time, to the Executive Director suitably documented information regarding any of the vessels on the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List, including, where appropriate, suitably documented information as provided for in paragraph 25. The Executive Director shall re-circulate the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List two weeks in advance of the annual meeting of the TCC to the CCMs and non-CCMs concerned, together with all the information provided pursuant to paragraph 12 and this paragraph.
14. At its annual meeting, the TCC shall:
  - (i) following consideration of the draft IUU Vessel List and the suitably documented information circulated under paras 6, 10 and 11, adopt a Provisional IUU Vessel List; and
  - (ii) following consideration of the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List and the suitably documented information circulated under paras 12 and 13, recommend to the Commission which, if any, vessels should be removed from the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List.
15. The TCC shall not include a vessel on the Provisional IUU Vessel List if the vessel's flag State demonstrates that:
  - a. The vessel fished in a manner consistent with WCPFC Conservation Measures or the laws and regulations of a State when fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of that State, or have fished exclusively for species not covered by the WCPFC Convention, or
  - b. Effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, such as, *inter alia*, prosecution or the imposition of sanctions of adequate severity; or
  - c. That the case regarding the vessel or vessels that conducted IUU fishing activities has been settled to the satisfaction of the CCM that originally submitted the vessel for listing and the flag State involved.
16. The TCC shall not include a vessel on the Provisional IUU Vessel List if the notifying CCM did not follow the provisions of para 5.
17. The TCC shall recommend removal of a vessel from the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List only if the vessel's flag State submits to the Executive Director the information provided in para 25 of this measure.
18. Following the examination referred to in para 14, the TCC shall submit the Provisional IUU Vessel List to the Commission for its consideration, and as appropriate, recommend any proposed changes to the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List.
19. The draft IUU Vessel List, Provisional IUU Vessel List, and the WCPFC IUU Vessel List shall contain the following details for each vessel:
  - (i) name and previous names, if any;
  - (ii) flag and previous flags, if any;
  - (iii) owner and previous owners, including beneficial owners, if any;

- (iv) operator and previous operators, if any;
- (v) master of the vessel at the time of the IUU fishing activities, and the nationality(ies) of that master;
- (vi) call sign and previous call signs, if any;
- (vii) Lloyds/IMO number;
- (viii) photographs, where available;
- (ix) date first included on the IUU Vessel List; and
- (x) summary of activities which justify inclusion of the vessel on the list, together with references to all relevant documents informing of and evidencing those activities.

### **WCPFC IUU Vessel List**

20. At its annual meeting the Commission shall review the Provisional IUU Vessel List, taking into account any new suitably documented information related to vessels on the Provisional IUU Vessel List, and any recommendations to amend the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List made pursuant to paragraph 18 above, and adopt a new WCPFC IUU Vessel List. To the maximum extent possible CCMs and non CCMs shall provide any new suitably documented information at least two weeks before the annual meeting of the Commission.
21. Upon adopting the new WCPFC IUU Vessel List, the Commission shall request CCMs and non-CCMs with vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List to:
  - a. notify the owner of the vessels of its inclusion on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List and the consequences that result from being included in the list, and
  - b. take all the necessary measures to eliminate these IUU fishing activities, including, if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration or the fishing licenses of these vessels, and to inform the Commission of the measures taken in this respect.
22. CCMs shall take all necessary non-discriminatory measures under their applicable legislation, international law and each CCMs' international obligations, and pursuant to paras 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to:
  - a. ensure that fishing vessels, support vessels, mother ships or cargo vessels flying their flag do not participate in any transshipment or joint fishing operations with, support or re-supply vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List;
  - b. ensure that vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List that enter ports voluntarily are not authorized to land, tranship, refuel or re-supply therein but are inspected upon entry;
  - c. prohibit the chartering of a vessel on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List;
  - d. refuse to grant their flag to vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List in accordance with para 1f, Section A, in Conservation and Management Measure 2018-06 or its replacement measure;

- e. prohibit commercial transactions, imports, landings and/or transshipment of species covered by the WCPFC Convention from vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List;
  - f. encourage traders, importers, transporters and others involved, to refrain from transactions in, and transshipment of, species covered by the WCPFC Convention caught by vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List;
  - g. collect, and exchange with other CCMs, any appropriate information with the aim of searching for, controlling and preventing false import/export certificates for species covered by the WCPFC Convention from vessels on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List.
23. The Executive Director shall take any measure necessary to ensure publicity of the WCPFC IUU Vessel List, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, including placing it on the WCPFC website. Furthermore, the Executive Director shall transmit the WCPFC IUU Vessel List to the FAO and to other regional fisheries organizations for the purposes of enhancing cooperation between the WCPFC and these organizations aimed at preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing.
24. Without prejudice to the rights of CCMs and coastal states to take proper action, consistent with international law, including applicable WTO obligations, the CCMs shall not take any unilateral trade measures or other sanctions against vessels on the draft or Provisional IUU Vessel Lists, pursuant to paras 6 or 14, or that have been removed from the WCPFC IUU Vessel List, pursuant to paras 17 and 20, on the grounds that such vessels are involved in IUU fishing activities.

#### **Modification of the WCPFC IUU Vessel List**

25. CCMs and non-CCMs with a vessel on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List may request the removal of the vessel from the list at any time during the intersessional period by submitting to the Executive Director suitably documented information demonstrating that:
- a) it has adopted measures that will seek to ensure that the vessel complies with all WCPFC measures; and
  - b) it will be able to assume effectively flag state duties with regards to the monitoring and control of the vessel's fishing activities in the Convention Area; and
  - c) it has taken effective action in response to the IUU fishing activities that resulted in the vessel's inclusion in the WCPFC IUU Vessel List, including prosecution or the imposition of sanctions of adequate severity; or
  - d) the vessel has changed ownership and that the new owner can establish that the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in the vessel or exercises control over it, and that the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing activities, or
  - e) the case regarding the vessel or vessels that conducted IUU fishing activities has been settled to the satisfaction of the CCM that originally submitted the vessel for listing and the flag State involved.

26. The Executive Director will transmit the removal request, with all the supporting information, to the CCMs within 15 days following the receipt of the removal request. CCMs shall promptly acknowledge receipt of the removal request. If no acknowledgement is received within 10 days of the date of transmittal, the Executive Director shall retransmit the removal request and shall use additional means available to ensure the request has been received.
27. Each Commission Member shall examine the removal request and notify the Executive Director in writing of its decision, and the rationale therefore, regarding the removal of the vessel within 40 days following the notification by the Executive Director. Decisions on the request to remove the vessel shall be made in accordance with Rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure.
28. If Commission Members agree to the removal of the vessel from the WCPFC IUU Vessel List within the period stipulated in para 27, the Executive Director will inform CCMs, non-CCMs, FAO and other regional fisheries management organizations, and will remove the vessel from the WCPFC IUU Vessel List, as published on the WCPFC website.
29. If Commission Members disagree with the request for the removal of the vessel from the IUU Vessel List, the vessel will be maintained on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List and the Executive Director will inform the CCMs and/or non-CCMs that made the removal request.

#### **Review**

30. This Conservation and Management Measure shall be subject to review and, as appropriate, revision by the TCC.

**PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING  
PARAGRAPH 3(J) OF WCPFC CMM 2010-06**

These procedures are to be followed by the Commission in applying paragraph 3(j) of this CMM. The procedures must work in concert and not conflict with the procedures outlined in this CMM, and the rules and responsibilities of TCC and the Commission.

**Ownership and control**

1. For the purposes of these procedures, the legal or natural person(s) or entity/entities that own and control a vessel (the “owner(s) of record”) are those indicated on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels or the WCPFC Interim Register of non-Member Carrier and Bunker Vessels. If a vessel is not on either of those lists, then the owner of record is the owner or owners as indicated on the vessel’s national registration document.
2. For the purposes of these procedures, a vessel shall be considered to have the same owner(s) of record where one or more of the legal or natural person(/s) or entity/entities indicated on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels or the WCPFC Interim Register of non-Member Carrier and Bunker Vessels is the same. If a vessel is not on either of those lists, then the owner(s) of record is/are the same where one or more of the legal or natural person/s or entity/entities indicated on the vessel’s national registration document is/are the same.
3. For the purpose of considering whether to add or remove a vessel or vessels from the Provisional WCPFC IUU Vessel List or the WCPFC IUU Vessel List pursuant to paragraph 3j and paragraph 25(d) of this CMM, the owner(s) of record will not be considered to have changed unless the new owner(s) of record provides suitably documented information demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Commission that the ownership of the vessel has changed, that the previous owner(s) of record no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in it, and that the new owner(s) of record has not participated in any IUU fishing activities.

**Identification and nomination of vessels**

4. For the purposes of these procedures, a vessel may be nominated by a CCM under paragraph 3(j) of this CMM if it meets the condition in paragraph (a) below, and the conditions in either paragraphs (b) or (c) below:
  - a. The fishing vessel to be nominated:
    - i. is currently operating in the Convention Area; or
    - ii. has operated in the Convention Area at any time since the date of the infringement(s) that led to the listing of the underlying vessel(s) on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List (as defined below in paragraph (b)); and
    - iii. is, or was at any time since the date of infringement(s) that led to the listing of the underlying vessel(s) (as defined below in paragraph (b)) on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List, on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels or the WCPFC Interim Register of non-Member Carrier and Bunker Vessels.
  - b. The owner of record is the owner of record of three or more vessels currently on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List (hereafter “the underlying vessel(s)”).



- c. The owner of record has one or more vessels that have been included on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List for the last two years or more (hereafter “the underlying vessels”).

5. For the purposes of these procedures, all additional vessels fully or partly owned by the same owner of record as the underlying vessel(s) that meet condition 4(a) shall be considered together and either all or none will be placed on the WCPFC IUU Vessel List. Similarly, all additional vessels fully or partly owned by the same owner of record as the underlying vessel(s) that meet condition 4(a) will be considered as one and either all or none will be removed from the WCPFC IUU Vessel List.

### **Information to be provided**

6. CCMs shall submit suitably documented information demonstrating that the fishing vessels they wish to nominate under paragraph 3(j) of this CMM meet the criteria set out in paragraph 4 of these procedures. CCMs shall submit this information to the Executive Director 70 days before the annual meeting of the TCC along with the list of fishing vessels being nominated (hereinafter “3j” vessels).

7. Before or at the same time as transmitting a list of 3j vessels to the Executive Director, the CCM shall notify, either directly or through the Executive Director, the relevant flag State of the vessels’ inclusion on this 3j list, and provide a copy of the pertinent suitably documented information. The flag State shall promptly acknowledge receipt of the notification. If no acknowledgment is received within 10 days of the date of transmittal, the CCM shall retransmit the notification through an alternative means of communication.

### **Draft IUU Vessel List**

8. The Executive Director shall include on the Draft IUU Vessel List, which is drawn up and circulated in accordance with the provisions of this CMM, those 3j vessels that have been nominated by CCMs in accordance with these procedures.

9. The Executive Director shall notify the relevant flag states of the inclusion of their 3j vessels on the draft IUU Vessel List and of the consequences of these vessels being confirmed on the IUU Vessel List.

10. As appropriate, relevant flag states with 3j vessels on the Draft IUU Vessel List may transmit to the Executive Director, at least 10 days before the TCC’s annual meeting, suitably documented information showing the 3j vessels do not meet the criteria outlined in paragraph 4 of these procedures. The Executive Director shall circulate this information to all CCMs immediately upon receipt of such information.

11. Small island developing CCMs may provide additional information to the Executive Director prior to TCC, or anytime before the Annual Commission meeting to advise that the proposed IUU listing of such 3j vessels would constrain the operation of domestic processing, transshipment facilities, or associated vessels of small island developing CCMs, or would undermine existing investment in FFA member countries. The Executive Director shall circulate this information to all CCMs immediately upon receipt of such information.

### **Provisional and current WCPFC IUU Vessel List**

12. At its annual meeting, with respect to 3j vessels that are on the Draft IUU Vessel List, the TCC shall:

- a. consider suitably documented information, if any, provided by a CCM or a non-CCM, as well as any relevant information regarding the status of an investigation, judicial or administrative proceeding related to the underlying vessel(s) and the cooperation and responsiveness of the owner of record in such proceedings;
- b. consider information related to 3j vessels that may be submitted by small island developing CCMs pursuant to paragraph 11: and
- c. following consideration of this information, decide whether to include the nominated 3j vessels on the Provisional IUU Vessel List developed in accordance with the provisions of this CMM.

13. As appropriate, relevant flag states with 3j vessels on the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List may transmit, at least 20 days before the TCC's annual meeting, but may submit at any time, to the Executive Director suitably documented information showing the 3j vessels do not meet the criteria outlined in paragraph 4 of these procedures, or any other relevant information, including suitably documented information as provided for in paragraph 1. The Executive Director shall circulate this information to all CCMs immediately upon receipt of such information.

14. The TCC shall not include 3j vessels on the Provisional IUU Vessel List if suitably documented information is provided by any CCM that the vessels no longer have a common owner of record with the underlying vessel(s) that triggered the nomination under paragraph 4.

15. At its annual meeting, with respect to 3j vessels that are on the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List the TCC shall:

- a. consider suitably documented information, if any, provided by a CCM or non-CCM, as well as any relevant information regarding the status of an investigation, judicial or administrative proceeding related to the underlying vessel(s) and the cooperation and responsiveness of the owner of record in such proceedings; and
- b. following consideration of the suitably documented information, recommend to the Commission whether or not the 3j vessels should be removed from the WCPFC IUU Vessel List.

16. The TCC shall recommend removal of 3j vessels from the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List if suitably documented information:

- a. is provided that the vessels no longer have a common owner of record with the underlying vessel(s) that triggered the nomination under paragraph 4; or
- b. is provided that demonstrates that significant progress has been made to resolve the matter related to the underlying vessel(s) that triggered the nomination of the 3j vessels, and the CCM that originally submitted the 3j vessels for listing is satisfied.

#### **WCPFC IUU Vessel List**

17. Once 3j vessels are included on the Provisional IUU Vessel List, they shall be treated as part of that List and, where appropriate, the WCPFC IUU Vessel List, in accordance with paragraphs 20-24 of this CMM.

#### **Modification of the WCPFC IUU Vessel List**

18. Relevant flag states may request to remove 3j vessels from the WCPFC IUU Vessel List at any

time during the intercessional period by submitting to the Executive Director suitably documented information that:

- a. the vessels no longer have a common owner of record with the underlying vessel(s) that triggered the nomination under paragraph 4; or
- b. significant progress has been made to resolve the matter related to the underlying vessel(s) that triggered the nomination of the 3j vessels, and the CCM that originally submitted the 3j vessels for listing is satisfied.

19. Small island developing CCMs may also request removal of 3j vessels from the WCPFC IUU Vessel List at any time during the intercessional period by submitting to the Executive Director information that the listing of such 3j vessels has resulted in a disproportionate burden on the operation of domestic processing, transshipment facilities, or associated vessels of small island developing CCMs, or has undermined existing investment in FFA member countries.

20. Removal requests for 3j vessels shall be treated in accordance with paragraphs 26-29 of this CMM.

21. If the underlying vessel is removed from the WCPFC IUU List, all additional vessels fully or partly owned by the same owner of record as the underlying vessel(s) and listed pursuant to the 3j procedures contained herein will be automatically removed at the same time.