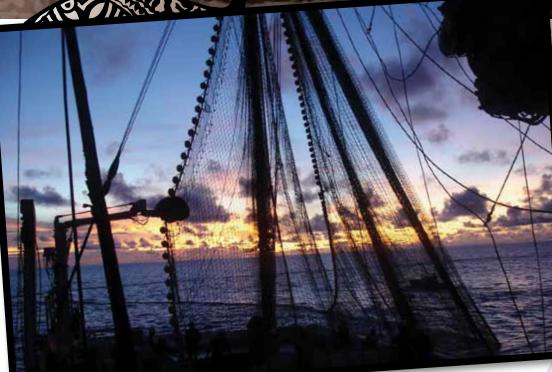
THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

WHAT HAS WCPFC DONE SO FAR

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PACIFIC POSTCARD: On the horizon: Pacific waters are looking more and more attractive to foreign fishing fleets, as other region's tuna stocks decline. The WCPFC manages this increasing interest through limiting its membership and setting the rules for fishing in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

PUTTING WORDS INTO ACTION: THE PACIFIC TUNA COMMISSION

Meeting milestones:

The entry into force of the Convention also meant the Commission could start doing the work of implementing what members had agreed to when they signed on. The key event of the Commission is the annual meeting where members of the Commission report on progress and problems with implementation of the Convention, and make critical decisions based on the most up to date information provided by the WCPFC committees.

Binding commitments – CMMs:

PACIFIC ISLANDS

OCEAN C FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Conservation and Management measures are an important part of the work of the Commission. The CMMs are a set of principles and measures members put in place to help conserve and manage fish stocks in the WCPFC area. CMMs are written and agreed by all the members of the WCPFC at their meetings.

Non-binding commitments – Resolutions:

Annual meetings of the WCPFC also make special recommendations or resolutions drawing the attention of all members to specific or special areas of concern, and these can end up becoming CMMs.

The precautionary approach:

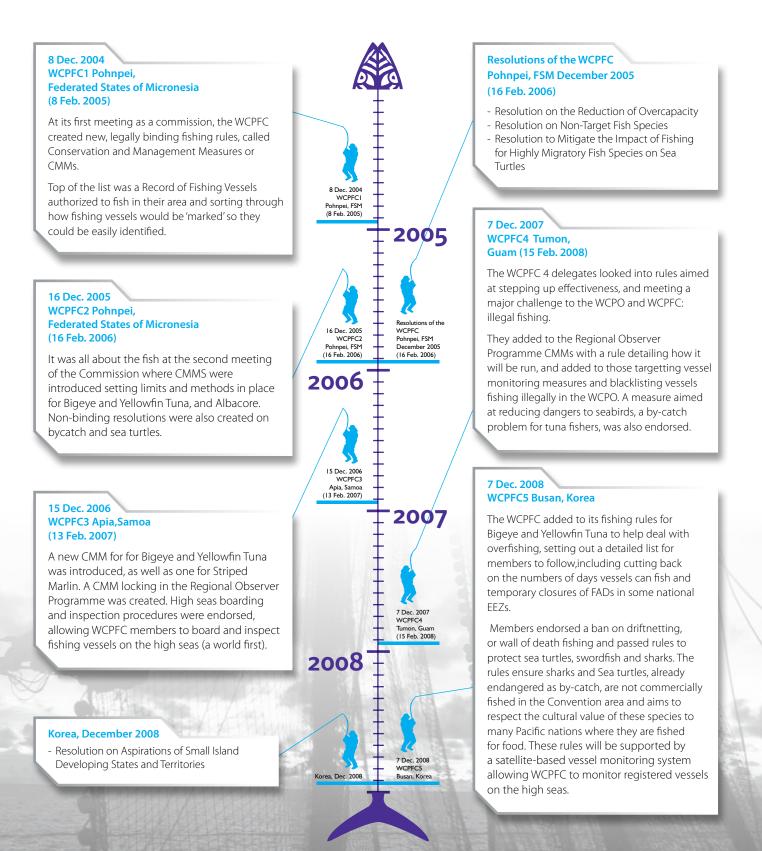
When it comes to conserving and managing the WCPFC area, members agree under the Convention that they will always be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable, or inadequate. Under the precautionary approach, nations must not use lack of scientific certainty as an excuse not to act, instead they should take measures to conserve fish stocks before it is too late. Our concern is while we in Papua New Guinea are introducing a lot of conservation measures in our national waters, Distant Water Fishing Nations are resisting any such measures for the high seas - Tuna is a highly migratory species and this will only mean that we are conserving tuna in our waters in order for DWFNs to harvest them in the high seas and we get no value out of that.

Sylvester Pokajam, Papua New Guinea Managing Director, National Fishing Authority

WCPFC DECISIONS

- Key Conservation and Management Measures and Resolutions

Date of Adoption: Meeting where CMM was adopted (Date of entry into Force)



MORE INFORMATION: Oceanic Fisheries Management Project: www.ffa.int/gef or email barbara.hanchard@ffa.int Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency: www.ffa.int or email info@ffa.int. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission: www.wcpfc.int or email wfpfc@mail.fm.

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