

HOW DOES THE WCPFC MAKE DECISIONS



PACIFIC POSTCARD: Decisions made by the WCPFC members ultimately affect Pacific livelihoods and access to fish, both as a commodity, and a food staple in Pacific diets.

DECISION-MAKING: HOW DOES THE WCPFC MAKE DECISIONS?

Quality information, quality decisions:

The scientific and technical committees of the Commission, as well as a range of working groups, provide information so that the members of the WCPFC can make the best possible decisions at their annual meetings.

Choices and decisions: Based on the information and national reports it receives, the Commission has to decide what actions to take in the best interests of the Convention. These decisions must never contravene, or go against, the spirit of the Convention, and are recorded by the Commission secretariat.

From decisions to actions: Commission staff and subsidiary bodies, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and other regional organisations also play a support role in ensuring Pacific members effectively participate in discussions and decision making made at Commission

meetings, and are able to implement measures back at home.

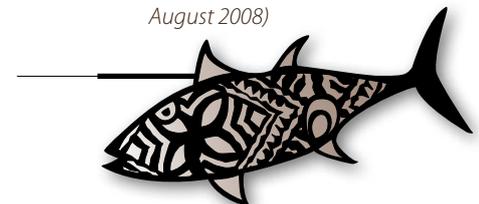
Consensus and voting: Universal agreement, or consensus, is the general rule for decision making by commission members during their annual meetings. Out of a total of 32 participating territories and members of the Commission, around half (17) are Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency members. This forms a significant voting bloc, although so far decisions have been made by consensus.

Voting and mediation: If consensus cannot be reached, voting, grounds for appealing decisions, conciliation and review are all part of the decision making process, as described in Article 20 of the Convention. Voting on issues can only be done by member countries and they have to vote in person, not by proxy, on the issue of contention.



Our success in addressing our common problems will continue to depend on our genuine commitments toward the implementation of agreed collective solutions.

- Toke Talagi, Niue Premier
(Opening the SIS leaders summit, August 2008)



HYPRLINK: <http://www.wcpfc.org/jf>

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

