

# WHAT HAS WCPFC DONE SO FAR



**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:

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

QUOTE HYPERLINK: <http://www.islandbusiness.com>

# WCPFC DECISIONS

## - Key Conservation and Management Measures and Resolutions

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

**8 Dec. 2004**  
**WCPFC1 Pohnpei,**  
**Federated States of Micronesia**  
**(8 Feb. 2005)**

At its first meeting as a commission, the WCPFC created new, legally binding fishing rules, called Conservation and Management Measures or CMMs.

Top of the list was a Record of Fishing Vessels authorized to fish in their area and sorting through how fishing vessels would be 'marked' so they could be easily identified.

**16 Dec. 2005**  
**WCPFC2 Pohnpei,**  
**Federated States of Micronesia**  
**(16 Feb. 2006)**

It was all about the fish at the second meeting of the Commission where CMMS were introduced setting limits and methods in place for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna, and Albacore. Non-binding resolutions were also created on bycatch and sea turtles.

**15 Dec. 2006**  
**WCPFC3 Apia, Samoa**  
**(13 Feb. 2007)**

A new CMM for for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna was introduced, as well as one for Striped Marlin. A CMM locking in the Regional Observer Programme was created. High seas boarding and inspection procedures were endorsed, allowing WCPFC members to board and inspect fishing vessels on the high seas (a world first).

**Korea, December 2008**

- Resolution on Aspirations of Small Island Developing States and Territories

**Resolutions of the WCPFC**  
**Pohnpei, FSM December 2005**  
**(16 Feb. 2006)**

- Resolution on the Reduction of Overcapacity
- Resolution on Non-Target Fish Species
- Resolution to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish Species on Sea Turtles

**7 Dec. 2007**  
**WCPFC4 Tumon,**  
**Guam (15 Feb. 2008)**

The WCPFC 4 delegates looked into rules aimed at stepping up effectiveness, and meeting a major challenge to the WCPO and WCPFC: illegal fishing.

They added to the Regional Observer Programme CMMs with a rule detailing how it will be run, and added to those targetting vessel monitoring measures and blacklisting vessels fishing illegally in the WCPO. A measure aimed at reducing dangers to seabirds, a by-catch problem for tuna fishers, was also endorsed.

**7 Dec. 2008**  
**WCPFC5 Busan, Korea**

The WCPFC added to its fishing rules for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna to help deal with overfishing, setting out a detailed list for members to follow, including cutting back on the numbers of days vessels can fish and temporary closures of FADs in some national EEZs.

Members endorsed a ban on driftnetting, or wall of death fishing and passed rules to protect sea turtles, swordfish and sharks. The rules ensure sharks and Sea turtles, already endangered as by-catch, are not commercially fished in the Convention area and aims to respect the cultural value of these species to many Pacific nations where they are fished for food. These rules will be supported by a satellite-based vessel monitoring system allowing WCPFC to monitor registered vessels on the high seas.



8 Dec. 2004  
 WCPFC1  
 Pohnpei, FSM  
 (8 Feb. 2005)

**2005**

16 Dec. 2005  
 WCPFC2  
 Pohnpei, FSM  
 (16 Feb. 2006)

**2006**

15 Dec. 2006  
 WCPFC3  
 Apia, Samoa  
 (13 Feb. 2007)

**2007**

7 Dec. 2007  
 WCPFC4  
 Tumon, Guam  
 (15 Feb. 2008)

**2008**

Korea, Dec. 2008

7 Dec. 2008  
 WCPFC5  
 Busan, Korea

**MORE INFORMATION:** Oceanic Fisheries Management Project: [www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef) or email [barbara.hanchard@ffa.int](mailto:barbara.hanchard@ffa.int)

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency: [www.ffa.int](http://www.ffa.int) or email [info@ffa.int](mailto:info@ffa.int). Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission: [www.wcpfc.int](http://www.wcpfc.int) or email [wcpfc@mail.fm](mailto:wcpfc@mail.fm).