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**FFA MEMBERS PROPOSED CMM FOR NORTH PACIFIC BLUE STRIPED MARLIN**

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**WCPFC7-2010-DP/07**  
**7 November 2010**

**Paper prepared by FFA Members**



**FFA**

5 November 2010  
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Professor Glenn Hurry  
Executive Director  
WCPFC Secretariat  
KOLONIA, POHNPEI  
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Professor Hurry,

**NORTH PACIFIC STRIPED MARLIN**

I write in my capacity as Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee on behalf of the 17 members of the Forum Fisheries Agency.

FFA members have expressed concern over the last few years about the status of North Pacific Striped Marlin and the inability of the Commission to introduce a Conservation and Management Measure.

FFA members have prepared the attached draft CMM for consideration at WCPFC 7. We see this as a simple solution that provides flexibility to all CCMs to decide how to achieve conservation and to rebuild this stock.

We hope that this contributes to the productive debate regarding management of this stock, which appears to be in a critical conservation status.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Wez Norris ([wez.norris@ffa.int](mailto:wez.norris@ffa.int)).

Yours sincerely,

Stanley Arua  
Chair  
Forum Fisheries Committee

***FFA Members' – Draft Proposal for North Pacific Striped Marlin***

Submitted for consideration at WCPFC 7, December 2010

*The Commission For The Conservation And Management Of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks In The Western And Central Pacific Ocean:*

***Noting with concern*** that the best available scientific advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on the status of North Pacific Striped Marlin shows that the stock is subject to fishing mortality above levels that are sustainable in the long term;

***Further noting*** the advice from the ISC that fishing mortality on the stock should be reduced from the 2003 levels;

***Also noting*** that the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Members will be adopting a system of zone-based longline limits to replace the current system of flag-based arrangements within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs);

***Acknowledging*** the advice from the Scientific Committee that the information provided by the ISC does not support classification of North Pacific Striped Marlin as a "northern stock" under Annex 1 of the WCPFC Rules of Procedure;

Adopts in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPF Convention:

1. This Measure shall apply in high seas and EEZs within the convention area north of the equator.
2. For the purposes of this measure, vessels operated under charter, lease or other similar mechanisms as an integral part of the domestic fleet of a coastal State, shall be considered to be vessels of the host State or Territory. Such charter, lease or other similar mechanism shall be conducted in a manner so as not to charter known IUU vessels.
3. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations of Small Island Developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their own domestic longline fisheries.
4. The total catch of North Pacific Striped Marlin by longline fishing gear will be subject to a phased reduction such that by 1 January 2013 the catch is [80%] of the levels caught in 2000 to 2003.
5. Each flag/chartering CCM with longline vessels fishing in the convention area north of the equator shall be subject to the following catch limits for North Pacific Striped Marlin for the years 2011 and beyond:
  - a. 2011 [10%] reduction of the highest catch between 2000 and 2003;
  - b. 2012 [15%] reduction of the highest catch between 2000 and 2003;
  - c. 2013 and beyond: [20%] reduction of the highest catch between 2000 and 2003;
6. Each flag/chartering CCM shall decide on the management measures required to ensure that its flagged/chartered vessels operate under the catch limits specified in paragraph 5, noting that previous examples of such measures have included effort reductions, gear modification and spatial management.

7. By 30 April 2011, each flag/chartering CCM shall report to the Commission verifiable information regarding its catch of North Pacific Striped Marlin by its flagged/chartered longline vessels north of the equator.
8. Each year CCMs shall report in their Part 2 annual reports their implementation of this measure, including the measures applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce their catch and the total catch taken against the limits established under paragraphs 5 and 7.
9. This measure shall be reviewed annually.