

**Report from the CCSBT Observer to the Fourteenth Regular Session of the Western
and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) (Manila, Philippines, 3-7
December, 2017)**

The Delegation of the Republic of Korea

1. The 14th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission was held from December 3-7, 2017 in Manila, Philippines. 31 Contracting Members, Cooperating Non-members (CNM) and NGOs participated in the meeting. The 14th Regular Session(WCPFC 14) followed a series of subsidiary body meetings—the Scientific Committee, the Northern Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee meetings.

2. One of the most important accomplishments at WCPFC was the adoption of CMM2018-01 for the conservation and management of tropical tuna, as a bridging measure to be implemented until the Commission adopts a Harvest Strategy for the tropical tuna stocks in the Convention Area. The new measure includes the modification of the provision on Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD), longline catch limits and high seas purse seine fishing days of some Members. Some of these changes are subject to review at WCPFC 15.

3. WCPFC also adopted:

- non-binding measure to prevent marine pollution;
- conservation and management measure on WCPFC port state measure;
- amendment to the measure for authorized vessel records; and
- amendment to seabird bycatch mitigation measure;

4. WCPFC 14 also discussed measures on sharks and sea turtles and tasked the SC and TCC to review the measures and bring recommendations to WCPFC 15.

5. Members considered a proposal on the Code of Conduct for Observers and agreed to work intersessionally to improve the Regional Observer Scheme in general.

6. Members expressed divided opinion on target reference points for South Pacific Albacore but could not reach an agreement. WCPFC 15 will also revisit this matter at its annual meeting in December 2018.

7. WCPFC 14 agreed to grant a cooperating non-member status to El Salvador, Ecuador, Liberia, Mexico, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam.

8. No new vessel was included in the WCPFC IUU Vessel List in 2017. Three existing vessels- the Neptune, Fu Lien No.1 and Yu Fong 168-- would remain on the List.

9. The Federated States of Micronesia had offered to host the next meeting but the host country was later changed to the US (Hawaii). WCPFC 15 will take place from December 9 to 14, 2018.