

**Report from the CCSBT Observer to the Seventeenth Regular Session of  
the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)  
(Electronic Meeting, 8-15 December, 2020) - Republic of Korea**

1. The 17th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission took place from 8 to 15 December, 2020 as an electronic meeting. 31 Members & Participating Territories, Cooperating Non-Members (CNM) and NGOs participated in the meeting.
2. One of the most important issues at WCPFC17 was the review of CMM 2018-01, conservation and management measures for tropical tuna. This CMM required the Commission to agree, by 2019, on a framework for the allocation of a) high seas purse seine effort or catch limits and b) bigeye tuna catch limits in longline fisheries. However, WCPFC16(2019) was not able to reach an agreement and this task was deferred to WCPFC17. Again, consensus was not reached and WCPFC17 agreed on a simple rollover of CMM 2018-01.
3. Increase of the TAC of Pacific Bluefin Tuna was discussed but agreement was not made. WCPFC17 agreed on a rollover of the existing CMM.
4. WCPFC17 discussed the issue of labour standards for crew on fishing vessels. It was agreed that the Commission would continue its discussion intersessionally and a working group was established. The discussion is currently ongoing.
5. WCPFC17 reviewed the temporary arrangements in place concerning COVID-19. They included temporary suspension of certain requirements, i.e. 100% observer coverage for purse seine vessels, mandatory in-port transshipment by purse seine vessels and 100% observer coverage for at sea transshipment by longline vessels. It was agreed that the Commission would decide intersessionally whether the temporary arrangements should continue. The temporary arrangements are still in place.
6. WCPFC17 agreed to grant cooperating non-member status to Bahamas, Curaçao, El Salvador, Ecuador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam for 2021.
7. No new vessel was added to the WCPFC IUU Vessel List. Three existing vessels - the Neptune, Fu Lien No.1 and Yu Fong 168 - remained on the List.
8. There wasn't any discussion on CCSBT-related issues at WCPFC17.