



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

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**FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER NO. 245-4
Series of 2018**

**SUBJECT: REGULATIONS AND IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON GROUP TUNA
PURSE SEINE OPERATIONS IN HIGH SEAS POCKET NUMBER 1 AS A
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.**

WHEREAS, the Philippines signed the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and its Annexes on September 5, 2000, which was subsequently ratified by the Senate on 2005;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a member of the Regional Fisheries Management Organization, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

WHEREAS, in the 8th WCPFC Regular Session in March 2012, CMM 2011-01 for Temporary Extension of CMM 2008-01 was adopted giving the Philippines limited access to High Seas Pocket Number 1 (HSP-1) as a Special Management Area (SMA) and incorporated in CMM 2012-01 and subsequent CMMs (2013-01, 2014-01, 2015-01 and 2016-01);

WHEREAS, in December 2017, the Commission adopted a new Conservation and Management Measure (CMM 2017-01) for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean to provide a robust transitional management regime that ensures the sustainability of Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna stocks;

WHEREAS, CMM 2017-01 will create a bridge to the adoption of a harvest strategy for Bigeye, Skipjack, and Yellowfin Tuna in accordance with the work plan and indicative frames set out in the agreed work plan for adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06, which includes the development of management objectives and target reference points, and the Commission shall work towards achieving and sustaining the following :

1) Bigeye

Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) is to be maintained at or above the average ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) for 2012-2015.

2) Skipjack

The spawning biomass of skipjack tuna is to be maintained on average at a level consistent with the interim target reference point of 50% of the spawning biomass in the absence of fishing, adopted in accordance with CMM 2015-06.

3) Yellowfin

Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) is to be maintained at or above the average ($SB/SB_{F=0}$) for 2012-2015.

WHEREAS, this policy is designed as a conservation measure primarily to reduce effort in the Philippine waters where juvenile tunas are more likely to be found than in the High Seas Pocket 1;

WHEREFORE, in view of these premises, the Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) hereby promulgates the following regulations and implementing guidelines.

Section 1. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Order, the following terms as used herein shall mean and shall be construed as follows:

- 1) Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) or Mobile Tracking-Transceiver Unit – a two-way automatic tracking device approved by the Bureau to be installed on the fishing vessels that utilizes a satellite navigation and communication system for the purpose of transmitting information concerning the Philippines flagged fishing vessels' positions, fishing activities, and any other activity of the vessels as may be required.
- 2) Bureau/BFAR – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.
- 3) BFAR Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) – refers to the National Fisheries Monitoring Center established and operated by the Bureau which is used to track and monitor the position, time and course and speed of commercial fishing vessels in the territorial waters, EEZ and the high seas for the purpose of conservation and management of fisheries resources.
- 4) Commercial of Fishing Vessel/Gear License (CFVGL) – authorization granted by BFAR to the fishing vessel operators to fish within commercial waters (>15 km from the shoreline) of the Philippines pursuant to Sec. 26 of R.A. 8550 as amended by RA 10654.
- 5) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) – an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea of a country as defined under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and their respective existing laws.
- 6) FAD – Fish Aggregating Devices that shall include drifting logs, other drifting objects and anchored FADs.
- 7) Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) – serves as a land base component for fisheries monitoring control and surveillance which operates and maintains the Vessel Monitoring System.

