



PARTIES TO THE PALAU ARRANGEMENT

26TH ANNUAL MEETING: PA26

9 March 2021

Zoom Virtual Meeting

TAE FOR 2022 FOR PURSE SEINE VDS

(Extract from the Summary Record of PA26)

TAE for 2022 for Purse Seine VDS

D. (ii) TAE for 2022 - 2024 for the Purse Seine VDS

34. The PNAO reported on the outcomes and recommendations of the VDST-SC meeting on the TAE 2022 – 2024, for Parties to consider.
35. Parties considered the recommendations from the VDST-SC on the PS VDS TAE, including discussion on VDS Risks and Opportunities in the Palau Arrangement meeting agenda.
36. Issues arising in the discussion included:
 - The TRP analysis has been based on 2012 effort in the fishery, and there is a slight difference with the PS VDS TAE which is based on the 2010 level.
 - The TAE is based on a limit that has been agreed to by PNA and adopted by WCPFC CMM 2020-01. That limit is based on the 2010 effort level. SPC have revised the estimated 2010 effort level, and there is an opportunity to change this from 44,033 days to 44,150 days.
 - If everybody else was to take the 2010 effort levels, then the PS effort would rise to a level that would result in a level of skipjack depletion being below a new 42% and calling for some changes in the measure.
 - One of the elements is that effort in PNA AW is less than it was in 2010 and 2012. PNA's actual effort has also been below the TAE. Even if demand increased, it would be difficult for Parties to manage PAEs in a way that the 44,033 would be reached. There is always a likelihood for the total effort in PNA EEZs to be slightly under the TAE, as Parties try to avoid overruns.
 - On that basis, there hasn't been any need to adjust the slight misalignment between the TAE set on the PNA EEZ 2010 effort level and the TRP set on the WCPO 2012 effort level.
 - While the PNA TAE limit is 44,033 days, the Parties have the opportunity to set their TAE below that limit. This process addresses that – are there any economic or other issues that would cause us to reduce TAE below 44,033 days?
 - On the proposed discussions on VDS risks, is this the risk to Parties or to industry?
 - This proposal arose because each year, the TAE discussion addresses issues such as competitive fringe etc., but there are wider aspects to these issues than their relationship to the TAE.

- Parties wanted a more systematic discussion about the risks and opportunities to the VDS.
- If Parties decided to adopt this recommendation and put VDS risks and opportunities on the agenda, it is up to Parties to decide what the shape of that discussion would be next year. There is already agreement for a risk analysis which deals with certain elements of this as part of the Business Plan.
- The performance and integrity of the VDS is only as good as Parties' implementation. The Compliance Committee has a big role to report on this.

Outcome

1. Parties agreed:

- That there is no reason to change their decision at PA17 to apply a PNA TAE based on the 2010 effort level, now specified as 44,033 days in CMM 2020-01;
- To adopt the 2022 PNA TAE, the provisional PNA TAE for 2023 and 2024, the 2022 VDS TAE and the provisional VDS TAE for 2023 and 2024 as set out in the table below:

Proposed Purse Seine VDS TAE for 2022 and Proposed Provisional TAE for 2023 and 2024							
			TAE 2020	TAE 2021	Provisional TAE for 2022	Proposed TAE for 2022	Proposed Provisional TAE for 2023 and 2024
Estimated effort	2010	Logsheet	44,033	44,033	44,033	44,033	44,033
<i>PNA TAE</i>			<i>44,033</i>	<i>44,033</i>	<i>44,033</i>	<i>44,033</i>	<i>44,033</i>
Tokelau TAE			<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Total VDS TAE (PNA + Tokelau)			45,033	45,033	45,033	45,033	45,033

- An agenda item be added to the annual meetings of Parties to the Palau Arrangement to address VDS Risks and Opportunities that would provide for discussion on the broader aspects and implications of issues such as the impact of the competitive fringe, high seas fishing, trends in the economic efficiency of the purse seine fleet and other broader issues relating to the performance of the VDS.
- The PA and PS VDS text be revised to include a requirement for Parties to use FIMS.