PARTIES TO THE NAURU AGREEMENT (PNA)

THE Nauru Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Management of Fisheries of Common Interest (Nauru Agreement) is a sub-regional agreement that harmonises management of fisheries of common stocks and sets out terms and conditions for vessels fishing in members waters.

It brings together eight Pacific Island countries or PNA to sustainably manage tuna and increase economic benefits for these respective Pacific Island countries.


**FACT BOX 1**

- Adopted in 1982 in Majuro, Marshall Islands.
- Size of Combined Fishing Area: 14.3 Million SQ. KM.
- 8 Member Countries
- PNA controls approximately 50% of the global supply of skipjack tuna, the most commonly canned tuna.

**Main Commercial Targets**

- PNA is a purse seine and longline fishery with its main target species are Skipjack & Yellowfin.
- Primarily a skipjack fishery, representing approximately 70% of the 1.6 million tons of catch caught.
- Some of the countries that fish within the PNA include the United States of America, European Union, Taiwan, Korea, China, Japan, Philippines and a few Pacific Island Nations.
PNA member countries combined Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) controls approximately 50% of the global supply of skipjack tuna, the most commonly canned tuna.

FACT BOX 3

Tuna Conservation & Management Initiatives
- 100% observer coverage of purse seine fishing vessels
- High seas closures to fishing
- Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) controls
- Protection for whale sharks
- Continuous improvements on bycatch

VESSEL DAY SCHEME
The focus of PNA efforts to sustainably manage tuna is the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). The PNA VDS sets an overall Total Allowable Effort (TAE) limit on the number of days fishing vessels can be licensed to fish in PNA Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) per year. This is based on scientific advice about the status of the tuna stocks. Each PNA member country is allocated a share of the TAE for use in its zone each year. These VDS days can be also traded between countries in cases where a country has used up all its days while another has spare days.

IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS
The Nauru Agreement has 3 Implementing Arrangements (1982, 1990 and 2008), which set out specific rules for fishing in these countries.

1st Arrangement
- The introduction of a regional register for foreign fishing vessels, which was adopted by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and became operational in 1988.
- It was later followed by the development of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), which requires all licensed vessels to fit an Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) that monitors the vessel’s position, speed and course allowing for its surveillance round the clock.

2nd Arrangement
- Prohibition of transshipment at sea.
- High seas catch reporting and maintenance of log books.
- Recording catch and effort on a daily basis.
- Placement of observers upon request by a licensing Party.
- Request for an electronic position and data transfer device to be installed on the vessel.

3rd Arrangement
- A ban on fishing vessels from operating in high seas pockets adjacent to the EEZs as a term of their licenses between July and September of each year.
- A ban on the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) on purse seine vessels in the PNA members’ EEZs between July and September of each year.
- Catch retention of bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tuna on board purse seine vessels as a means of preventing fist dumping and bycatch.

For more information
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