TUNA FOR FOOD AND PROFIT: NO RIGHTS WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITIES

Rights vs. Responsibilities: If there is one key challenge facing the WCPFC, it is enjoying the right to fish from a national, regional, and global resource and also protecting the rights of future generations to fish the same resources by monitoring and ensuring compliance with the rules of fishing in the WCPFC area.

Members only: Harvesting the living resources from the Western and Central Pacific Ocean is the right of any member of the Commission, abiding by its rules and regulations.

Rights of domestic fishers: For Pacific members of the WCPFC, the area is also home. ‘Domestic’ fishers have the right to special exemptions to the fishing limits imposed under the VDS to develop their own national industries within their own EEZs, while respecting their obligations as member nations of the WCPFC and the Conservation and Management measures.

No free-for-all: Scientists use data including reports of catch sizes of different species and fish to help them recommend fishing limits for the WCPFC members to endorse and manage.

The total allowable catches begin with the projected total catch that may be harvested in any time period, and divides that up amongst members of the Commission so that each one has its own TAC limit.
WHO IS FISHING IN THE WESTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN?

The WCPFC keeps an official online record of fishing vessels containing details of fishing vessels authorized to fish in the WCPFC Convention Area beyond the national jurisdiction of the member of the Commission whose flag the vessel is flying.

http://www.wcpfc.int/vrecord/stats.php

MORE INFORMATION: Oceanic Fisheries Management Project: www.fla.int/gef or email barbara.hanchard@ffis.int
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency: www.fis.int or email info@fis.int. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission: www.wcpfc.int or email wcpfc@mail.fm.