



Guam Statement on Skipjack Target Reference Point

Madam Chair, thank you for allowing me to me to make this intervention and give a few comments on the proposed Target Reference Point for skipjack. As noted in DP 06, ‘the stock is especially important for SIDS, for some of whom this stock is the natural resource on which their sustainable development most heavily depends.’

Guam does not have a large industrial scale fishery for skipjack, but its small scale coastal troll fishery is highly dependent on skipjack, which forms about 63% of pelagic fish landings. This is also the case for our neighbor, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Guam is immediately adjacent to the world’s largest purse seine skipjack tuna fishery, a fishery which has seen a year on year increase in the volume of skipjack being harvested.

Our local fishermen remain convinced that both skipjack and yellowfin have become much scarcer as the purse seine fishery skipjack catch has increased.

We note, therefore, the concerns expressed by Japan about the scarcity of skipjack in their waters and the possible reduction in local availability of the resource to our coastal troll fishery. These same skipjack would have to travel past Guam and the CNMI to get to Japan. This has important implications to food security and our fishing culture.

Thank you Madam Chair.

Statement made by Joseph Cameron

Lead Advisor for the Governor of Guam on Ocean Matters

President of the Department of Chamorro Affairs