



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700  
(808) 944-2200 • Fax: (808) 973-2941

April 29, 2010

Dr. SungKwon Soh  
Acting - Executive Director  
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission  
PO Box 2356  
Kolonia  
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, 96940

Dear Dr. SungKwon Soh:

Conservation and Management Measure 2009-03 calls for CCMs to provide information to the Commission, by 30 April 2010, on the maximum total catch of swordfish that shall continue to be permitted to fish in the area south of 20 degrees South latitude in any one year period from 2000 to 2006 and the total number of their vessels that fished for swordfish and the total catch for the following;

vessels flying their flag anywhere in the Convention Area south of 20 degrees South latitude other than vessels operating under charter, lease or other similar mechanism as part of the domestic fishery of another CCM;

vessels operating under charter, lease or other similar mechanism as part of their domestic fishery south of 20 degrees South latitude and;

any other vessels fishing within the waters south of 20 degrees South latitude.

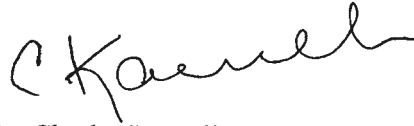
Swordfish may be targeted or caught incidentally in the Convention area south of 20 degrees South latitude by U.S. flag longline vessels operating out of the U.S. Territories of American Samoa and Guam, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Swordfish along with other associated pelagic species are important economic components of the overall catch composite landed by U.S. longline vessels fishing in the Convention Area.

Longline vessels operating out of American Samoa are required to have an American Samoa Limited Entry Permit, or alternatively, a vessel may fish on the high seas under a Western Pacific General Longline Permit. Currently there are 74 vessels in the American Samoa limited entry program and General Longline Permits. Therefore, we expect no more than 74 longline vessels will continue to be permitted to fish for swordfish in the area south of 20 degrees South latitude. This will allow fishers in these U.S. territories and the commonwealth to continue to pursue a responsible level of development in these nascent fisheries consistent with paragraph 5 of the measure.



Be assured that U.S. local and national authorities will monitor landings of both of these species through our domestic logbook, observer, electronic vessel monitoring system and dockside monitoring programs and report to the Commission as required. If you or any of the Secretariat staff have any questions on this matter please contact Raymond Clarke at 808-944-2205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Karnella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Charles Karnella  
International Fisheries Coordinator

Cc: Ray Tulafono  
Celestino Aguon  
Sylvan Igisomar  
Kitty Simonds  
William Gibbons-Fly