MOVING TOWARDS RIGHTS BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT REGIME FOR THE WCPO TUNA FISHERIES

Transform Aqorau
Legal Counsel
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
KEY FEATURES OF A RIGHTS-BASED ALTERNATIVE

• CONTROL OF BUSINESSES AND NOT BOATS
• GRANTING OF RIGHTS TO NATIONALS
• LIMITED NUMBER OF RIGHTS
• IMPOSITION OF STANDARDS ON RIGHTHOLDERS
• PAYMENT OF FEES BY RIGHTHOLDERS
• REDUCED ROLE FOR ACCESS AGREEMENTS
PUTTING IN PLACE A RIGHTS-BASED REGIME FOR THE WCPO

- Define the application of rights
- Develop criteria for identifying rightsholders
- Duration/term of rights
- Conditions to encourage investment
- Fees
- Forms of limits on fishing
- Limits on concentration
POSSIBLE APPROACHES

• TAKE IT EASY
• RELATE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WCPF CONVENTION
• BEGIN WITH THE FISHERY WHICH IS EASIEST FOR NATIONALS TO PARTICIPATE
• APPLY IT INITIALLY ONLY TO SMALL VESSELS
• DEVELOP A SIMPLE FRAMEWORK
• DEVELOP A TRANSPARENT PROCESS FOR ALLOCATING RIGHTS AND REVIEWING THEM