

**UNITED STATES - MEASURES CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION,
MARKETING AND SALE OF TUNA AND TUNA PRODUCTS**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from Australia

The following communication, dated 7 November 2008, from the delegation of Australia to the delegation of the United States, the delegation of Mexico and to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Article 4 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), Australia notifies the United States that, in light of Australia's substantial trade interest, it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by Mexico in the communication entitled *United States – Measures Affecting the Importation, Marketing and Sale of Tuna and Tuna Products* and circulated to WTO Members on 28 October 2008 (WT/DS381/1).

Australia has substantial trade and commercial interests in this matter. In 2007 Australia was the tenth largest participant in world trade in tuna by value. Australia's two way trade with the world in tuna and tuna products in calendar year 2007 was valued at AUS\$370,893,000, with the United States being our second largest export destination for tuna products.

Australia is also significantly involved in fisheries management in the Pacific and for tuna specifically. This participation also demonstrates Australia's substantial interest in the trade in fish products and tuna in particular. Australia is a member of the following Regional Fisheries Management Organisations relating to tuna:

- the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
- the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)
- the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

These organisations share common fish and marine animal management and conservation objectives with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

Australia looks forward to receiving your reply.
