



**COMMISSION
EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Electronic Meeting
1 – 7 December 2021

VIEWS FROM FISHING INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS

WCPFC18-2021-OP01_rev1¹
19 October 2021

Submitted by World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

¹ 5 October 2021 - Views of US Pacific Tuna Group FIP; 19 October 2021 - Views from AGAC

World Wildlife Fund

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Dear Delegates,

The vessel owners and industry participants of the **US Pacific Tuna Group** submit this letter to request additional support from CCMs for measures that will further tuna conservation at the Commission meeting beginning 29 November, 2021.

COVID-19 presents unprecedented economic and social impacts on the fishery sector in the Pacific Ocean. However, we do not believe that these current circumstances should prevent the WCPFC from taking action to ensure sustainable management of tuna stocks and marine ecosystems.

Management measures and procedures for tuna species

- Support and endorse further implementation of *CMM 2014-06* to establish harvest strategies for key tuna species with proposed timelines.
- Establish precautionary target reference points (TRPs) for bigeye and yellowfin tunas, and re-establish an agreed precautionary TRP for skipjack.
- Endorse the continued development and implementation of limit reference points (LRPs) and TRPs for proper management of all stocks, including sharks as a priority.
- Adopt a harvest control rule (HRC)/management procedure (MP) for the skipjack purse seine fishery.

FAD management best practices

- Develop and implement science-based and enforceable FAD management measures including:
 - A clear timeframe to transition to FADs that are non-entangling and that are designed completely out of biodegradable materials (bioFADs);
 - A requirement for vessels to provide complete FAD position data and acoustic records from echosounder buoys while ensuring the integrity of proprietary business confidential information;
 - Establishing and engaging in FAD retrieval and recovery programs;
 - Refine FAD ownership rules, and develop a workplan to adopt a FAD marking scheme; and
 - Refine rules for the activation of FAD buoys onboard purse seine vessels prior to deployment, as well as for the deactivation of FAD buoys at sea.

Effective and fair enforcement

- Further review transshipment regulation and adopt substantive improvements to curtail opportunities for IUU fishing, trafficking, and labor abuses such as:
 - 100% observer coverage on all vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment;
 - Required real-time reporting of all transshipment activity; and
 - The development and application of technologies for verification of transshipment activities.

Data quality and quantity

- We support a progressive program to increase levels of observer coverage (human and/or electronic) to 100% for all vessels by 2026.
- Adopt best practices in electronic monitoring (EM) and electronic reporting (ER) standards, such as e-logbooks.

US PACIFIC TUNA GROUP FIP

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15 October 2021
ATTN: Heads of Delegation

Dear Delegates,

The vessel owners and industry participants of AGAC submit this letter to request additional support from CPCs for measures that will further tuna conservation at the Commission meeting beginning 29 November 2021.

COVID-19 presents unprecedented economic and social impacts on the fishery sector in the Pacific Ocean. However, we do not believe that these current circumstances should prevent the WCPFC from taking action to ensure sustainable management of tuna stocks and marine ecosystems.

Priorities

Management measures and procedures for tuna species

- Support and endorse further implementation of CMM 2014-06 to establish harvest strategies for key tuna species with proposed timelines.
- Establish precautionary target reference points (TRPs) for bigeye and yellowfin tunas and re-establish an agreed precautionary TRP for skipjack.
- Endorse the continued development, data collection, and implementation of limit reference points (LRPs) and TRPs for proper management of all stocks.
- Adopt a harvest control rule (HRC)/management procedure (MP) for the skipjack fishery.
- Support continued data collection on sharks to ensure the proper management of these species.

Effective and fair enforcement

- Further review transshipment regulation and adopt substantive improvements to curtail opportunities for IUU fishing, trafficking, and labor abuses such as:
 - 100% observer coverage on all vessels, of all gears, engaged in at-sea transshipment, including delivering and receiving vessels.
 - Required real-time reporting of all transshipment activity.
 - The development and application of technologies for verification of transshipment activities.
 - Strong sanctions for non-compliance

Data quality and quantity

- We support a progressive program to increase levels of observer coverage (human and/or electronic) to 100% for all vessels, especially longliners, by 2026.
- Adopt best practices in electronic monitoring (EM) and electronic reporting (ER) standards, such as e-logbooks.
- Support development of a port-sampling program at key ports to verify catch composition.
- Support measures to ensure on-board observer safety.

Continued

FAD management best practices

- Develop and implement science-based and enforceable FAD management measures including:
 - A clear timeframe to transition to non-entangling FADs, and FADs that are made primarily with biodegradable materials;
 - A requirement for vessels to provide complete FAD position data and acoustic records from echosounder buoys;
 - Establishing and engaging in FAD retrieval and recovery programs;
 - Evaluate the feasibility of adopting FAD ownership rules and a FAD marking scheme; and
 - Establish rules for the activation of FAD buoys onboard purse seine vessels prior to deployment, as well as for the deactivation of FAD buoys at sea.

Outcomes to date in the WCPFC

To date, AGAC has completed actions to achieve conservation outcomes within the WCPFC. Examples include:

- Adopted a “Code of Good Practices for Purse Seining,” which is implemented fully across the fleet. This Code includes provisions on:
 - The design and use of FADs that do not entangle endangered, threatened, or protected (ETP) species;
 - The development and application of releasing techniques that minimize risk to associated species and optimize their survival, including gear provided specifically for species’ release;
 - The application of a FAD management system through the implementation of a FAD logbook and requirement for a responsible use of FADs during its lifetime;
 - 100% observer coverage;
 - Training for captains, crew, and scientific observers; and
 - Scientific verification of activities related with good practices and continuous revision by a steering committee.
- Released ten years of data from the fleet’s FADs, which included information on geolocation and the presence and abundance of fish underneath them. This information will enable scientists to assess fishing effort, species abundance, and fishing impacts on the marine ecosystem, which therefore leads to more informed management decisions.
- Participating on its third project to test materials and design prototypes for non-entangling FADs and FADs that are designed completely out of biodegradable materials (bioFADs).
- Participated in a project to develop and test new tools and methods to release sharks and rays that both maximize the survival of the species and ensure the safety of the crew.
- Received a Responsible Tuna Fishing (APR) certification for compliance with the on-board working conditions required by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in its *Work in Fishing Convention* ([2007, No. 188](#)).
- After four years of implementing the world’s largest-scale FIP to date, [the association entered into full assessment for the Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\) fishery standard](#).

OPAGAC-AGAC

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