



**2ND INTERSESSIONAL WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING LABOUR STANDARDS FOR
CREW ON FISHING VESSELS**

Electronic Meeting

27 July 2022

LETTER TO WCPFC

WCPFC-LabourStandards2-2022-OP01

30 June 2022

Submitted by Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fishing (OPRT)

June 24, 2022

Mr. Feleti Teo
Executive Director
WCPFC

Dear Mr. Teo:

I am Shingo OTA, Managing Director of the Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fishing (OPRT) whose members are involved in production, distribution, and consumption of sashimi tuna in the world. 915 tuna long line vessels are currently registered at the OPRT, most of which are large-scale ones.

I would like to draw your attention to the OPRT Resolution to address labor issues on board tuna longline fishing vessels as attached, which was adopted at the OPRT General Meeting held on June 21, 2022. The OPRT believes that this document will contribute to the future discussion of the WCPFC on labour issues, especially at the Workshop on Labour Standards for Crews on Fishing Vessels in WCPFC on July 27. I would appreciate it if you could upload this document in the meeting site as an NGO paper. The Secretariat is also planning to attend the meeting and explain the document, as appropriate.

Thank you very much in advance for your assistance on this matter.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shingo Ota', written in a cursive style.

Shingo OTA
Managing Director
OPRT

**OPRT Resolution to address labor issues
on board tuna longline fishing vessels**

The Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), whose members are involved in production, distribution, and consumption of sashimi tuna in the world,

Affirming that the OPRT has conducted its business over a couple of decades with the objective of contributing to the sustainable development of tuna fisheries in compliance with international and social responsibility and the stable supply of tuna products;

Recognizing that in recent years, labor issues onboard fishing vessels have been attracting an increasing attention and there have been many media coverages and reports published on violation of human rights on board fishing vessels;

Aware that the distant-water tuna long line fishery is regarded as one of the fisheries susceptible to labor issues;

Concerned that major companies are introducing a sustainable and socially responsible sourcing policy for fish products, and irresponsible fish products including those with labor issues may be excluded from the international market;

Recalling that the WCPFC has been discussing the labor issue and ICCAT has also started discussing it, which may be followed by other tuna-RFMOs;

Recognizing that individual OPRT Members have already taken or are taking measures to address the labor issue on board distant-water tuna long line vessels;

Confirming that as the organization for promoting responsible tuna fisheries, the OPRT should properly and collectively address the labor issue in the distant-water tuna long line fishery apart from the discussion at RFMOs, and for this purpose held a workshop for addressing labor issues on March 7 and 8, 2022; and

Recalling that the said workshop agreed that the OPRT should work towards adoption of a resolution on labor issues at the General Meeting in June 2022, which will be used to appeal to the world the intention of the OPRT Members to tackle this issue.

Has resolved as follows at the Ordinary General Meeting held on June 21, 2022:

1. Ensure that both employers and employees have a common understanding of the

employment contract and for this purpose the manning company explains the terms and conditions to the crew.

2. Ensure that a safe and secure working environment is provided for crew members.

3. Request the manning company to inquire about the welfare of the crew after disembarkation through direct contact and provide feedback to the employer if necessary.

4. Ensure that good quality and quantity of meals and beverages are provided to crew members including foreign ones.

5. Ensure that basic medical care available aboard and transportation to a land hospital in case of emergency are provided.

6. Ensure that the employer provides crew members with insurance coverage against illness, injury and death covered.

7. Ensure that the employer pays crew members periodical and proper salary and fees in accordance with the contract.

8. Ensure appropriate handling of and report on onboard conflict and accident.

9. Ensure that the captain or the fishing master reports a death onboard and hospitalization of crew to his family and employer, and especially in case of death, seeks instruction of the authorities for handling the event where necessary.

10. Ensure that the vessel searches for at least 72 hours when a crew member is missing.

11. Request, if possible, the authorities to consider:

(1) Intervention and investigation for serious and chronic incidents

(2) Interviewing, hearing and querying crew members after disembarkation to know whether there was any inappropriate incident

(3) Supervising manning companies which are situated in its territory on their operations for protection of the rights of workers