



**COMMISSION**  
**Twentieth Regular Session**  
4-8 December 2023  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)

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**18 Environmental Organizations and 48 Supply Chain Companies**  
**Call for Progress at the Upcoming WCPFC Meeting**

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**WCPFC20-2023-OP10**  
**28 November 2023**

Birdlife International  
Conservation International  
International Pole and Line Foundation  
Monterey Bay Aquarium  
The Ocean Foundation  
Ocean Outcomes  
Pew Charitable Trust  
Sharkproject  
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership  
World Wide Fund for Nature

ATTN: Heads of Delegation to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

**18 leading tuna NGOs call on the WCPFC to adopt a management procedure for North Pacific albacore tuna and maintain all current timelines in the harvest strategy workplan**

The upcoming WCPFC Commission, scheduled for 4 December - 8 December 2023 provides an important opportunity for the WCPFC to demonstrate its ongoing leadership and progressive management to preserve the health of tuna fisheries that are a vital source of economic development and food security for the region.

As organizations focused on the sustainability of tuna stocks and their ecosystems, we urge the WCPFC to adopt a management procedure for North Pacific albacore tuna and maintain all current timelines in the harvest strategy workplan without further extensions or delays. Further, we urge the adoption of a new CMM for tuna conservation that limits fishing mortality for bigeye and yellowfin to the interim Target Reference Points and includes the outputs of the skipjack Management Procedure adopted in 2022, and which also removes all ambiguities and exemptions. In addition, we urge the WCPFC in 2023 to:

- Adopt and/or strengthen at-sea transshipment measures in line with best practices, such as those recommended in the NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on At-Sea Transshipment.
- Adopt electronic monitoring program standards and a timeline for implementation by 2025.


Additionally, our organizations urge the WCPFC to adopt the following critical measures to ensure uninterrupted management of tuna stocks and strengthened monitoring of tuna fisheries:

- Require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) in industrial tuna fisheries, including all those vessels engaged in at sea transshipment, by 2024.
- Strengthen FAD management provisions in line with the NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on FAD Management.
- Strengthen compliance mechanisms to ensure processes are transparent and robust so that members are held accountable for the implementation of all conservation management measures and data reporting requirements and there are clear consequences for non-compliance.
- Implement precautionary, science-based regulations, best practices and guidelines for avoidance, handling, release and, where appropriate, science-based catch or retention limits, for all tuna fishing fleets to proactively minimize their impacts upon all non-target and non-retained bycatch species.
- Require fins naturally attached for ALL (i.e., fresh and frozen) sharks without exceptions, adopting the globally acknowledged best practice to prevent finning.
- Establish recommendations for labor and safety standards for crew and observers on fishing vessels based on relevant international labor conventions.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,





November 21, 2023

ATTN: Heads of Delegation to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

**48 Supply Chain Companies Call on the WCPFC to Urgently Adopt a Management Procedure for North Pacific Albacore Tuna and Adopt a new CMM for Tuna Conservation that Limits Fishing Mortality for Bigeye and Yellowfin**

The undersigned companies have made commitments to sourcing seafood responsibly, including tuna from the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). We recognize that the adoption and implementation of comprehensive precautionary management procedures (i.e., harvest strategies) is fundamental to effective long-term management of tuna fisheries in the WCPO.

Of primary importance to us is that the WCPFC adopts a management procedure for North Pacific albacore tuna and maintains all current timelines in the harvest strategy workplan without further extensions or delays.

We also ask the WCPFC to adopt a new CMM for tuna conservation that limits fishing mortality for bigeye and yellowfin to the interim Target Reference Points and includes the outputs of the skipjack Management Procedure adopted in 2022, which also removes all ambiguities and exemptions.

Also in 2023, we ask the WCPFC to:

- Adopt and/or strengthen at-sea transshipment measures in line with best practices, such as those recommended in the NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on At-Sea Transshipment.
- Adopt electronic monitoring program standards and a timeline for implementation by 2025.

As companies engaged in the sourcing of tunas globally, we are seeking to ensure that your government supports efforts to adopt management procedures in the WCPFC.

We appreciate your delegation's commitment to addressing these issues and thank you in advance for your attention in this matter.

Kind regards,





Dae Hae



MIGROS



Members of the TUPA



TUPA

Tuna Protection Alliance

Representing the following companies:

