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POSITION STATEMENT TO WCPFC13

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Paper submitted by International Pole & Line Foundation

IPNLF POSITION STATEMENT

**13th Regular Session of the
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Nadi, Fiji, 5-9 December 2016**



One-by-one fishers celebrate their catch, Indonesia © Paul Hilton & IPNLF

The International Pole & Line Foundation ([IPNLF](http://ipnlf.org)) is an international charity working to develop and demonstrate the value of one-by-one tuna fisheries. Its role is two-fold: to promote the benefits of one-by-one tuna fisheries; and to develop these fisheries – to support and improve their viability and sustainability. We work across science, policy and the seafood sector to improve the wellbeing of coastal communities who are committed to environmentally and socially responsible tuna fishing methods, such as pole-and-line, troll, and handline.

An important part of our work involves connecting people and organisations that want to support the sustainable development of one-by-one fisheries. Our [membership](#) – which currently stands at 40 – includes a broad range of fisheries associations and businesses involved in the one-by-one tuna supply chain. They have proven to be active collaborators, and together have already accomplished some great successes.

In the WCPFC Convention Area, IPNLF, together with our partner, [Asosiasi Periknan Pole & Line Dan Handline Indonesia \(AP2HI\)](#), and the Government of Indonesia, we work to improve several aspects of the one-by-one fisheries in Indonesia. Some of the projects we are involved in include: improvements in monitoring of catch, effort and vulnerable species interactions; supporting the development of a tuna harvest strategy and management plan; improvements in compliance; deployment of onboard observers; and establishing a registry of small-scale vessels. Furthermore, recent IPNLF-supported workshops have allowed greater outreach with Indonesian fisheries managers, processors and fishers, and have resulted in the improved understanding of the precautionary approach, training on livebait handling and storage, and protection of critical habitats. Drawing on our network of international experts, and working with AP2HI's 27 member companies and their fishers, our goal is to improve the sustainability, quality and profitability of pole-and-line and hand-line tuna catches throughout Indonesia.

At this year's Commission meeting, IPNLF encourages members, cooperating non-members and participating territories (CCMs collectively) to adopt a number of conservation and management measures (CMMs) that, together, will strengthen the framework for sustainable tuna fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Specifically, we urge progress in the following areas:

- Continue progress on the adoption of harvest strategies, including reference points, acceptable risk levels, and management strategy evaluation for all major tuna stocks that aim to avoid adverse impacts on, and ensure access to fisheries by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers
- Adopt an enforceable and effective measure for the management of tropical tunas that will rebuild bigeye while preventing overfishing of skipjack and yellowfin
- Improve data collection and regulation of supply vessels and fishing gears that negatively impact coastal fishing communities, including drifting fish aggregating devices (dFADs)
- Adopt measures that will effectively reduce bycatch and protect endangered, threatened, or protected species, including sharks, seabirds, cetaceans, and turtles

The proposals on tropical tunas and south Pacific albacore tuna are particularly important this year in the face of ever-increasing fishing effort and stock status projections. Progress in these areas is needed, as more sustainable management frameworks will benefit every CCM, bring positive long-term returns to fishing communities, and minimize the risk of future fisheries collapse.



One-by-one fishers fly the IPNLF flag, Sorong, Indonesia © IPNLF

Measures should also be adopted to improve information on the ecosystem impacts of fisheries. This includes the impacts of dFADs and supply vessels on fishing capacity, the overall ecosystem and damage to coastal habitats, such as coral reefs, from abandoned and lost FADs. Bycatch of sharks, turtles, cetaceans, and seabirds are also key ecosystem issues, which require continued attention from WCPFC CCMs to ensure measures are both effective and enforceable.

The Western and Central Pacific Ocean is home to the world's largest tuna fishery, two of the world's largest pole-and-line fisheries, and many troll and handline fisheries supporting coastal communities throughout the region. IPNLF would like to see management measures adopted that safeguard tuna stocks and ecosystems so that one-by-one fisheries, and the social benefits they provide to the communities that depend on them, can flourish. We will continue to work with our members to strive for the highest environmental and social standards, which will reinforce the good work of the Commission.

ABOUT IPNLF

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) works to develop, support and promote socially and environmentally responsible pole-and-line and handline tuna fisheries around the world. IPNLF's ambition is to contribute to thriving coastal fisheries, including the people, communities, businesses and seas connected with them. As a hub for sustainably-minded organisations, we use the influence of the market to forge change through practical fishery projects and stakeholder cooperation. IPNLF membership is open to organisations involved in the one-by-one tuna supply chain. Allied with our Members, IPNLF demonstrates the value of one-by-one caught tuna to consumers, policymakers and throughout the supply chain. We work across science, policy and the seafood sector, using an evidence-based, solutions-focused approach with guidance from our Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Trustees.

IPNLF was officially registered in the United Kingdom in 2012 (Charity 1145586), with branch offices in London and the Maldives, and a staff presence in Indonesia.

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Keep informed about the latest developments in one-by-one tuna fisheries through our website and by connecting with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



One-by-one fisher catching tuna with handline, Indonesia © Paul Hilton & Fairtrade