



**COMMISSION  
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Denarau Island, Fiji  
5 – 9 December, 2016

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**LETTER FROM SEVERAL FOODSERVICE COMPANIES**

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**WCPFC13-2016-OP11  
1 December 2016**

**Paper submitted by Monterey Bay Aquarium**



November 30, 2016

To: Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Dear Delegates,

Our companies represent major U.S. seafood buyers that source seafood products from a diverse, international supply network, including from the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, a region for which your government serves as an important leader as a member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (Commission). Our companies purchase a variety of tuna products from member countries, and we recognize that the sustainability of tuna stocks is integral to our businesses as well as the health of the marine environment.

We recognize that the Commission has made some initial progress in recent years to establish basic science-based management measures to ensure the sustainability of the world's largest tuna fishery in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Specifically, in 2015 the Commission committed itself to develop and implement a six-part harvest strategy approach for each of the key fisheries or stocks under its management, including a work plan with clear timelines. We support this initial action, and encourage the Commission to apply the Precautionary Approach using clear target and limit reference points and harvest control rules, as called for by the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

As you prepare for the upcoming 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission, we urge your government to support the full implementation of the work plan for harvest strategies, including timelines to adopt appropriate biologically-based target reference points, harvest control rules and the other elements of the harvest strategy approach, for skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin and south Pacific albacore tuna. In particular, we urge you to ensure that the Commission takes decisions necessary this year (e.g., agree on acceptable levels of risk, a rebuilding timeframe for bigeye tuna, and management objectives for south Pacific albacore, skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin) to allow management strategy evaluation and other work to proceed as scheduled in 2017. In addition, we request your support for proposals that would establish precautionary target reference points for skipjack and south Pacific albacore. In order to optimize harvest control rules for all tuna stocks in the future, we suggest that the Commission request regular updates from your scientific advisors regarding reference points and performance indicators, and consider a monitoring scheme.

Finally, we are very concerned with the severely depleted population of Pacific bluefin tuna, including the lack of action to recover the population to sustainable levels and no progress in the development of harvest strategies. Given the dire condition of the stock, we urge all delegates to ensure that steps are taken in 2017 to establish a precautionary management framework and a rebuilding plan that will recover the population to levels that can achieve maximum sustainable yield in accordance with CMM 2014-06 and the Convention, respectively.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Tod MacKenzie  
Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications and Public Affairs  
Aramark



Maisie Ganzler  
Chief Strategy & Brand Officer  
Bon Appetit Management Company



Amy Keister  
Vice President of Consumer Engagement  
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Cc:

Ms. Rhea M. Moss-Christian, Chair

Mr. Feleti P. Teo OBE, Executive Director