



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

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**WTPO Statement WCPFC-13**

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**WCPFC13-2016-OP21**  
**8<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**Submitted by WTPO**



# World Tuna Purse seine Organization

December 6, 2016

## WTPO Statement WCPFC-13

The World Tuna Purse Seine Organization (WTPO) members, who are your partners in developing the tuna fishery so that this God given resource is utilized in an efficient and sustainable way, would like to express their concern on the following issues:

### 1) Fishing Capacity Control

WTPO continue to support capacity control, with no exemption, in the convention area and in all oceans and the need to establish a capacity transfer arrangement in response to the aspirations of SIDS to develop their respective fishery.

### 2) Definition of Fish Aggregate Device(FAD)

WTPO requests the WCPFC to review the current definition of Fish Aggregate Device (FAD) and consider the adoption of the IATTC definition of Fish Aggregate Device (FAD) in order to prevent any misunderstanding to a legal fishing activity and/or unnecessary arguments between fishing operator and observer on board.

\*IATTC FAD Definition

“Fish-Aggregating Device” (FAD) means anchored, drifting, floating or submerged objects deployed and/or tracked by vessels, including through the use of radio and/or satellite buoys, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for purse-seine fishing operations.

(<https://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/Resolutions/C-16-01-FADs-Amendment-C-15-03.pdf>)

### 3) Vessel Crew and Observer Concerns and Issues

While observers on board purse seine vessels have played significant roles in the management of the fishery there is a need to address issues on individual differences, misbehaviors and misunderstanding of rules that can lead to misreporting and the need to act on every incident in a timely manner. WTPO would like to propose the creation of a working group within the Commission and work with vessel operators in order to establish a mechanism of reporting and action on reports taking into consideration the welfare of the observer as well as the right of the fishermen and the authority of the licensing State as well as the responsibility of the Flag State.

WTPO Secretariat