



**COMMISSION
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
10 – 14 December 2018

POSITION STATEMENT FOR WCPFC15

**WCPFC15-2018-OP09
5 December 2018**

Submission by International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF)

IPNLF POSITION STATEMENT

**15th Regular Session of the
Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
Honolulu, Hawaii, 10-14 December 2018**



Proud handline fishers show their catch of the day, Indonesia © IPNLF

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) is an international non-profit working to develop and demonstrate the value of one-by-one tuna fisheries. We work across science, policy and the seafood sector to improve the wellbeing of coastal communities that are committed to environmentally and socially responsible tuna fishing methods, such as pole-and-line, troll, and handline. The Western and Central Pacific has strong historical linkages to such fisheries, and many continue to play important roles in Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, Tahiti, the Philippines and Vietnam, among others.

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 tuna fisheries, and the communities that depend on them, can flourish.

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 of harvest strategies for all major tuna stocks** to avoid adverse impacts on the stocks while also recognizing the social and economic dependence of coastal communities on the fisheries. To this end, we encourage the adoption of an interim target reference point for south Pacific albacore and the establishment of a Science-Management Dialogue.
- **Strengthen the management of tropical tunas**, in line with the advice from the Scientific Committee (SC), to avoid overfishing in the future and ensure the continued opportunities for one-by-one fisheries (e.g. pole and line, handline and troll), coastal fisheries and communities in line with the UN Fish Stock Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Improve the monitoring and regulation of fish aggregating devices (FADs) and purse seine supply vessels** to better understand the impacts on fishing efficiency and inform future management. This should include: establishing comprehensive systems to accurately quantify numbers of FADs and active buoys, establishing wide-scale collection of individual FAD deployment, tracking, and set-history data, and ensuring access to FAD data for scientists and managers.
- **Reduce marine pollution, including plastics and FADs** which wash ashore and damage coastal habitats by requiring fully biodegradable materials in drifting FAD construction. Also, **ensure that FAD owners recover drifting FADs while at sea**, prior to beaching events, and use available information to inform mitigation initiatives.
- **Adopt measures that will effectively reduce bycatch and protect endangered, threatened, or protected species, including sharks, seabirds, cetaceans, and sea turtles.** A comprehensive shark measure, as recommended by the SC, should be adopted this year. Additionally, requiring non-entangling FADs will greatly reduce impacts of ghost fishing on sharks and sea turtles.
- **Improve Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance in relation to longline fishing activities** to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing through enhanced observer coverage (including through electronic monitoring systems) and strengthening at-sea transshipment measures.

There are several proposals on the table for this year's Regular Session which will advance these key issues, and we hope common ground can be found. Progress across all of these areas is needed, as more sustainable management frameworks will benefit every CCM, bring positive long-term returns to fishing communities, and minimise the risk of future fisheries collapse. We look forward to working with delegates as well as with our [Members](#) to strive for the highest standards of sustainability and equity in fisheries management to reinforce the good work of the Commission.



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

ABOUT IPNLF

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) works to develop, support and promote socially and environmentally responsible one-by-one 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.

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, USA, Netherlands, France and South Africa.

Contact: Adam Baske, IPNLF Director, Policy and Outreach, adam.baske@ipnlf.org

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](#).