WTPO Statement for WCPFC15

Submitted by
WTPO
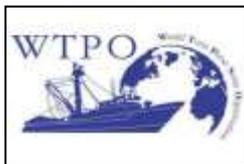
World Tuna Purse seine Organization

December 12, 2018

WTPO Statement WCPFC 15

The World Tuna Purse seine Organization (WTPO) extends its sincere appreciation to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) for the opportunity given to attend the 15th Regular Session as an observer representing the purse seine vessel owner members and cooperating non-members, including vessel owners which are SIDS flagged and SIDS based vessels. We are bound to cooperate and support the management measures in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) fisheries management authority.

WTPO reinforces its position statements made in the WCPFC13 in Fiji and WCPFC14 in Manila for the commission to consider and adopt a more specific, comprehensive and enforceable FAD definition.

WTPO believes that it is time to consider the adoption of a new FAD definition based on measures such as buoys with active electronic instrument for tracking, the non-entangling and less entangling types of FADs, the continuing learning of observer on board and vessel operator in resolving arguments and misunderstanding and recent scientific research and recommended use of biodegradable and environment friendly FADs.

The recommended definition as follows:

"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.

This will result in improved management and understanding with other RFMOs in all oceans of the world.

While we understand the scientific basis to classify a FAD or non-FAD set, the current arrangement has caused uncertainties in pre-determining a set which can lead to a legal issue and penalty. The proposed definition should clearly indicate the intent preceding the set.

WTPO Secretariat