



**COMMISSION
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Electronic Meeting
8 – 15 December 2020

LETTER ON TOP TUNA CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

**WCPFC17-2020-OP02
5 November 2020**

Submission by International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

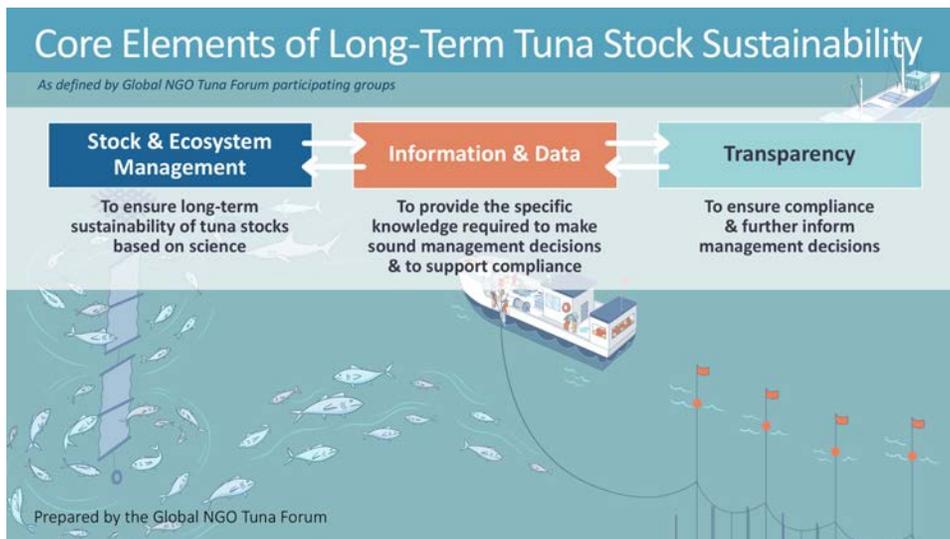
August 13, 2020

ATTN: Heads of Delegation to IATTC, IOTC, ICCAT and WCPFC

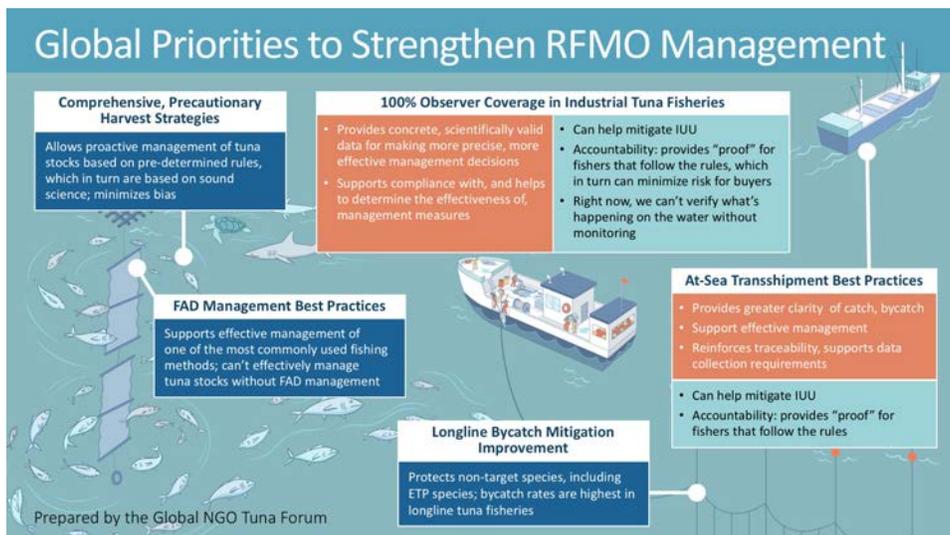
Dear Delegates:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the undersigned companies, non-governmental organizations and fishing industry associations, all of whom recognize that the sustainability of tuna stocks is integral to businesses and livelihoods, as well as to the health of the marine environment.

The undersigned agree that to ensure the long-term sustainability of tuna stocks, governments and regulatory bodies must effectively address three core elements: Stock and Ecosystem Management, Information and Data, and Transparency.



Your government serves as an important leader in tuna stock sustainability as a member of one or more of the four regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) charged with managing the world’s tropical tuna fisheries. We are writing to bring to your attention our collective views on the issues that require prioritized action in all RFMOs in the near term:



We recognize that the impacts of COVID-19 have made some meetings and discussions challenging. However, these challenges cannot be allowed to block progress on critical issues in tuna fisheries.

Specifically, we believe accelerated actions can and must be achieved on the following priorities in 2020:

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

- Adoption of a robust conservation management measure that is precautionary and based on scientific advice to limit fishing pressure on yellowfin & bigeye tunas.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC):

- Adopt an effective rebuilding plan for yellowfin tuna that fully implements the 2015 Science Committee advice, takes all gears/fleets harvesting yellowfin into account, and addresses overfishing by 2027.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT):

- Protect shortfin mako sharks by heeding scientists' warnings about North Atlantic depletion and South Atlantic imminent risk.

Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

- Accelerate action on comprehensive, precautionary strategies across all tuna stocks by 2021 that minimize the risk of stock declining to undesirable levels.

We believe these measures will positively impact the long-term sustainability of tuna stocks and the overall health of the marine ecosystem.

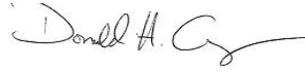
The companies that have signed this letter represent major seafood buyers that source seafood products from a diverse, international supply network. The non-governmental organizations work in more than 100 countries and engage suppliers and provide advice to retailers, buyers and food service companies regarding improvements in tuna sustainability. The fishing industry associations represent a variety of gear types, including purse seine, longline, troll, pole and line, and handline vessels active in tuna fisheries worldwide.

Collectively, we request that your government, as a member of one or more of the tuna RFMOs, take active steps to ensure significant progress on these issues at each of the relevant RFMO meetings in 2020, as a matter of priority.

Sincerely,



Gavin van Der Burgh, CEO



President - Anova Food



Hugo Byrnes, VP of Product Integrity



Anthony Snow, Seafood Director





**BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION**

Charles Clover, Executive Director
of Blue Marine Foundation



Ron Schindler, President



Dr. Luciano Pirovano,
Sustainable Development Director



Jan Tharp, CEO



Maura Latini
Direttore Generale alla Gestione



Dean Holzer, President



Ken Kimble, VP/GMM Corporate Foods



Luciano Pirovano, Sustainable Development



Ecology
Action
Centre



Project Manager



Michael McNicholas, Managing Director





EVERWIN INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.
[Signature]
Authorized Signatures



[Signature]

Sean J. O'Scannlain, President & CEO



[Signature]

Alain Bailly, CEO



[Signature]

Tobias Aguirre, Chief Executive Officer



Mr. Teddy Kho, VP-General Manager,
General Tuna Corporation



Executive Director



Jason Pride, Vice President,
Meat, Seafood, Delicatessen



Andy Shen, Senior Oceans Advisor



Andy Smith, Head of Responsible Sourcing





Martin Purves, Managing Director



Susan Jackson, President



Luciano Pirovano, Sustainable Development Director



Jennifer Lambert,
Senior Manager, Sustainability



Lisa Zwack, Head of Sustainability,
The Kroger Co.



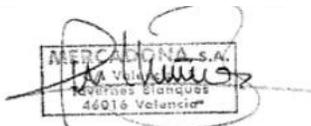
Julie Black, Executive Director



Joseph Fernando
CEO Maria Aquacon private Ltd



Joe Prosho, Agriculture, Fisheries
& Sustainable Sourcing Manager



Margarita Muñoz,
Directora Responsabilidad Social



Emily Kunen, Global Responsible Sourcing Leader,
Palm Oil & Seafood

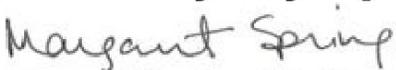
MIGROS



Adam Peasey
Adam Peasey, Managing Director



Monterey Bay Aquarium®



Margaret Spring,
Chief Conservation & Science Officer






Roberto Aguirre Román
EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT
NIRSA S.A.





Luciano Pirovano, Sustainable Development Director





William F.A. Stride, President





Cameron Mackintosh, Managing Director





Julio Morón, Director Gerente



Winston L. Chance



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luciano Pirovano".

Luciano Pirovano, Sustainable Development Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Fisher".

Stephen Fisher, Sustainability Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gorka Aspuru".

Gorka Aspuru, General Manager



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Berkowitz".

Michael Berkowitz, CEO



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luciano Pirovano".

Luciano Pirovano, Sustainable Development Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hamish Walker".

Hamish Walker, Chief Operating Officer

SHARKPROJECT



Alex Smolinsky, President SHARKPROJECT



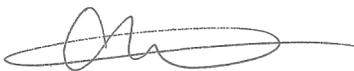
Maria Outters, Senior Vice President
Corporate Responsibility



Kevin Bixler, Global Director,
Group Fish Procurement



StarKist®



Andrew Choe, President & CEO



Mark Zimring, Director, Indo-Pacific Tuna Program



Rachel Hopkins, Senior Manager,
International Fisheries



Theresa Labriola
Wild Oceans, Pacific Program Director



Juan Corrales, CEO



Marcel Kroese,
WWF: Global Tuna Leader



Jeanne Delor, Project Officer



WILDAID