

DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW TROPICAL TUNA MEASURE WORKSHOP 2 (TTMW2) Electronic Meeting 6-10 September 2021

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WCPFC-TTMW2-2021-OP01 6 August 2021

Paper submitted by Global Tuna Alliance



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August 6th 2021

Dear TTMW2 Attendees

I am writing on behalf of the partners of the <u>Global Tuna Alliance</u> (GTA), a precompetitive collaboration of retailers, suppliers, wholesalers and brands with a major interest in improving the sustainability of the tuna sector. Together, these companies bought 1.27m tonnes of tuna, worth over USD \$1.3bn, in 2020.

As we are sure you are aware, there are 22 GSSI-recognised Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified tuna fisheries in the region, as well as an additional 5 currently seeking MSC certification, representing over two million tonnes of certified, and potentially certified, tuna within the supply chain each year. These fisheries are of significant importance to companies who have made sustainable seafood commitments.

However, these certifications are at risk of suspension; a situation clearly illustrated in a recent <u>factsheet</u> published by the MSC.

We recognize that the WCPFC is leading on the development of harvest strategies through the Work Plan and is currently the only RFMO with all "healthy" tuna stocks. The GTA is strongly urging the WCPFC to accelerate action to develop comprehensive harvest strategies across all tuna stocks as stated in CMM 2020-01 to maintain the healthy state of the tuna fisheries but also to avoid the risk of suspension of MSC certified fisheries.

At the 2021 Commission meeting we are calling for the WCPFC to adopt Target Reference Points for bigeye and yellowfin and adopt a list of candidate management procedures for skipjack & albacore. Accordingly, we prevail on the TTMW2 members to make progress on developing management objectives in advance of the Commission meeting.

Thank you in advance.

Yours Faithfully,

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Dr Tom Pickerell Executive Director