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**Information Paper to WCPFC22**

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**WCPFC22-2025-OP21**

**27 November 2025**

**Submitted by Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch**



November 25, 2025

**To:** Delegates to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

**From:** Monterey Bay Aquarium

**WCPFC22 information paper: Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch announces publication of the Tuna Fisheries Assessment for the Western and Central Pacific Ocean region**

Dear Delegates,

Thank you for your leadership at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and all you do to support a healthy ocean.

On the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the WCPFC, Monterey Bay Aquarium would like to notify all parties that the [Seafood Watch](#) fishery assessment of [tunas and large pelagics caught in the Western Central Pacific Ocean](#) has been published on the Seafood Watch website. The Aquarium appreciates the technical guidance and feedback provided by The Pacific Community (SPC), governments, industry, NGOs and other experts that contributed data and information during the assessment process.

We offer a few highlights from the completed assessment:

- Many scores improved or retained their ratings because of the Commission's continued investment in new stock assessments. A large majority of the ratings showed that target tuna populations are generally healthy. One of the historic exceptions was Pacific bluefin tuna, however the recent stock recovery improved the scores.
- Strong management by WCPFC continues to support scores within Criteria 3 (management effectiveness), however there are some variances depending on the fishery and gear type. The assessment noted the importance of maintaining progress on harvest strategies and establishing additional measures for non-target species, including bycatch data collection, catch limits and mitigation.
- The report highlights the need for increased monitoring and observer coverage, particularly the need to understand the full impact of these fisheries on bycatch species. Advancing electronic monitoring (EM) holds promise to address this need and improve their ratings, especially for longline fisheries.

More details can be found in the [full report](#).

Please contact Mr. Josh Madeira ([jmadeira@mbayaq.org](mailto:jmadeira@mbayaq.org)) and Ms. Sharon McBreen ([smcbreen@mbayaq.org](mailto:smcbreen@mbayaq.org)) if you have any questions or we can be of any assistance at WCPFC22.



## ABOUT SEAFOOD WATCH

For 25 years, [Seafood Watch](#) has been a global leader in assessing the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture and has helped businesses and consumers make choices for a healthy ocean. The program maintains rigorous, science-based [standards](#) for fisheries and aquaculture based on the U.N. Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Using those standards, Seafood Watch scientists assess fisheries or aquaculture products that are found in North American markets.

During the transparent [assessment process](#), Seafood Watch seeks out peer-reviewed research, government management plans, and other relevant information regarding the environmental sustainability of the fishery or aquaculture sector. All assessments are reviewed by external experts, and the drafts are made available for public comment. Feedback is reviewed and incorporated consistent with Seafood Watch standards, and the report is published with a green, yellow, or red rating for each seafood product.