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November 2022

ATTN: Nicaragua delegation

I am writing on behalf of the US Pacific Tuna Group Purse Seine Tuna Fishery in support of urgently needed tuna management measures in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, a region for which your government serves as an important leader as a member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

The US Pacific Tuna Group Purse Seine Tuna Fishery works closely with the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), a coalition of leading scientists, tuna processors from every region of the world and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the world's leading conservation organization. Its collective mission is to undertake science-based initiatives for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna stocks, reducing bycatch and promoting ecosystem health, through advocacy, applied science and direct action.

The US Pacific Tuna Group Purse Seine Tuna Fishery has grown increasingly concerned with the management of tuna resources in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Our company operates in this region and the sustainability of these stocks is integral to not only our business, but also to the overall marine environment.

We strongly urge Nicaragua to ensure the WCPFC takes action in December 2022 at its annual Commission Meeting, and advances work in 2023, including through supporting the adoption of proposals, on the following priority issues:

1. In 2022, adopt a harvest strategy for skipjack and Northern albacore and adopt interim TRPs for yellowfin and bigeye tuna.
2. In 2022, adopt the definition of biodegradable and categories of biodegradable FADs; By 2023, develop and adopt a FAD marking scheme; FAD ownership guidelines and rules for activation and deactivation of FAD buoys; explore FAD-recovery policies and incentives; a clear timeframe to transition to FADs made primarily of biodegradable materials; and require FAD position and acoustic data.
3. Develop and adopt by 2023 a CMM for an Electronic Monitoring Program and Minimum Standards for the use of electronic monitoring in WCPFC fisheries. Initially the EM program should be focused on fishing operations where there is a lack of observer data.



4. In 2022, adopt the ROP Minimum Standards Data Fields in forms FC-1 and FC-2 as data to be collected by observers during transshipment events.
5. In 2022, require all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached without exceptions and prohibit both branchlines of wire trace and shark lines.

As a member of the Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (US Pacific Tuna Group) FIP engaging in proactive tuna fisheries improvement activities in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, we urge you to ensure that the government of Nicaragua fully supports action on the above issues at the annual Meeting of WCPFC Commission in 2022, and in 2023, and that Nicaragua's positions will testify to your support for addressing these issues.

The US Pacific Tuna Group Purse Seine Tuna Fishery looks forward to the continued leadership of Nicaragua in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, a region rich in tuna resources that are in need of continued science-based conservation and management.

For more information, please do not hesitate in contacting the FIP coordinator Tom Evans at t.evans@keytraceability.com.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Signed on behalf of the US Pacific Tuna Group Purse Seine Tuna Fishery, November 2022