

Pacific Ocean Tropical tuna - purse seine (US Pacific Tuna Group) Position Statement for the 2022 100th IATTC Annual Meeting

Drafted with agreement from all Pacific Ocean Tropical tuna purse seine (US Pacific Tuna Group) FIP Participants – July 2022

The submission of this position statement is regarding the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) currently being undertaken by the US Pacific Tuna Group Purse Seine Fishery. targets yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) and skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*). The 13 US flagged vessels in the USPTG fleet operate primarily in the WCPO across the EEZs of PNA countries (Kiribati, Cook Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, and Palau). Some of the vessels seasonally operate in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) within the IATTC Convention Area and EEZs of the US (Jarvis, Baker Island, American Samoa). Further details can be found here:

<https://www.fisheryimprovementprojects.com/pacific-ocean-tropical-tuna-purse-seine-us-pacific-tuna-group-1>.

This FIP aims to meet the rising global demand for tuna in a sustainable manner by assuring catches do not exceed sustainable levels, promoting the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and strengthening policy and governance systems in the region. The end goal is to achieve certification under the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) Fisheries Standard by 2024.

As part of this FIP reaching MSC certification there are various actions that need to be undertaken that involve a range of different stakeholders. To ensure the FIP meets these objectives we need the support of the IATTC and urge action at the IATTC annual meeting this year on multiple topics laid out in this position statement.

The Pacific Ocean Tropical tuna - purse seine (US Pacific Tuna Group) FIP strongly urges the IATTC and its member states to ensure the IATTC acts in August at the Annual Meeting of the IATTC Commission to:

1. Fully implement Resolution C-21-04 so that the status quo fishing mortality for bigeye and yellowfin is not exceeded; and adequately resource and implement the bigeye Individual Vessel Limits Pilot Study during 2022.
2. Prohibit the use of any netting in the construction of FADs and encourage fishers/shipowners to research and utilize viable biodegradable alternative materials to deploy on fads from 2024 and onwards
3. Accelerate the management strategy evaluation process for all target tunas.
4. Adopt best practice reforms to Resolution C-12-07 to improve the regulation of at-sea transshipment.
5. Establish a work plan to strengthen the Review Committee's procedures and outcomes.

If the above-mentioned are addressed effectively it will have positive long term-sustainability implications and improve the overall health of the Eastern Pacific marine ecosystem to allow for fisheries like our current FIP to achieve sustainability targets, particularly in line with MSC certification.

Signed on behalf of the Pacific Ocean Tropical tuna - purse seine (US Pacific Tuna Group)

July 2022