

From: Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna – purse seine (Kiribati Fish Limited)

ATTN: Ministry of Agriculture of the Peoples Republic of China,  
Bureau of Fisheries,  
No.11 Nongzhanguan Nanli,  
Chaoyang District,  
Beijing, China

I am writing on behalf of Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna – purse seine (Kiribati Fish Limited) 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 FIP 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 FIP 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 recognize that the impacts of COVID-19 continue to present challenges to regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) like the WCPFC. However, we do not believe these circumstances should prevent the WCPFC from taking action in 2021 to adopt science-based management measures to ensure the sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview.

We strongly urge China to ensure the WCPFC takes action in December 2021 at its virtual Commission Meeting, and advances work in 2022, including through supporting the adoption of proposals, on the following priority issues:

- 1. Adopt an enforceable tropical tuna conservation and management measure (CMM) for all fleets that limits fishing mortality for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack that removes ambiguities and exemptions.**
- 2. Adopt a work plan for FADs with a timeframe to transition to FADs without nets and made primarily with biodegradable materials; develop recovery policies, a marking scheme and ownership rules; and require FAD position and acoustic data.**


3. In order to meet the June 2023 MSC deadline for harvest strategy conditions, adopt target reference points for bigeye and yellowfin; a list of candidate management procedures for skipjack & albacore; and establish a scientist/manager dialogue group.
4. Adopt a CMM for an Electronic Monitoring Program and Minimum Standards for the use of electronic monitoring in WCPFC fisheries
5. Accelerate the remaining work to reform the at-sea transshipment CMM and the Compliance Monitoring Scheme.

As a member of a FIP engaging in proactive tuna fisheries improvement activities in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, we urge you to ensure that the government of China fully supports action on the above issues at the Virtual Meeting of WCPFC Commission in 2021, and in 2022, and that the China positions will testify to your support for addressing these issues.

The FIP looks forward to the continued leadership of China in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, a region rich in tuna resources that are in need of continued science-based conservation and management.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles Horsnell  
FIP coordinator  
Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna – purse seine (Kiribati Fish Limited)