

Indian Ocean tuna and large pelagics - longline (Afrivet) FIP Position Statement Ahead of the IOTC Special Session 2023

January 2023

ATTN: Mr. Jorge Mafuca and Mr. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul

I am writing on behalf of the [Indian Ocean Tuna and large pelagics – Longline \(Afrivet\) FIP](#) in support of urgently needed tuna management measures in the Indian Ocean, a region for which your government serves as an important leader as a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

Indian Ocean Tuna and large pelagics – Longline (Afrivet) 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.

Indian Ocean Tuna and large pelagics – Longline (Afrivet) FIP is concerned with the status of the tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean and their effective management. We operate in this region and the sustainability of these stocks is integral to not only our business, but also to the overall marine environment.

Indian Ocean Tuna and large pelagics – Longline (Afrivet) FIP strongly urge your government to ensure the IOTC takes action in February at the Special Meeting of the IOTC Commission to:

1. Develop and implement science-based limits on FAD deployments and/or FAD sets, consistent with management objectives for tropical tunas.
2. Allow the IOTC Scientific Committee to use submitted FAD tracking data for scientific purposes. These data are currently used only for FAD limit compliance purposes.
3. Require the use of biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs to minimize use of
4. synthetic/plastic materials in FAD construction. Establish a timeline for transitioning to 100%
5. biodegradable.
6. Develop and adopt FAD marking guidelines, including requiring the marking of the buoy and the FAD structure.
7. Develop and adopt FAD tracking and recovery policies, as called for in Res.19/02, that consider utilizing supply vessels in FAD recovery efforts.
8. Adopt clearer rules for FAD ownership and activation, as well as for deactivation of FAD buoys.

As a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna and large pelagics – Longline (Afrivet) FIP engaging in proactive tuna fisheries improvement activities in the Indian Ocean, we urge you to ensure that your government fully supports action on the above issues at the February 2023 Special Meeting of IOTC Commission, and that Mozambique and Mauritius' positions will testify to your support for addressing these issues.

Indian Ocean Tuna and large pelagics – Longline (Afrivet) FIP looks forward to the continued leadership of your government in the Indian Ocean, a region rich in tuna resources that are in need of continued science-based conservation and management.

Kind regards,



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