

Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna – purse seine FIP (Marpesca) Position Statement for the 2022 100th Annual meeting of IATTC

Drafted with agreement from all Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna – purse seine FIP (Marpesca) participants – May 2022

The submission of this position statement is regarding the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) currently being undertaken by the Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna – purse seine fishery (Marpesca). The fishery targets bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), and yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) tuna. The FIP has five purse seine vessels flagged to Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Panama, fishing on the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) (and occasionally in national Exclusive Economic Zone). They are operated by Marpesca and are managed regionally by the IATTC. The fishery uses Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). To find out more information on the present FIP, please view the public FisheryProgress profile [here](#).

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 2025.

As part of this FIP reaching MSC certification, there are various actions which need to be undertaken which 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 Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna - purse seine FIP (Marpesca) 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. Adopt precautionary tuna conservation and management measures, based on the current scientific advice, including additional FAD management measures;
2. Request the Scientific Staff to provide science-based limits on active FADs, deployments and/or sets;
3. Require the provision of raw data from echo-sounder buoys and amend the FAD resolution to include clear timelines to develop FAD marking guidelines and ownership rules and transitioning to the use of FADs without netting and made primarily of biodegradable materials;
4. Accelerate development of MSE for bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna;
5. Adopt the EMS workplan. Establish and require a fleet-wide observer programme (human or electronic) for purse seine vessels by 2023;
6. By 2023, adopt a Port State Measures Resolution; and
7. Establish a work plan to operationalize paragraphs 5-8 of C-11-07 on Compliance and to develop audit points.

If the above-mentioned Asks are addressed effectively, they will have a positive impact on long-term sustainability and improve overall health of Panamanian coastal ecosystems to allow local fisheries and our FIP to achieve sustainability targets, with particular focus on MSC certification.

For any further information, please contact the FIP manager Emily Wardrop at e.wardrop@keytraceability.com

Signed on behalf of the Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna – purse seine FIP (Marpesca)

May 2022