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Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá
Avenida Justo Arosemena y, C. 45 Este,
Panamá City,
Panama

July 2023

Via email to yvergara@arap.gob.pa

RE: Observer data Request for Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna - purse seine (Marpesca) Fishery Improvement Project Vessels

Dear Mr. Vergara,

The submission of this letter is a formal request for data pertaining to vessels included in the Fishery Improvement (FIP) 'Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna - purse seine (Marpesca)'. The data request is made on behalf of all companies involved and the vessel list can be seen in Appendix 1.

Briefly, the Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna – purse seine (Marpesca) fishery 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 fishery targets bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) and yellowfin (*T. albacares*) tuna. There are five purse seine vessels flagged to Panama and Nicaragua, fishing on the high seas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) (and occasionally in EEZs). They are operated by Marpesca and are managed regionally by the IATTC. They fish both using Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) and free school (non-FAD associated). To find more information on the present FIP please view the [FisheryProgress profile here](#).

To meet the aim of becoming MSC certified, the fishery needs to submit observer data, and operational information for analysis to understand about the potential impact the fishery has on non-target and endangered, threatened, and protected (ETP) species. Once this is understood, the FIP can develop and implement appropriate management plans based on best available data.

As three of the vessels within the FIP are flagged to Panama, I am writing to ARAP to request access to the observer data from 2018-2023. I reached out to the IATTC already and they require confirmation from ARAP before they can provide it to us for analysis. The analysis will all be confidential, but necessary to understand the specific impacts on non-target species.

If we are taking the wrong way about submission for this request, it would be appreciated if you could direct us to the appropriate mechanisms/channels.

Data request

In line with the Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission (as revised by C-15-07), on behalf of vessel owners, we please request observer catch data for years 2018-2023 for the Panama-flagged purse seine vessels in this FIP. This data will go towards helping to adopt an ecosystem-based approach to the FIPs management plans. Please see appendix 1 for vessel name, IMO and flag state.

Please complete the signature section in **appendix 2** to confirm that we have been granted access to the 2018-2023 observer data for these vessels.

If you require any further information that will help with the data request, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Emily Wardrop – FIP Manager, Key Traceability
e.wardrop@keytraceability.com

Appendix 1. Data request for vessels for years 2018 through to 2022:

| Vessel Name | IMO number | Flag | Owner |
|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| Tunamar | 7409138 | Panama | Marpesca |
| Pescatun | 7305409 | Nicaragua | Marpesca |
| Seatuna | 7123473 | Nicaragua | Marpesca |
| Tunapesca | 7395375 | Panama | Marpesca |
| Hellas Tuna | 8021763 | Panama | Marpesca |

Appendix 2: Signatories of ARAP

Name of Company: ARAP

Name of Authorised Company Representative: ____Mr. Vergara____

Signature of Authorised Company Representative: _____