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February 2022

Via email to [REDACTED]

RE: Introduction to the Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna (GSK Marine S.A.) FIP

Dear All,

The submission of this letter is an introduction to the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) currently operating in the Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna fishery (GSK Marine S.A.). The fishery targets Atlantic bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), Eastern Atlantic skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), and Atlantic yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*). The singular purse seine vessel within the FIP is flagged to Guinea and operates on the high seas and within the following coastal states' EEZs: Guinea, Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, and Liberia (see Appendix 1 for full vessel details). The fishery is regionally managed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in the Atlantic Ocean. Please view the FIP overview and [action workplan](#) on the [FisheryProgress profile](#), to find out more information.

In order to achieve its aims of becoming certified by the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard by 2025, the FIP will adopt the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management to ensure that the fishing effort does not exceed sustainable levels for tuna stocks. Moreover, the FIP aims to build and maintain relations with governance systems to strengthen local policies.

As part of this FIP reaching MSC standards there are various actions that need to be undertaken that involve a range of different stakeholders. As one of the coastal states, your cooperation is necessary to ensure the project succeeds. This FIP will have shared aims with the fisheries agency, and we would like to align and cooperate as much as possible on issues such as employing observers and electronic monitoring (EM) systems on the vessel to conduct catch data reports, ensure best practices in the handling and release of ETP species, and ensuring a robust Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) is implemented across all vessels. Further clarity on the legal and customary framework, roles and responsibilities of parties within the stakeholders, decision-making processes, compliance and enforcement within the governing systems, and the systems in place for assessing management performance are all critical information that will be required for the progression of the FIP.

If this and the above tasks are addressed effectively, it will have positive long-term implications for both the Atlantic Ocean ecosystem and tuna stock health, and in turn will allow FIPs to achieve the sustainability targets in line with MSC certification standards.

It is through this collective action and stakeholder collaboration that a sustainable blue economy can be formed. If you would like more details of any of the above, we would be eager to engage further and go through the FIP action plan in greater detail, either in person or via call/online meeting. Either way, please do not hesitate to get into contact and we can arrange it.

Kind regards,

Emily Wardrop – FIP Coordinator, Key Traceability

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Appendix 1

Vessel name	Call sign	IMO number	Flag	Areas of operation
Sea Frontier	3X2015	8988806	Guinea	ICCAT High Seas, Guinea EEZ, Liberia EEZ, Senegal EEZ, Guinea Bissau EEZ, Sierra Leone EEZ, Cape Verde EEZ, Mauritania EEZ