



July 17, 2023

ATTN: Heads of Delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

17 Environmental Organizations Call on the IATTC to Adopt and Implement Management Procedures (Harvest Strategies) for Albacore Tuna Stocks

The adoption and implementation of comprehensive precautionary management procedures (i.e., harvest strategies) is fundamental to effective long-term management of tuna fisheries. At the 101st annual meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in August 2023, the Commission has an important opportunity to **adopt a management procedure for Northern albacore and collaborate with WCPFC on adoption of a coordinated management procedure for Southern Albacore**. We urge the Commission to not miss this opportunity to improve the health of these important stocks.

Additionally in 2023, we urge the Commission to:

- Establish and convene a scientist-manager dialogue group to **advance management procedures for other tuna stocks**.
- **Adopt electronic monitoring program standards** and a timeline for implementation by 2025.
- **Review Resolution C-11-02 to include an option for hook shielding devices** as a mitigation measure for reducing seabird bycatch and encourage further research on the performance and feasibility of hook shielding devices in the East Pacific Ocean.

The undersigned also encourage the Commission to also address several issues that impact the health of all tuna stocks and their ecosystems in the eastern Pacific Ocean, including:

- **Require 100% observer coverage** (human and/or electronic) in industrial tuna fisheries, including all those vessels engaged in at sea transshipment, by 2024.
- **Adopt and/or strengthen at-sea transshipment measures** in line with best practices, such as those recommended in the [NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on At-Sea Transshipment](#).
- **Strengthen FAD management provisions** in line with the [NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on FAD Management](#).
- **Strengthen compliance mechanisms to ensure processes are transparent and robust so that members are held accountable** for the implementation of all conservation management measures and data reporting requirements and there are clear consequences for non-compliance.
- **Implement precautionary, science-based regulations, best practices and guidelines for avoidance, handling, release and, where appropriate, science-based catch or retention limits**, for all tuna fishing fleets to proactively minimize their impacts upon all non-target and non-retained bycatch species.
- **Require fins naturally attached for ALL (i.e., fresh and frozen) sharks without exceptions**, adopting the globally acknowledged best practice to prevent finning.
- **Establish recommendations for labor and safety standards for crew and observers** on fishing vessels based on relevant international labor conventions.

We the undersigned agree that these critical issues can and must be addressed during the Commission's annual meeting.

As a delegate to the IATTC, we urge your government to support efforts to adopt proposals or take other actions to address the important issues noted above this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

