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Taiwan Fisheries Agency
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Taiwan

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Via email to dingrong@ms1.fa.gov.tw and kuoping@ms1.fa.gov.tw

**RE: Observer Data Request Pacific Ocean tuna - longline (Cheng Hung Seafood Frozen Produce Co., Ltd.)
Fishery Improvement Project Vessels**

Dear Director of Fisheries Agency (Ding-Rong Lin),

The submission of this letter is a formal request for data pertaining to vessels included in the Fishery Improvement (FIP) 'Pacific Ocean tuna - longline (Cheng Hung Seafood Frozen Produce Co., Ltd.) FIP' The data request is made on behalf of all companies involved and signatories can be seen in the appendix.

Briefly, the fishery targets albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye (*T. obesus*), yellowfin (*T. albacares*) and skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) tuna. The pelagic longline vessels are flagged to Taiwan and Vanuatu and fish on the high seas and occasionally in the national Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. The fishery is managed regionally the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). This FIP aims to meet the rising global demand for tuna in a sustainable manner by assuring catches do not exceed sustainable levels, promoting an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and strengthening policy and governance systems in the region. 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 2027.

To find more information on the present FIP please view the [FisheryProgress profile here](#).

Currently to meet many of these aims, vessel catch, and operational data are required. Although the vessels within the FIP collect catch information, they are currently not sufficient in their scope and depth (species classifications, volumes etc.) to address many aims of the FIP - such as understanding the impacts of the fishery 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. Therefore, the FIP requires data obtained through observer programmes to provide the scope and depth needed to address these aims.

As a Flag state of the FIPs vessels, we are writing to you to please help us with the acquiring of this data. If this is also not the appropriate channel to submit this request, it would be appreciated if you could direct us so we may follow the proper procedures.

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 WCPFC4 2007 and IATTC C-15-07), on behalf of vessel owners, we please request observer catch data for years 2017-2020 for the longline vessels in this Fishery 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.

This data will go towards helping to adopt an ecosystem-based approach to the FIP's management plans. Please see appendix 1 for vessel name, supplier, IMO, flag state, and appendix 2 for letters to boat owners and their signatures. Data includes but is not limited to:

- Number of sets
- Fishing locations of sets
- Bycatch information, such as species, fate and condition if released
- Bycatch mitigation deployed
- Estimate of weight (or number of individuals) caught of ETP species

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

Kind regards,



Tom Evans – FIP Manager



Tom Evans

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Appendix 1. Data request for the longline vessels for years 2017 through to 2020 (four years):