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Belize Fisheries Department  
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Via email to [fisheries\\_department@fisheries.gov.bz](mailto:fisheries_department@fisheries.gov.bz) and [mg.cfu@ffsd.gov.bz](mailto:mg.cfu@ffsd.gov.bz)

**RE: Observer Data Request for Atlantic Ocean Tuna Longline (Starkist) Fishery Improvement Project Vessels**

Dear Belize Fisheries Department,

The submission of this letter is a formal request for data pertaining to vessels included in the Fishery Improvement (FIP) 'Atlantic Ocean Tuna Longline (Starkist)' The data request is made on behalf of all companies involved and can be seen in the appendix.

Briefly, the fishery targets albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye (*T. obesus*) and yellowfin (*T. albacares*) tunas. The pelagic longline vessels are flagged to Taiwan, St Vincent, Senegal, Panama and Belize and fish on the high seas (and occasionally in the national EEZs) in the Atlantic. The fishery is managed regionally by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in the Atlantic Ocean.

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.

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 some of the FIPs vessels, we are writing to you to please help us with the acquiring of this data. The FIP has tried contacting ICCAT directly for this data however we have been requested to go through the Taiwanese Flag State to contact the ICCAT Secretariat to receive 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 ICCAT (Annex 6, Adopted by the commission in 2010), on behalf of vessel owners, we please request aggregated observer data for years 2019-2023 for the 19 longline vessels in this Atlantic Ocean Tuna Longline (StarKist) FIP. This data needs to be obtained by the submission of this request through the appropriate Chinese Authority.

This data will go towards helping to adopt an ecosystem-based approach to the FIP's management plans. Please see **Table 1** for vessel name, supplier, IMO, flag state, and **Table 2** for the trips that have been observed.

- Number of sets
- Fishing locations of sets
- Type of set (floating object or free school)
- Bycatch information, such as species, fate and condition if released
- FAD deployment information
- 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Evans'.

Tom Evans – Director, Key Traceability

## Appendix I

Table 1: Data request for vessels for years 2019 through to 2023

Vessel Representative	Vessel Name	Imo Number	Flag
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Chung Kuo No.31	8661939	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Chung Kuo No.32	8661941	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Chung Kuo No.37	8661977	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Chung Kuo No.39	8661989	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Chung Kuo No.212	8662036	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Chung Kuo No.222	8662048	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Chung Kuo No.288	8662074	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Chung Kuo No.289	8662086	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Gilontas No. 313	8668781	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Gilontas No. 323	8668793	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Gilontas No. 363	8668822	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Gilontas No. 386	8668779	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Gilontas No. 393	8668834	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Falcon 1	8668717	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Falcon 2	8668729	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Falcon 3	8668731	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Falcon 5	8668743	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Falcon 6	8668755	Belize
Star Trading Corporation Limited	Falcon 7	8667767	Belize

Table 2: Observed trips for years 2019 through to 2023

Atlantic Ocean Belize Flag
C222-2019.04.06~ 2019.05.01
C212-2022.08.21~ 2022.09.19
G353-2022.10.09~ 2022.11.11