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The Ministry of Ocean Fisheries,
Government Complex-Sejong,
94, Dasom 2ro, Sejong-si,
Republic of Korea

May 2022

Via email to

RE:

Dear MOF,

The submission of this letter is a formal advocacy pertaining to the Western and Central Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) key Conservation and Management Measures for Western and Central Pacific Ocean fish stocks.

The undersigned group of companies represents the [Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna – purse seine](#) fishery, a fleet comprised of 14 tuna purse seine vessels flagged to Korea (The Republic of), Tuvalu, and Kiribati. The fishery targets bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), and yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) using FAD-associated sets. The fleet operates in the EEZs of PNA countries, and occasionally the Cook Islands EEZs and the WCPO high seas.

The undersigned group of companies and organizations in Korea would like to commend the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) for taking a leadership role in managing key tuna stocks in the region to remain healthy. We firmly believe that effective management of all tuna fisheries, in accordance with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement as well as recommended by the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, is vital to ensure responsible harvest of all tunas and sustainable livelihood of developing countries in the region.

We, however, have grave concerns over the continued delay in adopting key Conservation and Management Measures and strongly urges the WCPFC to accelerate actions to develop and adopt Harvest Strategies for all tuna stocks as set out in CMM 2021-01, in order to;

Prevent the possible suspension of Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certifications

Support the fisheries in Fishery Improvement Projects to implement their action plans

In 2022, we specifically request WCPFC to;

Make profound progress in developing and implementing Management Procedures and Management Strategy Evaluation for Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye tunas, and specifically to

Adopt precautionary Target Reference Points for bigeye and yellowfin

Endorse the continued development and implementation of limit reference points (LRPs) and TRPs for proper management of all stocks, including sharks as a priority.

Improve data collection, regardless of fishing gears, for all tuna stocks as well as endangered, threatened and protected species and ecosystem impacts that contribute to science-based conservation and management

Some of the undersigned companies also represent two fisheries certified as 'sustainable' by MSC, two in a comprehensive Fishery Improvement Project, and the Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna - purse seine



fishery in MSC Assessment, which is regionally managed by the WCPFC. We reiterate our thanks to the WCPFC for its leadership in the global tuna management and support for expediting the process of addressing the pending Harvest Strategy issues.

Kind regards,

DONGWON INDUSTRIES CO., LTD
Myoung W Lee
M. W. LEE
PRESIDENT