



## Atlantic Ocean tuna - longline (Bumble Bee/FCF) FIP Position Statement for ICCAT 2021

Drafted with agreement from all FIP Participants – November 2021

We are writing on behalf of [Atlantic Ocean tuna - longline \(Bumble Bee/FCF\)](#) FIP in support of urgently needed tuna management measures in the Atlantic Ocean, a region for which your delegation serves as an important leader as a member of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). In the case of this FIP, the fishery being assessed is the Atlantic Ocean tuna - longline (FCF) fishery. The fishery targets albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) and yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*). The longline vessels in this assessment are flagged to Taiwan, Namibia, Belize and Panama and fish on the high seas and within the Namibia Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The fishery is managed regionally the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). 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. The end goal is to achieve certification under the [Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\)](#) Fisheries Standard by 2026.

The FIP works closely with the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), a coalition of leading scientists, tuna processors from every region of the world and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The collective mission is to undertake science-based initiatives for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna stocks, reducing bycatch and promoting ecosystem health, through advocacy, applied science and direct action.

Within the FIP membership we have grown increasingly concerned with the management of tuna resources in the Atlantic Ocean. BBS/FCF operate in this region and the sustainability of these stocks is integral to not only our business, but also to the overall marine environment.

We recognize that the impacts of COVID-19 continue to present challenges to regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) like ICCAT. However, we do not believe these circumstances should prevent ICCAT from acting in 2021 to adopt science-based management measures to ensure the sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview.

We strongly urge you to ensure ICCAT acts in November at its virtual Commission Meeting, and advances work in 2022, including through supporting the adoption of proposals, on the following issues:

1. Revise Rec. 19-02 to ensure that the bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks are maintained at sustainable levels and catches are maintained within agreed upon TACs.
2. Adopt a work plan for FADs with a timeframe to transition to FADs without nets and made primarily with Commission approved biodegradable materials; develop viable recovery policies, a marking scheme and ownership rules; and require the provision of FAD position and acoustic data within a relevant time period.
3. Accelerate the adoption of harvest strategies for tropical tunas.
4. Adopt minimum standards for electronic monitoring and require appropriate levels of observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for all major ICCAT fisheries, and all vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment by 2024.



5. Request the Compliance Committee to address non-compliance with FAD data reporting requirements and develop audit points for ICCAT measures.
6. Improve existing ETP species, including birds, sharks, turtles and marine mammals, CMs especially regarding data collection and the implementation of the required mitigation measures.

As a member of a FIP engaging in proactive tuna fisheries improvement activities in the Atlantic Ocean, we urge you to ensure that you fully support action on the above issues at the virtual ICCAT Commission Meeting in 2021, and in 2022, and that your positions will demonstrate your support for addressing these issues.

Our FIP looks forward to your continued leadership in the Atlantic Ocean, a region rich in tuna resources that need continued science-based conservation and management.

For any further information, please contact the FIP manager, Tom Evans at [t.evans@keytraceability.com](mailto:t.evans@keytraceability.com)

*Signed on behalf of the Atlantic Ocean tuna - longline (Bumble Bee/FCF) FIP by:*

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