



KangTai
22nd F.-5, NO.56 Minsheng 1st Road,
Xinxing District,
Kaohsiung City, 800304
Taiwan (R.O.C.)

Taiwan Fisheries Agency
No.1, Yugang N. 1st Rd.,
Qianzhen Dist.,
Kaohsiung City 80672,
Taiwan

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

RE: Observer Data Request for Atlantic Ocean tuna - longline (Bumble Bee/FCF) 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) 'Atlantic Ocean tuna - longline (Bumble Bee/FCF)' 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 (*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). The project is now being led by Key Traceability (KangTai) instead of the original coordinator, Ocean Outcomes.

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 2026.

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 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 2017 – 2019 for the two longline vessels in this Atlantic Ocean tuna - longline (Bumble Bee/FCF) FIP (three years' worth of data). This data needs to be obtained by the submission of this request through the appropriate Authority.

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
Director at Key Traceability & KangTai
Mobile/Line: +44 7584 659898
Skype: [tom-evans999](https://www.skype.com/user/tom-evans999)
United Kingdom
<http://keytraceability.com/>



Appendix 1. Data request for vessels for years 2017 through to 2019 (three years):



Appendix 2: Signatories of the companies making data request

Name of Company:

Date: _____

Name of Authorised Company Representative: _____

Signature of Authorised Company Representative: _____

Name of Company:

Date: _____

Name of Authorised Company Representative: _____

Signature of Authorised Company Representative: _____