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Ministry of Agriculture of the Peoples Republic of China,  
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<Date>

Via email to [webmaster\\_En@agri.gov.cn](mailto:webmaster_En@agri.gov.cn)

**RE: Liancheng Overseas Fishery (Shenzhen) Fishery Improvement Project Introduction**

Dear Chinese Bureau of Fisheries,

The submission of this letter is an introduction to the [Fishery Improvement Project](#) (FIP) currently being undertaken by the Liancheng Overseas Fishery (Shenzhen) Company's Pacific Ocean Longline Tuna Fishery. The fishery targets albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) tuna and also catches bigeye (*T. obesus*) and yellowfin (*T. albacares*) tunas. The pelagic longline vessels are flagged to China, Taiwan, Federated States of Micronesia and Fiji, fish on the high seas (and occasionally in the national EEZs) in the Pacific Ocean and are managed by the Liancheng Overseas Fishery (Shenzhen) Co. The fishery is managed regionally by WCPFC in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and by IATTC in the Eastern Pacific 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 2024.

To find more information on the present FIP and especially the following actions which are listed below, please view <https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/pacific-tuna-longline-liancheng>, in particular the '[Workplan](#)' document.

As part of this FIP reaching MSC standards there are various actions which need to be undertaken which involve a range of different stakeholders. Specifically, as a flag state it has been identified that it would be beneficial if the following could be addressed:

- *Observer Coverage*: Most longline observer coverage is low, with many not meeting RFMO minimum requirements of 5%. This naturally creates large gaps in data and possible areas of non-compliance. If progress was made within China for these longline vessels to increase observer coverage it would help achieve FMFO minimum requirements.
- *Fishery specific objectives*: It has been difficult from desk-based research to identify fishery specific objectives from many flag states, including China. If information could be supplied of Chinas fishery specific objectives it would allow the FIP to have better management. If we could be directed to this information, it would be appreciated.
- *Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MSC)*: It has been identified that some longline fisheries transship much of their catch at sea. Chinas longline fleet is no exception and it is asked that we can be directed to an updated Chinese MCS plan.
- *Fisheries Management System (FMS)*: It has been identified that although China has made improvements in its FMS, there is still work that needs to be done regarding supervisory review and evaluation mechanisms which allows for the effective implementation and management effectiveness of the regulatory functions of the competent authorities. It is of importance for the proper



management of fish stocks, including overseas fisheries, that these FMS, in particularly, external reviews of FMS, are put in place.

- Please provide summary observer and logbook data for albacore longline fleets so an assessment of the impacts the fishery has on the ecosystem can be made for the current FIP, and so that a demonstration of shark finning is not taking place within the fishery

If the above mentioned are addressed effectively it will have positive long term-sustainability implications and improve overall health of the Pacific marine ecosystem to allow for fisheries/business like our current FIPs to achieve sustainability targets, particularly in line with MSC certification standards.

It is through this collective action and stakeholder collaboration that a sustainable blue economy can be formed. If you would like more details of any of the above, we would be eager to engage further and go through the FIP action plan in greater detail, either in person or via call/online meeting. Either way, please do not hesitate to get into contact and we can arrange it.

Kind regards,  
<Signature>  
<Name>, <Position>  
<Email>