



East Atlantic Sustainable Tuna Initiative (EASTI)

A Fishery Improvement Project for the Eastern Atlantic Ocean Purse Seine Tuna Fishery
<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/eastern-atlantic-tuna-purse-seine>

Eastern Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna FIP Position Statement for the ICCAT Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1

On behalf of Eastern Atlantic Ocean tuna purse seine (Thai Union) FIP Participants May 2022

ATTN: ICCAT and delegations

The submission of this position statement is regarding the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) currently being undertaken by the Eastern Atlantic Ocean tuna – purse seine (Thai Union) fishery. The fishery targets bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), and yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) tuna in FAD-associated purse seine sets. The fishing vessels are flagged to Spain and France, operating in the high seas in FAO fishing areas 34 and 47, and the following Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs): Ghana, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, and Côte d'Ivoire. The companies managing the fishing vessels are all members of Producer Organisations such as the Ghana Tuna Association (GTA), ANABAC-OPTUC and Orthongel. The fishery is managed regionally by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in the Atlantic Ocean.

To find more information on the present FIP, please view the public Fishery Progress profile [here](#).

We strongly urge ICCAT acts to ensure that Recommendations that are about to partially or fully expire, continue to remain effective throughout 2022. Other priority issues are listed below:

Management measures for tropical tunas

Ask 1: With specific reference to the work of ICCAT in the adoption of harvest strategies, including reference points, clearly defined harvest control rules (HCRs) and monitoring mechanisms need to be implemented. We urge ICCAT to adopt harvest strategies for skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye tuna that align with well-defined HCRs to manage and respond to the state of the stocks.

Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

Ask 2: Adopt a Recommendation that all vessels managed by ICCAT use biodegradable FADs (bioFADs) across the fisheries.

Ask 3: ICCAT should adopt a FAD marking scheme based on FAO guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear to apply to all FAD deployments, regardless of vessel type.

For any further information, please contact the FIP coordinator Kat Collinson at k.collinson@keytraceability.com

Signed on behalf of the Eastern Atlantic Ocean tuna – purse seine (Thai Union) FIP - May, 2022