

East Atlantic Ocean Tuna Pole & Line FIP (EAT P&L FIP)  
Management of tropical tuna species  
October 2022

ATTN: Heads of ICCAT Delegation

I am writing on behalf of the East Atlantic Tuna P&L FIP in support of urgently needed tuna management measures in the Atlantic Ocean, a region for which your government serves as an important leader as a member of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The East Atlantic Tuna P&L 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 world's leading conservation organization. Its 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.

The participants in the East Atlantic Tuna P&L FIP have grown increasingly concerned with the management of tuna resources in the Atlantic Ocean. These companies operate in this region and the sustainability of these stocks is integral to not only their 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 2022 to adopt science-based management measures to ensure the sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview.

We strongly urge all delegates to ensure to ensure ICCAT takes action in November at its Commission Meeting, and advances work in 2023, including through supporting the adoption of proposals, on the following priority issues:

- 1. Ensure that catch limits in the Recommendation that supersedes Rec. 21-01 allow the bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks to remain at sustainable levels and catches are maintained within the Total Allowable Catch.**
- 2. Review compliance with FAD data reporting provisions and take corrective measures as needed. Adopt in 2022 a timeframe to transition to FADs without nets and made primarily with biodegradable materials; develop recovery policies, a marking scheme and ownership rules; and require FAD position and acoustic data for scientific use.**
- 3. Adopt harvest strategies for bluefin tuna in 2022 and in 2023 accelerate the development of harvest strategies for all tropical tuna stocks.**
- 4. Adopt minimum standards for electronic monitoring by 2023. Require 100% 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.**

As a stakeholders of the East Atlantic Tuna P&L FIP engaging in proactive tuna fisheries improvement activities in the Atlantic Ocean, we urge you to ensure that your government of fully supports action on the above issues at the ICCAT Commission Meeting in 2022, and in 2023, and that your positions will testify to your support for addressing these issues.

The East Atlantic Ocean Tuna P&L FIP looks forward to your continued leadership in the Atlantic Ocean, a region rich in tuna resources that are in need of continued science-based conservation and management.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Youssef Jaridi  
Coordinator EAT P&L FIP

Enc. 2022 ISSF ICCAT Position Statement