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Ecuador Ministerio de Acuacultura y Pesca
Puerto Pesquero Artesanal de, Manta,
Ecuador

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Via email to aveliz@produccion.gob.ec and aarens@produccion.gob.ec

RE: Data Request for Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna - purse seine (Marpesca) Fishery Improvement Project Vessels

Dear Ms Veliz,

The submission of this letter is a formal request for data pertaining to vessels included in the Fishery Improvement (FIP) 'Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna - purse seine (Marpesca)'. The data request is made on behalf of all companies involved and the vessel list can be seen in Appendix 1. These companies have provided consent for us to access this data.

Briefly, the Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna - purse seine (Marpesca) Fishery 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 fishery targets bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) and yellowfin (*T. albacares*) tuna. There are five purse seine vessels flagged to Ecuador, Nicaragua and Panama, fishing on the high seas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) (and occasionally in EEZs). They are operated by Marpesca and are managed regionally by the IATTC. They fish both using Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) and free school (non-FAD associated). 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 is required. Although the vessels within the FIP collect catch statistics, 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 one of the governing RFMO's we are writing to you to please help us with the acquiring of this data. If we are taking the wrong way about submission for this request, it would be appreciated if you could direct us to the appropriate mechanisms/channels or send this approved request to the IATTC to release the data.

Data request

In line with the Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission (as revised by C-15-07), on behalf of vessel owners, we please request observer catch data for years 2017-2019 for the purse seine vessels in this FIP. This data will go towards helping to adopt an ecosystem-based approach to the FIPs management plans. Please see appendix 1 for vessel name, IMO and flag state.

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
Key Traceability
t.evans@keytraceability.com



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

Vessel Name	IMO number	Flag	Owner
Julie L	7053288	Ecuador	Marpesca
Tunamar	7409138	Ecuador	Marpesca