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

RE: 2020 WCPFC Annual Meeting Position Statement

Dear Taiwan Fisheries Agency,

The submission of this letter and subsequent position statement is regarding the [Fishery Improvement Project](#) (FIP) currently being undertaken by Thai Union and Liancheng Overseas Fishery (Shenzhen) Company, with coordination by Key Traceability. The fishery targets albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) tuna and catches bigeye (*T. obesus*) and yellowfin (*T. albacares*) tunas. The pelagic longline vessels are flagged to Taiwan, China, the Federated States of Micronesia and Fiji, fish on the high seas (and occasionally in the national EEZs) in the Pacific Ocean, are managed by the Liancheng Overseas Fishery (Shenzhen) Co. and catch are purchased by Thai Union. The fishery is managed regionally by WCPFC in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and by IATTC in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. To find more information on the present FIP, please view the public Fishery Progress profile here: <https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/pacific-tuna-longline-liancheng>.

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.

As part of this FIP reaching MSC certification there are various actions which need to be undertaken which involve a range of different stakeholders. To ensure the FIP meets these objectives we need the support of the Flag states during the 2020 annual WCPFC meeting to pursue decisions are made on multiple topics laid out below. To see these actions in further detail, please see the position statement available on the Fishery Progress FIP page sent on behalf of all the FIP participants to WCPFC.

As a flag state, it is important that the following decisions are pursued during the WCPFC meeting in 2020 and we ask for you to make sure the following asks are raised:

- **Ask 1:** WCPFC puts in place comprehensive and robust harvest strategies for all principal market tuna stocks, which include target and limit reference points together with harvest controls rules, providing pre-agreed rules that aim to keep the stocks above limits and near target thresholds.



- **Ask 2:** Require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for large-scale longline vessels, and all large-scale vessels that conduct at-sea transshipment, within four years to ensure effective monitoring.
- **Ask 3:** Adopt best practice e-monitoring and e-reporting standards.
- **Ask 4:** Identify and sanction non-compliance with the existing minimum 100% purse seine vessel observer coverage requirements, once the temporary COVID measures are lifted.
- **Ask 5:** Update the commission on the progress/results of CMM 2009-06 review and what amendments can be made presented to the Commission in 2020, and subsequently adopted.
- **Ask 6:** Set a specific timeframe for the adoption of audit points to clarify the Commission obligations assessed under the CMS, as well as the development of a checklist to be used by the proponents of any proposal to include a list of potential audit points for the consideration of the Commission.
- **Ask 7:** Progress, as a matter of urgency, the remaining items identified in the CMM 2018-07 and subsequently CMM 2019-06 work plan through the Intersessional CMS Working Group, including allowing accredited observers to attend CMS working group meetings.
- **Ask 8:** Disclose CCM's plans to address identified areas of non-compliance.
- **Ask 9:** Make public all non-sensitive elements of the Part II Report to ensure transparency of how CCMs' are implementing their obligations.

We thank you in advance for making sure these important issues are being raised to enable us all to meet sustainability goals and ensure a sustainable future for our oceans.

Kind regards,

Tom Evans

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