

FIP Position Statement for the 2024 IATTC Annual Meeting

Drafted with agreement from all FIP Participants

August 2024

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.

As part of this FIP reaching MSC certification there are various actions that need to be undertaken that involve a range of different stakeholders. To ensure the FIP meets these objectives we need the support of the IATTC and urge action at the IATTC annual meeting this year on multiple topics laid out in this position statement.

The FIP strongly urges the IATTC and its member states to ensure the IATTC acts in August at the Annual Meeting of the IATTC Commission to:

1. Compliance Processes

- Establish a work plan with timelines to further strengthen the Committee's procedures and outcomes, including developing a scheme of responses to improve compliance.
- Develop and adopt a hierarchy of infractions.

2. Tuna stock conservation

- Maintain the current management measures in C-21-04 for up to three more years, and annually review the measure and adopt revisions, if needed, based on the stock status indicators for the three tropical tuna species.
- Maintain the Individual Vessel Limit and the Enhanced Monitoring Program as part of the measure.
- Adopt a reporting requirement for the provision of detailed operational data (set by set) for longline fisheries.

3. Effective Management Procedures (Harvest Strategies)

- Finalize the management strategy evaluation (MSE) for bigeye and development of management objectives and revised reference points for tropical tunas.
- Establish & convene a scientist-manager dialogue group to advance management procedures for other tuna stocks

4. FAD Management

- Adopt an effective FAD marking scheme for both FAD structure and geolocating buoys.
- Adopt clear rules for FAD ownership.
- Adopt the data form in Appendix 4 in FAD-07 INF-A to facilitate reporting on FAD recoveries per Resolution C-23-03 and harmonization of data with WCPFC to promote Pacific-wide collaboration.

5. Bycatch Mitigation & Shark Protections

- Amend Resolution C-23-07 to require that all retained sharks be landed with fins naturally attached without exceptions.
- Endorse the best handling and release practices (BHRP) guideline development work plan.



- Adopt the shark (SAC-15-11) and seabird (EB-02-03) BHRP guidelines.
- Revise the seabird mitigation measures in C-11-02 to include current best practice

6. Electronic Monitoring and Reporting & Observer Coverage

- Adopt in 2024 interim electronic monitoring program standards for all gear types and a timeline for implementation beginning in 2025. To the extent possible, these standards should be harmonized with those adopted by, or in development, in other tuna RFMOs.
- Establish a comprehensive observer program (human or electronic or a combination) to cover longline vessels

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