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Xinxing District,
Kaohsiung City, 800304
Taiwan (R.O.C.)

25 November 2021

RE: Indian Ocean tuna - longline (Bumble Bee/FCF) Fishery Improvement Project Update

Dear Sir or Madam,

The submission of this letter is an inform flag states of an update to the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) currently being undertaken by [the Indian Ocean tuna - longline \(Bumble Bee/FCF\) fishery](#). The FIP first launched as the Indian Ocean Albacore Tuna Longline fishery but after a scope extension in October 2021, the fishery now fishery targets albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye (*T. obesus*) and yellowfin (*T. albacares*). The pelagic longline vessels are flagged to China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Seychelles and Oman and fish on the high seas of the Indian Ocean and within the EEZ's of Mauritius, Seychelles, and Madagascar. The fishery is managed regionally by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

This FIP aims to meet the rising global demand for tuna in a sustainable manner by assuring catches do not exceed acceptable levels, promoting the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and strengthening policy and governance systems in the region. The end goal of the project is to achieve certification under the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) Fisheries Standard by 2024.

To find more information on the present FIP and especially the actions, please view the [FisheryProgress profile](#) in particular the 'Workplan' document.

As part of this FIP reaching MSC standards there are various actions which need to be undertaken which involve a range of different stakeholders. Specifically, as a flag state your cooperation is necessary to ensure the project succeeds. This FIP will have shared aims with the fisheries agency, and we would like to align and cooperate as much as possible on issues such as increasing observer coverage, enhanced at-sea monitoring, ensuring best practices in the handling and release of Endangered Threatened and Protected species and ensuring a robust Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MSC) is implemented across all vessels.

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

It is through this collective action and stakeholder collaboration that a sustainable blue economy can be formed. If you would like more details of any of the above, we would be eager to engage further and go through the FIP action plan in greater detail, either in person or via call/online meeting. Either way, please do not hesitate to get into contact and we can arrange it.

Kind regards,

Tom Evans - FIP Manager, KangTai

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