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Cook Islands Ministry of Marine Resources
P.O Box 85, Moss Rd,
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30th July 2020

Via email to L.Maui@mmr.gov.ck and A.jones@mmr.gov.ck

RE: Data Request for the Liancheng High Seas Longline Tuna Fishery Improvement Project Vessels

Dear Ms. Maui and Mr. Jones,

The submission of this letter is a formal request for data pertaining to vessels included in the Fishery Improvement (FIP) 'Liancheng High Seas Longline Tuna Fishery'. 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 and their signatures can be found in Appendix 2.

Briefly, the fishery targets albacore tuna with incidental catch of bigeye and yellowfin tunas, fishing on the high seas of the Pacific Ocean. The agent vessels are managed by the Liancheng Overseas Fishery (Shenzhen) Company and are flagged to China and Taiwan. From time to time and where permitted, the vessels may fish in national EEZs including Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, and Vanuatu.

The aims for the FIP include:

- 1) To ensure tuna and other primary species catches across the Pacific Ocean do not exceed sustainable levels by 2024.
- 2) To promote the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management by 2024.
- 3) To strengthen governance systems in Flag States, RFMO and the fishery by 2024.
- 4) Be in a place to enter MSC full assessment in 2024.

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 the observer provider to the fishery 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.

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 WCPFC4 2007), on behalf of vessel owners, we please request observer catch data for years 2017-2019 for the 41 longline vessels in this Liancheng 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Evans'.

Tom Evans – FIP Manager
Key Traceability
t.evans@keytraceability.com



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



Appendix 2: Signatories of the companies making data request

Name of Company: Liancheng

Date: _____

Name of Authorised Company Representative: _____

Signature of Authorised Company Representative: _____