



Pacific Ocean tuna – longline (Fue Shin Fishery) FIP Position Statement for the 2021 WCPFC Annual Meeting

Drafted with agreement from all Pacific Ocean tuna - longline (Fue Shin Fishery) FIP
Participants – October 2021

The submission of this position statement is regarding the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) currently being undertaken by the Fue Shin Pacific Ocean Longline Tuna Fishery. The fishery targets albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) and catches bigeye (*T. obesus*), yellowfin (*T. albacares*) and skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*). The pelagic longline vessels are flagged to Taiwan and fish on the high seas in the Pacific. To find more information on the present FIP, please view the public Fishery Progress profile here: <https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/pacific-ocean-tuna-longline-fue-shin>.

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 2025.

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 WCPFC and urge action at the WCPFC annual meeting this year on multiple topics laid out in this position statement.

We recognise that the impacts of COVID-19 continue to present challenges to regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) like the WCPFC. However, we do not believe these circumstances should prevent the WCPFC from taking action in 2021 to adopt science-based management measures to ensure the sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview.

The Pacific Ocean tuna - longline (Fue Shin Fishery) FIP strongly urges the WCPFC and its member states to ensure the WCPFC acts in November at the Annual Meeting of the WCPFC Commission to consider the following:

Management measures and procedures for tuna species

- Support and endorse further implementation of *CMM 2014-06* to establish harvest strategies for key tuna species with proposed timelines.
- Establish precautionary target reference points (TRPs) for bigeye and yellowfin tunas and re-establish an agreed precautionary TRP for skipjack.
- Endorse the continued development and implementation of limit reference points (LRPs) and TRPs for proper management of all stocks, including sharks as a priority.
- Adopt a harvest control rule (HRC)/management procedure (MP) for the skipjack purse seine fishery.

FAD management best practices

While not directly related to longline fisheries, we believe for the sustainability of the tuna fishery overall, FAD management needs to be improved.

- Develop and implement science-based and enforceable FAD management measures including:
 - A clear timeframe to transition to FADs that are non-entangling and that are designed completely out of biodegradable materials (bioFADs);
 - A requirement for vessels to provide complete FAD position data and acoustic records from echosounder buoys;
 - Establishing and engaging in FAD retrieval and recovery programs;
 - Refine FAD ownership rules, and develop a workplan to adopt a FAD marking scheme;



- Refine rules for the activation of FAD buoys onboard purse seine vessels prior to deployment, as well as for the deactivation of FAD buoys at sea.

Effective and fair enforcement

- Further review transshipment regulation and adopt substantive improvements to curtail opportunities for IUU fishing, trafficking, and labour abuses such as:
 - 100% observer coverage on all vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment;
 - Required real-time reporting of all transshipment activity; and
 - The development and application of technologies for verification of transshipment activities;

Data quality and quantity

- We support a progressive program to increase levels of observer coverage (human and/or electronic) to 100% for all vessels by 2026.
- Adopt best practices in electronic monitoring (EM) and electronic reporting (ER) standards, such as e-logbooks.

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

For any further information, please contact the FIP manager Charles Horsnell at c.horsnell@keytraceability.com

Signed on behalf of the Pacific Ocean tuna - longline (Fue Shin Fishery)

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