



## Pacific Ocean tuna - longline (Thai Union) FIP

### Stakeholder Meeting Agenda

9am – 11am (UK time) 17 December 2020 via Zoom

<b>Agenda</b>
<b>Introductions and Welcomes</b>
<b>Progress and challenges in 2020</b> <i>Update on the status of the FIP so far</i>
<b>Principle 1</b> <i>1.1 – Stock Status and Rebuilding for EPO Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna</i> <i>1.2 - Develop a well-managed harvest strategy for all three tuna species</i> <i>1.3 – Develop Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and tools for bigeye and yellowfin tuna</i>
<b>Principle 2</b> <i>2.1 – ETP Species Outcome, Management and Information and Electronic Monitoring</i>
<b>Principle 3</b> <i>3.1 Legal and/or customary framework for China</i> <i>3.2 Decision-making processes for China</i> <i>3.3 Consultation, Roles and Responsibilities for China</i> <i>3.4 Compliance and enforcement for China and Vanuatu</i> <i>3.5 Monitoring and management performance evaluation for China and Vanuatu</i>
<b>Questions and Close</b>



### Attendees

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### Apologies

Company	Name	Email Address
The Nature Conservancy	Craig Heberer	<a href="mailto:craig.heberer@TNC.ORG">craig.heberer@TNC.ORG</a>
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## Minutes

Minutes
<b>Introductions and Welcomes</b>
<p>Key Traceability welcomed the group and all introduced themselves. The purpose of the stakeholder meeting was provided and additional information regarding the 3 year audit was provided. The meeting will feed into the audit and additional 1 on 1 stakeholder conversations may need to be had in January 2021. It was clarified any comments can be input in either Chinese or English.</p>
<b>Progress and challenges in 2020</b> <i>Update on the status of the FIP so far</i>
<p>ISSF asked questions regarding the P2 scoring of ETP PIs. They understood the improvement of primary and secondary increased through knowledge of the bait fishery, their percentages and understanding the full catch composition. However, they raise a valid point that the ETP PIs needs clarity on its scoring as it mentions data deficiencies derived from lack of monitoring, which would also have implications on scoring management . This shall be addressed and clarified via the 3 year audit.</p> <p>Question to boat owners was asked about the ability to deploy human observers during COVID? Boat owner explained that human observers were impossible at the moment as the pacific islands were still all closed off. Not clear about china, PTR to let us know.</p>
<b>Principle 1</b>
<p>The FIP is now an observer at both RFMO meetings and attended this year. We just wanted to express our thanks to Stephen, Ming Dar fisheries and Vanuatu for allowing us to attend the WCPFC meeting as an observer. A summary of findings will be provided and the final documents circulated when completed by the RFMO.</p> <p>The current IATTC conservation measure for tropical tunas C-17-02 expires at the end of 2020, and the failure of IATTC delegations to ensure that tropical tunas will be managed in 2021 is concerning. In 2021, the 72-day closure of the purse seine fishery, and the limit of fish aggregating devices (FADs), which are the primary means of controlling effort in this fishery, will be void. Furthermore, there will be no catch limits for longline fleets. These lack of measures put the tropical tuna stocks at serious risk of overfishing and may lead to these fisheries being considered as Unregulated and therefore Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fish causing large repercussions on the certified fisheries, and FIPs in this region. As a group we welcome the meeting next Tuesday and will provide an update when we know more. We had also drafted a response before this meeting was scheduled.</p> <p>We have completed advocacy ahead of both meetings asking for the failures identified in the PA to be addressed.</p>
<b>Principle 2</b>
<p>The ETP Management strategy has been completed and is now being put on vessels. Naturally, this year, getting on board vessels has become a real challenge. Because of this we have been unable to host any skipper training using the updated material. This shall be done when travel becomes easier and we can get on vessels.</p>



Electronic Monitoring is being used in the FIP and we are looking to achieve a 20% review of all sets. Conversations are being had with all stakeholders and flag states in how we can involve them. The timeline for installing EM on all vessels has had to be prolonged due to COVID 19 and will all be done when possible this year. Satlink and DOS provided an update on the EM project from their side including how data review centres are working in the region. DOS has described how there are working centres in Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Isles and Fiji. For EM reviews the review is 15 times quicker than the time spent at sea for a basic review, with roughly 2-3 sea days being analysed per office day for a fuller review.

Thanks is extended to Stephen on the smooth running again of the EM project this year. Main issue has been with dirty lenses, to combat this we have created a policy on cleaning the cameras and made sure crews need to do this and it is allowed. For sampling at 20%, we can do a 6month trip in 15 days.

Regarding the Chinese EM systems, we have been in conversation with Shanghai University who is currently carrying out a pilot study with a Chinese EM service provider. This is working on machine learning and we will look to engage further in the New Year when the university has more time available.

Ecosystem Risk Assessment has been completed, except the dockside inventory which has had to be postponed due to COVID 19. This assessment provided a great insight into the risk to ETP species and upon completion, any necessary actions will be built into the workplan. ISSF asked if we could share this, the FIP group shall discuss.

### **Principle 3**

The FIP has worked hard to engage with the Chinese authority and is in communication with the East China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences who are interested in helping assess these PIs and fill in any necessary gaps. We are hoping to launch this next year and be completed by the end of Q2 2021.

JP question around best practices on control measures during transshipment operations in the region and, based on ISSF's asks to WCPFC, expressed his concern over recent publications pointing out at significant levels of unreporting and exceptions, and WCPFC's monitoring on transshipments as a less robust and transparent as in other RFMOS due to being implemented by flag state observers instead of a third-party independent agency like in IOTC or IATTC. Is the fleet using other transshipment vessels without EM? Yes, other carriers are used. Still requiring human observers onboard. ISSF were asking if we will be including them in the FIP. Group shall discuss. We are focusing on the transshipment vessels currently owned by FIP participants and moving to phase 2 of a pilot project on one of these vessels led by TNC.

In addition to the above discussion, JP would strongly recommend the FIP to support ISSF's WCPFC position statement in relation to the issue, meaning:

- (1) Direct the Working Group to complete the review of CMM 2009-06 and present amendments to the Commission in 2021.
- (2) In 2021, adopt best practice amendments to CMM 2009-06, such as to:
  - (i) Require real time, or as close to near real-time, reporting for all transshipment activity.
  - (ii) Use AIS data to complement VMS information.
  - (iii) Automatically include in the draft IUU vessel list any vessels that breach the transshipment CMM;



- (iv) Set criteria for authorization of at-sea transshipment and establish a process for Commission review against those criteria.

**Questions and Close**

Thanks to the group for participating was expressed by all. Appreciate all the hard work people have put in this year to keep the FIP moving.

The 3-year reviewer may need to follow-up with stakeholders if they have any questions. This will be facilitated by Tom. The information from this audit shall be used to update the scoring, workplan, deadlines and tasks. The layout of the tasks on FisheryProgress shall be amended to be able to show actual progress.