

## Indian Ocean tuna – purse seine (Dongwon Industries) FIP Position Statement Ahead of the IOTC Annual Meeting 2022

Drafted with agreement from all Indian Ocean tuna – purse seine (Dongwon Industries) FIP  
Participants  
May 2022

The submission of this position statement is on behalf of the [Indian Ocean tuna – purse seine \(Dongwon Industries\) Fishery Improvement Project \(FIP\)](#). The fishery targets bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), and yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) tuna with free-school (unassociated) and fish aggregating devices (FAD) -associated purse seine sets. The fleet of two purse seine vessels are flagged to the Republic of Korea. The fleet operates mainly in the EEZs of the Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar and the Indian Ocean (IO) high seas. The fishery is managed regionally by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

This FIP aims to meet the rising global demand for tuna and other large pelagics in a sustainable manner. This can be achieved by assuring sustainable stock status for all the target tunas that is consistent with the maximum sustainable yield (MSY). Through overall strengthening of management systems at the national and international levels, improvements can be made to ensure sustainable and equitable management of target and vulnerable species, FADs, habitats, and fishery ecosystem by utilising best scientific information available. The end goal is to achieve certification under the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) Fisheries Standard by the latest 2026.

As a FIP, we are concerned with the status of the tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean and their effective management. We operate in this region and the sustainability of these stocks is integral to not only our business, but also to the overall marine environment.

The impacts of COVID-19 continue to present challenges to regional fisheries management organizations in conducting meetings. Even under these challenging circumstances, IOTC must ensure the uninterrupted, sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview. There are several critical measures and issues that require immediate attention by IOTC this year. We therefore strongly urge that the IOTC acts in May 2022 at the annual meeting of the IOTC Commission to:

1. Adopt without delay in amendments to Resolution 21/01 to ensure an effective rebuilding plan for yellowfin tuna that gives full effect to the advice of the IOTC Scientific Committee.
2. Take effective measures to comply with the adopted Harvest Control Rules about skipjack catch rates.
3. Accelerate action on developing comprehensive, precautionary Management Procedures, adopt a bigeye tuna management procedure and agree on permanent limit and target reference points for tropical and temperate tunas, particularly yellowfin and conduct Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) for albacore, skipjack and yellowfin tuna stocks.
4. Develop and implement science-based limits on FAD deployments and/or FAD sets consistent with management objectives for the tropical tunas; and require the use of biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs to minimize use of synthetic/plastic materials in FAD construction and establish a timeline for transitioning to biodegradable.
5. Endorse the terms of references and workplan developed by the IOTC ad-hoc Working Group and accelerate work on the EM Program Standards so that these program minimum standards are adopted in 2023.

6. Amend Resolution 17/05 to require fins naturally attached for sharks, irrespective of how they are landed.
7. Ensure CPC compliance with the prohibition on the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas and urge accelerated implementation of Res. 17/07 that prohibits the use of such driftnets in the entire IOTC area of competence.

The Indian Ocean tuna – purse seine (Dongwon Industries) FIP looks forward to the continued leadership of the IOTC in the Indian Ocean, a region rich in tuna resources that are in need of continued science-based conservation and management. Many thanks for taking time to read our position statement.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the FIP coordinator, Emily Wardrop at [e.wardrop@keytraceability.com](mailto:e.wardrop@keytraceability.com)

Kind regards,