



Pacific Ocean tuna - longline (StarKist)

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Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources,
Kukum Highway, P.O. Box G2,
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RE: Solomon Islands Electronic Monitoring Programme

Dear Hon. Nestor Giro,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) currently being undertaken by the Starkist Pacific Ocean Longline Tuna Fishery. The fishery targets albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) and catches bigeye (*T. obesus*), yellowfin (*T. albacares*) and skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*). The pelagic longline vessels are flagged to Taiwan, China, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Fiji, American Samoa, French Polynesia and Panama and fish on the high seas (and occasionally in the national Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)) 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-starkist>.

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 including improving both the quality and quantity of data. To do this the FIP is investing in Electronic Monitoring Systems on vessels and carrying out the required data analysis. We understand from our fishery participants that some of these vessels already have systems on their vessels when they operate within your Solomon Island EEZ and we understand from our FIP partners, The Nature Conservancy, that these systems operate on the high seas also, but this data is not analysed.

We thought this would be a great opportunity to collaborate and were wanting to ask if we could obtain the data your systems record on the High Seas for the purpose of our FIP? We would happily host a call with yourself to discuss your EM systems and our plans to promote collaboration.

Many thanks for your time and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any comments

Kind regards,

Tom Evans on behalf of the Pacific Ocean tuna - longline (StarKist) FIP



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