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Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Development,
P.O. Box 64, Republic of Kiribati, KI,
Kiribati

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Via email to kaont@mfmrd.gov.ki; uatit@mfmrd.gov.ki; agnesy@mfmrd.gov.ki; taotitem@mfmrd.gov.ki;

RE: Data Request for Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna – purse seine (Dongwon Industries) Fishery Improvement Project Vessels

Dear MFMRD,

The submission of this letter is a formal request for data pertaining to vessels included in the Fishery Improvement (FIP) '[Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna – purse seine \(Dongwon\)](#).' The data request is made on behalf of all companies involved and signatories can be seen in the appendix.

Briefly, the fishery is made up of a fleet of 14 tuna purse seine vessels, flagged either to Korea (the Republic of) and Kiribati. The fishery targets bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), and yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) with FAD-associated purse seine sets. The fleet operates mainly in EEZs of PNA countries and additionally the Cook Islands EEZ and the WCPO high seas.

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.

Currently to meet many of these aims, vessel catch, and operational data are required. Although the vessels within the FIP collect catch information, they need to be cross-checked with third party data. This helps 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 Flag State of the some of FIP vessels, we are writing to you to please help us with the acquiring of this data. We have been advised from the SPC to go through the Kiribati authorities to contact the WCPFC Secretariat to receive this data (by giving authorisation). If this is also not the appropriate channel to submit this request, it would be appreciated if you could direct us so we may follow the proper procedures.



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 aggregated observer data for years 2017 - 2020 for the one purse seine vessel in this FIP that is Flagged to Kiribati (three years' worth of data). This data needs to be obtained by the submission of this request through the MFMRD to SPC.

This data will go towards helping to adopt an ecosystem-based approach to the FIP's management plans. Please see appendix 1 for vessel name, supplier, IMO, flag state, and appendix 2 for letters to authorised company representative and their signatures.

- Number of sets;
- Fishing locations of sets;
- Type of set (floating object or free school);
- Bycatch information, such as species, fate and condition if released;
- FAD deployment information;
- Estimate of weight (or number of individuals) caught of ETP species.

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, which appears to read 'Charles Horsnell', is positioned below the text 'Kind regards,'.

Charles Horsnell



Appendix 1: Data request for vessel for years 2017 through to 2020 (three years):

| Vessel | Call sign | Owner Name | IMO number | Flag |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Marawa II | T3NG2 | KT and Kiribati Fisheries Co., Ltd. | 7806491 | Kiribati |



Appendix 2: Signature of the company

Name of Company: KT and Kiribati Fisheries Co., Ltd. / Dongwon Industries

Date: _____

Name of Authorised Company Representative: _____

Signature of Authorised Company Representative: _____