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Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
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Dear Executive Director Teo

I am writing on behalf of the partners of the [Global Tuna Alliance](#) and [Tuna Protection Alliance](#), two precompetitive collaborations of companies with a major interest in improving the sustainability of the tuna sector. Together, these two groups represent a significant proportion of the north west European market.

I would be extremely grateful if you are able to circulate to all WCPFC members.

It is clear that the impacts of COVID-19 have presented challenges to regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) in conducting meetings and addressing important conservation and management issues in 2020. We do not believe current circumstances should prevent the WCPFC from taking action to ensure the uninterrupted sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview. We do recognize that the Commission may need to hone the focus of its work in 2020 for practical reasons due to present circumstances.

We strongly urge all delegations to ensure that critical measures and issues are included on the agendas for discussion during the WCPFC's science, technical, annual Commission meetings and other decision-making discussions in 2020. Specifically, we urge the WCPFC to include on its meeting agendas the **acceleration of action in 2021 to develop comprehensive, precautionary strategies across all tuna stocks** as stated in CMM 2018-01 to minimize the risk of stock declining to undesirable levels.

We believe it is critical that this issue be addressed this year because unless the WCPFC acts soon, MSC-certified fisheries in the WCPFC will have their certifications suspended in 2022. This will impact the availability of MSC-certified tuna in the marketplace, as the WCPFC is the largest source of tuna for most western markets.

In addition to this important issue, we strongly urge all delegations **to ensure that its tropical tuna conservation measure (CMM 2018-01), which is only effective until February 10, 2021, does not lapse.**

Finally, we urge all members to ensure that short-term measures to suspend some observer coverage requirements are reinstated as soon as practical. Further, we believe current circumstances reinforce the need for accelerating the development and implementation of electronic monitoring tools and strategies to strengthen critical oversight in tuna fisheries. Specifically, the WCPFC should adopt an

Electronic Monitoring CMM that sets standards and an implementation timeline for a comprehensive EM program.

As organizations engaged in the sourcing of tunas globally, we urge you to ensure the inclusion of these issues on WCPFC meeting agendas in 2020 and that your positions will testify to your support for addressing these issues.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Tom Pickerell
Executive Director
Global Tuna Alliance



Jeanne Delor
Project Officer
Earthworm Foundation

