



Summary of WCPFC Outcomes

2022

GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

HARVEST STRATEGIES

Our ask

Harvest Strategies

Accelerate development and implementation of comprehensive, precautionary Harvest Strategies, including precautionary Reference Points and Harvest Control Rules.

The Context

- The MSC certifications in the region are at high risk of suspension from the program if the WCPFC does not make progress on harvest strategies.

The Outcomes

- We were therefore pleased that the Commission reached agreement on a number of measures relating to harvest strategies.
- Significantly, the Commission agreed to adopt a harvest strategy for skipjack.
- However, it is currently not binding, which means it could be rendered impotent.
- A harvest strategy for Northern albacore was also adopted.
- The Commission also reaffirmed its commitment to put in place harvest strategies for all tuna species before stocks fall below sustainable levels.
- Target Reference Points (TRPs) for bigeye and yellowfin were not agreed, with the Commission noting further work will be needed.
- Instead, a revised workplan was adopted to agree TRPs in 2024, and adopt management procedures in 2025.

The Consequences

- Once finalised and published, these agreements will be reviewed in detail by the independent conformity assessment bodies (CABs) - responsible for assessing the fisheries to the MSC Standard - to determine how they impact the ongoing MSC certification of tuna fisheries.
- Tuna fisheries which continue to meet the minimum requirements of MSC certification will have the opportunity for early application of the new MSC Fisheries Standard (version 3.0). This gives them an additional five years to meet the new requirements for more comprehensive harvest strategies.

SUCCESS RATING →



ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Our ask

Electronic Monitoring

Adopt a CMM for an Electronic Monitoring Program as well as associated Minimum Standards.

The Context

- Observer coverage through an EM program is essential in effective fisheries management; the value of EM became apparent when the COVID-19 pandemic limited the ability to place human observers on fishing vessels.

The Outcomes

- Unfortunately, the Commission did not agree any such measures for the adoption of an Electronic Monitoring Program with associated Minimum Standards.

The Consequences

- The WCPFC must prioritise this issue in 2023.

SUCCESS RATING →



CREW LABOUR STANDARDS

Our ask

Labour Standards For Crew On Fishing Vessels

Support proposed CMM on Labour Standards for crew on fishing vessels.

The Context

- The seafood supply chain, and their customers, are concerned about ongoing instances of poor labour conditions and reports of human rights abuses on board fishing vessels.
- The GTA is fully supportive of the work of the Crew Welfare Intersessional working group to advance the issue under the leadership of New Zealand and Indonesia in support of transitioning WCPFC Resolution 2018-01 on Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing Vessels into a formal, binding measure.

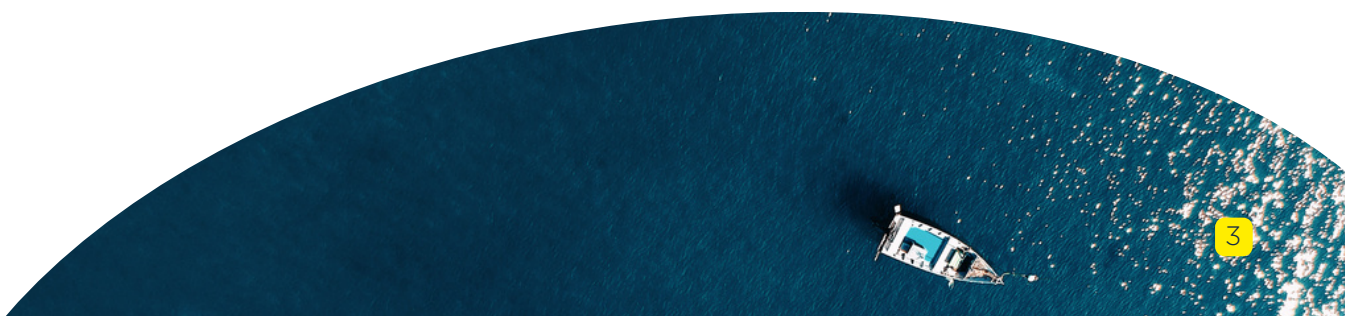
The Outcomes

- The GTA was calling on the Commission to support the proposed measure on Labour Standards for crew on fishing vessels.
- However, while the work of the Crew Welfare Intersessional working group was received with appreciation by the Commission, no measure was adopted.
- Instead, the Commission "recognised the priority" to be given to this work.

The Consequences

- The GTA will continue to support the efforts of the Working Group, and continue to advocate for a formal, binding measure on crew labour standards.

SUCCESS RATING →



OTHER PROPOSALS

Fish Aggregating Device (FADs) Management

- The Commission adopted a definition of biodegradable FADs and categories of biodegradable
- FADs, measures that are now consistent with the neighbouring Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).
- This will harmonize regulation and use of improved FAD designs across Pacific tuna fisheries.
- Unfortunately, other FAD management areas, such as FAD-marking schemes, FAD ownership rules and FAD-recovery policies were not adopted.

Transshipment

- The Commission did adopt minimum standard data fields to be collected by observers during transshipment events.
- While a positive step, further measures are required to better management transshipment and eliminate the opportunities for IUU tuna to enter the supply chain.

Climate Change

- This year, the Commission agreed to have standing agenda items related to climate change responses in the scientific committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC), Northern committee and the Commission.
- This is highly relevant for the WCPO region as it has been estimated that tuna caught within the Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZs) of Pacific Island Countries is expected to decline by 2050 due to climate change.
- The WCPFC is now the only RFMO with climate change as a permanent agenda item.





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