



2026 IATTC Position Statement

GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

STATEMENT TO THE 104TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IATTC (2026)

The **Global Tuna Alliance (GTA)** is an independent coalition of processors, distributors and retailers representing a significant share of the global tuna trade.

Our partners are committed to responsible sourcing and depend on robust, science-based management by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to support the long-term resilience of tuna stocks and marine ecosystems, alongside effective protection of human rights at sea.

The decisions taken at this meeting therefore have direct implications for responsible tuna supply chains. We call on the Commission and its members to take decisive action across the three priority areas outlined in this document.

OUR PARTNERS



KEY ISSUES AND GTA'S POSITION

1. Advancing Management Procedures (MPs)

Markets require predictable, science-based management to support informed sourcing decisions and maintain confidence in tuna fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

- Further progress is needed towards a multi-stock Management Procedure (MP) for tropical tunas, including bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack.
- The continued absence of an agreed MP for Pacific bluefin tuna creates uncertainty following the stock's significant recovery.
- Coordinated progress between the IATTC and WCPFC is essential to ensure consistent management of South Pacific albacore across its entire range.

GTA Asks

1. Support the development of a robust multi-stock MP for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna.
2. Adopt a Management Procedure for Pacific bluefin tuna without further delay.
3. Advance the development of a South Pacific albacore Management Procedure through the joint IATTC/WCPFC working group.



2. Expansion of Observer Coverage and Electronic Monitoring

Companies need credible, independently verified information about what happens at sea to assess sourcing risks and demonstrate the legality and sustainability of their tuna supply.

However, this is being compromised because:

- The current minimum requirement of 5% human observer coverage on large longline vessels is insufficient to provide the level of independent verification expected by global markets.
- The absence of mandatory observer coverage on Class 1 to 5 purse seine vessels leaves significant gaps in catch, bycatch and compliance data.
- Although the adoption of interim Electronic Monitoring (EM) programme standards in 2024 was an important step, implementation on the water has yet to progress at the pace required.
- These gaps constrain stock assessments, limit the ability to verify compliance and make it harder for companies to demonstrate that their sourcing commitments are being met.

GTA Asks

1. Establish an immediate interim target of at least 20% independent monitoring coverage for large longline vessels and Class 1 to 5 purse seine vessels, using an appropriate combination of human observers and EM.
2. Adopt a binding, time-bound roadmap to achieve credible independent monitoring coverage sufficient to meet science and data requirements, and assurance needs of different fishing contexts.
3. Accelerate the implementation of the interim EM programme standards adopted in 2024.

3. Establishing Binding Crew Welfare Standards at Sea

Social responsibility and the protection of human rights are core requirements for responsible tuna sourcing and an expectation of GTA partners.

- Seafood retailers and supply chain businesses face growing commercial, legal and reputational exposure from labour risks, including forced labour and human trafficking aboard fishing vessels.
- The IATTC does not yet have a binding framework establishing minimum labour and safety protections for crew, leaving it behind developments in other major tuna RFMOs.
- Without clear, enforceable standards, companies cannot fully demonstrate responsible sourcing or verify that fishers operating within their supply chains are treated fairly.

GTA Asks

1. Adopt a binding resolution establishing minimum crew labour, welfare and safety standards for vessels operating within the Antigua Convention Area.
2. Align these standards with internationally recognised frameworks, including ILO Convention 188 and the Cape Town Agreement.
3. Ensure that agreed measures are practical, monitorable and enforceable.



CONCLUSION

Commercial decisions across our partnership are increasingly driven by credible evidence of stock sustainability, independent monitoring and the protection of human rights at sea.

The GTA therefore calls on the Commission to:

- Advance Management Procedures for tropical tunas and South Pacific albacore and adopt an MP for Pacific bluefin tuna without further delay.
- Increase independent monitoring coverage immediately and adopt a binding, time-bound roadmap for meeting the data requirements and assurance needs of different fishing contexts.
- Adopt binding crew labour, welfare and safety standards aligned with internationally recognised frameworks.

We urge all Heads of Delegation to **support the proposals outlined in this statement**. Progress across these areas is essential to ensuring that Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna fisheries remain sustainable, transparent and trusted by global markets.

The GTA remains ready to support this work and to engage market stakeholders in driving progress. However, expectations are clear, and the need for timely action is increasing.



CONTACT

If you require further information or to discuss any of the issues raised, please email Dr Wetjens Dimmlich.

wetjens@globaltunaalliance.com
Advocacy Lead
Global Tuna Alliance