



## **Global Tuna Alliance Position Statement for the 98th Session of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)**

The Global Tuna Alliance is a collaboration of retailers, wholesalers, suppliers and processors of tuna concerned about the sustainability of tuna who collectively bought 1.27m tonnes of tuna, worth over USD \$1.3bn, in 2020.

Our members have made public commitments to sourcing seafood, including tuna from the Eastern Pacific Ocean, responsibly. As the decision-makers of these fisheries, we are calling on you to take the following actions. We need your support to improve the sustainability of these fisheries.

### **Harvest Strategies**

Accelerate the development of precautionary harvest strategies for tropical tunas by endorsing the Scientific Staff's Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) workplan with the aim to complete the MSE and present a candidate harvest strategy for bigeye by 2023.

### **Tropical Tuna Conservation Management Measure**

Adopt a multiannual conservation and management measure for yellowfin and bigeye tunas that is precautionary and based on scientific advice, which effectively limits fishing pressure and includes additional measures to monitor and manage the use of FADs.

### **Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)**

Adopt a Port State Measure that is fully aligned with the PSMA by 2022.

### **FAD Management Best Practices**

The IATTC should adopt the measures identified in the GTA's [position on better FAD Management](#). While not comprehensive, these measures are critical to ensuring that at-sea FAD fishing is better managed and more transparent.

### **Fishery Observer Coverage/ Electronic Monitoring**

We believe current circumstances reinforce the need for accelerating the development and implementation of electronic monitoring (EM) tools and strategies to strengthen critical oversight in tuna fisheries. We call on the IATTC to endorse the workplan, Terms of reference and provisional EM definitions developed by the scientific staff.

In addition, IATTC should adopt 100% observer coverage requirement (human and/or electronic) on all industrial tuna vessels (including supply vessels), by 2024

### **Fishery Observer Safety**

Increasing instances of fisheries observer deaths, as well as violations of fishing crew welfare, have been reported to authorities and NGOs in recent years. We are disturbed by this trend and take these reports very seriously. We call on the IATTC to implement the

International Observer Bill of Rights (IBOR) and adopt the WCPFC mandatory observer safety reforms.

### **Reforming the Regulations of at-sea Transshipment**

At-sea transshipment of catch between vessels plays a large and important role in the global commercial fishing industry.

However, there is not enough independent data, appropriately and timely shared, nor are other regulations up to date, to allow for effective monitoring and compliance. These gaps create risks for labour and human rights abuses, can reduce observer safety, and create opportunities for IUU fishing activities, fraud, and catch laundering. Insufficient monitoring can also undermine traceability, the provision of required data collection, and effective implementation of bycatch mitigation measures.

IATTC should adopt amendments to existing transshipment regulations to bring in line with [best practices](#) By 2021.

### **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ)**

We urge the IATTC to actively participate in the upcoming rounds of BBNJ treaty negotiations to ensure the complementarity of their strategies with the area-based management tool (ABMT) and environmental impact assessment (EIA) ambitions of the BBNJ treaty.

We look to all tuna RFMOs to implement integrated, ecosystem-based management (IOM/EBM) to replace reliance on single sector management in isolated silos and the limited focus on the impacts on non-target, associated or dependent species.