



Dear Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Delegates,

The vessel owners and industry participants of **TUNACONS** submit this letter to request additional support from CPCs for measures that will further tuna conservation at the Commission meeting beginning 23 August, 2021.

COVID-19 continues to present unprecedented economic and social impacts on the fishery sector in the Pacific Ocean. However, we do not believe that these current circumstances should prevent the IATTC from taking action to ensure sustainable management of tuna stocks and marine ecosystems.

Management measures for tropical tunas

- Adopt a multi-year (2022-2024) conservation measure and effective plan to reduce the fishing mortality of bigeye and yellowfin tunas. This measure should include additional measures for FAD management (see below).
- Continue improving stock assessments and risk analysis for tropical tunas.
- Update the skipjack tuna stock assessment to generate adequate information on the true state of its condition in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.
- Finalize a management plan to eliminate overcapacity in its convention area.¹

Comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies

- Conduct a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for tropical tunas.
- We urge the Commission to continue to support efforts to accelerate the MSE process, as several fisheries already certified or under assessment rely on this process.

FAD management best practices

- Continue working on the development of science-based limits on active FADs per vessel.
- Adopt FAD marking standards, recovery policies, and other best practices.
- We request for IATTC staff to submit an analysis of FAD position data, based on the cooperation projects carried out with TUNACONS and other boatowners' organizations.
- Adopt a clear mandate for fleets to transition to bioFADs, with a timeline of three years.

Observer coverage in industrial tuna fisheries

- Adopt a 100% observer coverage requirement (human and/or electronic) for industrial tuna fleets.²
- Adopt the electronic monitoring (EM) system work plan (detailed in EMS-01-02)

Additional topics

- Require cooperating parties to submit a compliance action plan for identified infractions to improve transparency.
- Adopt port state measures at the regional level, and ask all members to ratify the 2009 FAO PSMA.
- Implement the scientific staffs' recommendation for fleets to improve shark fishery data collection.

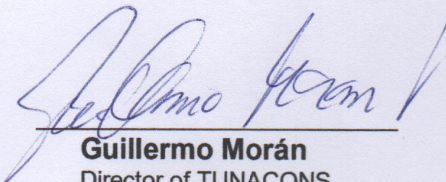
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¹ Here we call attention to the European Union and Japan proposals, which can be frameworks to resume deliberations.

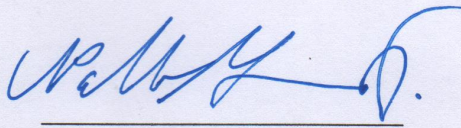
² The WWF Position Statement calls for observer coverage on longline vessels to be increased to 20%.

To date, **TUNACONS** has completed actions to achieve conservation outcomes within the IATTC. Examples include:

- Participating in a FAD retrieval/recovery project to avoid negative ecosystem impacts in the area of the Galápagos Marine Reserve.
- Supported the Government of Ecuador to develop a Tuna National Plan of Action that guides short, medium, and long-term national actions for efficient and sustainable management of the fishery;
- Conducted a project—in partnership with IATTC—to test materials and design prototypes for non-entangling, biodegradable FADs (bioFADs). TUNACONS has replaced 20% of its traditional FADs with biodegradable, non-entangling FADs;
- Advised the Government of Ecuador to submit a proposal for a resolution to adopt harvest control rules for tropical tunas, which was formally adopted as [Resolution C-16-02](#) by the IATTC in 2016.
- Achieved 100% observer coverage for its vessels, including both large-class vessels, and the small-class vessels that are not obligated by law to do so;
- Participating companies have formally adopted, and are routinely implementing a protocol for the safe handling and release of bycatch;
- Participated in a project to tag manta rays to measure levels of post-release mortality.



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