



2025 IATTC Position Statement

GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

ABOUT US - GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

The Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) is a pre-competitive collaboration of international supply chain companies, representing a significant portion of the world's tuna trade.

Our partners throughout the global tuna supply chain are committed to sourcing tuna from fisheries that are managed both sustainably and responsibly. Our unique industry-based structure provides a collective voice to drive positive change and advocate for best practice fisheries management by tuna RFMOs.

We urge the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission to consider our priorities, which align directly with the IATTC's own mandate for long-term conservation and sustainable management of tuna and associated species, ensuring a lawful, traceable, and trusted tuna supply chain for current and future generations.

OUR CURRENT PARTNERS



ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM) & OBSERVER COVERAGE

What is the issue?

The Global Tuna Alliance recognises that 100% observer coverage, whether human and/or electronic, is necessary for effective fisheries management, comprehensive compliance monitoring, and independent verification of catch data. Despite the IATTC successfully implementing 100% observer coverage for Class 6 purse seine vessels for many years, critical gaps persist: the IATTC currently mandates only a minimum of 5% observer coverage for longline vessels, a rate deemed insufficient for reliable catch and bycatch estimates, and has no requirement for observer coverage on smaller Class 1-5 purse seine vessels. These significant data deficiencies undermine robust stock assessments and monitoring of sensitive species, and continues to leave these un-monitored fisheries vulnerable to human rights risks.

What are we calling for?

The GTA urgently calls on the IATTC to immediately take steps to increase observer coverage rates for large-scale longline and small-scale purse seine vessels, adopting measures to achieve at least an interim level of 20% for small-scale purse seine vessels, and establish a clear timeline to reach 100% coverage across all industrial tuna fisheries, including all vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment. While the IATTC's 2024 adoption of interim electronic monitoring (EM) standards is a welcome step forward, it is imperative that the Commission now dedicates resources to accelerate the implementation and widespread use of EM systems to close these critical monitoring and data gaps in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.



HARVEST STRATEGIES

What is the issue?

For Global Tuna Alliance partners, a robust and successfully implemented harvest strategy (aka management procedure) is not simply a desirable outcome, but a fundamental requirement for continued sourcing of tuna from the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Sustainable management of tuna is essential for both ecosystem health and the long-term viability of eastern Pacific tuna fisheries. Renewed commitment and action are crucial to overcome past delays and ensure the successful implementation of a robust management procedure. The GTA commends the IATTC's progress in developing harvest strategies, including the adoption of preliminary target reference points and acceptable levels of risk for skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye tuna, as well as the adoption of a harvest control rule for North Pacific albacore in 2023 and the establishment of a formal Science-Management Dialogue (SMD) Working Group in 2024 to advance the MSE process. To ensure continued progress and the adoption of robust, science-based management, the GTA urges the IATTC to prioritise the continued work on the development of harvest strategies.

What are we calling for?

The GTA urges IATTC to:

- Finalise the MSE for tropical tunas and adopt management objectives and revised reference points for all tropical tuna species, as recommended by the scientific staff, noting that the SAC specifically recommends that the candidate harvest strategy for bigeye tuna be tested within the MSE process in 2025-2026, with the aim of adopting an MSE-tested management procedure by 2026.
- Coordinate with the WCPFC on a joint effort to develop and explore a range of harvest strategies/management procedures for South Pacific albacore. We encourage CPCs to participate in this joint working group and that staff continue to collaborate with SPC to monitor stock status, working towards the adoption of a robust management procedure and implementing measure in 2025.












CURRENT PROGRESS ON HARVEST STRATEGIES IN IATTC STOCKS










Infographic Key

-  Not adopted
-  Adopted, but not implemented
-  Adopted and implemented where applicable










Skipjack

Precautionary Target Reference Points	
Precautionary Limit Reference Points	
Acceptable Levels of Risk	
Management/Operational Objectives	
Management Strategy Evaluation	
Performance Indicators	
Harvest Control Rules	
Monitoring Strategies	
Management Tools to implement Resulting Exploitation Levels	

Northern Albacore

Precautionary Target Reference Points	
Precautionary Limit Reference Points	
Acceptable Levels of Risk	
Management/Operational Objectives	
Management Strategy Evaluation	
Performance Indicators	
Harvest Control Rules	
Monitoring Strategies	
Management Tools to implement Resulting Exploitation Levels	

Yellowfin & Bigeye

Precautionary Target Reference Points	
Precautionary Limit Reference Points	
Acceptable Levels of Risk	
Management/Operational Objectives	
Management Strategy Evaluation	
Performance Indicators	
Harvest Control Rules	
Monitoring Strategies	
Management Tools to implement Resulting Exploitation Levels	

CREW WELFARE STANDARDS

What is the issue?

- The Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) remains deeply committed to promoting socially responsible practices and strengthening labour standards in global tuna fisheries, aiming to ensure that tuna supply chains are free from labour rights issues and prioritise worker welfare. While the US proposal last year was a commendable step in addressing crew labour standards, its disappointing reception by some delegations at the 102nd IATTC meeting underscores the persistent challenges in establishing comprehensive labour standards within the IATTC. Despite these difficulties, the GTA and its partners continue to view this as an important issue, given the significant risks to the seafood industry of sourcing tuna from vessels involved in labour rights violations and it is crucial for the IATTC to engage with this important issue.

What are we calling for?

We support measures that align with international labor standards, including the International Labour Organization's Work in Fishing Convention (C188) and other relevant instruments. Specifically, we call for the IATTC to commit to a process for the development of binding measures that establish minimum standards and conditions for those who work on all gishign vessels.

By adopting these measures, the IATTC will demonstrate its commitment to socially responsible and equitable tuna supply chains. This action is crucial to combat the documented abuses and ensure the protection of workers' rights in eastern Pacific Ocean tuna fisheries.



FAD MANAGEMENT

What is the issue?

The Global Tuna Alliance is committed to ensuring that Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) fisheries within the IATTC area are managed with transparency, robust data collection, and minimal ecological impact. While we commend the IATTC's progress in adopting measures for biodegradable and non-entangling FADs and establishing interim electronic monitoring (EM) standards, critical gaps remain that hinder comprehensive FAD management and accurate stock assessments.

The current system for FAD data, even with requirements for raw buoy information, has limited scientific utility due to low resolution and ambiguous selection criteria. Furthermore, despite discussions and calls to establish a FAD register to integrate all FAD-related data, the IATTC's Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs has recently indicated no identified need for such a registry in the region. This highlights a need for the IATTC to ensure all necessary data on FAD movements, impacts, and recovery are effectively collected, analysed, and made accessible to support management decisions and address environmental concerns.

What are we calling for?

The GTA urgently calls on the IATTC to:

- Strengthen FAD data provisions and enforcement, ensuring timely submission of complete, high-resolution raw buoy data, including acoustic biomass information, from all FADs.
- Accelerate the implementation and widespread adoption of electronic monitoring and reporting (EM/ER) standards for all fleets interacting with FADs to provide comprehensive coverage and verification of FAD activities.
- Prioritise the development and implementation of FAD recovery programs, encouraging data collection on stranded FADs, harmonising with efforts in other regions, and clarifying guidelines for at-sea recovery efforts.
- Explore and implement mechanisms that ensure the comprehensive tracking and verifiable reporting of all FADs throughout their lifecycle, from deployment to recovery or final fate, bridging any data gaps that current systems may leave.
- Continue and expand research on FAD design, promoting the adoption of durable, fully biodegradable materials, and ensuring fishing practices minimize entanglement and environmental damage.

By enacting these measures, the IATTC can significantly enhance its management of FAD fisheries, aligning with global best practices and safeguarding the long-term health of tuna stocks and marine ecosystems in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.



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