



Starkist Pacific Tuna Longline Tuna FIP Position Statement for the 2020 IATTC Annual Meeting

Drafted with agreement from all Starkist Pacific Longline Tuna FIP Participants
July 2020

The submission of this position statement is regarding the [Fishery Improvement Project](#) (FIP) currently being undertaken by the Starkist Pacific Ocean Longline Tuna Fishery. The fishery targets albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) and catches bigeye (*T. obesus*) and yellowfin (*T. albacares*). The pelagic longline vessels are flagged to Taiwan, China, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Fiji, American Samoa, French Polynesia and Panama and fish on the high seas (and occasionally in the national Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)) in the Pacific. To find more information on the present FIP, please view the public Fishery Progress profile here: <https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/pacific-ocean-tuna-longline-starkist>.

This FIP aims to meet the rising global demand for tuna in a sustainable manner by assuring catches do not exceed sustainable levels, promoting the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and strengthening policy and governance systems in the region. The end goal is to achieve certification under the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) Fisheries Standard by 2025.

As part of this FIP reaching MSC certification there are various actions which need to be undertaken which involve a range of different stakeholders. To ensure the FIP meets these objectives we need the support of the IATTC and urge action at the IATTC annual meeting this year on multiple topics laid out in this position statement.

Harvest strategies

Of importance during this year's annual meeting (2020) is the adoption of harvest strategies, including reference points, clearly defined harvest control rules and monitoring mechanisms. The adoption of harvest control rules and strategies are key to meeting the MSC Standard Principle 1. Addressing these Principle 1 concerns is extremely important to this FIP, as we look to receive MSC certification in the near future.

The MSC has established deadlines for these certified tuna fisheries. For Pacific tuna stocks in the WCPFC and IATTC Convention Areas, this means that if harvest control rules are not adopted by 2021 for southern albacore and by 2023 for northern albacore, current MSC certifications for these stocks will be suspended. We therefore urge you to:

- **Ask 1:** Adopt harvest strategies including reference points for North Pacific Albacore, that have clearly defined harvest control rules and monitoring mechanisms (Action 1.1 and 1.2 in FIP workplan).



Bycatch and sharks

In 2019, the IATTC Scientific Staff, the Bycatch Working Group and IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) once again made bycatch-mitigation and bycatch-reporting recommendations for both purse seine and longline fisheries. Unfortunately, the Commission has not acted to adopt these recommendations to date. Further, proposals by a number of IATTC CPCs to require sharks to be landed with fins naturally attached, and to strengthen measures to conserve shark populations, continue to be rejected. Especially as a longline FIP, we urge:

- **Ask 2:** Adopt measures to mitigate the incidental catch and maximise the post-release survival of sensitive fauna, such as sharks, mobulid rays, birds, sea turtles, particularly leatherback sea turtles, and promote additional research on mobulids, including post-release survival, genetics and population studies, as recommended by the IATTC Staff, Bycatch Working Group and IATTC SAC. (Action 2.3 in FIP workplan)
- **Ask 3:** Improve monitoring in all tuna fisheries (see MCS) (Action 2.1 in FIP workplan).
- **Ask 4:** Take immediate steps to enforce the existing shark finning resolution and strengthen it by requiring that all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached. (Action 2.1 in FIP workplan).

Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS)

Comprehensive observer coverage is critical to effective fisheries management, compliance monitoring, and independent verification of catch, effort, and species interactions (e.g., sharks, sea turtles and whale sharks). Available data on observer coverage in longline fisheries indicates some fleets are not meeting the 5% mandatory minimum requirement. This FIP urges the IATTC to:

- **Ask 5:** Require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for longline vessels, and all vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment, within 4 years. (Action 2.1 in FIP action plan).
- **Ask 6:** Adopt best practice E-Monitoring and E-Reporting standards. (Action 2.1 in FIP action plan).

Compliance

A strong compliance process improves fisheries management by holding members accountable for their implementation of agreed measures. The IATTC has a permanent working group on compliance that reviews and monitors compliance with IATTC management measures (IATTC-COR 2014). As well as undertaking analysis of information on compliance and reporting the findings to the IATTC, the working group also recommends measures to promote compatibility among the national fisheries management measures, addressing matters related to compliance with fisheries management measures. Unfortunately, reports of these meetings do not go into detail on possible infractions and more detailed information discussed at the meetings is treated as confidential. The IATTC has penalties to deal with non-compliance, but these are not always used. Information on compliance is not open. As a FIP we urge you to:

- **Ask 7:** Disclose resolution plans to address identified area of non-compliance (Action 3.2 in FIP action plan).



- **Ask 8:** Require members to submit a compliance action plan (Action 3.2 in FIP action plan)
 - **Ask 9:** Adopt audit points or reference metrics for IATTC measures to ensure clarity in members obligations, reporting requirements, etc., and what will be addressed in the Review Committee. (Action 3.2 in FIP action plan).
- Ask 10:** Make public annex 1, under IATTC Res C-11-07 (resolution on the process for improved compliance of resolutions adopted by the commission), The Standard Questionnaire on Compliance with IATTC Resolutions once it has been completed by participating CPCs, to ensure CCM's are implementing their obligations. (Action 3.2 in FIP action plan).

If the above mentioned are addressed effectively it will have positive long term-sustainability implications and improve overall health of the Eastern Pacific marine ecosystem to allow for fisheries like our current FIPs to achieve sustainability targets, particularly in line with MSC certification.

For any further information, please contact the FIP manager Tom Evans at t.evans@keytraceability.com

Signed on behalf of the Starkist Pacific Tuna Longline FIP

July 2020



Appendix 1: Companies/vessels/suppliers in support of the above statement

Vessel Name	IMO number	Supplier	Flag
Yuh Chang No.1	8664242	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Yuh Chang No.2	8664254	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Yuh Chang No.11	8664292	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Yuh Pao No.12	8664278	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Yuh Yi No.16	8664216	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Yuh Yi No.21	8664228	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Yuh Yi No.22	8664230	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Yuh Fa No.8	8664357	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Yuh Fa No.66	8666977	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Yuh Fa No.88	8666953	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Yuh Sheng No.1	9893981	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Tuna Lane No.1	9715103	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Tuna Lane No.2	9715646	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Vanuatu
Toamoana No.1	8994350	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Cook Islands
Toamoana No.3	8524052	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Cook Islands
Toamoana No.6	8524064	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Cook Islands
Toamoana No.8	8664424	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Cook Islands
Toamoana No.12	8778483	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Cook Islands
Toamoana No.16	8524131	Yuh Yow Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Cook Islands
Chung kuo No. 96	9723198	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Chung kuo No. 81	9732175	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Chung kuo No. 95	8968492	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Chung kuo No. 85	8968480	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Ocea Star VI	8656661	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Chung Kuo No. 999	2555877	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Chung Kuo No. 989	2649721	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Chung Kuo No. 86	8970639	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Chung Kuo No. 91	8967943	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Chung Kuo No. 818	8652809	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Chung Kuo No. 828	8652811	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Chung Kuo No. 838	8652471	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Chung Kuo No. 858	8652483	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Ocean star 101	9094121	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Mega 811	8523632	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Mega 812	8523644	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Mega 711	8523670	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Mega 712	8523682	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Minnie 511	8523589	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Panama
Pioneer	8814976	Star Trading Corporation Limited	Vanuatu
Jin Chin I No.16	8523955	JJY Fisheries Co.,Ltd.	Taiwan
Jin Jinn Yi No.26	8792958	JJY Fisheries Co.,Ltd.	Taiwan
Jin Jinn Yi No.33	8792960	JJY Fisheries Co.,Ltd.	Taiwan
Jin Jinn Yi No.36	8749080	JJY Fisheries Co.,Ltd.	Taiwan
Jin Jinn Yi No.66	8749092	JJY Fisheries Co.,Ltd.	Taiwan



Jin Jinn Yi No.168	8661836	JJY Fisheries Co.,Ltd.	Taiwan
Shunn Shing No.626	8629266	JJY Fisheries Co.,Ltd.	Taiwan
Shuenn Shing No.66	8524284	JJY Fisheries Co.,Ltd.	Taiwan
Sheng Lian Shiang No.1	8523917	JJY Fisheries Co.,Ltd.	Taiwan
San Sheng Fa	8781258	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
San Sheng Fa No.3	8781234	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
San Sheng Fa No.Tien	8781246	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
San Zai Fa No.6	8781260	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
San Zai Fa No.12	8649773	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
San Zai Fa No.15	8781272	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
San Lian Fa No.18	8781210	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
San Lian Fa No.1	8781208	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
San Lai Fa No.26	8781222	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
San Lai Fa No.21	8787977	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
Ocean Bountiful No.338	8524545	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Fiji
Jin Fu Shiang No.36	8782903	Global Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
Jin de man no.1	8777752	Lin, Yu Chun	Taiwan
Quan sheng yi	8778495	Lin, Yu Chun	Taiwan
Yu Long	8778421	Kung, Yu Ling	Taiwan
Yu Long no. 2	8778469	Kung, Yu Ling	Taiwan
Yu Long no.10	8778433	Kung, Yu Ling	Taiwan
Yu Long no.12	8778445	Kung, Yu Ling	Taiwan
Yu Long no.18	8778457	Kung, Yu Ling	Taiwan
Ping Tai Rong 313	9877420	Ping Tai Rong Ocean Fishery Group Co., Ltd.	China
Ping Tai Rong 316	9702924	Ping Tai Rong Ocean Fishery Group Co., Ltd.	China
Ping Tai Rong 318	9702948	Ping Tai Rong Ocean Fishery Group Co., Ltd.	China
Ping Tai Rong 331	9877432	Ping Tai Rong Ocean Fishery Group Co., Ltd.	China
Rong Heng 13	8689230	Ping Tai Rong Ocean Fishery Group Co., Ltd.	China
Rong Heng 31	8689371	Ping Tai Rong Ocean Fishery Group Co., Ltd.	China
Rong Heng 68	8689436	Ping Tai Rong Ocean Fishery Group Co., Ltd.	China
Rong Heng 78	8690100	Ping Tai Rong Ocean Fishery Group Co., Ltd.	China
Rong Heng 86	8690112	Ping Tai Rong Ocean Fishery Group Co., Ltd.	China
Rong Heng 87	8690356	Ping Tai Rong Ocean Fishery Group Co., Ltd.	China
Longbow No.1	8996114	Longbow Fishery Co., Ltd	Vanuatu
Longbow No.7	8956683	Longbow Fishery Co., Ltd	Vanuatu
Grand east	8821072	Longbow Fishery Co., Ltd	Vanuatu
Sea Hawk No.2	8791447	Longbow Fishery Co., Ltd	Taiwan