



2023 IATTC Position Statement

GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

TOP LEVEL ASKS

Harvest Strategies

- Progress development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs). Specifically in 2023, adopt a HCR for Northern albacore, yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack.
- Collaborate with the WCPFC in the adoption of a harvest strategy for Southern Albacore.
- Establish a working group to enhance the dialogue among fisheries scientists, managers, and other stakeholders on management strategy evaluation.

Better Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Management

Adopt the measures on biodegradable FADs, FAD marking and non-entangling FADs identified in the GTA's [position](#) on better FAD Management.

Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)

- Members to opt into the PSMA by designating ports.
- Support the implementation of the assistance mechanism for developing States.

Electronic Monitoring (EM)

Adopt minimum standards for an EM program in 2023.

Transshipment

- Adopt 100% observer coverage requirement (human and/or electronic) on all vessels engaged in at sea transshipment, by 2024.

HARVEST STRATEGIES

What is the issue?

- Harvest strategies (or management procedures) provide a pre-agreed framework to facilitate efficient, science-based decision-making to achieve a long-term vision for the stock and fishery.
- Although the IATTC has been progressing the development of management procedures, it has not yet agreed on complete management objectives for several stocks. Get the full picture of where all the stocks are in the harvest strategy process below:

North Pacific 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

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	—

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	—

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	—

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- By actively participating in the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process, which was passed for Northern Pacific Albacore at last year's IATTC, the RFMO can work towards developing effective strategies that meet the necessary standards and promote the long-term viability of its fisheries.
 - The new Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Standard sets higher performance requirements for RFMO-managed fisheries. Meeting these requirements is crucial for the IATTC to meet the deadlines for implementing harvest strategy outcomes. To meet the requirements of Principle 1 conditions for certified tuna fisheries, the IATTC must adopt and implement comprehensive and precautionary harvest strategies. Failure to do so by May 2025 will result in the suspension of MSC certifications for North Pacific albacore. So, we need more than the MSE.
 - Additionally, to establish a compatible harvest strategy for South Pacific albacore, the IATTC needs to actively engage in the ongoing MSE process of the WCPFC (Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission) because it is a shared stock between the two RFMOs.
 - The IATTC must prioritize adopting and implementing these harvest strategies to align with the MSC's deadlines and ensure the continued sustainability of the fisheries. By actively participating in the MSE process and collaborating with relevant organizations, the IATTC can work towards developing effective strategies that meet the necessary standards and promote the long-term viability of the fisheries.

What are we calling for?

- Progress development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs). Specifically in 2023, adopt a harvest control rule for Northern albacore, yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack.
- Collaborate with the WCPFC in the adoption of a harvest strategy for Southern Albacore.
- Establish a working group to enhance the dialogue among fisheries scientists, managers, and other stakeholders on management strategy evaluation.



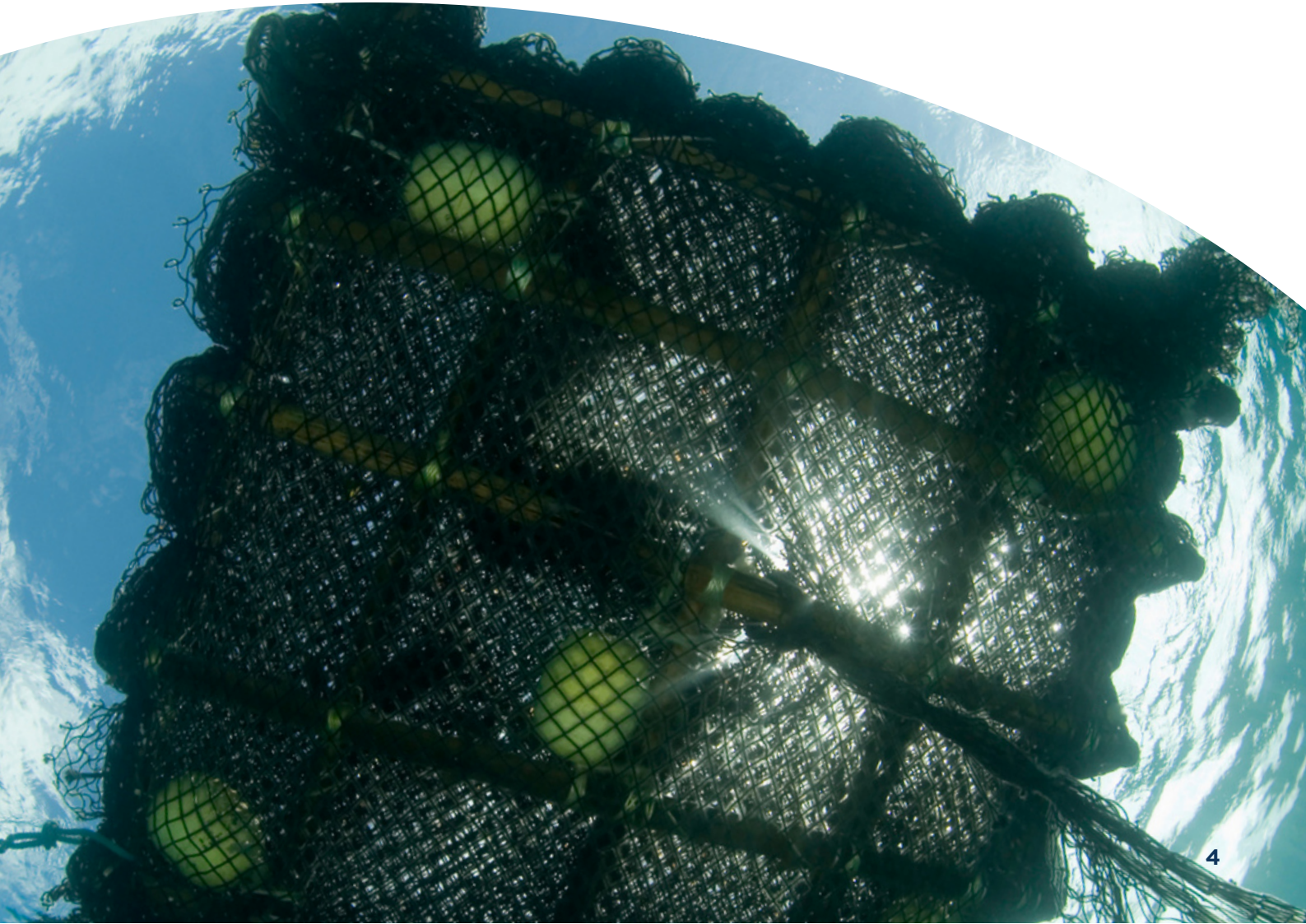
FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE MANAGEMENT

What is the issue?

- There is a concern for the ecological impacts of using FADs. Because FADs attract a variety of fish, often other species and juvenile fish are caught incidentally.

What are we calling for?

- Adopt measure on biodegradable FADs, FAD marking and non-entangling FADs identified in the GTA's [position](#) on better FAD Management.



PORT STATE MEASURES AGREEMENT

What is the issue?

- The PSMA, adopted in 2009 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), requires parties to place tighter controls on foreign-flagged vessels seeking to enter and use their ports to land or tranship fish.
- Tuna RFMOs also regulate member nations' port State controls as part of their management measures. This ensures that these governments have minimum standards in place, regardless of whether they are a party to the PSMA.
- The IATTC adopted a Resolution on Port State Measures in 2021. As of June 2023, 17 countries have opted in with France, Mexico and Venezuela opting in since last year.



What are we calling for?

- All Members to opt into the Port States Measure by designating ports.
- Support the implementation of the assistance mechanism for developing States.



ELECTRONIC MONITORING

What is the issue?

- Comprehensive observer coverage or electronic monitoring is critical to effective fisheries management, compliance monitoring, and independent verification of catch, effort, and species interactions.
- Low levels of monitoring coverage limits the availability of independent catch and operational data, reducing the accuracy of stock assessments and effectiveness of conservation management measures.
- The IATTC currently requires only 5% observer coverage for longline vessels larger than 20 meters operating within the Convention Area.

What are we calling for?

- Adopt minimum standards for an electronic monitoring program in 2023.



TRANSSHIPMENT

What is the issue?

- 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, shared appropriately and timely, 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 illegal, unreported and unregulated (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.

What are we calling for?

- Adopt 100% observer coverage requirement (human and/or electronic) on all vessels engaged in at sea transshipment, by 2024.





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