



GTA Response to the WCPFC 19th Session Proposals

2022

GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

Introduction

The 19th Session of the WCPFC takes place from 27th November to 3rd December in Da Nang, Vietnam.

The agenda includes items on harvest strategies, electronic monitoring and labour issues.

These are all areas the GTA is seeking action on.

The proposals are available on the WCPFC website.

The Global Tuna Alliance applauds the leadership shown by the CPCs who have submitted proposals.

SKIPJACK HARVEST STRATEGY

- **The GTA is urging the WCPFC to adopt and implement without delay a management procedure for skipjack.**
- This would fulfil a commitment made by the WCPFC more than eight years ago.
- However, we are extremely concerned by the proposal from the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) who seek to delay implementing this modern approach by up to six years.
- While the skipjack stock is considered healthy now, it has been declining over the long term, according to successive stock assessments, and new challenges are on the horizon, such as climate change; shifts in stock distribution; uncertain economic viability; increased competition; and other drivers of overfishing.
- Without a management procedure in place to provide a science-based approach for addressing these shocks to the system, we are concerned that fishery managers would be under serious pressure to ignore the scientific advice in a crisis, thus risking the health of the fishery.
- On the other hand, if the biomass increases, the management procedure could just as quickly permit increases in catch or fishing effort, without risking stability in catch rates.
- Implementing the management procedure in December would mitigate risk and safeguard this valuable fishery for the future.



SCIENCE MANAGER DIALOGUE

- The Commission will consider the future meetings and schedule for the science-management dialogue (SMD).
- **The GTA is seeking the SMD be established as a permanent working group.**

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

- **The GTA is asking the WCPFC to adopt a measure for an Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program as well as associated Minimum Standards.**
- An EM Working Group was established by the WCPFC in 2014 but the WCPFC has still not adopted an EM program or standards.
- The Working Group will report back to the WCPFC at the meeting, and we wish to see the Commission accelerate their work with a view to adopt a measure for an EM Program as well as associated Minimum Standards in 2023.



LABOUR STANDARDS FOR CREW ONBOARD FISHING VESSELS

- Under the leadership of New Zealand and Indonesia, the WCPFC Crew Welfare Intersessional Working Group has worked to transition WCPFC Resolution 2018-01 on Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing Vessels into a formal, binding conservation and management measure.
- **The Working Group will report back to the WCPFC at the meeting, and the GTA urges delegates to wholeheartedly support the proposed measure on Labour Standards for crew on fishing vessels.**



Conclusion

The 19th session of the WCPFC has the opportunity to advance tuna fisheries management, and sustainability.

All delegations need to play their part for the greater good of the fisheries.

The market will be watching the outcomes with interest.



CONTACT

Dr. Tom Pickerell
Executive Director
tom@globaltunaalliance.com

Albert Arthur
Director of Outreach & Engagement
albert@globaltunaalliance.com

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