

ATTN: Heads of Delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

19 Environmental Organizations Call on the IATTC to Strengthen Management of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in the Eastern Pacific

Effective management of fish aggregating devices (FADs) is critical to the long-term health of tuna fisheries and their ecosystems in the eastern Pacific Ocean. At the 100th annual meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission on 1-5 August 2022, the Commission has an important opportunity to **adopt stronger FAD management measures**. Specifically, we the undersigned urge the Commission to revise resolution C-21-04 to incorporate the following:

- Adopt a timeline for transitioning to a 100% **biodegradable** FAD requirement and encourage further large-scale biodegradable FAD sea trials and for fishers/shipowners to deploy systematically a percentage of their FADs made of biodegradable materials from 2023 onwards.
- Require the use of only non-entangling FAD designs with no netting or other meshed materials.
- Develop fully transparent FAD-recovery policy, a FAD marking scheme, clearer rules for FAD ownership and stronger rules for activation and deactivation of FAD buoys.
- Implement science-based limits on drifting FAD management measures (limits, deployments and/or drifting FAD sets).

These asks are in line with the [*NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on FAD Management*](#).

In addition to adopting and strengthened FAD management measures, we urge the Commission to also address several issues that impact the health of all tuna stocks and their ecosystems in the eastern Pacific Ocean, including:

- **Accelerate the adoption and implementation of comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies**. Specifically in 2022, the Commission must adopt a harvest strategy for Northern Albacore, collaborate with the WCPFC in the adoption of a harvest strategy for Southern Albacore and by 2023 create a working group to enhance the dialogue among fisheries scientists, managers, and other stakeholders on management strategy evaluation.
- Continue to support the development of an **Electronic Monitoring program by supporting the creation of an EM Working Group** and commit to making progress toward **100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic)** in industrial tuna fisheries, including all those vessels engaged in at sea transshipment, by 2024.
- **Amend the current at-sea transshipment measure** (Resolution C-12-07) to be in line with best practices, such as those recommended in the [*NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on At-Sea Transshipment*](#).
- Amend C-05-03 to require that ALL sharks be landed with **fins naturally attached without exceptions**, adopting the globally acknowledged best practice to prevent finning.

We the undersigned agree that these critical issues can and must be addressed during the Commission's annual meeting.

As a delegate to the IATTC, we urge your government to support efforts to adopt proposals or take other actions to address the important issues noted above this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

