



**StarKist.**

April 7, 2017

ATTN: Heads of Delegation to IOTC, IATTC, ICCAT and WCPFC

Dear Delegates,

StarKist, as the leading tuna brand in the United States and a founding Participating Company with the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, joins and strongly supports the joint letter dated March 22, 2017 from a consortium of companies representing major global seafood buyers, non-governmental organizations and fishing industry associations, all of whom recognize that the sustainability of tuna stocks is integral to businesses and livelihoods, as well as the health of the marine environment.

We are writing this letter to confirm our full support for the priorities as stated in the March 22<sup>nd</sup> letter and urge you to take accelerated action at this year's RFMO meetings to:

- Develop precautionary harvest strategies, including specific timelines to adopt target reference points, harvest control rules and the other elements of a harvest strategy approach that ensures sustainable fisheries for all tuna stocks;
- Adopt a 100% observer coverage requirement for purse seine vessels, where it is not already required, and of at sea- transshipment activities and require the use of the best available observer safety equipment, communications and procedures;
- Increase compliance with the mandatory 5% longline observer coverage rates by identifying and sanctioning non-compliance, and adopt a level of coverage that would reduce uncertainty and provide better estimates of bycatch, such as a minimum of 20% which has been recommended by the scientific committees of IATTC and ICCAT;
- Adopt standards for electronic reporting and electronic monitoring for all major gear types to enable the implementation of this technology to support robust decision making;
- Adopt effective measures for the use of non-entangling FAD designs as a precautionary measure to minimize the entanglement of sharks and other non-target species, and support research on biodegradable materials and the eventual transition to their use in FADs in order to mitigate marine debris; and
- Urgently develop science-based recommendations for the management of FADs, including how to integrate FAD based information into stock assessments to reduce uncertainties.

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We request that your government, as a member of one or more of the tuna RFMOs, take active steps to ensure significant progress on these issues at each of the relevant RFMO meetings in 2017, as a matter of priority, and please understand that you have our complete support along with the other participants in this initiative.

Sincerely,



Cary Gann  
Director  
Seafood Procurement and Sustainability