



Indian Ocean Tuna longline (Thai Union) FIP

FIP Position Statement Regarding the Special Session of the IOTC (SS4) 2021

Drafted with agreement from all FIP participants

The submission of this position statement is on behalf of the [Indian Ocean Tuna Longline FIP](#) ahead of the IOTC Special Session in March 2021. Fishery targets albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) and yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) tuna in the Indian Ocean, fished by Malaysian and Taiwanese flagged vessels. The vessels are managed under the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, IOTC. This Fishery Improvement Project aims to meet the rising global demand for tuna and other large pelagics 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 the latest 2024.

Currently, the fishery would not be able to pass a MSC assessment due to issues surrounding all three MSC principles and we are especially concerned about the possible further declines in stock status of tuna and tuna like species if no management actions are agreed. Yellowfin tuna remains overfished and subject to overfishing and its catches continue to increase despite the recovery plan and catch reductions agreed in Resolution 19/01. The catches of skipjack tuna continue to increase and are higher than the agreed harvest control rule. Bigeye and albacore stocks are subject to overfishing. There are no complete management procedures in place for any key IOTC species.

Even under these challenging circumstances caused by the global pandemic, the IOTC must ensure the uninterrupted, sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview. In particular, there are several critical measures and issues that require immediate attention by IOTC this year, which are:

1. Given the serious risk of further declines in the status of the yellowfin stock, adopt without delay in 2021 an effective rebuilding plan for yellowfin tuna that gives full effect to the advice of the IOTC Scientific Committee and achieves spawning stock biomass capable of producing MSY (SSBMSY) by 2027 with at least 50% probability, ensuring all gears/fleets, including vessels smaller than 24m in length, harvesting yellowfin are taken into account to improve rebuilding potential of Resolution 19/01. If implemented effectively, this would imply a 15%-20% reduction from the 2017 yellowfin catch levels. In addition, IOTC needs to address over-catches in contravention of Res. 19/01.
2. Ensure Contracting Party and Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CPC) compliance with the rebuilding plan through the IOTC Compliance Committee and implement sanctions on offending CPCs.
3. Urgently monitor and manage catches of skipjack to ensure catches in 2021 do not exceed the limit set by the adopted Harvest Control Rule in Resolution 16/02 and recent recommendations for the period 2021-2023 as per the IOTC circular.

Many thanks for taking time to read our position statement. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

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Annex 1: List of vessels involved in the FIP

Vessel	Flag	IMO Number
Maan Yu Feng 1	Taiwan	8682749
Maan Yu Feng 2	Taiwan	8682751
Maan Yu Feng 168	Taiwan	8682763
Shui Ho Cheng	Taiwan	8780967
Shui Ho Cheng 3	Taiwan	8780979
Shui Ho Cheng 5	Taiwan	8790431
Fu Kuo 10	Taiwan	8782513
Chen Yi Fa 6	Taiwan	8782537
Kha Yang 3	Malaysia	8682751
Kha Yang 5	Malaysia	8682763
Cheng Qing Feng 368	Taiwan	8781545
Kha Yang 1	Malaysia	8682749
Kha Yang 7	Malaysia	8682775
Kha Yang 9	Malaysia	8682787
Kha Yang 35	Malaysia	8537126
Kha Yang 399	Taiwan	8789377
Kha Yang 939	Taiwan	8531366
Kha Yang 969	Taiwan	8789339
Yu Pai Tsair 3	Taiwan	8782501
An Wone Fa 1	Taiwan	8782525
An Wen Fa 2	Taiwan	8781533
An Wone Fa 3	Taiwan	8781545
An Wun Fa 16	Taiwan	8786985
An Wen Fa 26	Taiwan	8781569
An Woen Fa 168	Taiwan	8789444
Cheng Qing Feng 6	Taiwan	8789327
Cheng Qing Feng 8	Taiwan	8789303
Cheng Qing Feng 168	Taiwan	8789286
Shin Lian Fa 36	Taiwan	8789248
Shin Lian Fa 338	Taiwan	8790431
An Wen Fa 36	Taiwan	8537126
Cheng Qing Feng 268	Taiwan	8781612
Jinn Jyi Chun 178	Taiwan	8791227
Jinn Jyi Chyun	Taiwan	8791203
Kha Yang 979	Taiwan	8794047
Kha Yang 959	Taiwan	8556770
Kha Yang 993	Taiwan	8790352