



08 March 2021

**LETTER BY IPNLF MEMBER, MARKS & SPENCER, IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE SPECIAL SESSION**

Dear IOTC Secretariat,

Please find attached a letter of support from IPNLF member, **Marks & Spencer**, in support of the following two conservation and management measure (CMM) proposals:

- IOTC-2021-SS4-PropC “On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence”, submitted by Maldives1; and
- IOTC-2021-SS4-PropD “On management of fish aggregating devices in the IOTC area of competence”, submitted by Kenya and Sri Lanka2.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MP', is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Martin Purves  
Managing Director  
International Pole and Line Foundation



EST. 1884

Waterside House  
35 North Wharf Road  
London W2 1NW  
London W2 1NW  
[www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com)  
[www.marksandsnencer.com](http://www.marksandsnencer.com)

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear IOTC Delegates,

At Marks & Spencer, we have a longstanding public commitment to source seafood responsibly. Not only is it the right thing to do, but our customers expect it of us. We've had a Sustainable Seafood Policy in place for over 20 years, and we are one of the only retailers whose policy covers every single piece of fresh and frozen fish and seafood on our shelves—whether in a sandwich, a ready meal or a can.

Marks & Spencer sells two species of tuna from the Indian Ocean; skipjack and yellowfin tuna sourced from small scale fishing communities in the Maldives and Sri Lanka, with whom we have worked for over two decades. We hold a strong belief that our continuous commercial leverage and brand power are essential to advocate, engage and support necessary improvements on sustainability and human rights for these tuna fisheries.

With the IOTC Special Session scheduled to take place from 8 – 12 March 2021, we urgently advocate IOTC member states to agree to an effective and equitable recovery plan for the overfished yellowfin tuna stock. Such a rebuilding plan should support sustainable development for Small Island Developing countries in the region and also take account of the significant juvenile yellowfin mortality associated with drifting-FADs (dFADs) that impairs recruitment and poses a serious threat to yellowfin stock recovery.

Effective dFAD management measures will also help mitigate other ecological impacts associated with these devices, including marine plastic pollution, ghost fishing and the bycatch of turtles, sharks and marine mammals.

To achieve these outcomes, Marks & Spencer would hereby like to confirm their support for, and encourage the adoption of, the following two conservation and management measure (CMM) proposals:

- IOTC-2021-SS4-PropC “On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence”, submitted by Maldives<sup>1</sup>; and
- IOTC-2021-SS4-PropD “On management of fish aggregating devices in the IOTC area of competence”, submitted by Kenya and Sri Lanka<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://iotc.org/documents/interim-plan-rebuilding-indian-ocean-yellowfin-tuna-stock-iotc-area-competence-maldives>

<sup>2</sup> <https://iotc.org/documents/management-fish-aggregating-devices-fads-iotc-area-competence-kenya-sri-lanka>

# M&S

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We encourage the heads of delegation of all IOTC member states to use these proposals as the minimum baseline on which to base negotiations during the Special Session in March.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. McLean', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Steven J McLean**

Head of Agriculture & Fisheries Sourcing  
[Steven.McLean@Marks-and-Spencer.com](mailto:Steven.McLean@Marks-and-Spencer.com)