



LETTER OF SUPPORT

2017

25TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)

MARRAKECH, MOROCCO, 14-22 NOVEMBER 2017

Dear Delegates,

We, the undersigned companies representing major seafood retailers and suppliers that source tuna from a diverse and international supply network, recognise that the sustainability of tuna stocks is integral to businesses and livelihoods, as well as the health of the marine environment in the Atlantic Ocean.

As an important regional fisheries management organization (RFMO), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is responsible for managing the world's tropical tuna fisheries throughout its range. We are writing to bring your attention to our views on the development of actions and resolutions that address the pressing issues that we believe are fundamental to sustainable fisheries management and those that necessitate immediate action by ICCAT.

In order to ensure science based management of tropical tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean, Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity fishing (CPCs) need to agree on important next steps for the improvement of stock health, including improved data reporting and compliance with rules and catch limits across all gear types. The continued increase in biological and ecological knowledge of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna species is another aspect of management that requires increased focus.

There needs to be full commitment by all parties, including fishing fleets, to ensure robust, precautionary harvest strategies are adopted for all tropical tuna stocks as soon as possible.

We therefore recommend ICCAT to:

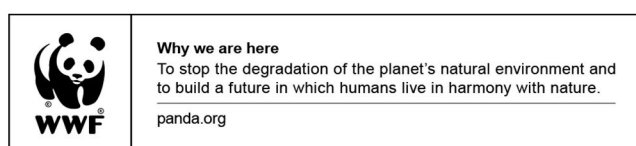
- Adopt amendments to the Convention to enable the Commission to manage all shark fisheries and adopt the precautionary approach and ecosystem based management;
- Strengthen the recovery of bigeye and the long-term management plans and harvest strategies of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack across all gear types with a focus on the ecosystem;
- Provide the best available data and allocate appropriate funding to ensure fishery scientists have quality data for the use in stock assessments and other related research;
- Improve monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures, including an increase of observer coverage requirements for large-scale purse seine vessels, up to 100%, and longline vessels, at least 20%, and the use of electronic monitoring and reporting to support data collecting;
- Strengthen MCS tools to ensure illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU)-free supply chains: Improve video monitoring systems (VMS) and port inspections following best practices standards and the *Port State Measures Agreement* (PSMA) requirements;
- Adopt effective FAD management strategies that includes the use of non-entangling and biodegradable FADs, and robust and complete data from all flags operating purse seine vessels in the Atlantic;

We request ICCAT to take active steps to ensure significant progress on these issues.

Yours sincerely,



This letter was convened by WWF as part of our programme to achieve sustainable tuna fisheries.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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