



**COMMISSION
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Manila, Philippines
3 – 7 December 2017

IPNLF Position Statement to WCPFC14

**WCPFC14-2017-OP12
2 December 2017**

Submission by International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF)

IPNLF POSITION STATEMENT

14th Regular Session of the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Manila, Philippines, 2-7 December 2017

The International Pole & Line Foundation ([IPNLF](#)) is an international charity working to develop and demonstrate the value of one-by-one tuna fisheries. Its role is two-fold: to promote the benefits of one-by-one tuna fisheries; and to develop these fisheries – to support and improve their viability and sustainability. We work across science, policy and the seafood sector to improve the wellbeing of coastal communities who are committed to environmentally and socially responsible tuna fishing methods, such as pole-and-line, troll, and handline. The Western and Central Pacific has strong historical linkages to such fisheries, and many continue to play important roles in Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, Tahiti, the Philippines, among others.

An important part of our work involves connecting people and organisations that want to support the sustainable development of one-by-one fisheries. Our [membership](#) – which currently stands at 50 – includes a broad range of fishery associations and businesses involved in the one-by-one tuna supply chain. Our member one-by-one tuna fisheries active in the WCPFC Convention Area include fishers from Indonesia, New Zealand, and the United States.

In Indonesia, IPNLF, together with our partner, [Asosiasi Periknan Pole & Line Dan Handline Indonesia \(AP2HI\)](#), and the Government of Indonesia, work to improve several aspects of the one-by-one fisheries. Drawing on our network of international experts, and working with AP2HI's 27 member companies and their fishers, our goal is to improve the sustainability, quality and viability of pole-and-line and handline tuna catches throughout Indonesia. IPNLF and AP2HI are also leading Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) for

Indonesian one-by-one tuna fisheries to meet international sustainability standards.

At this year's Commission meeting, IPNLF encourages members, cooperating non-members and participating territories (CCMs collectively) to adopt a number of conservation and management measures (CMMs) that, together, will strengthen the framework for sustainable tuna fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Specifically, we urge progress in the following areas:

- **Continue progress on the adoption of harvest strategies** for all major stocks in line with the proposed timeline that aim to avoid adverse impacts on the stocks while also recognizing the social and economic dependence of coastal communities that rely on the fisheries.
- **Adopt an enforceable and effective bridging measure for the management of tropical tunas** that recognizes the important social and economic contributions of one-by-one tuna fisheries to coastal communities throughout the Convention Area..
- **Improve the monitoring and regulation of purse seine supply vessels and other undermanaged fishing gears** that contribute to overall fishing effort, including the impacts associated with drifting fish aggregating devices (dFADs).
- **Reduce marine pollution**, including of plastics and drifting FADs, which damage coastal habitats by adhering to marine debris reporting requirements, recovering dFADs at sea, and requiring fully biodegradable materials in dFAD construction.
- **Adopt measures that will effectively reduce bycatch** and protect endangered, threatened, or protected species, including sharks, seabirds, cetaceans, and turtles.
- **Improve observer safety and increase longline observer coverage**, including via electronic monitoring, to better estimate bycatch and improve monitoring of the fishery.
- **Increase the transparency of the WCPFC compliance process** by allowing accredited observers to participate in the process.

The proposals on tropical tunas and south Pacific albacore tuna are particularly important this year in the face of increasing fishing effort and stock status projections. Progress in these areas is needed, as more sustainable management frameworks will benefit every CCM, bring positive long-term returns to fishing communities, and minimise the risk of future fisheries collapse.

The Western and Central Pacific Ocean is home to the world's largest tuna fishery, two of the world's largest pole-and-line fisheries (Indonesia and Japan), and many troll and handline fisheries supporting coastal communities throughout the region. IPNLF would like to see management measures adopted that safeguard tuna stocks and ecosystems so that one-by-one fisheries, and the communities that depend on them, can flourish. We will continue to work with our members to strive for the highest environmental and social standards, which will reinforce the good work of the Commission



Troll tuna fishery of New Zealand © New Zealand Tuna Management Association



ABOUT IPNLF

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) works to develop, support and promote socially and environmentally responsible pole-and-line and handline tuna fisheries around the world. IPNLF's ambition is to contribute to thriving coastal fisheries, including the people, communities, businesses and seas connected with them. As a hub for sustainably-minded organisations, we use the influence of the market to forge change through practical fishery projects and stakeholder cooperation. IPNLF membership is open to organisations involved in the one-by-one tuna supply chain. Allied with our Members, IPNLF demonstrates the value of one-by-one caught tuna to consumers, policymakers and throughout the supply chain. We work across science, policy and the seafood sector, using an evidence-based, solutions-focused approach with guidance from our Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Trustees.

IPNLF was officially registered in the United Kingdom in 2012 (Charity 1145586), with branch offices in London and the Maldives, and a staff presence in the US, South Africa, France, and Indonesia.

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Keep informed about the latest developments in one-by-one tuna fisheries through our website and by connecting with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).