

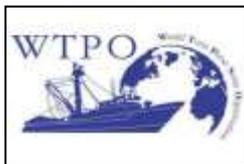


**COMMISSION
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3 – 7 December 2017

World Tuna Purse seine Organization Statement for WCPFC 14

**WCPFC14-2017-OP13
04 December 2017**

Submitted by WTPO



World Tuna Purse seine Organization

WTPO Statement for WCPFC 14

The World Tuna Purse Seine Organization (WTPO) reiterate its adherence to the further development of the tuna fishery by having better, efficient and sustainable solutions in the management of the tuna resources in all oceans.

WTPO continues to follow, promote and support a no exemption on fishing capacity control in all areas.

WTPO, again, requests the WCPFC to continue its review of the current WCPFC definition of Fish Aggregate Device (FAD). We believe that the current WCPFC FAD definition is not comprehensive, thus resulting in confusion and misunderstanding between the observers on board and the fishing vessel operators.

WTPO strongly recommends to adopt the IATTC definition of “Fish-Aggregating Device” (FAD) which means “anchored, drifting, floating or submerged objects deployed and/or tracked by vessels, including through the use of radio and/or satellite buoys, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for purse-seine fishing operations”.

(<https://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/Resolutions/C-16-01-FADs-Amendment-C-15-03.pdf>)

WTPO also support the current FFA/PNA Observer Program and look forward to strengthen their credibility through continuous improvement in the implementation of observer regulations and updating of new knowledge related to the said program, including the selection of qualified and competent FFA/PNA observers to make acceptable, fair and accurate reports while carrying out their tasks. In addition, the WTPO supports the establishment of a mechanism for observer providers to give feedback in a timely manner.

WTPO also proposes the creation of a WCPFC working group to work with vessel operators with the objective of establishing new and improved systems and mechanisms that addresses all stakeholder concerns.

WTPO wishes to pursue the issues of transparency of the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS), such as standard definition and interpretation, claims rejection and calling for a more firm commitment from the PNA to provide timely solutions to the Non Fishing Days (NFD) claims.

WTPO recognizes that the IFIMS system is considered as an efficient tool to be used by all stakeholders including all PNA members to effectively manage the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) as the regional standard.

Lastly, the WTPO is committed to the conservation and sustainable use of tuna resources and encourages WCPFC 14 to adopt scientifically based management measures successfully implemented in other RFMOs.

WTPO Secretariat



World Tuna Purse seine Organization