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South East Asia Cannery Intervention to WCPFC14

**WCPFC14-2017-OP14
05 December 2017**

Submission by Greenpeace



December 5, 2017

ATTN: Heads of Delegation to WCPFC 14

Dear Delegates,

This letter is submitted and supported by Greenpeace on behalf of Indonesian and Philippine canneries and Thailand brands.

South East Asia Cannery Intervention to WCPFC14¹

1. Tuna is the most economically valuable fish in the world as well as an important predator species in marine ecosystems. The tuna industry provides thousands of jobs in the catching, processing, and trading sector worldwide. Globally, commercial tuna is worth about USD 42 billion per year².
2. The Western and Central Pacific Ocean is the world's largest tuna fishery, yielding 56% of the world's total catch in 2016. The Western Central Pacific Ocean is a very important resource for canneries in Southeast Asia as it produced 2,717,850 MT valued at \$5.3 billion in 2016³.
3. Processors in Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia are key in efforts to achieve sustainability, traceability and equity. In July 2017, Greenpeace and Thai Union has reached an [agreement](#)⁴ on four issues of concern: human rights, transshipment, longline and FADs. Under this agreement, Thai Union has made significant and far-reaching commitments that aim to support current best practices in fisheries, reduce illegal and unethical practices from global supply chains, and bring more responsibly-caught tuna to key markets. This package of reforms position the company well to help build the necessary momentum towards a more sustainable, socially responsible and transparent industry. By the end of 2018, an independent third-party will review progress to-date on the commitments made in the agreement. Greenpeace supports the initiatives detailed in the agreement and will closely follow its progress and implementation.
4. Processors in Southeast Asia shall be contributing towards the example set by Thai Union. **We shall implement reforms to address human rights, transshipment, longline and FADs with clear milestones by 2020. We shall continue to undertake open and transparent dialogue with key “stakeholders”⁵.**

¹ Statement presented, revised and agreed during Cannery Dialogues held in General Santos Philippines November 14, 2017, Bangkok, Thailand November 21, 2017 and Jakarta, Indonesia November 28, 2017.

² The Pew Charitable Trusts. Netting Billions: A Global Valuation of Tuna in the Western And Central Pacific Ocean. Fact Sheet. (September 23, 2016.)

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2016/09/netting-billions-a-valuation-of-tuna-in-the-western-and-central-pacific-ocean>

³ Williams, P. et al. (2016) *Overview of Tuna Fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, Including Economic Conditions 2016*. <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/29628>

⁴ <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/Global/international/documents/oceans/Thai-Union-Commitments.pdf>

⁵ Stakeholders include Government, Fishing Companies, Labor Groups, NGOs, Traders, Consumers, Fishworkers and RFMOs

5. We take note of the 4,504 vessels registered in the WCPO⁶ where most are longliners or purse seiners while only a few are handliners and pole and line. We also take note of the top 6 countries which make up 85% of the fleet fishing in the WCPO are Chinese Taipei, Japan, China, Philippines, US and Korea. **Delegations should work together towards full compliance to Conservation and Management Measures are enforced.**
6. **We are of the view that Conservation and Management Measures, coupled with the Precautionary Approach and effective monitoring, control and surveillance can conserve tuna and important species such as sharks, turtles and endangered species.** Hence, we set forth below our recommendations for the Commission for consideration.

Recommendations

Human Rights

7. We are deeply concerned about issues of human rights abuses on board distant water fishing vessels which employ citizens in the region. **We believe that the WCPFC is an important platform to address human rights. As such, the WCPFC should consider issuing an official policy statement on human rights and make appropriate steps to prevent such abuses.**

Longliners

8. **We strongly support proposals on “better monitoring, control and surveillance of longliners⁷.”** These measures should consider:
 - a. A ban on transshipment on the high seas
 - b. **Observer coverage** (representational across all fleets and regions) and a roadmap to implement 100% fully tested electronic and human observer monitoring
 - c. Fully automated VMS on every vessel - no manual reporting allowed

Fish Aggregating Devices

9. **We strongly support proposals which “limits the numbers of FAD sets and the number of FADs released, with corresponding strong measures for reporting and transparency in FAD use.** Such measures should have:
 - a. An interim limit on FAD numbers released per vessel that reduces current use.
 - b. A reduction in the number of FAD sets.
 - c. Mandatory reporting and transparency on FAD all aspects of FAD use
 - d. A transition period to shift towards the use of biodegradable and non-entangling FAD designs.

⁶ As of November 29, 2017 <https://www.wcpfc.int/>

⁷ While the Tropical Tuna Measure doesn't specifically address human rights issues, banning transshipment and having strong MCS in place on longliners will go a long way to addressing many of the problems.

Low Impact Fishers (Handline / Pole & Line)

10. We are concerned of the adverse effects of fishing in the high seas to handliners and pole and liners. Tunas are shared resource. Conservation and Management Measures should facilitate equitable access to the resources such that there is reasonable opportunity not only for longliners, purse seiners but also for low impact fishers like handliners and pole and line. **We strongly recommend, the participation of handliners and pole and line in the decision making processes at national level and the WCPFC.** Their views should be taken into account in the crafting of Conservation and Management Measures.
11. Finally, **the Commission should set the lead in upholding the principles of inclusivity, responsibility, transparency and accountability in the decision making process.**

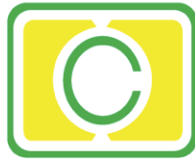
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PHILIPPINES



Alliance Select Foods International



Celebes Canning



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Ocean Canning



Philbest Canning



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Ocean Wave by Thai Union



TCB by Tropical Canning



ROZA by Hi-Q Food Products



Nautilus by Pataya Foods

INDONESIA



AP2HI

Asosiasi Perikanan Pole & Line
dan Handline Indonesia

Indonesian Pole & Line and Handline Fisheries Association

Asosiasi Perikanan Pole & Line dan Handline Indonesia



PT. International
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PT. Aneka
Tuna Indonesia



PT. Samudra
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