



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# COMMON OCEANS PROGRAM

# Tuna project



# Key points

## Beneficiaries:

- Members of all tuna RFMOs and stakeholders
- support ongoing processes in tuna RFMOs; create a catalytic effect

## Partnership of 25 working for sustainability

- t-RFMOs, IGOs, national government, industry and civil society

## Budget (2022-2027)

- USD 14m allocated; USD 200m co-financing



# Building on the successes of Tuna I (2014-2019)

- ✓ Harvest strategies
- ✓ Certified MCS course
- ✓ PSMA capacity building
- ✓ EM pilots for compliance
- ✓ Bycatch mitigation
- ✓ Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs

## Improving tuna fisheries



**Consensus on developing harvest strategies** – a pre-agreed approach to determine catch limits **for all major commercial tuna stocks** – is making tuna fisheries more sustainable and transparent in all **6** tuna RFMOs.

### Tuna stocks



experiencing overfishing down from 13 to 5.



### Turtle mortality in Western and Central Pacific Ocean

is expected to go down by



**4** ground-breaking assessments of vulnerable shark populations resulted in management actions in the Pacific Ocean.



First-ever global estimate on **seabird bycatch** in tuna longline fishing in the Southern hemisphere.



# Technical components

**Continuity** between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Common Oceans Tuna Project

1. Strengthened management of tuna fisheries
2. Strengthened MCS to improve fisheries data, compliance with CMMs and to tackle IUU fishing
3. Reduction of environmental impacts of tuna fisheries





# Benefits - ICCAT activities

- **Compliance-related capacity building:** develop capacity building materials that can be used by other CPCs or RMFOs
- **Enhancement of Online Reporting systems:** designed so that code modules can be used to implement CPC or RFMO systems for online data reporting
- **Technical discussions between t-RFMOs:** develop common solutions to common problems
- **Developing ecosystem-based indicators and management policies:** publicly available packages for testing EAFM indicators and policy performance



# Project highlights

- **Harvest Strategies:** e-learning tool and materials to support large-scale capacity building efforts
- **Electronic Monitoring:** capacity building and guidance tool(s) for implementation in developing coastal states, addressing technical and financial challenges
- **Climate change:** modelling the effects of climate change on tuna fisheries – Atlantic Ocean (+ Indian and Pacific Oceans)
- **Bycatch mitigation:** best practices updated and promoted; new technologies developed
- **Marine pollution:** testing and promotion of biodegradable FADs





PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY  
IN THE OCEAN AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION



Western & Central Pacific  
Fisheries Commission



The Common Oceans Tuna project brings together a global partnership dedicated to sustainable tuna fisheries aiming to advance responsible tuna fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), it works in collaboration with five regional tuna fisheries management organizations, intergovernmental organizations, national government, the private sector, and civil society.

[FAO.ORG/IN-ACTION/COMMONOCEANS](http://FAO.ORG/IN-ACTION/COMMONOCEANS)

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