



# 2024 ICCAT Position Statement

---

GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

# ABOUT US - GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

---

Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) partners are an inclusive constituency of pre-competitive supply-chain companies and retailers with a substantial interest in improving the sustainability of the tuna sector and are actively committed to supporting GTA campaigns.

As the voice of the tuna market, the Global Tuna Alliance exists to hold decision-makers accountable to businesses, their customers, and all those whose livelihoods depend on a sustainable tuna industry.

## OUR CURRENT PARTNERS

---

The ICCAT Secretariat has requested that we refrain from listing our Partners in this position statement, and we are eager to respect their wishes. You can find a complete list of our current partners at: <https://www.globaltunaalliance.com/partners/>

# TOP LEVEL ASKS

---

## Improve the Tropical Tuna Conservation Measures

- Protect yellowfin and bigeye stocks by adopting a precautionary Total Allowable Catch (TAC) consistent with scientific advice from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics. The TAC must ensure the rebuilding of bigeye stocks and maintain the yellowfin tuna population within safe biological limits.
- Ensure that the yellowfin TAC is properly allocated among Contracting Parties (CPCs) and fishing gears to prevent overfishing and improve compliance with agreed quotas.
- Enhance Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) management by accelerating the transition to fully biodegradable FADs, in line with best practices from other RFMOs.

## Advance Compliance Procedures

- Develop transparent audit points for ICCAT management measures, mirroring the compliance frameworks established for shark management in Rec. 18-06
- Implement non-compliance mechanisms to address overfishing and ensure adherence to TAC allocations and other management measures

## Implement Harvest Strategies (Management Procedures)

- Adopt comprehensive Management Procedures for tropical tuna species, particularly bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack, to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience
- Accelerate development of Harvest Control Rules and reference points for key stocks, ensuring precautionary, science-based management including ecosystem impacts and uncertainties

## Increase Observer Coverage and Electronic Monitoring

- Achieve 100% observer coverage (human or electronic) for all industrial tuna fisheries, particularly those involved in at-sea transshipment

## Strengthen Port State Measures

- Advocate for full implementation of FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) across all ICCAT parties, ensuring illegal, unreported, and unregulated fish cannot enter markets, including adopting minimum standards for inspection and reporting

## Improve Bycatch Mitigation

- Update ICCAT's measures to reduce bycatch of endangered, threatened, and protected species, particularly seabirds and sharks, in line with best-practice mitigation techniques
- Fully implement existing measures for species such as whale sharks and mobulid rays



# IMPROVING THE TROPICAL TUNA MEASURES AND HARVEST STRATEGIES/MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

## *What is the issue?*

---

- Harvest strategies (or management procedures) provide a pre-agreed framework to facilitate efficient, science-based decision-making to achieve a long-term vision for tuna stocks and fisheries.
- Although ICCAT has been progressing the development of management procedures for the Eastern and Western Bluefin stocks, as well as Northern Albacore, it has a way to go for the other tuna species it manages.

**Learn more about where all the ICCAT tuna stocks are in the harvest strategy process on the following page.**























## Infographic Key

-  Not adopted
-  Adopted, but not implemented
-  Adopted and implemented where applicable










## Northern Albacore

- Precautionary Target Reference Points 
- Precautionary Limit Reference Points 
- Acceptable Levels of Risk 
- Management/Operational Objectives 
- Management Strategy Evaluation 
- Performance Indicators 
- Harvest Control Rules 
- Monitoring Strategies 
- Management Tools to implement Resulting Exploitation Levels 










## Eastern & Western Bluefin

- Precautionary Target Reference Points 
- Precautionary Limit Reference Points 
- Acceptable Levels of Risk 
- Management/Operational Objectives 
- Management Strategy Evaluation 
- Performance Indicators 
- Harvest Control Rules 
- Monitoring Strategies 
- Management Tools to implement Resulting Exploitation Levels 










## Eastern & Western Skipjack

- Precautionary Target Reference Points 
- Precautionary Limit Reference Points 
- Acceptable Levels of Risk 
- Management/Operational Objectives 
- Management Strategy Evaluation 
- Performance Indicators 
- Harvest Control Rules 
- Monitoring Strategies 
- Management Tools to implement Resulting Exploitation Levels 

## Southern & Mediterranean Albacore

- Precautionary Target Reference Points 
- Precautionary Limit Reference Points 
- Acceptable Levels of Risk 
- Management/Operational Objectives 
- Management Strategy Evaluation 
- Performance Indicators 
- Harvest Control Rules 
- Monitoring Strategies 
- Management Tools to implement Resulting Exploitation Levels 

## Bigeye & Yellowfin

- Precautionary Target Reference Points 
- Precautionary Limit Reference Points 
- Acceptable Levels of Risk 
- Management/Operational Objectives 
- Management Strategy Evaluation 
- Performance Indicators 
- Harvest Control Rules 
- Monitoring Strategies 
- Management Tools to implement Resulting Exploitation Levels 

# INCREASE OBSERVER COVERAGE AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING

## *What is the issue?*

---

- Comprehensive observer coverage or electronic monitoring is critical to effective fisheries management, compliance monitoring, and independent verification of catch, effort, and species interactions.
- Low levels of monitoring coverage limit the availability of independent catch and operational data, reducing the accuracy of stock assessments and the effectiveness of conservation management measures.

## *What are we calling for?*

---

- Achieve 100% observer coverage (human or electronic) for all industrial tuna fisheries, particularly those involved in at-sea transshipment, as part of ICCAT's commitment to transparency and accountability in tuna fisheries management.





# PORT STATE MEASURES AGREEMENT

## *What is the issue?*

---

- The PSMA, adopted in 2009 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), requires parties to place tighter controls on foreign-flagged vessels seeking to enter and use their ports to land or transship fish.
- Tuna RFMOs also regulate member nations' port State controls as part of their management measures. This ensures that these governments have minimum standards in place, regardless of whether or not they are a party to the PSMA.

## *What are we calling for?*

---

- All Members to opt into the Port States Measure by designating ports.
- Support the implementation of the assistance mechanism for developing States.





---

## CONTACT

Daniel Sudabby  
Executive Director  
[daniel@globaltunaalliance.com](mailto:daniel@globaltunaalliance.com)