



WWF

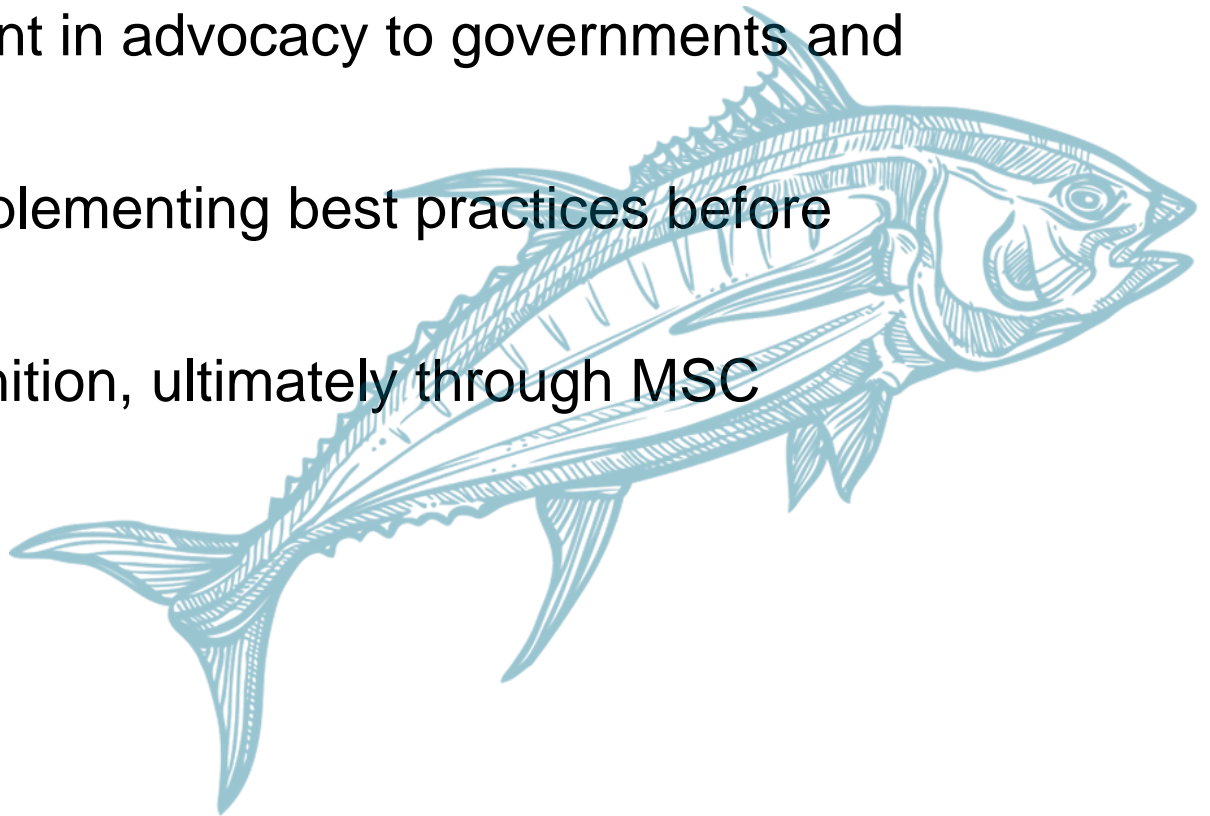


WWF Tuna FIPs & Their Progress

Maria T. Prebble
WWF-US

Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) help accelerate tuna sustainability

- Providing a smart and strong voice in the supply chain
- Being consistent in advocacy to governments and RFMOs
- Developing/implementing best practices before RFMOs
- Gaining recognition, ultimately through MSC certification





What is G-FAST?

WWF's G-FAST model aims to improve sustainability practices from the very beginning of the supply chain by directly engaging with tuna fishing vessel owners

- Make rapid progress towards MSC standard
- Develop and implement best practices before RMFOs
- Participate with WWF in consistent government and RFMO advocacy



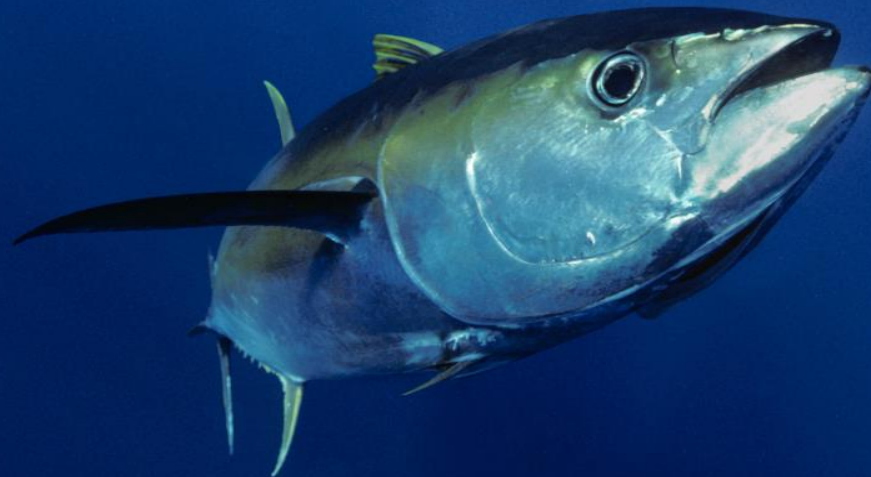
Participating FIPs

- **TUNACONS**
- **OPAGAC** (all oceans)
- **Indian Ocean Tuna – purse seine (SIOTI)**
- **Eastern Atlantic Tuna – purse seine (EASTI)**
- **Pacific Ocean Tropical Tuna – purse seine (US Pacific Ocean Group)**

- G-FAST is currently recruiting FIPs — or other sustainability commitments — for tuna fisheries in East Asia

More than **180 major tuna purse seine vessels** are participating in G-FAST, which is more than **20%** of the world's major tuna purse seiners.

The annual combined total catch of tuna from these FIPs is more than **850,000 metric tons**—that's approximately **17%** of all global catch.



G-FAST fosters leadership around four conservation priorities

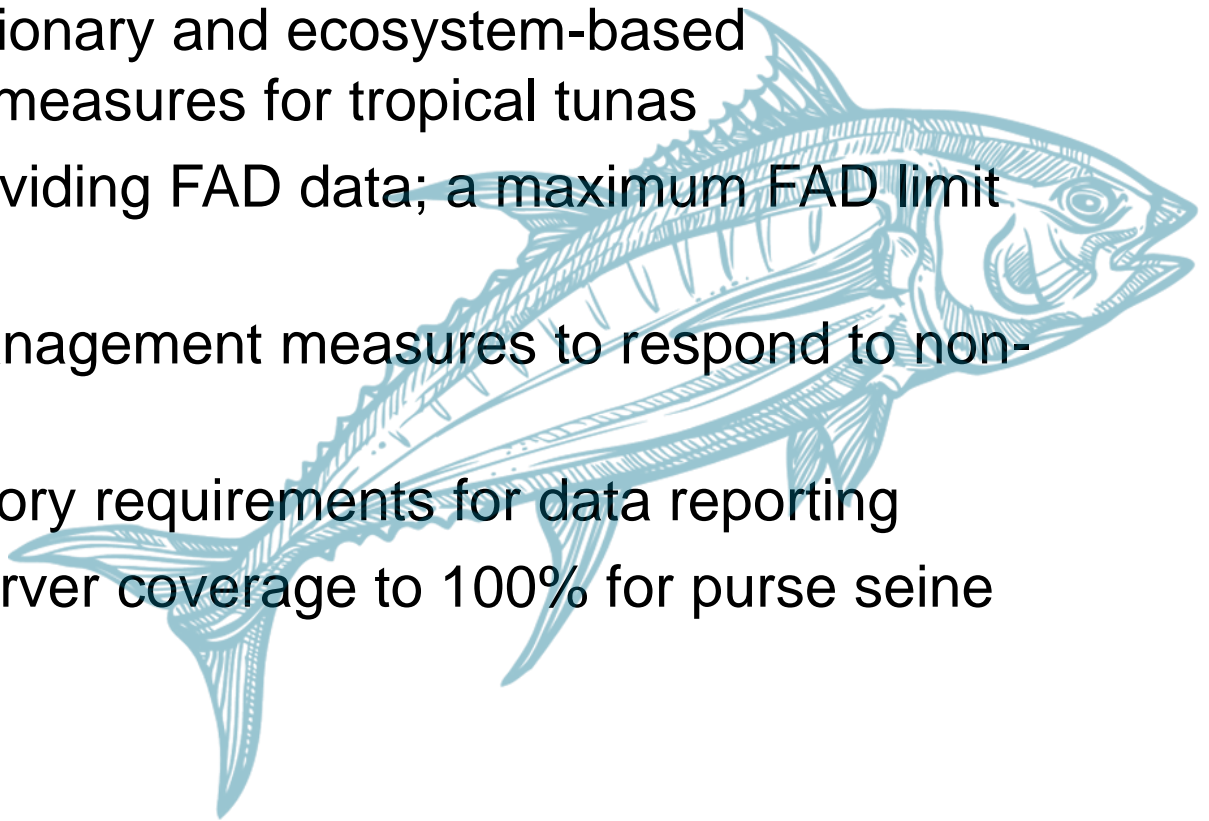
- Establishing precautionary harvest strategies
- Reducing environmental impact (mitigating bycatch)
- Promoting fair, effective and transparent enforcement
- Improving the quality and quantity of fishery data through comprehensive observer coverage



RMFO Advocacy: ICCAT 2019

*In advance of the 2019 ICCAT Annual Meeting, the **OPAGAC** and **EASTI FIPs** signed an advocacy letter calling to:*

- Adopt precautionary and ecosystem-based management measures for tropical tunas
- Commit to providing FAD data; a maximum FAD limit reduction
- Implement management measures to respond to non-compliance
- Adopt mandatory requirements for data reporting
- Increase observer coverage to 100% for purse seine vessels



Progress: TUNACONS

5 companies, 44 vessels, 115,000 M/T

-
- TUNACONS and WWF promoted the *National Tuna Action Plan*, formally adopted in Nov. 2019
 - TUNACONS and Gov. of Ecuador supported conservation resolutions on sea turtles and IUU fishing at IATTC
 - The fleet continues to test different designs of bioFADs
 - Minor fleet observer program covers 100% of vessels/trips



Progress: OPAGAC (IATTC)

14 vessels, 70,000 M/T

- Participation in a biodegradable FAD project
- Signed an MoU with TUNACONS to facilitate exchange of information on topics of mutual interest regarding both FIPs
- Participation in an IATTC pilot project on electronic monitoring systems (EMS) on tuna purse seiners, funded by the EU





Progress: OPAGAC (Atlantic)

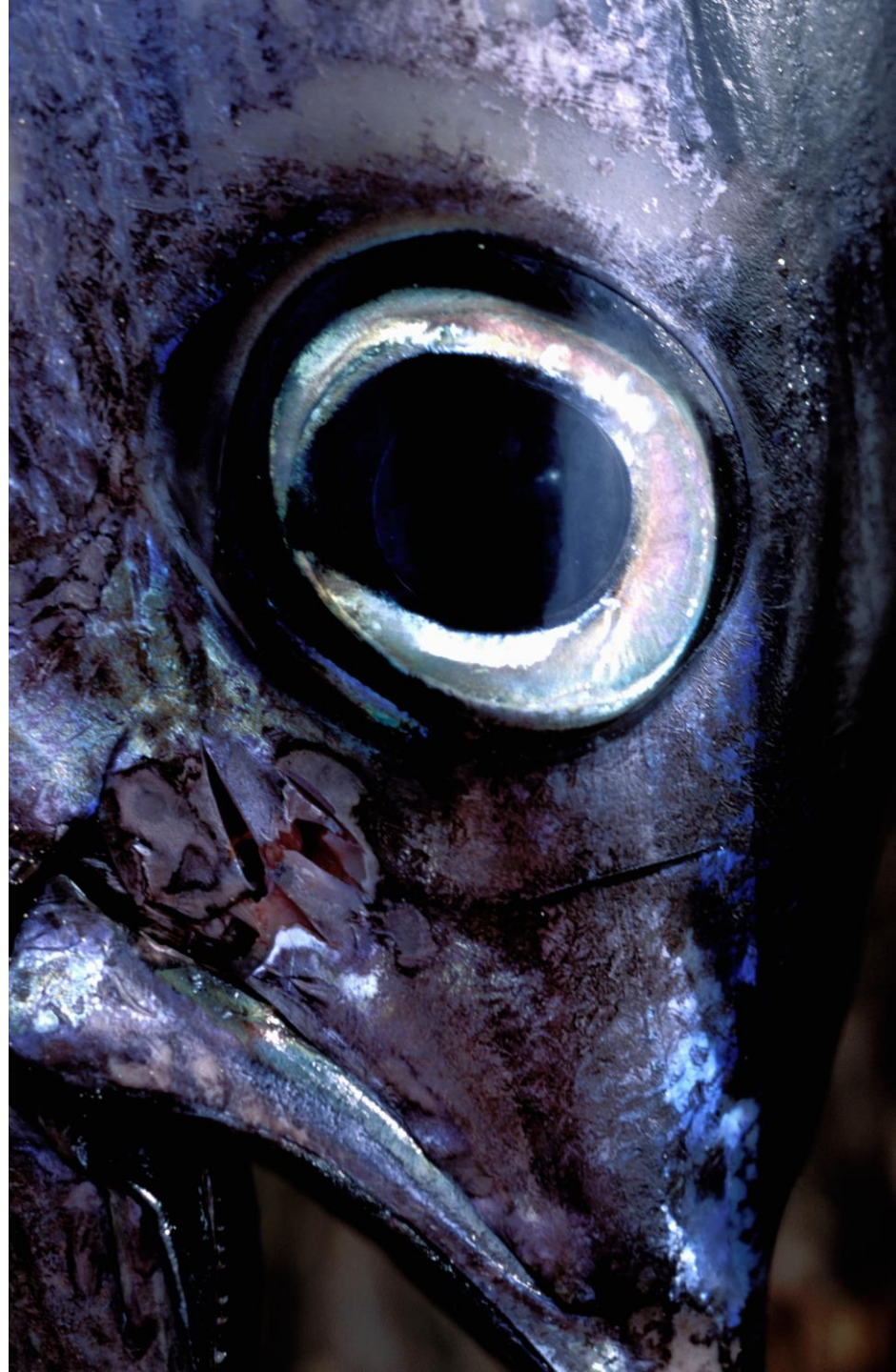
18 vessels, 123,000 M/T

- Release of FADs data for analysis
- Evaluation and promotion of alternative management measures ICCAT could implement to successfully maintain tropical tuna stocks around target reference points
- Assistance to a capacity building activity to support São Tomé e Príncipe in the Regional Observer Programme, promoted by ICCAT

Progress: US Pacific Tuna Group

12 vessels, 80,000 M/T

- *Action Plan* approved in November 2019
- Comprehensive FIP status achieved in December 2019
- Preparing and focusing on a specific *FAD Management Plan*.



Thank you

Maria Prebble

Maria.prebble@wwfus.org

© Pablo Guerrero / WWF-Ecuador

© Peter Chadwick / WWF

© naturepl.com / Jeff Rotman / WWF

© Kyle LaFerriere / WWF-US

© Eurofish

© Ezequiel NAVÍO / WWF

© Brian J. Skerry / National Geographic Stock / WWF

© naturepl.com / Christian Février / WWF



WWF