

## **ISSF Conservation Measures**

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**Preamble**

ISSF is a global partnership among scientists, the tuna industry and the environmental non-governmental community whose mission is to undertake science-based initiatives for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna stocks, reducing bycatch and promoting ecosystem health. Since its inception, ISSF has adopted conservation measures and commitments to facilitate this mission with the intent that processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry will follow them to facilitate real and continuous improvement across global tuna stocks. ISSF Participating Companies commit to conform to these conservation measures to improve the long-term health of tuna fisheries. This document will be updated as necessary.

**Conservation Measures:**

1) RFMO Support

<b>1.1 Tuna RFMO Authorized Vessel Record</b>		
Adopted: May 18, 2010 Amended: May 3, 2011 Amended: November 14, 2011 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: May 3, 2011	Gear Type: All
Each tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) develops vessel registration requirements and maintains a publicly available regional record of such tuna fishing vessels authorized to fish in the Convention Area of that RFMO. A vessel may be included on the record of		

authorized fishing vessels in multiple RFMOs simultaneously. Fishing by vessels subject to listing but not listed as authorized by an RFMO diminishes the effectiveness of conservation and management measures and the long-term sustainability of the resources being managed by increasing traceability and transparency at a global level.

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall refrain from transactions in tuna caught by vessels that are not on the authorized vessel record of the RFMO governing the ocean area in which the tuna was caught, at the time of the fishing trip, so long as the vessel is subject to listing in the RFMO authorized vessel record.

### **1.2 RFMO Participation**

Adopted: October 26, 2011 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: December 31, 2012	Gear Type: All
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ISSF recognizes that effective monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities within each RFMO is necessary for appropriate management. In some regions, however, vessels flagged to nations that are neither members nor cooperating non-members of the relevant RFMO are fishing for tunas, and thus are falling outside the purview of the RFMO management system. ISSF is committed to working to improve the performance of RFMOs in adopting, and member governments in complying with and enforcing, conservation and management measures and RFMO obligations.

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall conduct transactions only with those vessels that are flagged to a member of the relevant RFMO (or cooperating non-member, if membership is not available under the RFMO Convention), or have applied with the RFMO for such status.

## 2) Traceability & Data Collection

### **2.1 Product Traceability**

Adopted: July 21, 2009 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: January 1, 2010	Gear Type: All
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Adequate traceability records are necessary for enforcement and compliance with existing and future conservation measures, and the successful elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall credibly trace tuna products, from capture to plate. The traceability procedure will record the name, flag and UVI (subject to the provisions of Sections 4.1 and 4.2 below) of catcher and transshipping vessels, fish species, ocean of capture corresponding to tuna RFMO area, fishing trip dates, fishing gear employed, date the company took ownership of the fish and each species by weight.

## 2.2 Quarterly Data Submission to RFMO

Adopted: January 27, 2009  
Amended: October 20, 2015  
Amended: October 18, 2016  
Amended: October 24, 2018

Effective: January 27, 2009

Gear Type: All

ISSF recognizes that the tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) are responsible for tuna conservation and management with the objective to maintain the populations at levels of abundance that can support the average maximum yield on a sustained basis. However, the scientific findings of the RFMO scientific bodies depend on the completeness and accuracy of the supporting data available to them. ISSF is committed to support the RFMOs to ensure that their findings and the data underlying them are as accurate and complete as possible.

1. Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall submit the following data within their control to the appropriate RFMO scientific bodies:

- a) Round fish (includes gilled and gutted, and headed and gilled and gutted) unloading from Fishing Vessel
  - i. Name of fishing vessel
  - ii. Unique Vessel Identification Number (for example, IMO number) of fishing vessel
  - iii. Gear type
  - iv. Flag State of fishing vessel
  - v. Start date for unloading to processor
  - vi. End date for unloading to processor
  - vii. RFMO area of subject catch
  - viii. Fishing trip dates
  - ix. Weight of catch (in metric tons, by commercial species/size categories compiled as specified in paragraph 2.
  - x. Unloading port
  - xi. Data source (unloading data, outturn report or immediate pre-processing).
  
- b) Round fish (includes gilled and gutted) unloading from Carrier Vessel (Transshipments)
  - i. Name of carrier vessel
  - ii. Unique Vessel Identification Number (for example, IMO number) of carrier vessel
  - iii. Flag State of carrier vessel
  - iv. Start date for unloading to processor
  - v. End date for unloading to processor
  - vi. Name(s) of catcher vessel(s)
  - vii. Unique Vessel Identification Number(s) (for example, IMO number) of catcher vessel(s)
  - viii. Flag state(s) of catcher vessel(s)
  - ix. Date(s) of transfer of fish from catcher vessel(s) by vessel, and/or transfer from processor(s) to carrier vessel
  - x. Locations of transfer(s) at sea [at sea coordinates/port name] by transfer
  - xi. Fishing trip dates
  - xii. Weight of catch (in metric tons, by commercial species/size categories by catcher vessel(s) compiled from immediate pre-processing data as specified in paragraph 2.
  - xiii. Unloading port
  - xiv. Data source (unloading data, outturn report or immediate pre-processing).

2. Weight of catch (in metric tons) by commercial species/size categories should be compiled from immediate pre-processing data or from unloading data/outturn reports. The size classes shall reflect commercial gradings used by the processor, with the following suggested minimum breakdowns:

- Skipjack: <3 lb. (1.4 Kg); 3-4 lb. (1.4 -1.8 Kg); 4-7.5 lb.; >7.5 lb. (3.4 Kg). The category 3-4 lb. can be combined with the <3 lb. category if not generally measured by the processor.
- Yellowfin and bigeye: <4 lb. (1.8 Kg); 4-7.5 lb. (1.8-3.4 Kg); 7.5-20 lb. (3.4-9 Kg); > 20 lb. (9 Kg). If used by the processor, the additional category 3-4 lb. (1.4-1.8 Kg) should be added.
- Albacore: <4 Kg; 4.0-7.0 Kg; 7.0-10.0 Kg; >10 Kg.

Species separation for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye should apply to all size breakdowns, unless practical considerations limit this separation in the smallest size classes (e.g. < 3 lb. or < 4 lb.), in which case the report should indicate the species mix.

3. Submission of these data for each quarter shall be done by the last day of the following calendar quarter. Submissions shall be done by electronic mail to the appropriate tRFMO scientific bodies whose contact information is available by [clicking this link](#). Starting with the reports corresponding to the fourth quarter of 2019, submissions shall use the format available by [clicking this link](#).

### 2.3 Product Labeling by Species and Area of Capture

Adopted: October 18, 2016

Effective: January 1, 2018

Gear Type: All

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall on all product labeling or through a publicly available web-based traceability system by product, for all branded tuna products:

1. Identify all species of tuna contained in the product; and
2. Identify ocean of capture for the tuna contained in the product.
3. For an ISSF Participating Company, this measure applies only to the branded products of that company.
4. This measure will apply to all product labeling as of January 1, 2018.

## 2.4 Supply Chain Transparency, Audit, Reporting and Purchase Requirements

Adopted: October 17, 2017  
Amended: May 31, 2018  
Amended: October 24, 2018

Effective: January 1,  
2020

Gear Type: All

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall:

1. For purchases from fish trading organizations that trade 10,000 tons or more of tuna annually (not directly from fishing vessels), purchase all round; gilled and gutted; or headed, gilled and gutted albacore, skipjack, yellowfin and/or bigeye tuna from:

(a) ISSF Participating Companies; or

(b) companies designated by ISSF as Data Check Companies that have a published compliance audit report with respect to ISSF Conservation Measures 2.2, 1.1, 4.1, 4.2, and 5.1, as determined and reported by the ISSF external auditor on or before January 1, 2020 and subsequently become ISSF Participating Companies on or before January 1, 2021.

2. If purchasing from processing organizations that purchase and process more than 12,500 round tons per year, purchase all frozen loins or processed, shelf-stable, canned or pouched products of albacore, skipjack, yellowfin and/or bigeye tuna from:

(a) ISSF Participating Companies; or

(b) companies designated by ISSF as Data Check Companies that have a published compliance audit report with respect to ISSF Conservation Measure 2.2, 1.1, 4.1, 4.2, and 5.1, as determined and reported by the ISSF external auditor on or before January 1, 2020 and subsequently become ISSF Participating Companies on or before January 1, 2021.

### General Provisions

1. The classification of a “Data Check Company” is available to processors, marketers, traders of tuna.
2. The “Data Check Company” classification is not available for any company that is an ISSF Participating Company on December 31, 2019.

### Terms and Conditions

A company seeking to be classified as a “Data Check Company” for the purposes of ISSF CM 2.4 must make a written request to ISSF in which it agrees to the following terms:

- a. Data Check Companies must submit data for all tuna purchases following the requirements of ISSF CM 2.2.
- b. Data Check Companies must undergo annual audits by the ISSF external auditor for their compliance with ISSF CMs 2.2, 1.1, 4.1, 4.2, and 5.1 using the same audit protocol that is applied to ISSF Participating Companies for Conservation Measure 2.2, and for the other CMs, from this data. A processor or trader in the IATTC convention area will not need to undergo an annual audit for compliance with ISSF CM 2.2 if it provides evidence of quarterly data submission to IATTC.
- c. An initial compliance audit will be conducted by the ISSF external auditor after two quarters of data reporting and continually annually thereafter.
- d. The audit reports of Data Check Companies will be made public on the ISSF website and must develop a remediation plan for any major non-conformances reported to retain Data Check Company status.

- e. Data Check Companies are required to pay a fee of \$5000, determined by the ISSF Board of Directors and subject to annual review, in order to cover the audit costs.
- f. Failure to pay the fee within 60 days of invoice receipt will result in loss of Data Check Company status.

3) Bycatch Mitigation

**3.1 Sharks**

“Shark finning” is the practice of retaining shark fins and discarding the remaining carcass while at sea. Shark finning contravenes the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, as well as the resolutions of a number of other international marine bodies, all of which call for minimizing waste and discards. Shark finning has also contributed to major uncertainties about the total biomass and species composition of sharks caught. Tuna RFMOs restrict shark finning through a proviso that the weight of fins landed cannot exceed 5% of the total shark catch on board. The fin-to-carcass ratio can vary considerably depending on the species, the dressing of the carcass, and on the different ways fins are cut, therefore creating difficulties in enforcement and accurate data collection.

<b>3.1(a) Shark-Finching Policy</b>		
Adopted: January 23, 2012 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: June 1, 2012	Gear Type: All
In light of the difficulties in enforcement and accurate data collection, all ISSF Participating Companies shall establish and publish policies prohibiting shark finning. “Publish” for the purpose of this measure includes posting the policy on the company’s public website. In the event a Participating Company does not have a public website, the Participating Company shall make its policy otherwise available to the general public.		

<b>3.1(b) Prohibition of Transactions with Shark-Finching Vessels</b>		
Adopted: January 23, 2012 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: September 1, 2012	Gear Type: All
Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall not conduct transactions with vessels that carry out shark finning.		

For the purpose of determining if a vessel is conducting shark finning, processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry will rely upon the publicly available conclusions of investigations conducted by the RFMOs or national governments.

After a period of 2 years from the date of the conclusion of the investigation, processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry can resume transactions with those vessels identified above, provided the vessels are not involved in further incidents.

**3.1(c) Prohibition of Transactions with Companies without a Public Policy Prohibiting Shark Finning**

Adopted: January 23, 2012  
Amended: October 20, 2015

Effective: September 1, 2012

Gear Type: All

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall not conduct transactions with companies that do not have a public policy prohibiting shark finning. For the purposes of this measure a policy is “public” if it is published on the company’s website or is otherwise available to the general public.

**Driftnets**

**3.2 Large-Scale Pelagic Driftnets Prohibition**

Adopted: May 18, 2010  
Amended: October 20, 2015

Effective: May 18, 2010

Gear Type: All

Large-scale pelagic driftnets are an unselective method of fishing that results in substantial catches of many non-target species. ISSF supports the Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly 44/225, 45/197 and 46/215 concerning large-scale, high seas, pelagic driftnets and their impact on the living marine resources of the world’s oceans and seas.

Therefore, processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall refrain from transactions in tuna caught by large-scale pelagic driftnets.

**Full Retention**

**3.3 Full Retention of Tunas**

Adopted: June 7, 2011  
Amended: September 12, 2012  
Amended: April 25, 2013  
Amended: October 21, 2014  
Amended October 20, 2015

Effective: January 1, 2013

Gear Type: All Purse Seine

The dumping of less valuable tuna in favor of higher value catch distorts our understanding of the actual impact on the tuna stocks by fishing operations.

1. Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall conduct transactions only with those purse seine vessels that retain all caught tuna (skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye), except those unfit for human consumption, or when in the final set of a trip, there is insufficient well space to accommodate all fish caught in that set.
2. For purposes of this measure, “unfit for human consumption” means fish that :
  - (i) is meshed or crushed in the purse seine net; or
  - (ii) is damaged due to shark or whale depredation; or
  - (iii) has died and spoiled in the net where a gear failure has prevented both the normal retrieval of the net and catch and efforts to release the fish alive.
3. “Unfit for human consumption” does not include fish that: i. is considered undesirable in terms of size, marketability, or species composition; or ii. is spoiled or contaminated as the result of an act or omission of the crew of the fishing vessel.

### Skippers

<b>3.4 Skipper Best Practices</b>		
Adopted: June 7, 2011 Amended: September 12, 2012 Amended: April 25, 2013 Amended: May 20, 2014 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: March 31, 2013	Gear Type: All Purse Seine
<p>ISSF’s goal in developing and presenting best practice information is to share the state of the art in responsible fishing operations, review the reporting requirements and other obligations to RFMOs, and inform purse seine vessel skippers and other interested parties about the related ISSF Conservation Measures for the management of tuna and its larger marine ecosystem.</p> <p>Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall conduct transactions only with those purse seine vessels whose skippers have attended an ISSF Skippers Workshop in person, have viewed the Skippers Workshop video online, or have reviewed the online Skippers Guidebook, which provide information on best practices.</p>		

### Non-entangling FADs

<b>3.5 Transactions with Vessels that Use Only Non-entangling FADs</b>		
Adopted: October 18, 2016 Amended: May 31, 2018	Effective: October 18, 2016	Gear Type: Purse Seine and Support Vessels
<p>Scientific studies have shown that FADs, when constructed with materials such as loose old netting, can entangle vulnerable species such as sharks. While some RFMOs have adopted a transition from traditional FADs to non-entangling FADs, others have not. ISSF is committed to support a transition to non-entangling FADs, globally.</p>		

1. Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall conduct transactions only with those purse seine vessels whose owners have a public policy regarding the use of only non-entangling FADs. The policy should refer to the [ISSF Guide for Non-Entangling FADs](#) and shall apply to all new FAD deployments, regardless of the type of vessel that deploys the FADs.
2. For the purposes of this measure a policy is “public” if it is published on the company’s website or is otherwise available to the general public.
3. For purposes of this measure, non-entangling FADs should meet the minimum specifications in the [ISSF Guide for Non-Entangling FADs](#). Vessel owners shall not deploy FADs that meet the description of “highest entanglement” contained in the ISSF Guide.

### Transactions with Vessels Implementing Best Practices for Sharks and Sea Turtles

#### 3.6 Transactions with Vessels Implementing Best Practices for Sharks and Sea Turtles

Adopted: April 25, 2017

Effective: July 1, 2018

Gear Type: Large-Scale Longline Vessels

Some RFMOs have adopted requirements for the use of certain gear modifications, such as the use of circle hooks and monofilament lines, and/or handling techniques, and/or prohibited the use of “shark lines,” in some longline tuna fisheries, while others have not. ISSF is committed to supporting a transition to the use of such techniques by longline vessels, globally.

To further support the implementation of existing RFMO conservation measures for bycatch mitigation in longline tuna fisheries, and to promote the appropriate use of such techniques by longline fleets globally:

1. Processors, traders, importers, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall conduct transactions only with those longline vessels whose owners have a policy requiring the implementation of the following best practices for sharks and marine turtles:
  - (a) the use of circle hooks and only monofilament lines (e.g., the use of wire trace is prohibited); and
  - (b) implementation by the crew of best practice handling techniques such as those outlined in the [ISSF Skippers’ Guidebook to Sustainable Longline Fishing Practices](#); and
  - (c) No use of “shark lines” at any time.
2. For the purposes of this measure, a large-scale longline vessel is defined as a vessel that is equal to or greater than 20m length overall (LOA).

4) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

<b>4.1 Unique Vessel Identifiers – IMO</b>		
Adopted: May 18, 2010 Amended: May 3, 2011 Amended: November 14, 2011 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: May 31, 2011	Gear Type: All
<p>The IHS-Fairplay administered International Maritime Organization numbering system (IMO number) provides a mechanism and registry for the unique identification and registration of vessels, which increases traceability and transparency at a global level.</p> <p>Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall refrain from transactions in tuna caught by vessels subject to listing in the RFMO authorized vessel record and capable of being registered by IMO, that have not registered with IMO and thus have not received an IMO number unique vessel identifier.</p>		

<b>4.2 Purse Seine Unique Vessel Identifiers</b>		
Adopted: June 7, 2011 Amended: September 12, 2012 Amended: April 25, 2013 Amended: May 20, 2014 Amended: October 20, 2015 Amended: May 31, 2018	Effective: January 1, 2013	Gear Type: All Purse Seine
<p>If IMO requirements do not provide for a particular vessel to receive an IMO UVI for reasons other than vessel size, the vessel shall obtain a TUVI from the Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV) or a UVI from ISSF. If IMO requirements do not provide for a particular vessel to receive an IMO UVI due to vessel size, such vessels do not need to obtain a TUVI from the CLAV or a UVI from ISSF.</p>		

<b>4.3(a) Observer Coverage</b>		
Adopted: June 7, 2011 Amended: September 12, 2012 Amended: April 25, 2013 Amended: May 20, 2014 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: January 1, 2013	Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine
<p>All tuna RFMOs are already collecting or receiving some data through observer programs or fishing logbooks, and these efforts must be made more comprehensive in order to properly assess the impact of FAD fisheries and other activities.</p>		

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall conduct transactions only with those large-scale purse seine vessels that have 100% observer coverage (human or electronic if proven to be effective) on every fishing trip and observing every fishing operation, unless prevented by force majeure conditions in a particular region. Force majeure is an event or effect, both acts of nature and acts of people that can be neither anticipated nor controlled, such as floods, hurricanes, riots, strikes or wars.

For the purposes of this measure, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

#### **4.3(b) Observer Coverage Exemption – WCPO Region**

Adopted: June 7, 2011 Amended: September 12, 2012 Amended: April 25, 2013 Amended: May 20, 2014 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: April 20, 2015	Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine
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Exemptions may be made for large-scale purse seine vessels in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean fishing in latitudes higher than 20°N/S in cases where the catch (retained and discarded; target and non-target) is adequately sampled and reported to the RFMO. Such exemptions shall be based on a detailed report that will be reviewed and approved by the ISSF Board and announced publicly through the ISSF website.

For the purposes of this measure, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

#### **4.3(b)(i) Observer Coverage Exemption – New Zealand Flag Purse Seine Vessels**

Adopted: April 20, 2015 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: April 20, 2015	Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine
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An exemption is granted for tuna caught by New Zealand flag purse seine vessels that operate only within New Zealand waters targeting free school skipjack during the summer season (approximately between January and April each year). These vessels are subjected to less than 100% observer coverage by the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries but are adequately monitored and managed and their catch and effort data are provided to SPC and WCPFC.

For the purposes of this measure, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

**4.3(c) Observer Coverage – Grace Period for Electronic Monitoring Systems for Certain Large-Scale Purse Seine Vessels**

Adopted: May 22, 2016	Effective: May 22, 2016	Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine
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ISSF has defined for its Conservation Measures that large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume. However, certain vessels who meet this definition are not considered large-scale in certain RFMOs and therefore are unable to obtain human observers for each fishing trip as a means to meet the requirements of ISSF Conservation Measure 4.3(a). Owners of large-scale purse seine vessels who fit in this category may seek to install an electronic monitoring system (if proven to be effective) in lieu of human observers. In such an event, the following provisions apply:

1. The vessel owner must identify each vessel involved and provide satisfactory evidence of an executed agreement with a service provider to install an electronic monitoring system on each vessel.
2. Once such evidence has been determined to be satisfactory, the vessel will be deemed to be in compliance with this measure for a period of six (6) months, which will allow appropriate time for installation of and training on the electronic monitoring system.
3. The vessel owner must provide satisfactory proof that the equipment has been installed and is operating within that time period; in the event that such proof is not provided within grace period, the vessel will return to a non-compliant status with ISSF Conservation Measure 4.3(a).

**4.4(a) Transshipment**

Adopted: June 7, 2011 Amended: September 12, 2012 Amended: April 25, 2013 Amended: October 21, 2014 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: January 1, 2012	Gear Type: All Purse Seine
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At-sea transshipments, if not properly monitored, can complicate the transmission of data, the traceability of product and can create a fertile environment for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities.

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall conduct transactions only with those purse seine vessels that do not engage in transshipments at sea, whether high seas, EEZ, territorial seas or archipelagic waters.

**4.4 (b) Transshipment Exemptions – General**

Adopted: February 1, 2013 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: February 1, 2013	Gear Type: All Purse Seine
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Exemptions will be made in cases where the at-sea transshipments are authorized (as necessary, by all of the following: the vessel's flag state, by the coastal state where the transshipment took place, and by the relevant RFMO) and the transshipped catch is adequately sampled according to the RFMO science provider. Such exemptions shall be based on a detailed report that will be reviewed and approved by the ISSF Board and announced publicly through the ISSF website.

**4.4 (b)(i) Transshipment Exemption - Papua New Guinea**

Adopted: February 1, 2013 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: February 1, 2013	Gear Type: All Purse Seine
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Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry may conduct transactions with those purse seine vessels that engage in transshipments in archipelagic waters of Papua New Guinea. This exemption applies only to:

- Vessels with carrying capacity ≤ 600mt; and
- that fish only in the archipelagic waters of PNG; and
- that are based in PNG and are associated with processing facilities in PNG.

The above vessels are allowed to transship on to carrier vessels that must go to a PNG port for either offloading or for transshipping in port under strict monitoring controls. These carrier vessels are not allowed to take the catch directly from PNG archipelagic waters to a foreign port.

Under PNG regulations, the vessels shall operate under the following conditions:

1. Prior notification of transshipment is sent to the PNG National Fisheries Authority (information on the catcher and carrier vessels, date and time of transshipment, and quantities by species).
2. One hundred percent observer coverage on the catcher vessel. The observer verifies the transshipment details.
3. VMS coverage on both the carrier and catcher vessels.
4. A Freezer Vessel's Fish Origin Declaration Form (with details about the date, place of transshipment and fish quantities) is filled by the carrier vessel for each transshipment, with the forms being submitted to the National Fisheries Authority. The form requires signatures/verification from officers in the catcher and carrier vessel as well as PNG port authorities.

**4.4(c) Transshipment At Sea – Observer Coverage**

Adopted: April 25, 2017	Effective: January 1, 2018	Gear Type: Large-Scale Longline Vessels
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At-sea transshipments, if not properly monitored, can complicate the collection of accurate data, the traceability of product and can create a fertile environment for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities.

To further support the implementation of RFMO conservation measures for longline observer coverage and the regulation of at-sea transshipment, the collection of data and the effective monitoring of longline vessels:

1. Processors, traders, importers, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall conduct transactions with longline vessels that conduct transshipments at sea, whether high seas, EEZ, territorial seas or archipelagic waters, only if 100% of such transshipments are observed (either by a human observer on board the longline vessel or onboard the carrier vessel).
2. For the purposes of this measure, a large-scale longline vessel is defined as a vessel that is equal to or greater than 20m length overall (LOA).

## 5) Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

### **5.1 Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing**

Adopted: January 27, 2009  
Amended: October 21, 2014  
Amended: October 20, 2015

Effective: October 21, 2014

Gear Type: All

The tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) maintain a list of all vessels determined to have carried out IUU fishing within their convention waters, and this list is available to the ISSF. The IUU vessel lists maintained by RFMOs can include a range of vessels engaged in fishing activities, not just harvesting, such as transshipment activities. A vessel listed on the IUU list of one RFMO may fish in the convention waters of another RFMO and not be listed on the IUU list of this other RFMO. IUU fishing diminishes the effectiveness of conservation and management measures and the long-term sustainability of the resources being managed. IUU fishing denies the RFMOs important and valuable data and thereby undermines the effectiveness of their scientific programs.

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall refrain from transactions in tuna caught by harvesting vessel(s) or transported by transshipment vessel(s) on the IUU Vessel List of any RFMO.

### **5.2 Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Product Response**

Adopted: July 21, 2009  
Amended: October 20, 2015

Effective: January 1, 2010

Gear Type: All

Enforcement and compliance with existing and future conservation measures, and the successful elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing requires the industry to maintain adequate traceability records. Since traceability data is acquired through Resolution 2.1, such data can be used to identify IUU product.

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall warrant that tuna products are in compliance with ISSF Conservation Measure 5.1 – IUU Fishing, and upon discovery of a violation of ISSF Conservation Measure 5.1, the company shall withdraw the product from the marketplace.

## 6) Capacity

Excessive fishing capacity contributes substantially to overfishing, the degradation of marine fisheries resources, the decline of food production potential, and significant economic waste. Purse seine vessels take more than sixty percent of the world’s tuna catch. Despite the general consensus among scientists, RFMOs, and many governments that excess fishing capacity exists in most of the tuna purse-seine fisheries, the fishing capacity of these fleets continues to grow.

The 2010 *Bellagio Framework for Sustainable Tuna Fisheries* concluded that, in a fully exploited fishery, coastal states’ rights to expand their participation in a tuna fishery must be accommodated by mechanisms for reducing the participation of others.

ISSF will continue to sponsor regional and global workshops on fleet capacity management, including mechanisms for capacity transfers. In addition, ISSF has determined to assist international efforts to manage fishing capacity by tropical tuna purse seine fleets as follows:

### **6.1 Transaction Ban for Large-Scale Purse-Seine Vessels not Actively Fishing for Tuna as of December 31, 2012**

Adopted: May 22, 2012 Amended: October 21, 2014 Amended: October 20, 2015	Effective: January 1, 2013	Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine
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Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall refrain from transactions in skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna caught by large scale purse seine vessels that are not actively fishing for tuna as of December 31, 2012. For the purposes of Section 6, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

To support this measure, ISSF has established a Record of Large-Scale Purse Seine Vessels (“Record”) fishing for tropical tunas globally. ISSF maintains the Record on its public website and draws upon the information available in the tuna RFMO vessel registers, as well as information provided by the fishing industry and other sources.

For the purposes of this measure, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

### **6.2(a) Requirements for Inclusion in Record of Large-Scale Purse Seine Vessels Fishing For Tropical Tunas**

Adopted: May 22, 2012 Amended: October 21, 2014 Amended: October 20, 2015 Amended: October 18, 2016  Amended: April 25, 2017  Amended: May 31, 2018	Effective: January 1, 2013	Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine
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Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall refrain from transactions in skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna caught by large scale purse seine vessels that are not listed on ISSF's Record.

1. Only vessels with all of the following information will be entered in the Record. Vessel information will be subject to verification by government agencies, RFMO secretariats, and other relevant agencies.
  - (a) Name
  - (b) Flag
  - (c) IMO number
  - (d) RFMO vessel record number(s)
  - (e) National Registration Number
  - (f) Radio Call Sign
  - (g) Length overall (m)
  - (h) Fish carrying capacity (metric tons)
  - (i) Fish hold volume (m<sup>3</sup>)
  - (j) Year and month built
  - (k) Shipyard
  - (l) If applicable: Previous name(s) and flag(s); date(s) changed.
  
2. ISSF will update the Record to include additional vessels in the following circumstances:
  - (a) The addition of a large-scale purse seine vessel that was actively fishing for tuna on or before December 31, 2012 but cannot have ceased fishing operations prior to January 1, 2010, that was not included in the Record initially.
  
  - (b) The addition of a large-scale purse seine vessel that was under contract for construction on or before December 31, 2012 with construction completed by June 30, 2015. "Under contract for construction" means that there is evidence that a valid contractual obligation was in place for the construction of the vessel. "Construction completed" means that the vessel has been delivered and is ready to commence fishing operations.
  
  - (c) A change in the name, flag, or registration number of a vessel already on the Record.
  
  - (d) The addition of a new large-scale purse seine vessel that is built as a replacement for a vessel already on the Record that has sunk, has been scrapped or otherwise permanently transferred out of the tropical tuna fishery. The addition of the new vessel will be permitted only to the extent it replaces one or more older vessels on the ISSF

Record and its fish hold volume is less than or equal to the fish hold volume of the older vessel(s) that were on the ISSF Record.

The request for the addition of new vessels shall come either from the owner of the older vessel, or from a new owner designated by the owner of the older vessel.

Vessels that do not provide verified proof of the existence of a fish hold are not eligible for use as replacement capacity under this subsection.

In circumstances where the vessel owner does not provide proof of a fish hold volume (m<sup>3</sup>), an independent auditor will make a conservative calculation in accordance with then-current ISSF technical papers.

3. Vessels on the Record that are refurbished in such a way that their fish hold volume increases will be removed from the Record unless the aggregated replaced capacity is at least 1.0 times the capacity of the vessel before refurbishment.

4. In order to resolve any disputes that may arise with the implementation of paragraphs 1 to 3 above, ISSF will set up an independent Dispute Advisory Body (DAB) composed of experts in relevant legislation.

5. In 2020, ISSF will consider additional actions to reduce over-capacity.

For the purposes of this measure, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

**6.2(b) Record of Large-scale Purse Seine Vessels Special Arrangement - PNA**

Adopted: October 20, 2015

Effective: May 5, 2016

Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine

ISSF recognizes the commitment of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) to the adoption of harvest control rules in the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), their leadership in gaining Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of the free-school skipjack fishery, and the robust monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures that are in place to ensure compliance, such as 100% observer coverage and vessel monitoring systems (VMS).

1. Exemptions for compliance with ISSF Conservation Measures 6.1 and 6.2(a) may be made for new large-scale purse seine vessels flagged to member countries of the PNA that meet all of the following conditions:

- i. The vessel is registered in the WCPFC record of authorized fishing vessels.
  - ii. The vessel fishes within the purse seine Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) management system.
  - iii. The vessel is not authorized to fish outside the WCPFC Convention Area.
  - iv. The vessel is registered on the ISSF ProActive Vessel Register (PVR).
2. Large-scale purse seine vessels exempted under this measure will be listed on the ISSF Record of Large-Scale Purse Seine Vessels.
- For the purposes of this measure, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

<b>6.2(c) Investment in Purse Seine Vessels Subject to the PNA Special Arrangement</b>		
Adopted: October 20, 2015	Effective: May 5, 2016	Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine
<p>Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry that are investors in any new vessels that meet all of the conditions in ISSF Conservation Measure 6.2(b) above, and are therefore exempted from compliance with ISSF Conservation Measures 6.1 and 6.2(a) above, shall buy out and scrap existing capacity up to the percent of capacity of the new vessel that corresponds to their ownership interest in the new vessel, in accordance with paragraph 2(d) of ISSF Conservation Measure 6.2(a).</p> <p>For the purposes of this measure, “new vessels” include vessels owned, partially or fully:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) directly or indirectly (through intermediary entities) by any ISSF Participating Company or any member of the corporate group of which such Participating Company is a part, or</li> <li>(b) directly or indirectly by any individuals who are majority shareholders (or any equivalent form of ownership) of any ISSF Participating Company. Individuals shall include any natural person and his or her family members (including spouse, domestic partner, child, sibling, parent or grandparent, whether natural, adopted or by marriage).</li> </ul> <p>For the purposes of this measure, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.</p>		

<b>6.2(d) Investment in Purse Seine Vessels Not in Compliance with ISSF Conservation Measures 6.1 and 6.2(a)</b>		
Adopted: October 18, 2016	Effective: January 1, 2017	Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry that are investors in any new vessel that does not meet all of the conditions in ISSF Conservation Measures 6.1 and 6.2(a) above shall buy out and scrap existing capacity of large-scale tuna purse seine vessel(s) that corresponds to the full capacity of the new vessel, in accordance with Paragraph 2(d) of ISSF Conservation Measure 6.2(a).

1. For the purposes of this measure, "new vessels" includes vessels owned, partially or fully:
  - (a) directly or indirectly (through intermediary entities) by any ISSF Participating Company, which shall mean the ISSA Member and its affiliates, including all commonly controlled business organizations, or
  - (b) directly or indirectly by any individuals who hold controlling interests of any ISSF Participating Company as defined in section (1) of this Conservation Measure. Individuals shall include any natural person and his or her family members (including spouse, domestic partner, child, sibling, parent or grandparent, whether natural, adopted or by marriage).

2. In auditing this measure, the only possible findings will be either "fully compliant" or "major non-conformance."

3. For the purposes of this measure, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

**6.2(e) Purchases From Purse Seine Vessels in Fleets With Other Vessels Not in Compliance with ISSF Conservation Measures 6.1 and 6.2(a)**

Adopted: October 18, 2016	Effective: January 1, 2018	Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine
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Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall refrain from transactions in skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna caught by any and all large scale purse seine vessels owned by business organizations or individuals that also own large-scale purse seine vessels not in compliance with ISSF Conservation Measures 6.1 and 6.2(a).

For the purposes of this measure, "owned" means a registered or controlling (majority) interest in the vessels:

(1) directly or indirectly (through intermediary entities) by any business organization or its affiliated business organizations, including commonly controlled organizations, or

(2) directly or indirectly by any individuals, including individual ownership of any equity or investment interest in whatever form of any business organization operating, managing, controlling or receiving revenues from a vessel. Individuals shall include any natural person and his or her family members (including spouse, domestic partner, child, sibling, parent or grandparent, whether natural,

adopted or by marriage).

For the purposes of this measure, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

## 7) ProActive Vessel Register

The ISSF ProActive Vessel Register (PVR) is an effective, credible and verifiable way for vessel owners to highlight meaningful sustainability efforts taken in order to improve responsible practices in tuna fishing. The PVR can assist processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry to identify those vessels that are taking meaningful sustainability efforts, including support of ISSF's conservation measures. The measures contained in this Section 7 do not replace the requirements for purse seine vessels to comply with the commitments listed in any other ISSF conservation measure detailed in this document.

<b>7.1 (a) Controlled Vessels – Purse Seine and Supply and Tender</b>		
Adopted: November 17, 2013 Amended: March 19, 2014 Amended: October 21, 2015 Amended: May 31, 2018	Effective: March 31, 2014	Gear Type: Purse Seine and supply and tender vessels
<p>Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry, for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna caught by purse seine vessels shall register all controlled vessels fishing, or operating as supply and tender vessels, for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna on the ISSF Proactive Vessel Register (PVR) and thereafter maintain such registration indefinitely. Controlled vessels include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) vessels majority owned or controlled directly or indirectly (through intermediary entities) by any ISSF Participating Company or any member of the corporate group of which such Participating Company is a part; or</li><li>(b) vessels majority owned or controlled by any individuals who are majority shareholders (or any equivalent form of ownership) of any ISSF Participating Company.); or</li><li>(c) vessels under the following charter types that are contracted directly or indirectly (through intermediary entities) by any ISSF Participating Company or any member of the corporate group of which such Participating Company is a part or directly or indirectly by any individuals who are majority shareholders (or any equivalent form of ownership) of any ISSF Participating Company:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) bareboat charters, no matter the duration of the charter; and</li><li>(ii) time and/or association charters if the duration of the charter is a minimum of 12 months or longer.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>_____</p> <p>For the purposes of this measure, individuals shall include any natural person and his or her family members (including spouse, domestic partner, child, sibling, parent or grandparent, whether natural, adopted or by marriage).</p>		

<b>7.1 (b) Controlled Vessels – Longline</b>		
Adopted: October 24, 2018	Effective Date: June 1, 2019	Gear Type: Longline
<p>Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry, for albacore, yellowfin and bigeye tuna caught by longline vessels shall register by June 1, 2019 all controlled longline vessels fishing for albacore, yellowfin and bigeye tuna on the ISSF Proactive Vessel Register (PVR) and thereafter maintain such registration indefinitely. Controlled vessels include:</p> <p>(a) vessels majority owned or controlled directly or indirectly (through intermediary entities) by any ISSF Participating Company or any member of the corporate group of which such Participating Company is a part; or</p> <p>(b) vessels majority owned or controlled by any individuals who are majority shareholders (or any equivalent form of ownership) of any ISSF Participating Company.); or</p> <p>(c) vessels under the following charter types that are contracted directly or indirectly (through intermediary entities) by any ISSF Participating Company or any member of the corporate group of which such Participating Company is a part or directly or indirectly by any individuals who are majority shareholders (or any equivalent form of ownership) of any ISSF Participating Company:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) bareboat charters, no matter the duration of the charter; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) time and/or association charters if the duration of the charter is a minimum of 12 months or longer.</p> <p>For the purposes of this measure, individuals shall include any natural person and his or her family members (including spouse, domestic partner, child, sibling, parent or grandparent, whether natural, adopted or by marriage).</p>		

<b>7.2 Threshold Requirement for PVR Listing</b>		
Adopted: October 21, 2014 Amended: October 20, 2015 Amended: October 18, 2016 Amended April 25, 2017	Effective: October 21, 2014 Amended Effective Date: October 18, 2016 amendments effective January 1, 2018 Amended Effective Date: April 25, 2017 amendment effective January 1, 2018	Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A large-scale purse seine vessel shall be in demonstrated compliance with, or otherwise exempted from, Section 6 – Capacity, and listed on the ISSF Record of Large-Scale Purse Seine Vessels (Record) in order to be listed on the ISSF PVR.</li> <li>2. All large-scale purse seine vessels owned by the same business organization shall be in demonstrated compliance with, or otherwise exempted from, Section 6 – Capacity, and listed on the Record in order to be listed on the ISSF PVR.</li> <li>3. If a large-scale purse seine vessel is not in demonstrated compliance as described in paragraph 1, any and all large-scale purse seine vessels owned by the same business organization will not be eligible to be listed on the Record. If those vessels are already</li> </ol>		

on the Record, they will be removed.

4. If a vessel owner proposes to replace a vessel that is going to be scrapped under ISSF Conservation Measure 6.2(a)2.d, ISSF recognizes that there can be a gap in time after a contract for scrapping the vessel is in place until the time that the vessel is scrapped. A vessel owner may produce an executed scrapping contract and demonstrate that the vessel is permanently retired from fishing activities to begin the auditor's review under 6.2(a)2.d. The following will apply in such circumstance:
  - a. If the auditor determines that the new vessel will meet the requirements of the conservation measure once the old vessel is physically scrapped, the new vessel will be listed on the Record and PVR conditionally.
  - b. Within 6 months from the date of the scrapping contract, the vessel owner must provide certification that the older vessel has actually been scrapped
  - c. In the event, that the required certification is not timely provided, the new vessel and all other large-scale purse seine vessels owned by the same business organization will be removed from the Record and the PVR, unless the owner can prove *force majeure* in the event of a delay.

For the purposes of this measure, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

**7.3 Purchases from PVR Vessels – Purse Seine**

Adopted: October 21, 2014  
Amended: October 20, 2015

Effective Date: Fishing trips commencing on or after January 1, 2016

Gear Type: Large-Scale Purse Seine

Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall:

1. If purchasing skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna from large-scale purse seine vessels, for all trips beginning on or after January 1, 2016, ensure that 100 % of those vessels are on the ISSF ProActive Vessel Register.
2. For the purposes of this measure, large-scale purse seine vessels are those at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

#### 7.4 Supply and Tender Vessels

Adopted: April 25, 2017  
Amended: May 31, 2018

Effective: January 1, 2018

Gear Type: Supply and Tender vessels

Supply and tender vessels are used in many oceans by purse seine vessels fishing with drifting (FADs). The primary use of supply and tender vessels is for maintaining a purse seine vessel's network of drifting FADs at sea in good condition and in the appropriate areas. Currently three of the four tuna regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) allow for the use of supply and tender vessels, but with minimal regulation.

To further support the implementation of existing RFMO conservation measures for supply and tender vessels, and the collection of data and effective monitoring, control and surveillance of such vessels:

1. Processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry, for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna with controlled supply or tender vessels that operate with purse seine vessels fishing for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna, shall:
  - (a) register all such vessels on the ISSF ProActive Vessel Register (PVR) and thereafter maintain such registration indefinitely;
  - (b) ensure all such vessels are listed on the authorized vessel record of the RFMO governing the ocean area in which the tuna was caught;
  - (c) ensure all such vessels have an IMO unique vessel identifier; and
  - (d) ensure all such vessels are not listed on the IUU Vessel List of any RFMO.
2. For the purposes of this measure, controlled vessels include vessels as defined in ISSF CM 7.1 (a) and 7.1 (b).
3. When registering all controlled supply or tender vessels on the PVR, in addition to the vessel attribute data already required as part of the PVR listing application, the vessel owner must provide the vessel names and flags of all the purse seine vessels that the listed supply or tender vessels support, to the maximum extent possible.
4. For purposes of this measure, supply and tender vessels are any vessel used, or intended for use, for the purpose of fishing or directly involved in such fishing operations.
5. For the purposes of this measure, "fishing" means:
  - (a) searching for, catching, taking or harvesting fish;
  - (b) attempting to search for, catch, take or harvest fish;
  - (c) engaging in any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, taking or harvesting of fish for any purpose;
  - (d) placing, searching for or recovering fish aggregating devices or associated electronic equipment such as radio beacons; and
  - (e) any operations at sea directly in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in subparagraphs (a) to (d), including transshipment.

<b>7.5 Purchases from PVR Vessels – Longline</b>		
Adopted: October 24, 2018	Effective Date: December 31, 2019	Gear Type: Longline
<p>If purchasing albacore, yellowfin and bigeye tuna from longline vessels, processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and make public by December 31, 2019 a statement of intent to increase purchases from longline vessels registered on the PVR.</li> <li>2. Publish the percentage of their longline purchases from PVR registered longline vessels by March 31, 2020, or indicate no such purchases made.</li> </ol>		

8) Miscellaneous

<b>8.1 Exemption for Very Small Purse Seine Vessels</b>		
Adopted: October 20, 2015 Amended: May 31, 2018	Effective: October 20, 2015	Gear Type: Very Small Purse Seine
<p>Very small purse seine vessels are exempted from the following ISSF Conservation Measures:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">3.4 Skipper Best Practices 4.4(a) Transshipment</p> <p>For the purposes of this measure “very small purse seine vessels” are those vessels of a size less than 30 GT.</p>		