

March 25, 2015

Mr. Liu Xiaobing, Head of Delegation to the WCPFC, People's Republic of China
Mr. Toni Ruchimat, Head of Delegation to the WCPFC, Indonesia
Mr. Hisashi Endo, Head of Delegation to the WCPFC, Japan
Mr. Wanhyun Choi, Head of Delegation to the WCPFC, Republic of Korea
Mr. Luwalhati Antonino, Head of Delegation to the WCPFC, Republic of the Philippines
Mr. Tzu-Yaw Tsay, Head of Delegation to the WCPFC, Chinese Taipei
cc. Mr. Feleti Teo, Executive Director, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Dear Sirs:

In November 2014, a number of non-governmental and industry organizations that participate and have a strong interest in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) processes and outcomes wrote to the WCPFC Commission regarding the serious problem of non-provision of operational catch and effort data by certain Commission members.

Collectively, our organizations have thousands of staff working in offices and partner organizations in over 100 countries and engage suppliers and provide advice to retailers, buyers and food service sectors regarding improvements in tuna sustainability. In addition, the undersigned industry organizations represent a considerable number of purse seine, longline and pole & line vessels active in WCPO tuna fisheries.

The non-provision of operational level data from these CCMs must be addressed as an urgent priority, as it is not only undermining the effectiveness of WCPFC conservation and management measures, its MCS tools, and the work of the scientists and transparency, but it also places an unfair conservation burden on other WCPFC members who are implementing the conservation measures in good faith consistent with international law.

We are aware of the paragraphs on data provision requirements that were included in CMM 2014-01. Given the exceptions, grace periods, and need for separate agreements associated with these paragraphs, this outcome does not, in our view, make significant progress on very important issues. We also do not view it as a substitute for these CCMs' complying in full with the WCPFC data reporting requirements, nor as fulfilling these nations' outstanding reporting obligations.

We are writing to urge your government to take swift and effective steps this year to implement all conservation and management measures as adopted in good faith, in particular all components of the Scientific Data Standards in full, as well as addressing any domestic legal or policy constraints that have prevented provision of operational level catch and effort to the WCPFC Scientific Provider.

We will continue to monitor the implementation of this and other WCPFC conservation measures and decisions throughout the year, and work with all WCPFC member nations to ensure the long-term conservation and management of the Western and Central Pacific tuna resources.

Sincerely,

Brian Hallman



Susan Bled



Jim Cannon

Jim Cannon, CEO



Tom Aguiar



Margaret Spring



Paul S. Latta



Suzie Sun



Allyson

