

## A STATEMENT OF CONCERN REGARDING FISHING CAPACITY AND RIGHTS-BASED MANAGEMENT

There is a general consensus among scientists, regional bodies, and governments that excess fishing capacity exists in most of the tuna purse-seine fisheries and large-scale longline fisheries, and that the problem of overfishing is principally the result of open access fishing and concomitant excess capacity. A number of recent technical meetings supported by FAO, IATTC, and the World Bank have expressed that there is an overwhelming and urgent need to address the problems of overcapacity and open access with respect to international tuna fisheries, and called for studies and programs which could lead to the implementation of measures to resolve these problems, particularly such studies and programs addressing rights-based management and capacity controls in international tuna fisheries.

ISSF is concerned about these issues, supports the FAO Plan of Action for the management of fishing capacity, and is committed to undertake actions to address the problems of excess fishing capacity and the benefits of rights-based fisheries management.