

# 2025 RFMO ADVOCACY OUTCOMES



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Ask is met/largely met                   |
|  | Progress was made, though more is needed |
|  | Minor/limited progress                   |

## WCPFC 2025

### Collaborative Actions

- **25 Supply Chain Companies** endorsed a letter to heads of delegation calling on all tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to increase observer coverage rates and adopt a timeline to achieve 100% observer coverage
- Further, **22 environmental NGOs** signed a letter to heads of delegation calling on ICCAT to adopt management measures for key stocks, increase Observer Coverage rates, and address Biodegradable FADs and Seabirds (see chart below)

### Outcomes

| Our Collective Advocacy Asks  | Progress Made   |
|---|---|
| <b>Specifically in 2025:</b>  |   |
| Adopt and implement management procedures for South Pacific albacore tuna, Pacific bluefin and bigeye tuna.   | Adopted an interim management procedure for South Pacific albacore. Deferred further work (bigeye and yellowfin).   |
| Immediately increase observer coverage rates – human and/or electronic – for large-scale longline vessels from the current 5% requirement and adopt a timeline to reach 100% coverage.  | No action taken   |
| Adopt a seabird conservation management measure that reflects up-to-date scientific advice on best practice.  | Adopted an updated seabird conservation management measure that expands protections spatially and requires additional mitigation measures in high-risk areas. |
| <b>Additional Priorities Across All RFMOs:</b>  |   |
| Adopt and implement comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies (management procedures) for tunas and other targeted stocks, including swordfish and blue sharks.   | See above.<br>No progress on other targeted stocks.   |
| Require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for industrial tuna fishing vessels, including those engaged in at sea transshipment.  | No action taken<br>Work on EM standards implementation to be a 2026 focus.  |
| Strengthen at-sea transshipment measures to be in line with best practices, such as those recommended in the NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on At-Sea Transshipment.   | No action taken   |
| Strengthen FAD management provisions to at least the level defined in the NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on FAD Management.  | No action taken   |
| Strengthen compliance mechanisms to ensure RFMO processes are transparent and robust, members are held accountable for the implementation of all conservation management measures and data reporting requirements, and there are clear responses to non-compliance. | Endorsed a recommendation that sets in motion a 2026 review of the data rules underpinning the WCPFC compliance monitoring scheme.                            |
| Require that fins remain naturally attached for all (i.e., fresh and frozen) sharks without exceptions, adopting the globally acknowledged best practice to prevent finning.  | No action taken   |
| Establish and implement labor and safety standards for crew and observers on fishing vessels that are based on relevant international labor conventions.  | No action taken   |
| Implement and strengthen measures to effectively minimize bycatch and fishing mortality of non-target, non-retained, and ETP species in line with NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Bycatch Mitigation Expectations.   | See above.  |

## Collaborative Actions

- **24 Supply Chain Companies** endorsed a letter to heads of delegation calling on all tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to increase observer coverage rates and adopt a timeline to achieve 100% observer coverage
- Further, **20 environmental NGOs** signed a letter to heads of delegation calling on ICCAT to adopt a management procedure for Western Skipjack, advance MSEs for multiple stocks, and increase Observer Coverage (see chart below)

## Outcomes

| Our Collective Advocacy Asks  | Progress Made  |
|---|--|
| <b>Specifically in 2025:</b>  |  |
| Adopt a management procedure for western skipjack, and advance MSE for the multi-stock tropical tunas, blue sharks and South Atlantic albacore.   | A management procedure for western skipjack was adopted.   |
| Update REC 16-14 to require an increase of observer coverage to at least 20% for pelagic longline vessels, as recommended by the SCRS, and adopt a timeline to reach 100% coverage.   | No action taken  |
| Equitably allocate the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for yellowfin tuna.  | No action taken. However, this will be a focus of 2026 intersessional meetings.  |
| Adopt North and South Atlantic shortfin mako catch limits and bycatch mitigation measures in line with scientific advice and the precautionary approach.  | Adopted a mortality limit covering landings and discards for South Atlantic shortfin mako (though concerns remain on monitoring, total mortality accounting and implementation).<br>No progress on North Atlantic stock. |
| <b>Additional Priorities Across All RFMOs:</b>  |  |
| Adopt and implement comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies (management procedures) for tunas and other targeted stocks, including swordfish and blue sharks.   | See above.<br>Adopted measures to advance development of harvest strategies for North Atlantic swordfish   |
| Require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for industrial tuna fishing vessels, including those engaged in at sea transshipment.  | No action taken  |
| Strengthen at-sea transshipment measures to be in line with best practices, such as those recommended in the NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on At-Sea Transshipment.   | No action taken  |
| Strengthen FAD management provisions to at least the level defined in the NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on FAD Management.  | Expanded requirements for keeping satellite buoys active, allowing recovery programs to track and retrieve devices before they strand on sensitive habitats  |
| Strengthen compliance mechanisms to ensure RFMO processes are transparent and robust, members are held accountable for the implementation of all conservation management measures and data reporting requirements, and there are clear responses to non-compliance. | Endorsed an intersessional process in 2026 to streamline and strengthen the ICCAT compliance process.  |
| Require that fins remain naturally attached for all (i.e., fresh and frozen) sharks without exceptions, adopting the globally acknowledged best practice to prevent finning.  | No action taken  |
| Establish and implement labor and safety standards for crew and observers on fishing vessels that are based on relevant international labor conventions.  | No action taken  |
| Implement and strengthen measures to effectively minimize bycatch and fishing mortality of non-target, non-retained, and ETP species in line with NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Bycatch Mitigation Expectations.   | Prohibited the retention, transshipment and landing of basking sharks and great white sharks.  |

## Collaborative Actions

- **24 Supply Chain Companies** endorsed a letter to heads of delegation calling on all tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to increase observer coverage rates and adopt a timeline to achieve 100% observer coverage
- Further, **19 environmental NGOs** signed a letter to heads of delegation calling on the IATTC to adopt management procedures for key tuna stocks and other important measures and actions (see chart below)

## Outcomes

| Our Collective Advocacy Asks  | Progress Made   |
|---|---|
| <b>Specifically in 2025:</b>  |   |
| Adopt management procedures for bigeye and Pacific bluefin tuna and cooperate with WCPFC to develop a stock-wide management procedure for Southern albacore.  | No action taken   |
| Adopt effective measures to control catch of Southern Albacore.   | Created a joint working group with WCPFC for Southern Albacore  |
| Immediately increase observer coverage rates for large-scale longline and small-scale purse seine vessels and adopt a timeline to reach 100% coverage.  | No action taken   |
| Adopt a seabird conservation management measure that reflects up-to-date scientific advice on best practice.  | No action taken   |
| <b>Additional Priorities Across All RFMOs:</b>  |   |
| Adopt and implement comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies (management procedures) for tunas and other targeted stocks, including swordfish and blue sharks.   | No action taken   |
| Require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for industrial tuna fishing vessels, including those engaged in at sea transshipment.  | No action taken   |
| Strengthen at-sea transshipment measures to be in line with best practices, such as those recommended in the NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on At-Sea Transshipment.   | No action taken   |
| Strengthen FAD management provisions to at least the level defined in the NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on FAD Management.  | Expanded requirements for keeping satellite buoys active, allowing recovery programs to track and retrieve devices before they strand on sensitive habitats |
| Strengthen compliance mechanisms to ensure RFMO processes are transparent and robust, members are held accountable for the implementation of all conservation management measures and data reporting requirements, and there are clear responses to non-compliance. | Endorsed an intersessional process lead by the Compliance Chair to develop a categorization of non-compliances and a scheme of responses.                   |
| Require that fins remain naturally attached for all (i.e., fresh and frozen) sharks without exceptions, adopting the globally acknowledged best practice to prevent finning.  | No action taken   |
| Establish and implement labor and safety standards for crew and observers on fishing vessels that are based on relevant international labor conventions.  | No action taken   |
| Implement and strengthen measures to effectively minimize bycatch and fishing mortality of non-target, non-retained, and ETP species in line with NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Bycatch Mitigation Expectations.   | Silky shark measure extended for two more years; seven additional ray species added under Commission management.  |

## Collaborative Actions

- **23 environmental NGOs** signed a letter to heads of delegation calling for the adoption of robust management measures that implement & fully allocate catch limits set for skipjack, bigeye, swordfish.

## Outcomes

| Our Collective Advocacy Asks  | Progress Made   |
|---|---|
| <b>Specifically in 2025:</b>  |   |
| Adopt robust management measures that implement and fully allocate the catch limits set by the swordfish, skipjack and bigeye management procedures.  | Agreed on a total allowable catch (TAC) for skipjack in line with the management procedures (harvest strategy). Adopted a new bigeye TAC under the management procedure and an amendment to allocate the catch by country. Technical correction was adopted for the swordfish management procedure.         |
| Set precautionary, science-based catch limits for yellowfin tuna, and relaunch the MSE process in order to adopt a management procedure in 2026.  | The Science Committee has been tasked with clarifying uncertainties in the latest stock assessment to confirm that yellowfin is rebuilding. Also tasked with expediting the process of MP adoption for yellowfin tuna, which would allow to take into consideration the uncertainty from stock assessments. |
| Immediately increase observer coverage rates – human and electronic – for industrial tuna vessels from the current 5% requirement and adopt a timeline to reach 100% coverage.  | No action taken   |
| Establish and fully allocate shortfin mako shark catch limits that result in rebuilding the stock within 10 years with at least a 60% probability.  | A shortfin management measure was adopted (Res. 25/09) limiting retention to dead animals but the measure does not limit mortality and discussion of quotas have been postponed until 2028.   |
| <b>Additional Priorities Across All RFMOs:</b>  |   |
| Adopt and implement comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies (management procedures) for tunas and other targeted stocks, including swordfish and blue sharks.   | See Above. In addition, the Commission prioritized development of MPs for blue sharks and agreed that by 2026 blue shark catch limits would be agreed.  |
| Require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for industrial tuna fishing vessels, including those engaged in at sea transshipment.  | No action taken   |
| Strengthen at-sea transshipment measures to be in line with best practices, such as those recommended in the NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on At-Sea Transshipment.   | Small positive updates to bring transshipments under IOTC oversight.  |
| Strengthen FAD management provisions to at least the level defined in the NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on FAD Management.  | Progressed the development of a dFAD Register, which became operational (in testing period) in January 2026. NOTE: current IOTC FAD management (Resolution 24/02) is aligned with NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Guidance on FAD Management.  |
| Strengthen compliance mechanisms to ensure RFMO processes are transparent and robust, members are held accountable for the implementation of all conservation management measures and data reporting requirements, and there are clear responses to non-compliance. | Some minor amendments were adopted and to improve the process (timing and circulation of information) and there was some streamlining of the compliance framework.  |
| Require that fins remain naturally attached for all (i.e., fresh and frozen) sharks without exceptions, adopting the globally acknowledged best practice to prevent finning.  | Adopted a requirement that shark fins be naturally attached for all landings, though the measure does include the option for alternatives for sharks landed frozen until 2028.  |
| Establish and implement labor and safety standards for crew and observers on fishing vessels that are based on relevant international labor conventions.  | A study will be launched to review and compare current standards, with initial focus on high seas and large-scale vessels   |
| Implement and strengthen measures to effectively minimize bycatch and fishing mortality of non-target, non-retained, and ETP species in line with NGO Tuna Forum's Aligned Bycatch Mitigation Expectations.   | Adopted best practices for shark and mobulid handling, though not for cetaceans. Adopted a retention ban for whale sharks. Adopted a prohibition of shark lines from 2026 and wire traces north of 20S subject to a scientific study which excludes the main shark fishing areas                            |