



PRESS RELEASE

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Longline Fishers Announce 12-Point Plan to Conserve World's Tuna Resources

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN (28 July 2005) Eighty commercial longline fishermen today issued a "Declaration on Responsible Fisheries" that outlines a 12-point plan for ensuring the sustainability of the world's tuna resources. The fishermen, attending the International Fishers Forum and International Conference on Responsible Tuna Fisheries, July 25-29 in Yokohama, Japan, represent thousands of commercial fishermen in North and South America, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Oceania.

Among the key points to which the fishermen have committed are the following:

- To facilitate rules to manage tuna fishing capacity based on the principle that any introduction of new fishing capacity should be accompanied with removal of equivalent capacity;
- To improve techniques for using fish aggregation devices (FADs) with the aim of reducing the impact of purse-seine operations on bigeye tuna, especially juveniles;
- To refrain from reflagging vessels in order to circumvent conservation and management measures;
- To support the Joint Meeting of Tuna Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) to be held in Japan in early 2007;
- To ensure conservation and management of shark stocks;
- To reduce incidental catch of sea turtles and seabirds;
- To promote proven techniques for reducing sea turtle incidental catch and improving the survival rates of sea turtles that are caught and released;
- To promote proven techniques for reducing seabird incidental catch;
- To promote responsible tuna fishing, trade, marketing and consumption;
- To reaffirm that the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and RFMOs have primary responsibility for addressing international tuna issues;
- To challenge biased and unscientific accusations that attack environmentally responsible tuna fisheries; and
- To ask the United Nations and national governments, including Japan and the United States, support the points outlined in the Declaration.

Approximately 250 fishermen, researchers, government officials and members of environmental non-government organizations from 26 countries attended the joint Conference and Forum hosted by the Tokyo-based Organization for Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT) and the Honolulu-based Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC). For more information, visit www.oprt.or.jp or www.wpcouncil.org.

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