



# FOURTH INTERNATIONAL FISHERS FORUM

PUNTARENAS, COSTA RICA • NOVEMBER 12-15, 2007

## IFF4 Mission and Objectives

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### Mission

The Mission of the Fourth International Fishers Forum is to convene an international meeting of fishermen; management authorities; seafood retailer industry; experts in fishing technology, marine ecology and fisheries science; and other interested parties to facilitate the sharing of information and experiences on: (i) sustainable fishery practices; and (ii) approaches to minimize problematic interactions with sea turtles, seabirds, sharks and cetaceans in pelagic and demersal longline fisheries.

### Objectives

The Forum will pursue the following objectives to achieve its Mission:

- Review
  - Commitments and progress since the Third International Fishers Forum;
  - Status of Latin American and global longline fisheries;
  - Inter-governmental organization initiatives to achieve sustainable and environmentally responsible longline fisheries; and
  - Knowledge for reducing seabird and sea turtle bycatch, unwanted shark bycatch, and shark and cetacean depredation in pelagic and demersal longline gear.
- Share
  - Experiences on effective and ineffective approaches to reduce fisheries bycatch and depredation;
  - Progress and actions to address IUU fishing and initiate and expand observer programs;
  - Anticipated effects of climate change outcomes on pelagic ecosystems and pelagic fisheries; and
  - Industry initiatives and market perspectives to promote sustainable fisheries.
- Identify
  - Effective and collaborative approaches to reduce problematic seabird, sea turtle, shark and cetacean interactions in longline fisheries;
  - Constructive roles for fishers, inter-governmental organizations (including Regional Fishery Management Organizations and other Regional Fishery Bodies), and environmental non-governmental organizations to reduce fisheries bycatch and depredation, and manage tuna, billfish, mahi-mahi, shark and other pelagic target species; and
  - Actions by artisanal and industrial longline industries to achieve sustainable and environmentally responsible fisheries.