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Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INPESCA),
Km 3 1/2
Carretera Norte,
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Nicaragua

June 2022

Via email to MAGAP

RE: Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (US Pacific Tuna Group) FIP Introduction

Dear Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INPESCA),

The submission of this letter is an introduction to the [Fishery Improvement Project](#) (FIP) currently being undertaken by the US Pacific Tuna Group Pacific Ocean Purse Seine Tuna Fishery. The fishery operates across both the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) using both FAD-associated and non-associated sets to catch skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), and bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*). The fishery commenced by becoming a fishery improvement project (FIP) in December 2019 with US-flagged vessels, and it has since achieved MSC certification for some Units of Assessment. Recently, vessels from Ecuador and Nicaragua have been added to the FIP and are working towards MSC Standards.

This FIP aims to meet the rising global demand for tuna in a sustainable manner by assuring catches do not exceed sustainable levels, promoting the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, and strengthening policy and governance systems in the region. The end goal is to achieve certification without conditions under the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) Fisheries Standard by 2024 for all FIP vessels.

As part of this FIP reaching MSC Standards and its conditions, there are various actions that need to be undertaken that involve a range of different stakeholders. As part of this, the FIP please requests support from INPESCA in the coming years specifically for the Nicaragua-flagged vessel.

It is through this collective action and stakeholder collaboration that a sustainable blue economy can be formed. If you would like more details of any of the above, we would be eager to engage further and go through the FIP action plan in greater detail, either in person or via call/online meeting. Either way, please do not hesitate to get into contact and we can arrange it.

Kind regards,

Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (US Pacific Tuna Group)