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INTERNATIONAL
TUNA FISHERS
CONFERENCE ON
RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES
& THIRD INTERNATIONAL
FISHERS FORUM

25-29 JULY, 2005
INTER-CONTINENTAL GRAND
YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

Program

SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2005

9:00 - 18:00	Secretariat Move-in	Atlantic
14:00 - 15:00	Speaker Briefing Meeting	Atlantic
15:00 - 17:00	Registration	Atlantic

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2005

9:00 - 18:00	Secretariat	Atlantic
9:00 - 17:00	Exhibits & Poster Display	Adriatic
9:00 - 10:00	Registration	Cannes/Nice (Foyer)
	Opening	
10:00 - 11:15	Opening Addresses	Cannes / Nice
	Chairperson: Mr. Eiji Ishihara , Managing Director, Japan Fisheries Association	
	Mr. Hiroshi Nakada , Mayor, Yokohama City	
	Mr. Isao Nakasu , President Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries, and President Japan Fisheries Association	

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2005 (continued)

10:00 - 11:15	Opening Addresses (continued) Mr Akira Nakamae , Deputy Director General Fisheries Agency of Japan Dr. Rebecca Lent , Director for NMFS Office of International Affairs Mr. Sean Martin , President Hawaii Longline Association	Cannes / Nice
11:15 - 11:45	Coffee break Press interview	Cannes / Nice
11:45 - 12:00	Forum structure, goals, objectives and social events Mr. Yuichiro Harada , Managing Director Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries	Cannes / Nice
12:00 - 12:30	Group Photo	Location to be determined
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch on Own International Tuna Fishers Conference on Responsible Fisheries begins Conference Chairperson: Mr. Eiji Ishihara , Managing Director Japan Fisheries Association	
14:00 - 15:00	"Decade of Implementation": Review of the result of 26th FAO COFI and the 6th UNICPOLOS Mr. Patrick McGuinness , Fisheries Council of Canada, ICFA representative to the 26th FAO COFI	Cannes / Nice
15:00 - 16:00	Capacity Control and IUU Fisheries Mr. Katsuma Hanafusa , Counselor Fisheries Agency of Japan	Cannes / Nice
16:00 - 16:15	Coffee break	
16:15 - 17:15	Production Current Status of Tuna Stocks Dr. Robin Allen , Director IATTC	Cannes / Nice
18:00 - 20:30	Welcome reception hosted by OPRT	Aboard the Marine Shuttle

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2005

8:30 - 18:00	Secretariat	Atlantic
8:30 - 10:00	Registration	Foyer of Pacific
8:30 - 17:00	Exhibits & Poster Display	Adriatic
8:30 - 10:00	Morning Coffee, Tea & Pastry	
9:00 - 10:20	Production (Continued)	Pacific

**Production for Sashimi Market**

Mr. Yasuo Sato, Japanese fisher (20 min)

Mr. Scott Barrows, Hawaii Longline Association (20 min)

Tuna Production for the Canning Industry

(20 min)

WTPO Initiative to Manage Tuna Purse-seine Fishing Effort

Mr. Kazuo Shima, Japan Far Seas Purse Seine
Fishing Organization (20min)

10:20 - 10:35 Coffee break

10:35 - 12:15 Marketing and Consumption Pacific

Farmed Tuna

Dr. Arata Izawa, WWF Japan (30 min)

Mr. Michel Dreyfus, Instituto Nacional de la Pesca Mexico,
Mexico tuna farming (30 min)

Responsible Trading

Mr. Paul Bartram, U.S. Trader (20 min)

Dr. Hiroshi Sakamoto, Organization for the Promotion of
Responsible Tuna Fisheries (20 min)

12:15 - 14:00 Lunch (on own)

14:00 - 14:40 Marketing and Consumption (continued) Pacific

Responsible Consumption

Mr. William Emerson, FAO ecolabeling guidelines (20 min)

Ms. Yuriko Shiraishi, Chairman, Womens' Forum Fish (20min)

14:40 - 15:10 **Monitoring and Control Over Fishing Activities** Pacific

Mr. Yoshitsugu Shikada, Fisheries Agency of Japan
(30 min)

15:10 - 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 - 17:00 Sharks Pacific

Status of Shark Stocks

Dr. Hideki Nakano, Fisheries Agency of Japan (30 min)

Dr. John Stevens, CSIRO Australia (30 min)

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2005 (continued)

Shark Fisheries and Utilization

Mr. Kuo-Ping Lin, Taiwan Fisheries Agency (30 min)

17:00 - 18:00

Sharks (continued)

Pacific

International Trading of Shark Products

Dr. Shelley Clarke, Joint Institute for Marine and
Atmospheric Research, University of Hawaii and National
Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (30 min)

Promotion of Full Utilization

Mr. Toshikazu Miyamoto, Global Guardian Trust (30 min)

18:30 - 21:00

Reception Hosted by WPRFMC
& Hawaii Longline Association

Bayview Room

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2005

Third International Fishers Forum begins

8:30 - 12:00	Secretariat	Atlantic
8:30 - 9:00	Registration	Foyer of Pacific
8:30 - 12:00	Exhibits & Poster Display	Adriatic
8:30 - 10:00	Morning Coffee, Tea & Pastry	
9:00 - 9:10	Session Chair: Mr. Roy Morioka , Chair Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council	
9:10 - 9:30	Reporting on commitments and progress since IFF2 and process for IFF3 participant commitments Ms. Kitty Simonds , Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (30 min)	Pacific
9:30 - 11:35	Review of the state of bycatch in longline fisheries Approaches to Solving Fisheries Bycatch Problems Dr. Martin Hall , IATTC (15 min) Fishers Efforts (110 min) Mr. Yasuo Sato , Japanese fisher Mr. Leland Oldenburg , Hawaii Fisher Mr. Wang Shuu-Lung , Taiwanese fisher Mr. Miguel Cuentas , Peru fisher Mr. Yeon JIB Chu , Korean fisher Mr. Guillermo Moran , Ecuador fisher Mr. Augusto Natividad , Filipino fisher Mr. R.P. Poernomo , Indonesian fisher Ms. Zhang Xiao Li , Chinese fisher Mr. Wawan Koswara , ASEAN Fisheries Federation	Pacific
11:35 - 12:00	Monitoring Bycatch Mr. Kazuhisa Tsuzuki , Mr. Ryoichi Saito , Mitsubishi Space Software, and Mr. Shin Fujita , Japan Fisheries Information Service Center (25 min)	Pacific
12:00 - 14:00	Lunch – Fishers Exchange Luncheon (by invitation)	Bayview Room
14:15 - 17:30	Drafting Committee (by invitation)	Atlantic

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2005 (continued)



14:00 - 18:30 Seabirds

Pacific

14:00 - 14:10 Session Chair

Mr. Eric Gilman, U.S. Blue Ocean Institute

Session Assistant Chairs

Mr. Masashi Kiyota, National Research Institute for Far Seas Fisheries

Mr. Kuo-Ping Lin, Fisheries Agency of Taiwan

Session Program and Presentations

(time for discussion will follow each section)

Research on Seabird Bycatch Avoidance Methods

14:10 - 14:45 Japan Research (35 min)

Mr. Masashi Kiyota, National Research Institute for Far Seas Fisheries

14:45 - 15:20 Review of Latin American Research (35 min)

Dr. Patricia Gandini, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral, Argentina, and

Dr. Carlos Moreno, Universidad Austral de Chile

15:20 - 15:45 Review of Technical Strategies to Reduce Seabird Bycatch and Research Results (35 min)

Mr. Nigel Brothers, Marine Ecology and Technology Consultant, Australia, and

Dr. Svein Lokkeborg, Institute of Marine Research, Norway

15:45 - 16:00 Discussion

Regional and International Initiatives

16:00 - 16:35 Review of International Governmental Initiatives (35 min)

Professor John Croxall, British Antarctic Survey, and

Ms. Kim Rivera, U.S. NOAA Fisheries

16:35 - 16:55 NGO initiatives (20 min)

Mr. Noritaka Ichida, BirdLife International, and

Dr. Ben Sullivan, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

16:55 - 17:15 Southern Seabird Solutions (20 min)

Mr. Malcolm McNeill, Vessel Manager, Sealord Ltd., New Zealand, and

Ms. Janice Molloy, New Zealand Department of Conservation

17:15 - 17:30 Discussion

17:30 - 18:00 Closing discussion and summary of session main points

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2005

8:00 - 17:00	Secretariat	Atlantic
8:00 - 9:00	Registration	Foyer of Pacific
8:30 - 17:00	Exhibits & Poster Display	Adriatic
8:00 - 10:00	Morning Coffee, Tea & Pastry	
8:30 - 13:50	Sea Turtles	Pacific
	Session Chair	
	Dr. Hideki Nakano,	
	Fisheries Agency of Japan	
	Session Program and Presentations	
	(time for discussion will follow each section)	
	Research on Sea Turtle Bycatch Avoidance Methods	
8:45 - 9:20	Japan Research (35 min)	
	Dr. Hiroshi Minami, National Research Institute for Far Seas Fisheries, and	
	Dr. Daisuke Shiode, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology	
9:20 - 9:55	U.S. Research and Regional Review (35 min)	
	Mr. John Watson, U.S. NOAA Fisheries	
9:55 - 10:30	Research on Turtle Bycatch in Sicilian Channel Longline Fisheries and Regional Mediterranean Review (35 min)	
	Dr. Susanna Piovano, University of Torino, Italy	
10:45 - 11:20	Latin America Pacific Research (35 min)	Pacific
	Dr. Martin Hall, IATTC	
11:20 - 11:35	Discussion	
11:35 - 12:05	Role of NGOs in Addressing Sea Turtle Bycatch Problems (35 min)	
	Dr. Arata Izawa, WWF	
12:05 - 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 - 13:20	Indian Ocean - South-East Asian Bycatch Initiatives (20 min)	
	Mr. Douglas Hykle, IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU Secretariat	
13:20 - 13:40	Research on Sea Turtle Nesting and Migration	Pacific
	Comprehensive Conservation Efforts to Stop the Decline of Leatherback Sea Turtles; Report from Asian Nesting Beaches (20 min)	
	Mr. Hiroyuki Suganuma, Everlasting Nature	



THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2005 (continued)

- 13:40 - 14:00 Migration, Habitat Use and Conservation of Western Pacific Leatherback Nesting Stocks (20 min)**
Dr. Peter Dutton, U.S. NOAA Fisheries Southwest Fisheries Science Center
- 14:00 - 14:20 A Pelagic Hotspot for Japanese Juvenile Loggerhead Sea Turtles: The Kuroshio Extension Current Bifurcation Region (20 min)**
Dr. George Balazs, U.S. NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
- 14:20 - 14:30** Discussion
- 14:30 - 15:05** Closing discussion and summary of session main points (35 min)
- 15:05 - 15:40** Break
- 15:40 - 17:10** Summary Pacific
- Reports from the meetings
 - Report participant commitments
 - a. OPRT Representatives
 - b. ASEAN Secretariat
 - c. Hawaii Longline Association – Sean Martin
- 17:00 - 17:40** • Develop Conference Declarations
- 17:40 - 18:00** Closing
-

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2005

Field Trip to Misaki

- 6:30** Depart Inter-Continental Grand Yokohama
- 8:00** Misaki Fish Market and Fishing Port
- 9:30** Ultra-low temperature freezing facility
- 10:30** Urari (Direct sales fish and foods store)
- 12:00** Lunch
- 14:00** Boat cruise of Misaki area and Jogashima Island
- 15:00** Kanagawa Prefectural Fisheries Research Institute
- 16:30** Leave for Inter-Continental Grand Yokohama (Arrive at 6:00 pm)
-



YOKOHAMA DECLARATION
Declaration of responsible tuna fishers issued at
the
International Tuna Fishers Conference on
Responsible Fisheries
and
Third International Fishers Forum
July 25-29, 2005, Yokohama, Japan

Having actively exchanged wide-ranging perspectives and approaches to promote responsible tuna fisheries and to reduce sea turtle and seabird incidental catch in longline fishing,

Committing ourselves to sustainable use of world tuna resources and conservation of marine ecosystems,

Emphasizing that sustainable fisheries depend on a healthy oceanic environment, and expressing our strong desire to make every effort to harmonize fisheries with the environment in order to ensure sustainable marine productivity and healthy ecosystems,

Recognizing that upon the establishment of the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs) achieved world coverage of tuna and tuna-like resource conservation and management within the international framework envisaged in Article 64 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Expressing concern that the number and capacity of tuna fishing vessels are still increasing and that tuna farming is rapidly expanding in the absence of fully developed conservation and management policies, even though several tuna and tuna-like stocks are fully exploited or overexploited, in spite of (a) the adoption of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

INTERNATIONAL
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25-29 July, 2005
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JAPAN

International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the Management of Fishing Capacity in 1999 and (b) the efforts to limit fishing capacity by large-scale longline vessels,

Expressing concern that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities still persist, including shifting operations from larger vessels to smaller vessels to avoid RFMO regulations for larger vessels despite the adoption of the IPOA for IUU fishing and the efforts of RFMOs to eliminate IUU fishing activities,

Also expressing concern that certain longline fleets operate directed shark fisheries of considerable size solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins inconsistent with United Nations General Assembly Resolutions,

Recognizing the need for all parties both on land and at sea to take holistic approaches to conserve sea turtles and seabirds, particularly, the importance of the role of fishers in implementing the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations, the IPOA for seabirds and the relevant mitigation measures adopted by tuna RFMOs, and

Being gravely concerned that some elements of the environmental community are conducting a concerted emotional campaign at international bodies such as the United Nations to implement a moratorium on longline fisheries in the Pacific contrary to scientific evidence and deliberately ignoring the efforts of managers and responsible fishers to introduce, implement, raise awareness and disseminate techniques for the reduction of incidental catch,

We, fishers—operators of large- and small-scale longline, purse seine, artisanal and other vessels—participating in the International Tuna Fishers Conference on Responsible Fisheries and the Third International Fishers Forum, do declare to engage in the following activities in order to further promote responsible tuna fisheries to:

1. Promote cooperation, information sharing and constructive dialog among all tuna resources' stakeholders—fishers, traders, distributors, fish workers, canners, processors and consumers—in order to promote responsible tuna fishing, trade, marketing and consumption, and to facilitate conservation and sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like species;
2. Support activities of the World Tuna Purse seine Organization (WTPO) and to promote cooperation in realizing sustainable use of tuna resources by encouraging all tuna purse seine fishers to participate in WTPO where,

at the present time, about 65% of tuna purse seine fishers are members;

3. Emphasize the importance of longline and purse seine fisheries working cooperatively with each other and with other stakeholders to improve techniques for use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) with the aim of reducing the impact of purse seiners on bigeye tuna, especially the juveniles, while recognizing the impact of longliners on bigeye adults;

4. Facilitate the establishment of new, or cooperation with existing, international rules for management of tuna fishing capacity based on the principle that any introduction of new fishing capacity should be accompanied with removal of equivalent fishing capacity consistent with the FAO IPOA on Management of Fishing Capacity and the recommendations or rules of relevant RFMOs, while taking due note of the rights and obligations of developing countries;

5. Refrain from circumventing conservation and management measures by reflagging our fishing vessels to non-parties of relevant RFMOs and/or RFMO Parties with little to no ability to control their fishing vessels;

6. Support the Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs to be held in Japan in early 2007 to promote cooperation and coordination of tuna RFMOs and to achieve a global consistency in tuna conservation and management measures;

7. Urge RFMOs to ensure conservation and management of shark stocks on a scientific basis in accordance with their respective resolutions/recommendations and those of the United Nations and to promote full utilization of sharks retained on board and the elimination of directed shark fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins;

8. Actively cooperate with the relevant RFMOs to make the best attempts to reduce incidental catch of sea turtles and seabirds through the following actions:

- the collection of scientific data, including observer data whenever feasible,
- the development and implementation of practical measures for monitoring incidental catch including, among others, the introduction of electronic observer techniques, and
- the development and use of technology to reduce incidental catch and improve post-release survival rates for sea turtles;

9. Vigorously promote the immediate use of appropriate combinations of circle hooks and type of bait, including use on a trial basis, to reduce sea turtle incidental catch and improve post-release survival rate;

10. Vigorously promote the widespread use of proven techniques (such as tori poles, night setting, side setting, blue-dyed bait, etc.) to reduce seabird incidental catch, particularly, in areas with high rate of seabird incidental catch;

11. Reaffirm that the FAO and RFMOs are the organizations that have primary responsibility for addressing international tuna fisheries issues, and to encourage governments to ensure that consideration of such issues by other international frameworks, including the United Nations General Assembly, be conducted with the scientific and technical reviews by FAO and RFMOs; and

12. Continue, in every international arena, to challenge biased and unscientific accusations that attack environmentally responsible tuna fisheries.

We will transmit this declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and relevant RFMOs for their consideration, and we will request that Governments, including the Governments of Japan and the United States, support fishers worldwide to implement this declaration.

Executive Summary

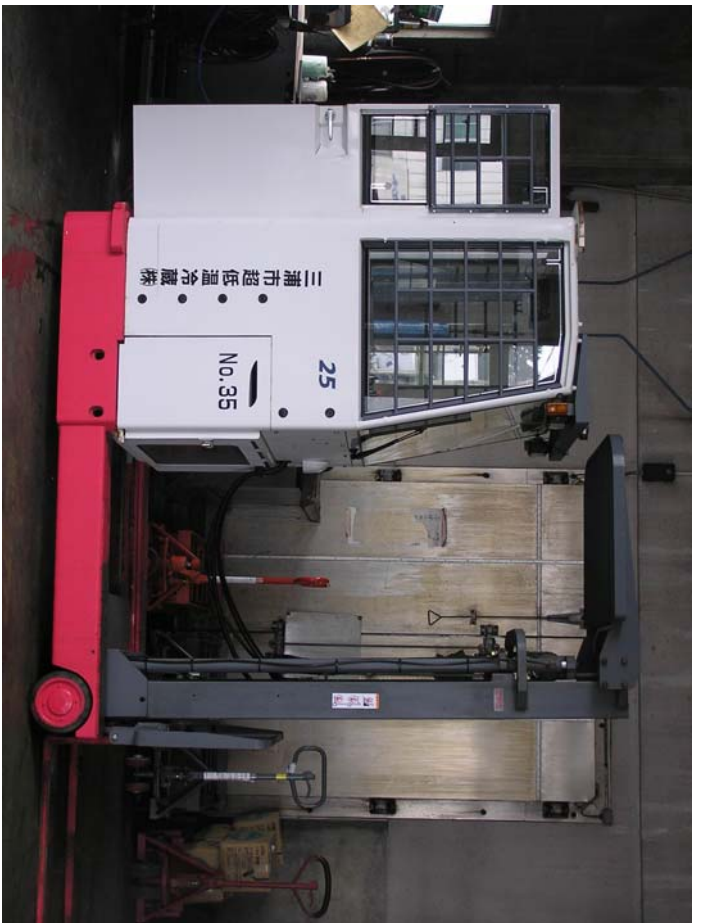


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FISHERS FORUM

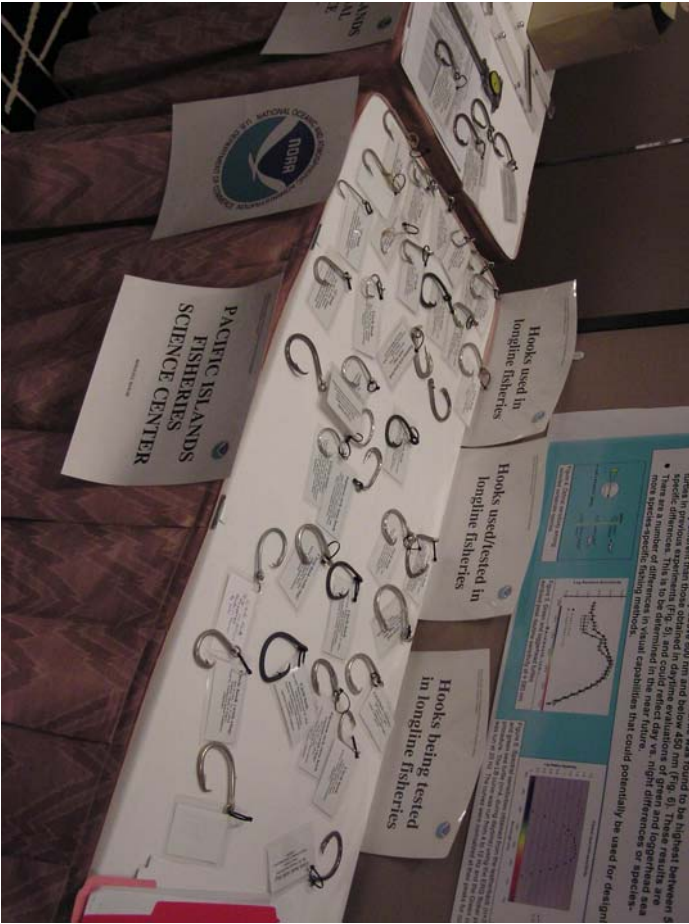
25-29 JULY, 2005
INTER-CONTINENTAL GRAND
YOKOHAMA, JAPAN











A Message from the Conference Hosts and Sponsors

Aloha and Ohiyo Gozaimasu!

Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT)

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Japan Fisheries Association

Hawaii Longline Association

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Fisheries Agency of Japan

We would like to thank all of the people who made the International Tuna Fishers Conference on Responsible Fisheries and the Third International Fishers Forum a success.

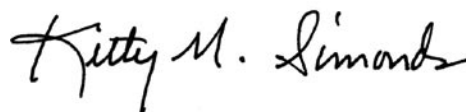
This joint meeting was broad in its scope. We continued discussions from the two previous International Fishers Forums, focusing on preventing the incidental capture of seabirds and sea turtles in longline fisheries. We also addressed other globally important issues including sustainable tuna and shark fisheries; fishing capacity; production; marketing; consumption monitoring; and illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries.

The conferences provided an important opportunity for fishermen and scientists to meet to exchange ideas and identify solutions to priority management and conservation issues. We greatly appreciate the time participants took from their busy schedules as fishermen, researchers, gear manufacturers, fishery managers and wildlife conservation advocates to attend this joint conference.

We thank you for having come to Japan from the many countries you represent and are encouraged that together we will continue to pursue solutions that ensure our fisheries are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

Comprehensive proceedings from the conferences are now being compiled and edited for publication. In the interim, this synopsis provides a timely summary of main points and conclusions from the conferences.

Mahalo and Arigato,



Kitty M. Simonds

Executive Director,
Western Pacific Regional
Fishery Management Council



Yuchiro Harada

Managing Director,
Organization for the Promotion
of Responsible Tuna Fisheries





INTERNATIONAL TUNA FISHERS
CONFERENCE ON RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES
& THIRD INTERNATIONAL FISHERS FORUM

25-29 JULY, 2005
INTER-CONTINENTAL GRAND
YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

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Conference Goals and Objectives



The International Tuna Fishers Conference on Responsible Fisheries

aims to identify effective approaches to ensure that tuna and shark fisheries are sustainable and use responsible practices. This goal recognizes the worldwide nutritional, economic, social, environmental and cultural importance of fisheries. The Conference has the following objectives to attain this goal:

Review

- Status of tuna and shark stocks
- Tuna production for sashimi and canning markets
- Production and utilization of sharks
- Global marketing and consumption of tuna and sharks
- Effective principles for eco-labeling programs to promote responsible seafood consumption

Identify

- Priority management and conservation issues for tuna and shark fisheries and alternative solutions
- Solutions to overcapacity and illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing
- Effective institutional frameworks for fisheries monitoring

The Third International Fishers Forum aims to facilitate identification, discussion, planning and implementation of effective practices and approaches to abate seabird and sea turtle bycatch in longline fisheries. The Forum will pursue the following objectives to reach its goal:

Review

- Commitments and progress since the Second International Fishers Forum
- Knowledge for reducing seabird and sea turtle bycatch in pelagic and demersal longline gear

Share

- Experiences on effective/ineffective approaches to abate fisheries bycatch Identify
- Effective approaches to design and implement experiments and commercial demonstrations of technical measures, including changes in fishing gear and fishing practices, to reduce seabird and sea turtle bycatch in longline fisheries
- Constructive roles for environmental non-governmental organizations and for regional fishery management organizations to help abate fisheries bycatch

Summary Overview of the International Tuna Fishers Conference on Responsible Fisheries

Over the two days of the conference, experts in various fields related to tuna fisheries made valuable presentations on many issues facing tuna and shark fisheries. The presentations covered a wide range of topics concerning responsible and sustainable tuna and shark fisheries, including the status of global tuna stocks, fishing capacity, production, marketing, trade, consumption, conservation efforts for sharks, and illegal, unregulated, and unreported fisheries, and the role of the United Nations General Assembly and Food and Agriculture Organization in tuna fisheries.

Main points from the presentations and ensuing discussions related to responsible tuna and shark fisheries include:

Positive developments promoting responsible fisheries

- With the establishment of the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, regional fishery management organizations now have global coverage of tuna and tuna-like resources within the international framework envisaged in Article 64 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
- Problem identification – activities that are counter to responsible tuna and shark fisheries
- Several tuna and tuna-like stocks are fully exploited or overexploited. In spite of this, the number and capacity of tuna fishing vessels are increasing and tuna farming is rapidly expanding. Fully developed conservation and management policies are lacking to govern these expansions, in spite of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

adoption of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity in 1999 and efforts to limit fishing capacity by large-scale longline vessels;

- Despite the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's adoption of the International Plan of Action for combating illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fisheries and efforts of regional fishery management organizations to eliminate IUU fishing activities, IUU fishing activities still persist. One IUU activity of particular concern is the shifting of operations from larger to smaller vessels to avoid RFMO regulations of larger vessels;
- Some longline fleets operate large directed shark fisheries solely for the purpose of taking shark fins. This is inconsistent with United Nations General Assembly Resolutions;
- The Conference clarified the goals for promoting responsible tuna fisheries, identifying practical measures to be implemented by fishers. These are expressed in detail in the Yokohama Declaration (page 6). Some of the main points identified in the presentations and ensuing discussions related to strategies for fishers to promote responsible fisheries include:
 - Responsible trading and marketing of tuna products is necessary to ensure that responsibly-managed fisheries can effectively compete in the marketplace, otherwise, lowest-cost seafood, potentially from irresponsible fisheries, will drive the market. This can be accomplished by educating and providing seafood consumers with adequate information so they can make wise purchasing decisions and differentiate products based on their origins and management for environmental and safety criteria;
- Eco-labeling of tuna products, voluntary product labeling to convey environmental information to consumers that seeks to create a market-based incentive for better fisheries management, based on internationally-accepted guidelines developed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, may influence seafood consumer practices to increase demand and value of seafood caught in responsible and sustainable fisheries. Certification under an eco-labeling scheme can be used as a marketing tool to develop and market an image and product differentiation, through advertising, sales promotion, public relations, direct marketing, and media coverage;
- Encourage all tuna purse seine fishers to become members of the World Tuna Purse seine Organization and support this organization's activities;
- Promote cooperation between longline and purse seine fisheries and other stakeholders to improve techniques for the use of fish aggregating devices, in particular, to pursue reducing the impact of purse seiners on juvenile bigeye tuna, while recognizing the impact of longliners on bigeye adults;
- Consistent with the United Nations International Plan of Action on Management of Fishing Capacity and the recommendations or rules of relevant RFMOs, establish new international rules to manage tuna fishing capacity where the introduction of new fishing capacity would be accompanied by the removal of equivalent fishing capacity;
- Discourage the reflagging of fishing vessels to non-parties of relevant RFMOs and RFMO Parties with little to no ability to control their fishing vessels;

- Urge RFMOs to conserve and manage shark stocks on a scientific basis in accordance with their respective resolutions and recommendations and those of the United Nations. Promote full utilization of sharks retained onboard and the elimination of directed shark fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins;
- Reaffirm that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and RFMOs have primary responsibility to address international tuna fisheries management issues, and encourage governments to ensure that consideration of such issues by other international frameworks, including the United Nations General Assembly, be conducted with the scientific and technical reviews by FAO and RFMOs; and
- Continue, in every international arena, to challenge biased and unscientific accusations that attack environmentally responsible tuna fisheries.

Summary Overview of the Third International Fishers Forum

Seabirds

The Third International Fishers Forum opened, appropriately enough with an accent on the human dimension of tuna fisheries. Martin Hall opened the session where fishers reported on their efforts to fish in a more environmentally responsible manner. He made the observation that nobody wants turtles or seabirds to go extinct, but at the same time fishermen should not have to lose their jobs in order for species to be conserved. To accomplish this we either must fish less, or fish in better. The second option is the one being pursued by folks around the globe and by participants at this meeting. Great progress has been made since IFF2 in reducing the hookings of turtles

by longlines and increasing the survival rates of accidentally hooked turtles.

Participants heard from a number of different fishers representing the entire spectrum of pelagic longline fishing, from small scale artisanal fishers, such as in Ecuador, small and medium scale longliners such as in Hawaii and American Samoa, and large scale high seas longliners from Japan and Chinese Taipei. Above and beyond the achievements of fishers in improving their abilities to fish in an environmentally responsible manner were fishers' perceptions of the problems and their commitments to solving problems. We heard that for Japanese and Chinese fishermen turtles are an omen for good catches and hooked animals are handled and released with great care and respect. We also heard that fishermen know that their efforts alone will not be sufficient to recover some bird and turtle species. At-sea conservation must be matched by similar efforts on land, otherwise the excellent work by fishermen will be wasted.

Law suits brought by environmental organizations have galvanized conservation of turtles and birds in the US, but continued litigation at the expense of cooperative research with fishermen is an egregious waste. Fishermen in Hawaii and elsewhere have been instrumental in the development of mitigation techniques for seabirds and turtles. Fishermen are both keen observers of the natural world and smart innovators with fishing gear and fishing technology. This combination is a winning combination when fishermen and scientists collaborate to develop mitigation methods and strategies. Deep setting of longlines, use of circle hooks, night setting, tori poles, are all methods that fishermen developed to fish without catching seabirds and turtles.

We have also had a sense in this meeting of the economic and cultural importance of fishing. Fishing is the second most important activity in Peru for example, with over 6000 boats employing 20,000

fishers. The fishing industry in Ecuador is also of a similar scale and represents one of the success stories of IFF2. A whole avenue of research was inspired by the 2002 IFF meeting, which resulted in trials of circle hooks in the Ecuadorian artisanal longline fishery.

All indicated that their respective countries and organizations had commitments to fishing in an environmentally responsible manner, improving statistics on bycatch of protected species such as turtles and seabirds, educating fishers on the need to be conscious of the need to conserve birds and turtles, and to make it harder for IUU vessels to operate. Monitoring bycatch through observer programs is one of the best ways to evaluate the volume of turtles and birds taken by longliners, but, of course, observer programs are expensive to implement and maintain. The meeting also heard advances in digital technology using video cameras to take images every 5 minutes during a 4 month experiment on a Japanese longline vessel. Despite some of the problems encountered such as glare, salt accumulation and lack of contrast, but these are all solvable problems and this technology could be an effective method to monitor bycatch.

The second part of the first day of IFF3 was devoted primarily to the way different demersal and pelagic longline fisheries are managing to minimize interactions with seabirds. The various methods described by participants can be broadly divided into measures which scare birds away, such as tori lines, lights and sound, and water cannon, and measures which conceal the baited hooks such as setting chutes and capsules, distract the seabirds such as strategic offal discards or deny seabirds the opportunity to seize the baited hook by making baited hooks sink quickly. Reports were made by participants from Japan, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Australia, New Zealand, Bering Sea, and the Southern Ocean.

No single method is suitable for all fisheries and sometimes combinations of methods may be the most suitable approach to reducing seabird interactions with longlines. Testing one type of method may lead to the emergence or discovery of alternative methods for seabird mitigation. An excellent example was the testing of underwater setting chutes in Hawaii, through which the technique of side setting was 'discovered'. Crew safety was an issue, where weighted hooks were used to improve sink rates but which can and do injure fishermen lines snaps and weighted lead swivels become lead bullets!

Participants reported the wholesale reduction of seabird takes where in several instances reductions of bird takes were of two or three orders of magnitude. Participants also reported on partnership initiatives to accelerate the acceptance of mitigation techniques. Finding leaders or 'early adopters' of new techniques helps this process, and have been instrumental in the adoption of new measures in Hawaii and New Zealand, for example. Some mitigation regulations also allow for flexibility to let fishers adopt measures which best suit them and their vessels. For example, in Hawaii, not all longline vessels can switch to side setting and so a suite of other measures are also available for fishers to employ.

The seabird session finished by focusing on the different fisheries and circumstances reported by the meeting participants. While these generally reflected successes and progress, it also meant that there were a range of different standards in place and made comparisons across fleets more difficult. Efforts were being made to develop minimum standards for reporting by observers to remedy this problem.

Turtles

Unlike our seabird efforts which have over a decade of concerted efforts to reduce interactions with longlines, our work on turtles has had to play catch up. I think we can all agree that the rate of catch up since 2002 has been very impressive. In 2002 we were getting the first glimmerings of how circle hook and fish bait combinations could radically reduce pelagic longline hookings of turtles, and if hooked, improve survival rates. Thanks to John Watson and his team at the NMFS Pascagoula Lab, we were able to reopen the swordfish fishery in Hawaii based on the results of their work. The reopening of the swordfish fishery was not only a economic benefit to the state of Hawaii but serves as a model fishery for other longline fisheries.

But the US was not the only country looking at hook and bait technology. One of the most important developments during the interim between IFF2 and IFF3 has been the collaborative works between Japanese and US scientists on the ways to test bait/hook technology. This had involved not just trying hook and bait combinations at sea but also observing the way turtles such as loggerheads feed in captivity.

This collaborative effort between Japan and the US has been termed the JHSTSE (just see) program and involves not just testing different hook sizes and bait, but also looking at the critical depths to set hooks and thereby avoid catching turtles. We heard how a mid-water float system being trialed by Japanese scientists to get most longline hooks at depths that avoid taking a range of epi-pelagic bycatch including turtles.

We have also heard that rings on hooks are thought to be important in making circle hooks acceptable to fishers since it may reduce the tearing loose of hooks from the jaws of swordfish. This is important since asking fishermen to change from their traditional hook and

bait combinations should not result in their being compromised by lower catch rates of the target species. As with bird mitigation, it is often a case of 'horses for courses' i.e. there are different combinations of hook size and bait that work best for different fisheries.

Besides Japan and the US, there have been active programs elsewhere on turtle mitigation, especially in the Mediterranean. In the crowded waters of the Med., we heard that between 25,000 and 35,000 turtles are caught per year by longliners. Various factors affecting turtle takes such as float attractiveness, lit versus unlit floats sounds, bait color, bait smell have all been tested with varying degrees of success. One further avenue of investigation is the difference of the speed of vision of turtles versus fish, which may permit the development light sticks which fish can detect but not turtles.

The meeting also heard about practical extension programs in Latin America that have resulted from the successes of the hook and gear investigations. A large scale hook exchange project was implemented with small scale artisanal longline fisheries in Ecuador and other parts of Latin America, with only one boat asking for their original hooks back. The results from this project were reductions of 40-70% reductions in turtle hookings and 70-90% reductions with 18/0 circle hooks. Part of this hook exchange project also involved workshops with fishermen to explain why circle hooks were a good idea, i.e. by saving turtles fishermen were saving their jobs. Ecuadorian fishermen have clearly become so enthused and committed to the promotion of circle hooks.

The types of projects are where conservation NGOs have an important role. WWF, for example, has been sponsoring circle hooks experiment throughout the role. NGOs have a strong role to play in the other important element of turtle conservation, the management of nest-

ing beaches to conserve egg production, and the minimizing of hunting adult turtles at nesting beaches and foraging grounds. NGOs also have an important role in the development and promotion of international conservation conventions for turtles. In the Asia Pacific Region, the Indian Ocean South East Asian Memorandum of Understanding has been instrumental in mobilizing and motivating turtle conservation in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean. IOSEA focuses on the FAO guidelines, including turtle handling, promotion of the use of trawl turtle excluder device or TEDs, purse seine avoidance, promotion of turtle-safe longline gear, regulation of gillnets.

Several presenters showed how our understanding of the spatial distribution of turtles on the oceans is improving through the use of satellite tags and may offer additional ways in which to reduce interactions with longlines. Area closures may be impracticable but it may certainly be possible to advise fishermen of areas or hot spots to avoid at particular times of the year. All of this is leading inevitably to the need for a comprehensive approach to Sea Turtle Conservation which is what is being planned through the Bellagio Blueprint, an initiative which is ongoing and aims at developing a comprehensive integrated approach to Pacific turtle conservation. In a way its very easy, all we have to do is reduce mortality in coastal and pelagic fisheries and protect all remaining nesting beaches-increase hatchling production. Of course the political realities are difficult but there are real signs of hope. We are finding more nesting beaches, we are seeing some populations recover, and fisheries such as Chinese Taipei are reducing their longline fleets, as announced this morning. There is still a long way to go but we are certainly in better shape with respect to minimizing longline fishery impacts on turtles than we were three years ago.

YOKOHAMA DECLARATION

Declaration of responsible tuna fishers issued at the
International Tuna Fishers Conference on Responsible Fisheries
and Third International Fishers Forum
July 25-29, 2005, Yokohama, Japan



INTERNATIONAL
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CONFERENCE ON
RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES
& THIRD INTERNATIONAL
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Having actively exchanged wide-ranging perspectives and approaches to promote responsible tuna fisheries and to reduce sea turtle and seabird incidental catch in longline fishing,

Committing ourselves to sustainable use of world tuna resources and conservation of marine ecosystems,

Emphasizing that sustainable fisheries depend on a healthy oceanic environment, and expressing our strong desire to make every effort to harmonize fisheries with the environment in order to ensure sustainable marine productivity and healthy ecosystems,

Recognizing that upon the establishment of the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs) achieved world coverage of tuna and tuna-like resource conservation and management within the international framework envisaged in Article 64 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Expressing concern that the number and capacity of tuna fishing vessels are still increasing and that tuna farming is rapidly expanding in the absence of fully developed conservation and management policies, even though several tuna and tuna-like stocks are fully exploited or overexploited, in spite of (a) the adoption of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the Management of Fishing Capacity in 1999 and (b) the efforts to limit fishing capacity by large-scale longline vessels,

Expressing concern that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities still persist, including shifting operations from larger vessels to smaller vessels to avoid RFMO regulations for larger vessels despite the adoption of the IPOA for IUU fishing and the efforts of RFMOs to eliminate IUU fishing activities,

Also expressing concern that certain longline fleets operate directed shark fisheries of considerable size solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins inconsistent with United Nations General Assembly Resolutions,

Recognizing the need for all parties both on land and at sea to take holistic approaches to conserve sea turtles and seabirds, particularly, the importance of the role of fishers in implementing the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations, the IPOA for seabirds and the relevant mitigation measures adopted by tuna RFMOs, and

Being gravely concerned that some elements of the environmental community are conducting a concerted emotional campaign at international bodies such as the United Nations to implement a moratorium on longline fisheries in the Pacific contrary to scientific evidence and deliberately ignoring the efforts of managers and responsible fishers to introduce, implement, raise awareness and disseminate techniques for the reduction of incidental catch,

We, fishers—operators of large- and small-scale longline, purse seine, artisanal and other vessels—participating in the International Tuna Fishers Conference on Responsible Fisheries and the Third International Fishers Forum, do declare to engage in the following activities in order to further promote responsible tuna fisheries to:

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2. Support activities of the World Tuna Purse seine Organization (WTPO) and to promote cooperation in realizing sustainable use of tuna resources by encouraging all tuna purse seine fishers to participate in WTPO where, at the present time, about 65% of tuna purse seine fishers are members;
3. Emphasize the importance of longline and purse seine fisheries working cooperatively with each other and with other stakeholders to improve techniques for use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) with the aim of reducing the impact of purse seiners on bigeye tuna, especially the juveniles, while recognizing the impact of longliners on bigeye adults;
4. Facilitate the establishment of new, or cooperation with existing, international rules for management of tuna fishing capacity based on the principle that any introduction of new fishing capacity should be accompanied with removal of equivalent fishing capacity consistent with the FAO IPOA on Management of Fishing Capacity and the recommendations or rules of relevant RFMOs, while taking due note of the rights and obligations of developing countries;
5. Refrain from circumventing conservation and management measures by reflagging our fishing vessels to non-parties of relevant RFMOs and/or RFMO Parties with little to no ability to control their fishing vessels;
6. Support the Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs to be held in Japan in early 2007 to promote cooperation and coordination of tuna RFMOs and to achieve a global consistency in tuna conservation and management measures;
7. Urge RFMOs to ensure conservation and management of shark stocks on a scientific basis in accordance with their respective resolutions/recommendations and those of the United Nations and to promote full utilization of sharks retained on board and the elimination of directed shark fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins;

8. Actively cooperate with the relevant RFMOs to make the best attempts to reduce incidental catch of sea turtles and seabirds through the following actions:
 - the collection of scientific data, including observer data whenever feasible,
 - the development and implementation of practical measures for monitoring incidental catch including, among others, the introduction of electronic observer techniques, and
 - the development and use of technology to reduce incidental catch and improve post-release survival rates for sea turtles;
9. Vigorously promote the immediate use of appropriate combinations of circle hooks and type of bait, including use on a trial basis, to reduce sea turtle incidental catch and improve post-release survival rate
10. Vigorously promote the widespread use of proven techniques (such as tori poles, night setting, side setting, blue-dyed bait, etc.) to reduce seabird incidental catch, particularly, in areas with high rate of seabird incidental catch;
11. Reaffirm that the FAO and RFMOs are the organizations that have primary responsibility for addressing international tuna fisheries issues, and to encourage governments to ensure that consideration of such issues by other international frameworks, including the United Nations General Assembly, be conducted with the scientific and technical reviews by FAO and RFMOs; and
12. Continue, in every international arena, to challenge biased and unscientific accusations that attack environmentally responsible tuna fisheries.
13. We will transmit this declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and relevant RFMOs for their consideration, and we will request that Governments, including the Governments of Japan and the United States, support fishers worldwide to implement this declaration.

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANT COMMITMENTS

International Tuna Fishers Conference on Responsible Fisheries and Third International Fishers Forum



INTERNATIONAL
TUNA FISHERS
CONFERENCE ON
RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES
& THIRD INTERNATIONAL
FISHERS FORUM

25-29 JULY, 2005
INTER-CONTINENTAL GRAND
YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

Patricia Gandini **Argentina (IFF3)**

Disseminate information of the forum to government and local scientist

To continue working with fishers for finding solutions to diminish bycatch

Continue evaluating seabird mortality in longliners and trawls

Continue evaluating the efficacy of different mitigation measures in reducing bycatch

Continue providing education materials

To collaborate with international initiatives.

David Kruetz **Australia (ITFCRF/ IFF3)**

Develop in conjunction with my international counter parts, better responsible fishing guidelines.

In my role as the eastern tuna and billfish extension officer, develop and communicate:

- Seabird mitigation education strategies for the fleet.
- Sea turtle mitigation education strategies
- Research domestically and internationally better mitigation methods and test these methods in my fishery
- Continue in my role as a member of Southern Seabird Solutions.
- Continue in my role as a member of Southern Seabird Solutions

Angelo Maiorana **Australia**

As an industry operator, I will continue to strive for better fishing practices by:

- circle hook trials
- tori line experiments
- weighted snood gear

Interactions need to be reduced just as education with operators and crew is as important as the mitigation devices above.

From our contacts at this forum, I am prepared to work the international community to educate other fishers to catch better and reduce interactions with the wildlife.

Angelo Mouzouropoulos
Central America

To use my best endeavors as director – general of the international merchant marine registry of Belize (IMMARBE) to:

- Introduce additional measures to reduce/eliminate bycatch of sea turtles and seabirds
- Convince my shareholders and as many of our shipowners of longliners of 24 meters and above as possible to join OPRT, thus supporting OPRT's valuable work and objectives.
- Continue my efforts to eliminate IUU activities in close cooperation with RFMOs, FAO, IMO, OPRT, and others.

Carlos Moreno
Chile (IFF3)

Be a bridge between the fishery authority and the fishermen that are all the Chilean WPOA.

Do my best to continue the research on incidental mortality of seabird in Chile. Specifically, trials to obtain sound to include the evaluation on monitoring the Chilean NPOA.

Be available for any international initiative to avoid the incidental mortality on any kind of vertebrate.

Teaching a course on ecosystem approach to management of fisheries in my university.

Kuo-Ping Lin;
Wen-Sen Chen;
S.G. Joung
China (ITFCRF and IFF3)

Thanks for the IFFs hospitality to hold this fruitful meeting. It helps people from tuna industry and conservation organization get together to study concerning conservation issues, making each opinion closer, keeping proceed conservation and better management.

For sustainable tuna resource, all parties should cooperate together, enhance management and information exchange, fighting against IUU to ensure the right of legal fishery.

We have to continue researching effective method to reduce bycatch seabirds and sea turtles.

We have to research ways to fully utilize shark and increase all parts utilization.

We should invite more people from other aspects and environmental conservation NGO's, to understand our effort for reducing bycatch of seabirds and sea turtles.

Lee, Kuan-Ting
China (ITFCRF and IFF3)

Give all concerning environmental conservation organization the Yokohama declaration

Having scientist working group to study and hopefully outcome some effective and practical methods to avoid bycatch.

Rectify and explain some wrong information about longliners

Voluntary fund from every longline organization to support legal suit in the US.

Sun-Kuang Pan
China (ITFCRF and IFF3)

Submit Yokohama Declaration to every environmental organization (NGOs, UN, FAO).

Enforce and enhance communication and cooperation between all parties

Correct same wrong understanding of NGOs.

Keep promoting avoidance of bycatch with sea turtle and sea birds to tuna longliners.

Unite scientist and industry people to research effective practical methods to reduce bycatch. And Inform every party if found some solutions.

Invite some unfriendly NGOs to attend our conferences and let them see how much effort we will do (or did) for conservation.

Zhang Xiaoli
China

I want to, on behalf of our delegation, say thank you to the organizers for their effective work, so that we can join together to discuss every issue covered by international fisheries, including promoting of responsible fisheries. I think that all of us including fishers, traders, consumer, etc. should work together to conserve the marine resource, not only tuna resources, but all. because our business rely on it, also we need to eliminate the IUU vessels, as they will destroy the order. Finally, please give more chance to the developing countries, because we are now in the same aim that is promote the sustainable fisheries and responsible fisheries.

Gian S. Perotti
Ecuador (ITFCRF)

Make sure all large scale tuna longliners that fly the Ecuadorian flag become members of a foundation and therefore abide by the rules set forth by the OPRT.

Pressure my government to start a well documented register of longline vessels of less than 24 meters and make sure that we can start "negative lists" of vessels not complying with rules of responsible and sustainable fishing.

Manny Duenas
Guam (ITFCRF and IFF3)

Continue the commitment made at IFF2 related to a pilot longline fishery project that intended to start in fall 2005. Specifically:

- establish an advisory body that would include NMFS, NGOs, fishermen and scientist to review and analyze data on a quarterly basis and recommend changes to mitigation strategies on an ongoing basis.
- Set up an education and training program centered on the NMFS protected species course.
- Establish a comprehensive logbook that would embrace all the needs of stake holders in the fishery.
- Evaluate or test known and emerging technologies for seabird and sea turtle bycatch mitigation
- Promote monitoring by at-sea observers, VMS, or electronic means
- Advocate and incorporate management regimes that would reward excellence and invoke developmental sanctions.

In addition:

- full utilization of non-tuna catch to minimize fish bycatch
- targeting of deep water larger bigeye tuna, advance of shallow-water smaller bigeye tuna.
- compliance with seafood safety standards under HACCP.

Wawan Koswara
Indonesia (ITFCRF and IFF3)

To vigorously promote cooperation, information sharing and constructive dialog among all stake holders of tuna producer association, such as purse seine, longline and farmer, due to over capacity of tuna products all over the region.

To vigorously promote the immediate use of appropriate combination of circle hook and tori poles especially to local fishermen within existing RFMOs in all regions.

Propose to continue the international fishers forum in the next 2 or 3 years, and it should be within a fixed timeframe. The next IFF meeting should be in Bali, China or Philippines.

R.P. Pernomo
Indonesia (ITFCRF)

It is a matter of fact that tuna producers (longliners, Purse Seiners and Tuna Farmers) are using the one and the same tuna source, while sashimi market is limited. It is necessary that the producer groups meet together and agree on how they will arrange their activities as to ensure the sustainability of their business

To socialize the result of the trials of the right hooks, the right baits and the right teaching of setting in order to minimize the bycatch.

IFF and OPRT to organize another conference especially with the objective to eliminate IUU. It is a matter of fact that not every country is capable to take efficient steps to do the job. Some needs help and assistance if we want to get the job done.

Kaoru Haneda
Japan (ITFCRF and IFF3)

Coexistence of tuna long line fishers

Effort to avoid incidental catch of sea turtles/sea birds or protected species
 Improvement to more eco-friendly fishing methods

Calling for cooperation for arrangement/management for nest of sea turtles/ sea birds

Refusing purchase IUU products

Supplying safe fish to consumers

Sanction of net fishing caused fish resource depression

Toshikazu Miyamoto
Japan (ITFCRF and IFF3)

Full utilization of sharks.

Bycatch zero campaign for seabirds and sea turtles by using effective measures whenever appropriate.

P.M. Miyake
Japan (ITFCRF)

Engage in study of over-capacity as a FAD TAC member. Specifically, by submitting a report on options of management policies on fishing capacity for longline fleets on a global basis.

Secondly, engage WG on tuna farming of ICCAT and establish proper management scheme for sustainable tuna farming.

Masashi Nishimura
Japan (ITFCRF and IFF3)

To promote responsible tuna fisheries as part of diverse activities to conserve fish eating culture, particularly through the following actions:

- to disseminate to the general public with publications correct understanding of fishermen's commitment to responsible fisheries demonstrated throughout the conference and the forum.
- to share the achievement of the Conference and the forum with the members of the international Coalition of the Fisheries Associations (ICFA) and encourage them to incorporate the achievement in the position and actions of the ICFA

Kazuteru Sakamoto
Japan

Japanese people, have an old tale, URASHIMA TARO, which tells that the hero of the story helps a stranded sea turtle at the beach just by viewing this old tale, we can show how we have been taking care of sea turtles. We, not only fishermen, have released sea turtles, which hooked or netted, after praying for the God shine. It is very rare to find incidental catch in a practical fishing operation. Even though, it happened, all caught sea turtles are released. Respects to seabirds, fishers have paid efforts to refrain from stealing the bait by sea birds, because they do not want to lose fishing efficiency. Negative impacts on seabirds or sea turtles are derived from human activities on the coast, such as waists, environmental distractions rather than longline/purse seine fishing activities. We are requesting to the UN or a NGO to consider this matter. We know the importance of sea turtle and sea bird; however sustainable use of tuna resource is more than that by avoidance juvenile catch brought from large scale purse seines. We request to WCPFC to intake such issue in the treaty for the resources management promotion.

Kantaro Tabata
Japan (ITFCRF and IFF3)

I believe that we need to go on the countermeasures, to avoid by-catch marine turtles/sea birds, which Japanese fishers have been practiced. We also feel necessity to promote our countermeasures to develop and to cover all parts of the problem.

Taro Takeshita
Japan (IFF3)

Indeed I agree to the effect of side-setting in certain level. However it should be considered more deeply through further experiments to conclude the total effects. Nevertheless I believe that it is effective on sea turtles.

Koichi Teramoto
Japan (IFF3)

I felt the situation of by-catch issue is becoming worse.
I am interested in side-setting method.

Hideo Uetake
Japan (ITFCRF and IFF3)

In order to avoid incidental catch of sea birds and sea turtles, we already introduced such effective methods using Tori-pole, setting the line outside the screw whirl; improving sinking speed by heavier weight, and setting line in the dark. We are willing to introduce further mended methods for lessened incidental catch. We fisher have to cooperate each other to sustain this eco-friendly fishing method against the presser.

To stop the fishing method considered cause of tuna resource depression by catching juvenile, we tuna long line fishers have to cooperate at the discussion of RFMOs. For the sake of our purpose, we have to avoid any activities which may be blamed or lessened our trust abilities such as stealing fish/gear from other vessels or disturbing other operations. We need to unify our mind into one to fight against the pressure.

Phan Hong Dung
Vietnam (IFF)

Assist the developing countries in adding observer programs in order to increase and complete the scientific information

Conduct investigation at the "hotspot" in relation to seabird, sea turtle and shark ... bycatch.

Improve bait, hook styles now to reduce the mortality of endangered species.

Promote the responsible fisheries operation.

Enhance regional and international coordination and collaboration.

Phan Hong Dung
Vietnam (ITFCRF)

Continue collecting the tuna data in all regions in order to serve as a management tool.

Pursuit the global policy on responsible fisheries FAO in terms of code of conduct for responsible fisheries

Enhance the regional awareness in relation to capture, trade and consuming tuna product.

Control number of IUU vessels both at regional and international levels.

Continue assessing the negative impact in tuna longline to endangered species such as seabird, sea turtle and sharks.

Improve methodologies, equipment and transfer of the advanced technique in tuna longline fisheries to developing countries in the world.

Using positive and negative lists as well as quota and sanction if possible.

Develop the advanced technology in regarding to tuna marine ranching and artificial hatcheries for tuna in the forthcoming time.

SEAFDEC

SEAFDEC has developed the research program on interaction of longline fisheries to the sea turtle which will be started this year. With regard to this we plan to promote the use of circle hooks for our SEAFDEC member countries. Pilot project will be started in Vietnam and Philippines in collaboration with the department of fisheries.

With regard to the bycatch from longline and purse seine, we have studied since 2001 in the eastern Indian ocean, the results were presented in IOTC meeting.