

IPNLF POSITION STATEMENT

**20th Special Meeting of the
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
Vilamoura, Portugal 14-21 November 2016**



Pole-and-line fisher in the Azores, Portugal © FiSH 4 EVER

The International Pole & Line Foundation ([IPNLF](http://ipnlf.org)) is an international charity working to develop and demonstrate the value of one-by-one tuna fisheries. Its role is two-fold: to promote the benefits of one-by-one tuna fisheries; and to develop these fisheries – to support and improve their viability and sustainability. We work across science, policy and the seafood sector to improve the wellbeing of coastal communities who are committed to environmentally and socially responsible tuna fishing methods, such as pole-and-line, troll, and handline.

As this is the IPNLF's first time attending an ICCAT Meeting, we would like to thank all Members and the Secretariat for the opportunity to participate as an observer. We recognise that managing the fisheries for highly migratory species across the Atlantic Ocean is a complex undertaking, and we appreciate the opportunity to contribute.

An important part of our work involves connecting people and organisations that want to support sustainable and socially responsible one-by-one fisheries. Our [membership](#) – which currently stands at 39 – includes a broad range of organisations and businesses involved in the one-by-one tuna supply chain. They have proven to be active collaborators, and together we have accomplished several meaningful improvements in data collection, traceability, and fisheries management in many ocean areas.

The ICCAT Convention Area is home to a number of one-by-one fisheries, including many baitboat fisheries for temperate and tropical tunas the Eastern and Western Atlantic. IPNLF works to improve several aspects of one-by-one fisheries with our partners across the Convention Area with the aim of seeing the associated fishing communities thrive. The success and future of these fishing communities relies heavily on responsible management by ICCAT as the stocks are highly migratory.

At this year's Special Meeting, IPNLF encourages ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs collectively) to adopt management measures that, together, will strengthen the framework for sustainable tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean. Specifically, we urge progress in the following areas:

- Establishment of reference points and harvest control rules for all major tuna species that aim to avoid adverse impacts on stocks and recognizing the interests of coastal communities that rely on the fisheries for food security and livelihoods
- End overfishing and adoption of rebuilding plans for overfished tuna stocks
- Improved data collection and regulation of supply vessels and fishing gears that negatively impact coastal fishing communities, including drifting fish aggregating devices (dFADs), through the continuation of the Working Group on FADs
- Adoption of measures that will effectively reduce bycatch and protect endangered, threatened, or protected species, including sharks, seabirds, cetaceans, and turtles

The Commission is progressing work on harvest strategies, which we commend. This year, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) Report put forward a timeline for the adoption of harvest strategies for the major tuna stocks, which IPNLF fully supports for adoption. If adopted, more sustainable management frameworks will benefit every CPC, bring positive long-term returns to fishing communities, and minimise the risk of future fisheries collapse.



Chumming baitfish in the pole-and-line tuna fishery in the Azores, Portugal © FiSH 4 EVER

Measures should also be adopted to end overfishing and minimise ecosystem impacts of the fisheries. This includes the impacts of supply vessels and dFADs on fish populations, marine ecosystems, and coastal habitats from abandoned and lost dFADs. One key action ICCAT can take is to extend the work of the FAD Working Group to specifically address these issues.

The Atlantic Ocean is home to an array of one-by-one fisheries and fishing communities. IPNLF would like to see management measures adopted that safeguard tuna stocks and ecosystems so that one-by-one fisheries, and the social benefits they provide to the communities that depend on them, can flourish. We will continue to work with our members to strive for the highest environmental and social standards, which will reinforce the good work of the Commission.

We look forward to working with all delegations at the 2016 Special Meeting in Vilamoura, and we are hopeful that the CPCs will find common ground in supporting management improvements.



ABOUT IPNLF

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) works to develop, support and promote socially and environmentally responsible pole-and-line and handline tuna fisheries around the world. IPNLF's ambition is to contribute to thriving coastal fisheries, including the people, communities, businesses and seas connected with them. As a hub for sustainably-minded organisations, we use the influence of the market to forge change through practical fishery projects and stakeholder cooperation. IPNLF membership is open to organisations involved in the one-by-one tuna supply chain. Allied with our Members, IPNLF demonstrates the value of one-by-one caught tuna to consumers, policymakers and throughout the supply chain. We work across science, policy and the seafood sector, using an evidence-based, solutions-focused approach with guidance from our Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Trustees.

IPNLF was officially registered in the United Kingdom in 2012 (Charity 1145586), with branch offices in London and the Maldives, and a staff presence in Indonesia.

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Keep informed about the latest developments in one-by-one tuna fisheries through our website and by connecting with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).