

OPRT Resolution to end Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing

The Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), whose members are involved in production, distribution and consumption of sashimi tuna in the world,

1. **Affirming** that the OPRT has conducted its business over a couple of decades with the objective of contributing to the sustainable development of tuna fisheries in compliance with international and social responsibility and the stable supply of tuna products ([for you information] through measures to reinforce the conservation and management of tuna stocks, to foster healthy tuna markets, and to further international cooperation among fishers and other efforts);
2. **Confirming** that that the OPRT and relevant member associations have made their utmost efforts to carry out the Project conducted in 2001-2002 to scrap the so-called vessels of convenience which had engaged in tuna longline fishery, and the OPRT and its all members have been strongly supporting approaches adopted and/or conducted by tuna-related Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and UN Organization of Food and Agriculture (FAO) to deter, prevent and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU fishing),
3. **Appreciating** approaches, *inter alia*, such as lists of authorized fishing vessels (Positive Lists) and lists of IUU vessels made available by RFMOs and relevant trade measures adopted by them, and that under the auspices of FAO ,Port State Measure Agreement was adopted, the 7-digit IMO Vessel Identifier became available to most of fishing vessels engaging in major tuna fisheries, and the Voluntary Guideline for Catch Documentation Scheme, after the adoption of relevant FAO International Plan of Action made in 2001.
4. **Appreciating further** that the areas/states providing world's major fish market include tunas and tuna products in their own frameworks within which only legitimate fish products are allowed to be imported into respective domestic markets, and these approaches have contributed to the deterrence, prevention and elimination of IUU fishing related to tunas to a considerable extent.
5. **Recalling** that the United Nation's SDG Target 14.4 emphasizes urgent actions are required to end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as well as effectively regulate harvesting in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.
6. **Recalling further** that G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to end IUU fishing as IUU fishing remains in many parts of the world a serious threat to sustainability of the ocean in Paragraph 40. of the "G20 OSAKA LEADERS' DECLARATION" adopted at G20 OSAKA SUMMIT 2019 held in June 2019.

[For your information]

“As illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains in many parts of the world a serious threat to the sustainability of the ocean, we recognize the importance of addressing IUU fishing for ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources and conserving the marine environment including biodiversity, and reaffirm our commitment to end IUU fishing.”

7. **Being aware with concern** the evaluation described by FAO in its SOFIA 2020 issued in June 2020, regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), “the situation as at 2017 indicates that it is unlikely that SDG Target 14.4 (to end overfishing of marine fisheries by 2020) will be achieved” and FAO prescribes that “achieving the target will require time and: stronger political will, especially at the national level” among others.

Have resolved as follows at the Ordinary General Meeting held on June 22, 2021

1. **Urge** all t-RFMOs and FAO to expend their utmost efforts to identify the status of IUU fishing and to monitor the implementation of measures taken to combat such fishing, and thereby to take corrective actions, as necessary, in a timely manner and to further develop and implement cost-effective measures to end IUU fishing. ;
2. **Request** competent authorities of relevant countries/areas in particular, those of countries/areas where OPRRT member associations are located, to participate in an active manner in the meetings and work of relevant RFMOs and FAO to help them accomplish the tasks described in paragraph 1 mentioned above, to take actions to prevent tuna fishing vessels flying their own flags from engaging in IUU fishing under the responsibility of flag state, and to allow only the tuna and tuna products for which it is verifiable that those products are originated from harvest made in a manner complying with applicable law and other applicable measures can be imported.