



Industry Responds on Tuna Sustainability Needs:

Sea Pact brings funding support to Sri Lanka Tuna Fishery Improvement Project

BARCELONA, SPAIN, June 18, 2018 – Sea Pact, attending The State of Global Tuna Sustainability Seminar at the SeaWeb Seafood Summit in Barcelona, today announces industry funding for a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) to reduce the impact of Sri Lanka’s longline fisheries for yellowfin and bigeye tuna and swordfish on endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) non-target species.

“We are heeding the call for industry initiatives and support in collaborative efforts to address tuna sustainability needs”, said Rob Johnson, managing director for Sea Pact. “This is the first project to be proactively funded outside of our annual Request for Proposal (RFP) process” stated Johnson.

Sea Pact is an innovative collaboration of ten leading North American seafood companies working together to drive seafood industry sustainability progress globally.

As per the focus at the Global Tuna Sustainability Seminar, tuna is an iconic key species across the global seafood industry and is of critical importance for ocean health and global seafood sustainability. Sea Pact members are strong proponents of sustainable tuna fisheries to provide sustainable food and jobs and healthy marine ecosystems. The Sri Lanka longline tuna fishery has relevance in all Sea Pact member companies supply chains, therefore this purposeful engagement to drive impactful change.

The project will introduce a crew-based observer program on 30 Sri Lankan longline vessels to respond to the problem of inadequate information and data regarding ETP species discarded from Sri Lanka’s longline tuna fishery. The catch monitoring system currently in place uses paper logbooks to record information about the target and non-target species caught and landed or discarded. This method is not sufficient for the fishery to pass MSC performance indicators, and this will be addressed by training and supporting fishworkers to record retained and discarded species (including ETP species).

This work is part of a wider-scope Sri Lanka tuna fisheries improvement effort being implemented through the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) and in conjunction with the Seafood Exporters Association of Sri Lanka (SEASL). Dr. Steve Creech, director of pelagikos pvt ltd, responsible for designing and managing the FIP states that “the new sri lankan longline FIP is an initiative of the Seafood Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka. The commitment demonstrated by Sri Lanka's leading seafood exporters and Sea Pact's generous support to co-finance a key sub project under the FIP, are already having a positive impact in terms of driving the fishery towards sustainability”.

The FIP is listed on the fisheryprogress.org website here: <https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/sri-lanka-tuna-and-swordfish-longline>.



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“We look forward to working with all the different stakeholders on this project and helping drive industry change on tuna sustainability forward” says Hamish Walker, chief operating officer of Seattle Fish Co., and chair of the Sea Pact Advisory Council.

About Sea Pact:

Sea Pact is a partnership of ten like-minded, leading seafood distributors across North America: Albion Farms & Fisheries in Vancouver, Fortune Fish & Gourmet in Chicago, Ipswich Shellfish Group in Boston, Santa Monica Seafood in Los Angeles, Seacore Seafood in Toronto, Seattle Fish Co. in Denver, J.J. McDonnell in Baltimore, Stavis Seafood in Boston, North Atlantic Inc. from Portland, Maine and Euclid Fish Company from Cleveland. These companies are united for a sustainable future and are using their collective strength to lead by example and drive improvement of environmental, economic, and social responsibility throughout the global seafood supply chain. Sea Pact receives sustainability council from non-profit organizations Ocean Outcomes, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, and FishWise, and is a project under New Venture Fund’s 501(c)3 non-profit status. To learn more about Sea Pact visit their website at www.seapact.org and follow on [twitter](#) and [facebook](#).