

Sustainable scheme for our tuna



THE Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) controls the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery.

PNA Members are Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

Global leaders in tuna conservation and management

Through using the zone-based management, PNA makes conservation and management decisions within their collective Exclusive Economic Zones. Many PNA conservation measures are world firsts – such as high seas closures to fishing, controls on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), protection for whale sharks and the 100 per cent coverage of purse seine fishing vessels with observers.

In 2011, the PNA skipjack tuna caught without using FADs was certified by the Marine Stewardship Council as sustainable, creating the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery.

PNA controls around 50 per cent of the global supply of skipjack tuna, the most commonly canned tuna.

The market value of the tuna resource in the PNA EEZs is more than USD3.5 billion.

The focus of PNA efforts to sustainably manage tuna is the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). PNA members agree on a limited number of fishing days for the year, based on scientific advice about the status of the tuna stocks. Fishing days are then allocated by country and sold to the highest bidder. In this way, Pacific Islanders reap economic benefits from their sustainable management of tuna.

The PNA members are proud to be contributing to the conservation and sustainability of the tuna stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean region, the only region globally where none of the three major tropical tuna stocks are overfished or subject to overfishing and the only region where most of the Purse-seine catch is made on free-schools.

■ PNA



Above: PNA members at the preparatory meeting. Photo: Supplied. Right: The map shows PNA EEZs in yellow. The red line is the boundary of the Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.



PNA chairman Glen Joseph (left) facilitating the meeting.

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