

The Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT)



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The Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries was established December 8, 2000, representing all stake holders in tuna fisheries including tuna fishing operators in the world and traders, distributors and consumers in Japan.

Membership in the OPRT is open to all tuna longline fishing vessels practicing responsible fishing operations that have a firm commitment to cooperate under the OPRT framework. Current members are the tuna longline fishing industries of Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, the Peoples Republic of China and Ecuador. In fact, OPRT represents almost of all large-scale tuna longline fishing operators in the world.

OPRT's objective is to contribute to development of responsible tuna fisheries in line with international and social responsibility as well as promoting sustainable use of tunas through the cooperation of all stakeholders.

OPRT's first major project is to work toward the elimination of all illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) tuna longline vessels, also called flag-of-convenience (FOC) tuna vessels. One major step OPRT taken toward the elimination of IUU vessels is a program to buy up and scrap these vessels as it becomes feasible to do so.

With the introduction of the Positive List Scheme on a global basis towards the end of 2003, tunas caught by IUU tuna longline fishing vessels can no longer be traded in international markets. OPRT continues to monitor trade information, specifically on Japanese market since the IUU fishing vessels are targeting the Japanese sashimi tuna market, to ensure that IUU fishing activities will not appear.

OPRT extends the scope of its work ensuring responsible tuna fisheries by addressing other issues, such as the control of fishing capacity of tuna fishing vessels. the incidental catch of non-target species such as sea turtles and sea birds.

Cooperation of all parties' concerned—producers, distributors, and consumers—is needed to ensure the effective management of tunas. Therefore, OPRT hopes to gain the cooperation of all stakeholders in responsible tuna fishing to work together in the future.

If you have any questions or want further information, please contact us.