

An underwater photograph showing a diver in the lower right corner, a large shark swimming towards the center, and a school of smaller fish. A dark, vertical object, possibly a log or part of a structure, runs through the center of the frame. The water is clear and blue.

# Defending Our Pacific

Summary of findings from  
the *Esperanza*'s expedition,  
September - December 2011

March 2012

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Defending our oceans

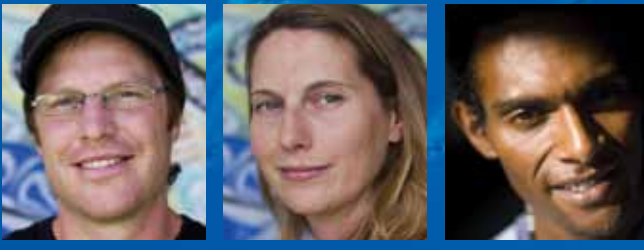
**Image** Fish school and a shark  
congregate around a fish  
aggregating device (FAD).

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# Introduction

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More than 60% of the world's tuna is caught in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). Industrial fleets from distant-water fishing nations (DWFNs) take the overwhelming majority of this catch. As demand for tuna grows, that proportion is increasing, as tuna stocks in other parts of the world have been drastically depleted – in some cases to the point of collapse. The very same fate awaits Pacific tuna stocks unless measures are taken urgently to rein in excess fishing capacity, pirate fishing and the destructive fishing methods causing widespread collateral damage to species at risk. If Pacific tuna stocks and the marine ecosystems that support them are allowed to diminish, the impact on Pacific Island nations will be immeasurable. The loss will cause economic hardship, potentially permanent environmental damage and impact the region's key food sources.

The Pacific's tuna stocks have all declined, and they appear to be set to continuing this downward trajectory as fishing rates remain unsustainably high. In 2010, almost 2.5m metric tonnes of tuna were caught in the WCPO. The main target species by volume is skipjack, destined for canneries around the world. Because skipjack is mostly caught by purse seine nets set on fish aggregating devices (FADs), there is a significant level of bycatch of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna. The skipjack fishery is therefore threatening the long-term health of these higher value and more depleted stocks, and is a major factor pushing these more fragile and more sought-after stocks further into depletion.

Bycatch aside, the pressure from longline fishing on these species – and also on billfish and sharks – is already excessive. A significant proportion of the longline catch occurs on the high seas, where little or no income is returned to Pacific Island Countries (PICs). The limited regulation and surveillance of these areas is also threatening Pacific tuna stocks, and undermining the conservation and management measures being applied by PICs to ensure a future for the region's fisheries.



Foreign fishing vessels use the high seas, and especially the Pacific Commons\* areas flanked by the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of PICs, as both an escape route to launder fish out of the region and as a base from which to make forays into the waters of PICs, as documented by previous Greenpeace investigations. In 2008, it was estimated that pirates took between 21% and 46% of all fish in the region, most of it in the high seas.\*\* Their activities are facilitated by largely unregulated transshipments of fish at sea by longline fishing vessels, a practice well known as a gateway for illegal fish and a source of under-reported catches. Currently the Pacific Commons provide a safe haven for longline fishing fleets engaged in pirate fishing. They should, however, be a safe haven for marine life. An essential step to safeguarding the Pacific's tuna fisheries – and its future food security – is to designate these areas as marine reserves.

Departing from French Polynesia on 3 September 2011, the Greenpeace ship *Esperanza* sailed 14,100 nautical miles across the WCPO to bear witness, document and take action against unsustainable and illegal fishing of Pacific tuna. The start of the expedition coincided with the regional ban on the use of FADs with purse seine nets (1 July – 30 September), as well as with the closure of the Pacific Commons Areas 1 and 2 by the West and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to purse seine fishing. In addition, the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) were also enforcing a ban on purse seine fishing in Pacific Commons Areas 3 and 4. In Area 3 an entry-exit reporting requirement is in place for all vessels, including

longline fishing vessels. One of the purposes of the expedition was to monitor how well the conservation and management measures were respected, and to identify loopholes and other factors compromising the measures designed to improve the fishery.

During the three-month 'Defending Our Pacific' expedition, the *Esperanza* monitored the Pacific Commons and visited Pago Pago in American Samoa, Nauru and Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. Finally, in December, Greenpeace and the government of Palau conducted a joint fisheries enforcement operation in Palau's national waters. Greenpeace assisted in apprehending and detaining a licensed vessel engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, failing to report via its vessel monitoring system (VMS) and catching and finning sharks, a practice banned in Palauan waters.

The *Esperanza* encountered 63 fishing vessels in total during the expedition, including an overt, illegal, stateless and unmarked purse seine vessel operating with six other support vessels in what appeared to be a group operation. Fishing vessels were also sighted transiting through Pacific countries' waters. Catches of sharks were particularly high on a number of vessels; in several cases the *Esperanza* crew took action, inspecting and documenting vessels at the invitation of their captains, and releasing endangered species and bycatch from tuna longline hooks.

**The expedition showed that longline fishing in the Pacific Commons remains rampant.**

\* Map of the Pacific Commons can be found at [www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/oceans/marine-reserves/pacific-tuna-need-marine-reserves/](http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/oceans/marine-reserves/pacific-tuna-need-marine-reserves/)

\*\* MRAG (2008). The Global Estimate of Illegal Fishing. <http://www.mrag.co.uk/Documents/ExtentGlobalIllegalFishing.pdf>



**Image** The Palauan law enforcement vessel *President Hl Remeliik*, the *Esperanza* and the Taiwanese longline fishing vessel *Sheng Chi Hui No 7*, at sea in Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The *Sheng Chi Hui No 7* is suspected of contravening Palauan law on 8 December 2011.



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# Key findings

## The longline high seas plunder

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There are over 3,000 longline vessels registered to fish in the WCPO. It comes as no surprise that the vast majority of vessels encountered during the 2011 expedition were longline vessels, ranging from about 20 metres to almost 60 metres in length. Most were flagged to, and/or owned by, distant-water fishing powers, including Taiwan, Korea, China and Japan. Many of the vessels encountered were 'high seas only' – paying no licence fees to PICs to fish in their EEZs, yet still fishing the region's shared tuna resources in the Pacific Commons.

These types of vessels often tranship their catch at sea, and much can go completely unreported. As many of the vessels seldom call into ports, economic benefits to the islands are limited. Crew conditions on board these ships are harsh and pay for crew is low, providing few viable onboard employment opportunities for the region. Onshore investment from the sector also remains low. There are almost no measures currently in place – as there are for purse seine vessels – to manage the impact in the Pacific, in particular in the Pacific Commons, that these vessels' fishing operations have on bigeye, yellowfin and albacore tuna, associated species such as marlin, sharks, turtles, and other marine species.

### **Excessive and unregulated longline fishing in the high seas**

In Pacific Commons Area 3, Greenpeace documented eight longliners over five days. Last year the Cook Islands succeeded in implementing strengthened management

of this high seas area after registering its official concern about the continued high level of longline fishing here. As this expedition found, fishing pressure in this area remains high, and will compromise conservation and management measures already in place inside the EEZs of the bordering coastal states.

The full closure of Area 3 to all fishing – as previously advocated by the governments of the Cook Islands and French Polynesia – would provide far-reaching conservation and many management benefits.

In High Seas Pocket 2 the *Esperanza* encountered several longline vessels in just three days, including the 50-metre *Jing Lu Yuan 005* with a hold capacity of over 650 tonnes and a licence to fish across the economic zones of three PICs. Of the two vessels that were boarded in this area, one was licensed as 'high seas only' and carried a majority non-tuna catch. Both vessels seemed to be targeting sharks as well as tuna at the edge of the proposed Regional Shark Sanctuary within the EEZ of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Greenpeace supports the call made by Nauru in September 2011 to close the Pacific Commons to longline fishing. This is the next step necessary to reduce IUU fishing and the plunder of vulnerable and endangered species such as sharks for the growing Asian markets, to limit the overfishing of Pacific bigeye and yellowfin stocks, and to begin implementing more far-reaching capacity- and-effort limits on these fisheries. It would also be a positive step towards designating these areas as fully-protected marine reserves – creating a safe haven for tuna stocks and other ocean life found there. PICs including Palau, the Marshall Islands and Fiji have already begun to unilaterally protect their economic zones from shark fishing, having recognised the significant ecological and economic value these species represent when allowed to live\*. The willingness and freedom of range with which distant-water fishing fleets exploit the high seas pockets

\* Pew Charitable Trusts (2011). Wanted Dead or Alive? The Relative Value of Reef Sharks as a Fishery and an Ecotourism Asset in Palau. [http://www.pewtrusts.org/our\\_work\\_report\\_detail.aspx?id=85899359336](http://www.pewtrusts.org/our_work_report_detail.aspx?id=85899359336)

bordering these protected zones undermines these efforts at conservation and sustainable resource use.

### **Longline impacts on ecologically related species**

Greenpeace documented the impacts of longline fishing on ocean life, including the catching of various non-tuna species and the continued targeting and finning of sharks by Korean, Taiwanese and Chinese vessels. This latter practice is well documented on tuna longline boats, and it often spins a side business. It can even provide the main economic incentive for the crews: paid very low wages by the boat owners for their tuna catches, they are often allowed to keep for themselves the money they can make out of shark fins.

Vessels were documented using wire leaders and employing other fishing methods specifically to catch sharks, and shark fins were observed drying or frozen on several vessels. Despite being registered as tuna vessels, several longliners admitted to targeting sharks and at least one carried more sharks than tuna in its hold.

An increasing number of PICs are protecting sharks in the Pacific through the creation of shark sanctuaries and/or bans or restrictions on shark fishing and finning. However, the targeting of sharks by these vessels, and the trade in their fins, undermines the PICs' efforts. The closure of the Pacific Commons to all fishing, including longline fishing, would help reinforce the protection afforded to sharks within Pacific Island EEZs.

**Image** Workers haul a swordfish, a common bycatch species, on board the Taiwanese longline fishing vessel *Sheng Chi Hui No 7*. The boat is suspected to have been shark finning, contravening the laws of Palau, whose waters were established as a shark sanctuary in 2009.



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**Image** Greenpeace divers display a banner by a fish aggregating device in the international waters of the Pacific Ocean.





# Purse seine fishing and FADs

## The loopholes

### Purse seine fishing with FADs

Purse seine fishing is heavily restricted in the Pacific Commons at present through a combination of measures enacted by the Pacific Tuna Commission (WCPFC) and Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA). But despite these measures, the overall fishing effort from the purse seine fleet remains far higher than is sustainable in the long term, making it critical for Pacific governments to urgently reduce the level of fishing inside their zones. During September and October, Greenpeace encountered only two registered purse seine vessels in the Pacific Commons, both of them in transit.

In addition, the continued use of FADs by purse seine fleets outside of the current three-month ban period causes a waste of ocean life – including sharks, juvenile tuna, occasional turtles and other fish species – and renders the otherwise sustainable skipjack fisheries unsustainable.

### The FAD loophole

The *Esperanza* documented *Zhong Tai No 1*, from mainland China, fishing with a FAD only two nautical miles from the high seas border in the EEZ of PNG on 18 November, after the regional FAD closure. Constantly attracting fish, FADs left to drift during the ban still attract fish – enabling vessels to catch the fish aggregating around them when the FAD fishing ban is over. The FADs can also drift in and out of the Pacific Commons areas where purse seine fishing is banned, hence creating passive fishing pressure in these areas and undermining the effectiveness of the fishing ban. The sheer number of FADs in the region results in an unknown and unmanageable 'silent' fishing effort across the Pacific, which seriously undermines attempts to scientifically estimate stock levels.

It is essential that the FAD ban by the WCPFC be strengthened to include the recovery of FADs deployed by a given vessel or company. Otherwise, the effectiveness of limited FAD ban periods can be compromised by larger-than-usual catches immediately after the ban on FAD use is over.

While patrolling Area 1 of the Pacific Commons, the *Esperanza* documented 11 FADs in the space of four days. Ten were manufactured steel FADs and one was constructed of debris. Three were still anchored to the sea floor, despite purse seine fishing ban in the area. An illegal purse seine vessel was caught fishing illegally in Pocket 1 with at least four FADs in close proximity. Greenpeace removed eight of the FADs.

### Purse seine fishing without FADs

Recognising the growing global consumer demand for more sustainable tuna products, operators in the WCPO are beginning to return to FAD-free purse seine fishing as a means to satisfy market expectations and sustain their industry in the long term.

Greenpeace documented one such vessel fishing in PNG waters.\* The crew of the Philippine-flagged purse seine vessel *Purple Lilac 888* receive a 30% premium by its operators, which gives them the incentive to spend the time necessary searching for free school tuna and fishing without the use of a FAD. The fish caught was reported to be larger in size and therefore has a higher value for canning. This example shows that such operations can be practical and economically viable as well as necessary to ensure a sustainable, long-term fishing industry in the region.

\* [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GurQgKZDpU0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GurQgKZDpU0)

## Illegal fishing remains rife

Illegal fishing was documented within Pacific EEZs and in the Pacific Commons. These operations undermine the efforts of the WCPFC and coastal states to responsibly manage the region's tuna resources, and represent direct theft from the region.

In the space of a few hours, one IUU fishing operation, which involved six vessels, caught and transhipped a haul of tuna. The tuna was caught by an unmarked purse seine vessel and transhipped to the *Lapu Lapu*, a reefer vessel operating in Pacific Commons Area 1. Crew members aboard the unmarked vessel claimed to have been fishing for a full three months, and to be ultimately bound for General Santos in the Philippines. The *Lapu Lapu*, responsible for returning the pirate catch to port, was registered to a vertically-integrated tuna cannery in Indonesia. It is unknown how many tonnes of tuna were caught and transhipped during the unmarked vessel's time at sea, nor how much was caught in the high seas as opposed to EEZs; the captain either hid or did not keep records of his route or his catch.

The Philippine purse seine industry has repeatedly called for the WCPFC's purse seine ban to be lifted in Pacific Commons Areas 1 and 2. Given the high level of IUU fishing reported during a previous Greenpeace expedition, as well as this recent finding in this area by Philippine/ Indonesian operators, it seems very unwise to reward this industry sector access to these vulnerable areas. The ban should, therefore, be strengthened and expanded, rather than lifted.

Within three days of a short joint enforcement patrol of the southwestern area of Palau's EEZ conducted by the *Esperanza* and Palau's only patrol boat, no less than eight fishing operations were encountered, including five apparent IUU cases. These included two IUU unmarked reefers, an unmarked operation involving a bunker reefer and support vessels, and two non-reporting longliners – one of which was documented fishing for sharks in contravention of Palau's shark sanctuary. Only one of the longline vessels was apprehended and escorted back to Palau port for investigation. Details and documentation of all vessels encountered during the joint operation have been passed to the Palau authorities for further investigation and action.



**Image** Greenpeace activists paint 'Pirate?' on the side of a reefer, or cold storage vessel, on the high seas close to the border with Indonesia's EEZ. The reefer was breaching international law by receiving a transhipment of large quantities of tuna from an IUU purse seine fishing vessel.

# Case studies



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## Ming Maan Shyang No 20 (Chinese Taipei) - Longliner

Pacific Commons Area 2,  
13 November 2011

The *Ming Maan Shyang No 20*, a small 22m longline vessel flagged to Taiwan, was spotted in the northwest corner of Pacific Commons Area 2.

Image The *Ming Maan Shyang No 20*

Like many longline vessels discovered during the expedition, the vessel was licensed to fish in the high seas only, therefore returning little to no income to PICs.

With the permission of the fishing vessel's captain, a Greenpeace documentation team went on board and recorded the hold contents and catch log of the vessel.

**Image** A fisherman holds up a frozen oceanic white tip shark, minus its dorsal fin. The shark was taken from the freezer of the *Ming Maan Shyang No 20*.



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Although the vessel was only fishing for two weeks and ostensibly targeted tuna, the hold contained more dead sharks than tuna; 40 tuna and 41 sharks including the vulnerable oceanic whitetip shark, as well as 22 swordfish, 9 blue marlin and a striped marlin.

Other impacts on sharks documented during the expedition included the use, by other vessels, of wire leaders and setting of short lines under longline buoys specifically to attract sharks.

**Image** Crew member shows frozen shark bodies in the freezer of the *Ming Maan Shyang No 20*.



## Lapu Lapu (Indonesia)

*Pacific Commons Area 1, 24 November, 2011*

The *Lapu Lapu* freezer reefer vessel – registered with WCPFC as a tuna purse seiner – was spotted by helicopter alongside the unmarked purse seine fishing vessel noted above. Four other support vessels accompanied the *Lapu Lapu* and the unmarked purse seiner. Following the purse seine fishing operation, Greenpeace documented the unmarked vessel transhipped its catch to the *Lapu Lapu*. Greenpeace is currently researching the chain of custody of this illegal tuna operation, which could – via canneries in the Philippines and Indonesia – end up in a large number of markets in the US, the EU and Asia.

A report and documentation of this illegal fishing and transhipment have been submitted to the Western and Central Fisheries Commission, the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Philippines and Indonesian governments, as well as most of the PNA countries. The vessels have been listed on the Greenpeace pirate fishing blacklist.\*

## Unmarked, stateless purse seiner – fishing illegally in the Pacific Commons

*Pacific Commons Area 1, 24 November 2011*

In Pacific Commons Area 1, closed to purse seine fishing by the WCPFC since 2010, six vessels were documented engaged in an illegal purse seine fishing operation. Bearing no name or national flag, and without any identification markings, the fishing vessel using purse seine gear was spotted by helicopter in the process of pursuing its net. The unmarked seiner was accompanied by four support vessels, two of which were tethered to it during fishing operations. The unmarked vessel then transhipped its catch to the *Lapu Lapu*.

Following this, the Greenpeace documentation team boarded the unmarked vessel with its captain's permission. The crew on board, including the captain, were all Filipino. The captain claimed that he had arrived from Indonesian waters one day previously and that he intended to return to Indonesia after one day fishing. However, crew members contradicted this story, claiming to have been at sea for three months and indicating General Santos, Philippines, as their destination port.

After documenting the vessel and the captain's admission that he was unlicensed, the *Esperanza* escorted this IUU vessel out of the high seas and into Indonesian waters.

## Goang Shing Lih (Chinese Taipei)

*Palauan waters, 5 December 2011*

The *Goang Shing Lih* was found during a helicopter flight while on joint enforcement exercise with Palau's only patrol boat. The Taiwanese longliner held a licence to fish in the waters of Palau but was not reporting on VMS. Although failure to report is an IUU situation, the number of vessels spotted in the area made it impossible to engage this vessel to further inspect possible other infringements of licensing conditions, while other higher priority vessels remained in the vicinity.

## Shima Maru No 1 (Japan) - Longliner

*Pacific Common Area 1, 20 November 2011*

Greenpeace crew boarded the *Shima Maru No 1*, a small Japanese longliner with a capacity of about 16 tonnes, with the approval of its captain. The vessel is usually based in Guam and travels to the WCPO to fish in the high seas where it is permitted to fish. It did not have any authorisation or licence to fish in any of the national waters of the PICs but indicated it was expecting a licence from FSM and Palau in a few days.

On this particular trip, the captain indicated the vessel was going to be out fishing in the high seas for a month or two before returning to Guam. Its holds were approximately a quarter full, mainly with bigeye and yellowfin tuna and a few mahi mahi and one blue marlin. Naturally, to access and exit their high seas fishing grounds, a lot of these 'high seas only' vessels will have to transit through the waters of the PICs.

## Zhong Tai No 1 (China) – Purse Seiner

*PNG waters 2 nautical miles from Pacific Commons Area 1, 18 November 2011*

The *Zhong Tai No 1* was documented by helicopter fishing on a FAD only two nautical miles inside PNG waters at the edge of Pacific Commons Area 1.

While legal (the fishing occurred outside the FAD ban period and within PNG's EEZ) the activity's proximity to Pacific Commons Area 1, where purse seine fishing is banned, is of concern.

It should serve as a warning that the potential number of purse seine vessels that would fish in both national waters and the Pacific Commons if the fishing bans were lifted would be high, leading to increased fishing and fishing effort outside of the current PNA 'vessel day scheme' that limits the number of days fishing is allowed. The economic benefit to Pacific island countries will be minimal. Reports were submitted to the relevant authorities.

\* [www.blacklist.greenpeace.org](http://www.blacklist.greenpeace.org)



Tuna is transhipped from an illegal, unregistered and unlicensed purse seine fishing vessel onto the *Lapu Lapu*, close to the border with Indonesia's EEZ.

Purse seining on the high seas has been illegal since an agreement was signed in 2010.



The pirate fishing vessel, which had no discernible markings or name visible on the hull, was painted with the word 'pirate' by Greenpeace activists.



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## Jing Lu Yuan 005 (Mainland China) – Longliner

*Pacific Commons Area 2,  
15 November 2011*

The *Jing Lu Yuan 005* was found after spotting the end-buoy of its 100km-plus set longline. The longliner is registered with the WCPFC, FSM and Kiribati but claimed to be remaining in the high seas.

Before approaching the vessel, documentation by helicopter revealed drying shark fins on its upper deck.

The crew appeared to panic, and removed the shark fins as the photographer and videographer recorded.

Upon boarding with consent, the captain conceded they were targeting both sharks and tuna.



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He claimed to know that regulations were in place pertaining to the finning of sharks and allowed the Greenpeace documentation team to inspect the hold.

The hold appeared to be approximately three-quarters full, mostly of bigeye and yellowfin tuna but with a few finned sharks, with fins strapped to their carcasses. While no physical evidence was found, it is possible that unattached fins were hidden or disposed of.





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## Sheng Chi Hui No 7 (Chinese Taipei)

Palauan waters, 8 December 2011

On the final day of joint enforcement with Palau's patrol boat and Palauan police officials on board the *Esperanza*, the *Sheng Chi Hui No 7* was spotted by helicopter hauling its longline.

The vessel was licensed to fish in Palau's waters, but was not reporting via VMS, a violation of fishing regulations.

Furthermore, a Palauan officer and a Greenpeace photographer documented allegedly finned shark carcasses on board the vessel, a serious violation given the designation of Palau's entire EEZ as a shark sanctuary where retaining and finning sharks is banned. Shark carcasses were not found on the vessel, although the photograph clearly showed finned sharks onboard (which was then confirmed by experts later). Even if the sharks had been caught outside of Palau waters, the ship would still be in violation of Palau law forbidding even the possession of shark fins or carcasses.



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The vessel was boarded by Palauan officials and was then escorted back to port in Koror by the Palauan patrol vessel and the *Esperanza*, for processing and interrogation by Palau fisheries and police officers.

Further information revealed that the vessel had previously violated Palau's laws by fishing within the sanctuary, and during interviews in port the crew and captain admitted to having caught sharks, something they had denied earlier.

The vessel and owner were subsequently fined \$65,000 US dollars and will be banned from fishing in Palauan waters for one year. The vessel has also been listed on the Greenpeace pirate fishing blacklist.



**Image** A seabird is seen near a fish aggregating device in the international waters of the Pacific Ocean.





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# Conclusions and recommendations

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Based on our experiences at sea, it is clear that the waters of the Pacific Commons are still vulnerable to destructive fishing practices and unregulated fishing activities. Therefore, it is clear that governments must retain the closure of Pacific Commons Areas 1 and 2 to purse seine fishing and extend the closure to other Pacific Commons areas, and reject calls to weaken or add exemptions to this measure under WCPFC 2008-01. It is disappointing that countries are seeking to weaken conservation and management measures while their nationals do not even comply with those that are in place now.

Documentation by Greenpeace of illegal fishing operations in the high seas reinforces the **importance of rules allowing NGO submission of IUU information** for consideration by the WCPFC. While stronger regulations do exist in the EEZs of PICs, IUU fishing continues because of the inadequate enforcement resources available to them. Of further concern is the apparent lack of consistent non-compliance procedures enacted by EEZ and flag-state members, cooperating non-members and participating territories within the WCPFC's adopted measures.

The sheer number of longline vessels encountered in the Pacific Commons, including a significant number that do not hold fishing licences from any PICs, reinforces the need to reduce longline fishing pressure by **closing all Pacific Commons areas to longline fishing**, as advocated by Nauru.

Shark fishing and finning, both in the high seas and illegally inside EEZs, and including threatened species, is currently undermining PICs efforts to protect sharks and to reap economic and environmental benefits of these key species, including tourism. It is a further reason to **close the Pacific Commons areas to all fishing** to give PICs better control and ability to monitor fishing in the region through regulation of longliners and controls or outright bans on shark fishing within EEZs.

The number of FADs documented and recovered in the high seas and the amount of fishing with FADs taking place within EEZs emphasises the loopholes that still exist during the three-month FAD ban. As the market for sustainably-caught tuna continues to develop, and concerns about the impacts of FAD fishing and the subsequent bycatch of bigeye, yellowfin and other species, **the FAD ban must be extended to a year round ban** throughout the region. Greenpeace is working to expose the impacts of this devastating fishing method, and to pressure retailers and tuna brands into shifting their tuna sourcing to more responsible fishing methods such as pole-and-line or FAD-free purse seine fishing. This work supports efforts by PICs to increase the period of the FAD ban to six months and shift their fleets towards FAD-free operations, which take only a fraction of the bycatch compared to FAD fishing.



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# Defending Our Pacific

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Some of the crew of the *Esperanza* during the 2011  
'Defending Our Pacific' ship tour.

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Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organisation that acts to change attitudes and behaviour, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace.

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