Established in December 8, 2000, the Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT) represents all stakeholders in tuna fisheries, including major tuna fishing operators all over the world, as well as traders, distributors and consumers in Japan.

OPRT members and registered vessels   (as of Mar 2025)

Member Organizations	Number of registered vessels
Producers	
– Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Association	
– National Ocean Tuna Fishery Association (Japan) (Withdrew from OPRT on Mar. 31, 2025)	131
– National Offshore Tuna Fisheries Association (Japan)	
– Taiwan Tuna Association	317
– Korea Overseas Fisheries Association (Tuna Longline Fisheries Committee)	104
– Philippine International Tuna Longline Association	6
– Indonesia Tuna Association (ASTUIN)	8
– China Overseas Fisheries Association	219
– FUNDATUNA (Ecuador)	7
– Deepsea Fisheries Management Ltd. of Republic of Seychelles	46
– Federated States of Micronesia National Offshore Fisheries Association	3
– Nareau Tuna Boat Owners Association Inc. of Republic of Kiribati	0
– Marshall Islands Tuna Fisheries Association	0
– Ming Dar Fishery (Vanuatu) Co., Ltd.	35
– Cook Islands Commercial Fishing Association Inc.	0
– Kenya Tuna Fisheries Association	0
Total	876
Supporting Members	0
Grand Total	**876**
Trade and Distributor Organizations	
– Japan Fish Wholesalers' Association	
– All Japan Fish Brokers Union	
– All Japan Fish Retailers Union	
Consumers	
–National Liaison Committee of Consumers' Organizations (Japan)	
Public Corporation	
–Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (Japan)	
–Japan Fisheries Association	
–Japan Fisheries Resource Conservation Association	
Total members	**22**

✳ Malaysia Tuna Association joined the OPRT as a full member on April 1, 2025. Therefore, the total number of full members of the OPRT is 23 as of June 19, 2025.

OPRT<Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries>
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Japan is the world's largest consumer of tuna.

The international community expects Japan to fulfill its responsibilities for conservation and management of tuna resources.

Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations

ICCAT
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

WCPFC
The western and Central Pacific Commission

ICCAT
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

IOTC
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

CCSBT
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

IATTC
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Tunas are highly migratory fish species. Article 64 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1984), calls on the States to cooperate directly or through appropiate international organizations to ensure conservation and promoting the objective of optimum utilization of the tuna species throughout the world.

OPRT
Promotes responsible tuna fisheries for ensuring sustainable use of tuna resources.

OPRT members jointly and cooperatively work towards the development of responsible tuna fisheries in line with international and social responsibility. Since its inception,OPRT has been making steady progress towards achieving this goal.

aims at

▶ Eliminating IUU Tuna Fisheries
▶ Reducing Excess Fishing Capacity
▶ International Cooperation Among Fishermen
▶ Reducing By-catch

OPRT Activities

■ Registration of Responsible Tuna Fishing Vessels in OPRT

More than 90% of large scale tuna longline vessels in the world are registered in OPRT to conduct tuna fishing in responsible manner.

■ Elimination of IUU Fishing

OPRT took full action in eliminating the IUU/FOC tuna longline fishing vessels. (from 2001 to 2003, OPRT, with cooperation of the tuna fishing industries in Japan and Chinese Taipei, scraped 39 and sank 4 IUU/FOC tuna longline fishing vessels.)

In order to prevent IUU fishing, OPRT continuously monitors the tuna production in the world through analysis of data on tuna imported to Japan, the positive list of regional fisheries management organizations, etc.

IUU : illegal, unreported and unregulated

FOC : flag of convenience
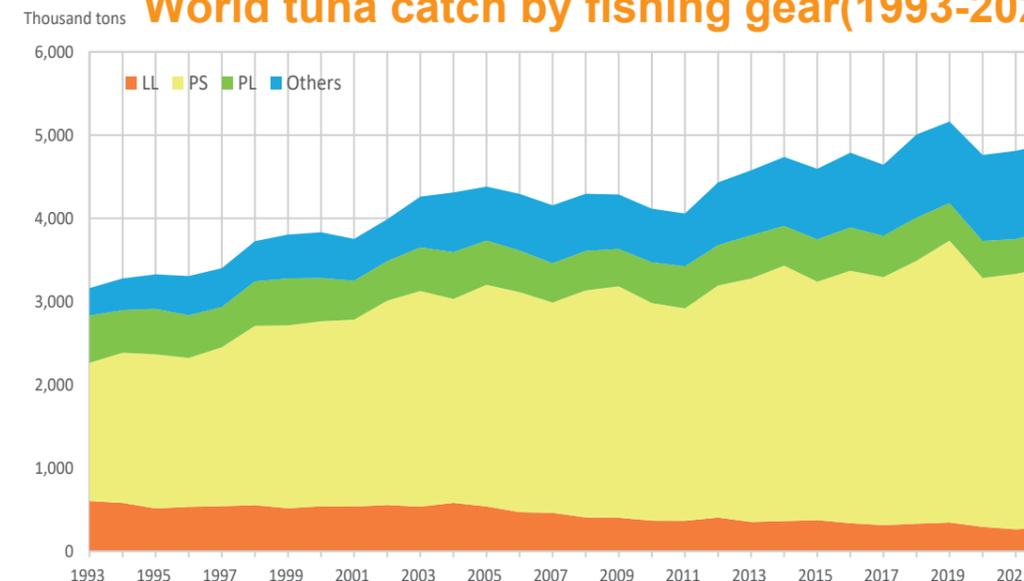
■ Supporting Positve List Scheme

OPRT promoted the early implementation of the Positive List Scheme. Following the adoption of this Scheme by ICCAT in 2002 it was adopted by all other regional tuna fisheries management organizations, including IATTC, IOTC, CCSBT, and WCPFC. With the affirmation by FAO/Committee on Fisheries in 2003 on the need for the global implementation of the Positive List Scheme has been working to eliminate tunas caught by IUU fishing vessels from the markets.

■ Reducing Excess Fishing Capacity

OPRT is working to reduce excess fishing capacity of tuna longline fishing. However, to ensure sustainable tuna resources, appropriate measures need to be taken with regard to other tuna fishing methods, such as, large-scale purse seining and FADs (Fish Aggregating Devices).

＊ At the World Tuna Longline Fisheries Conference in August 2003, OPRT members jointly declared to take effective measures respectively and jointly to restrict tuna longline fishing capacity on a global and sustainable level.

World tuna catch by fishing gear(1993-2022）

Thousand tons

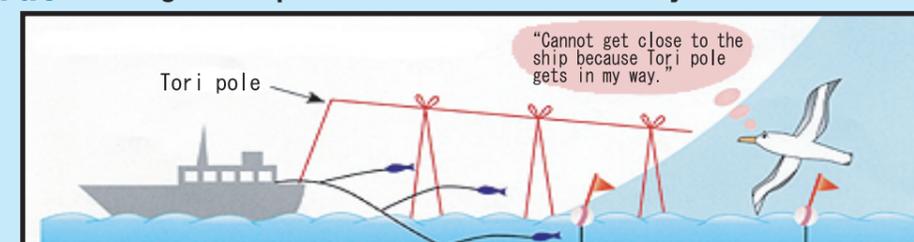A large increase in the catch of tunas caught by purse seine fishing.

Note:Total of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas.

Source : IATTC : Tunas, stocks and ecosystem in the eastern Pacific Ocean in 2022
WCPFC : Tuna Fishery Yearbook 2022 (November 2023)
IOTC : Best scientific estimates of nominal catch data for IOTC species (used for stock assessment purposes and fully disaggregated by species and gear)Summary_Resume (DATASETS-2023-11-22)
ICCAT : Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) last report 「Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics(October 2023)」
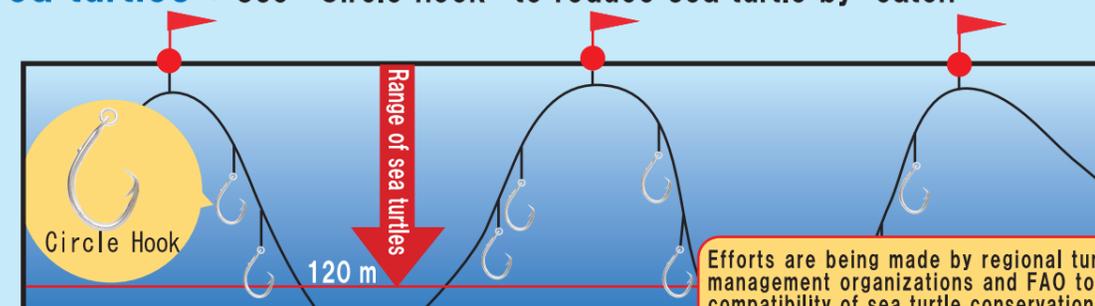
■ Reducing by-catch

OPRT promotes responsible fishing technologies to reduce by-catch from tuna longline fishing e.g. seabirds and sea turtles

▶ Seabirds : Using 'Tori pole' to reduce seabird by-catch

▶ Sea turtles : Use 'Circle hook' to reduce sea turtle by-catch

Efforts are being made by regional tuna fisheries management organizations and FAO to ensure the compatibility of sea turtle conservation and fishery sustainability.

▶ Sharks
OPRT encourages its member fishing vessels to minimize by-catch and encourages full utilization of sharks.

■ Promoting International Cooperation Among Fishermen

OPRT promotes international cooperation among fishermen for ensuring implementation of management measures and sustainable use of tuna resources.