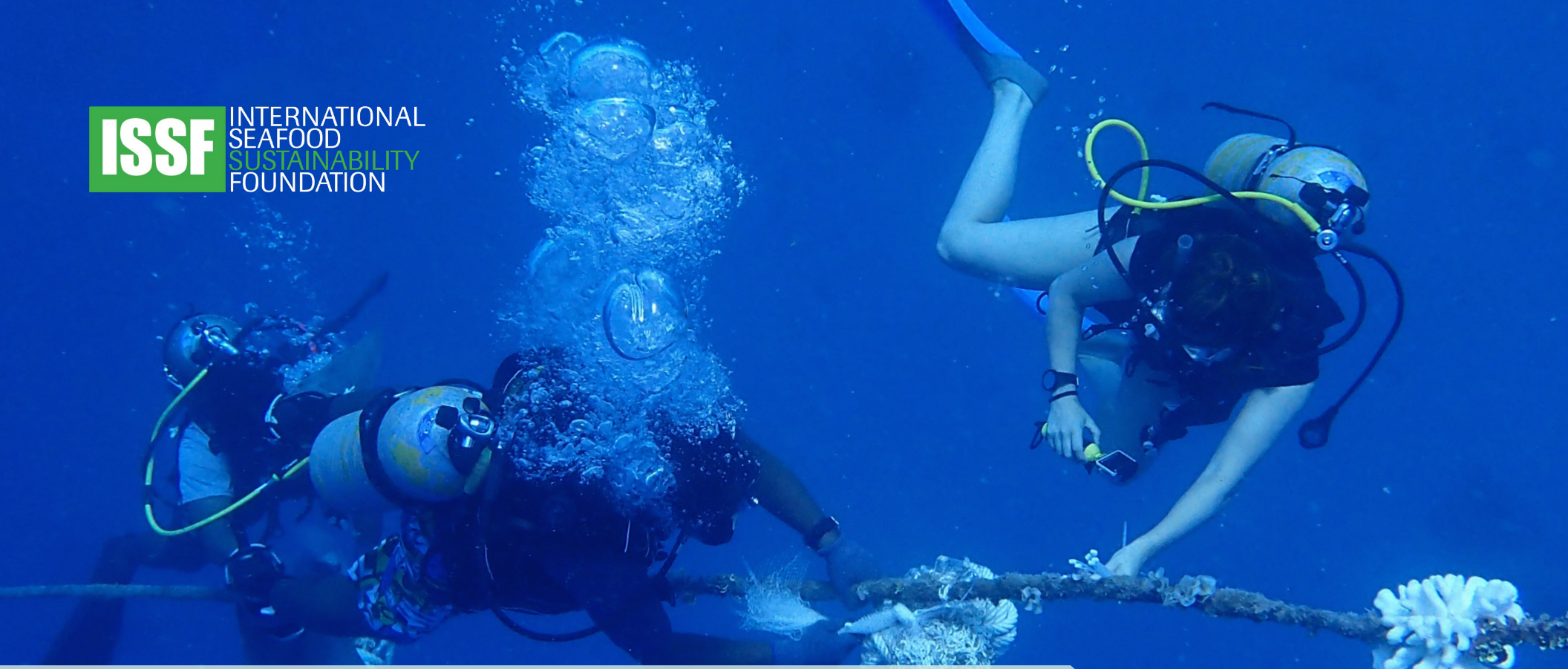

ISSF INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION

Science Driving Measurable Progress

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Published **April 2026**

iss-foundation.org | info@iss-foundation.org

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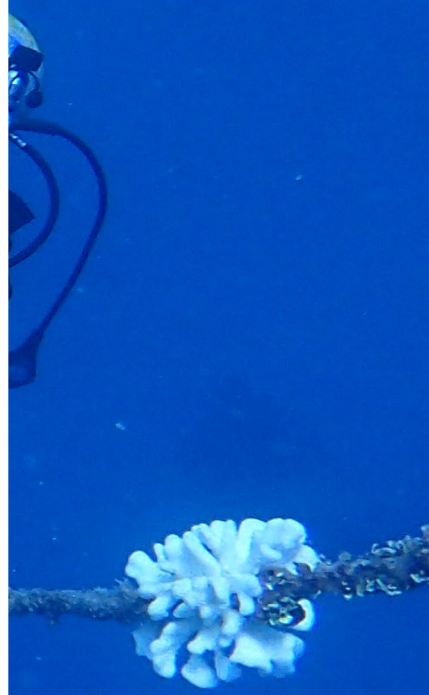
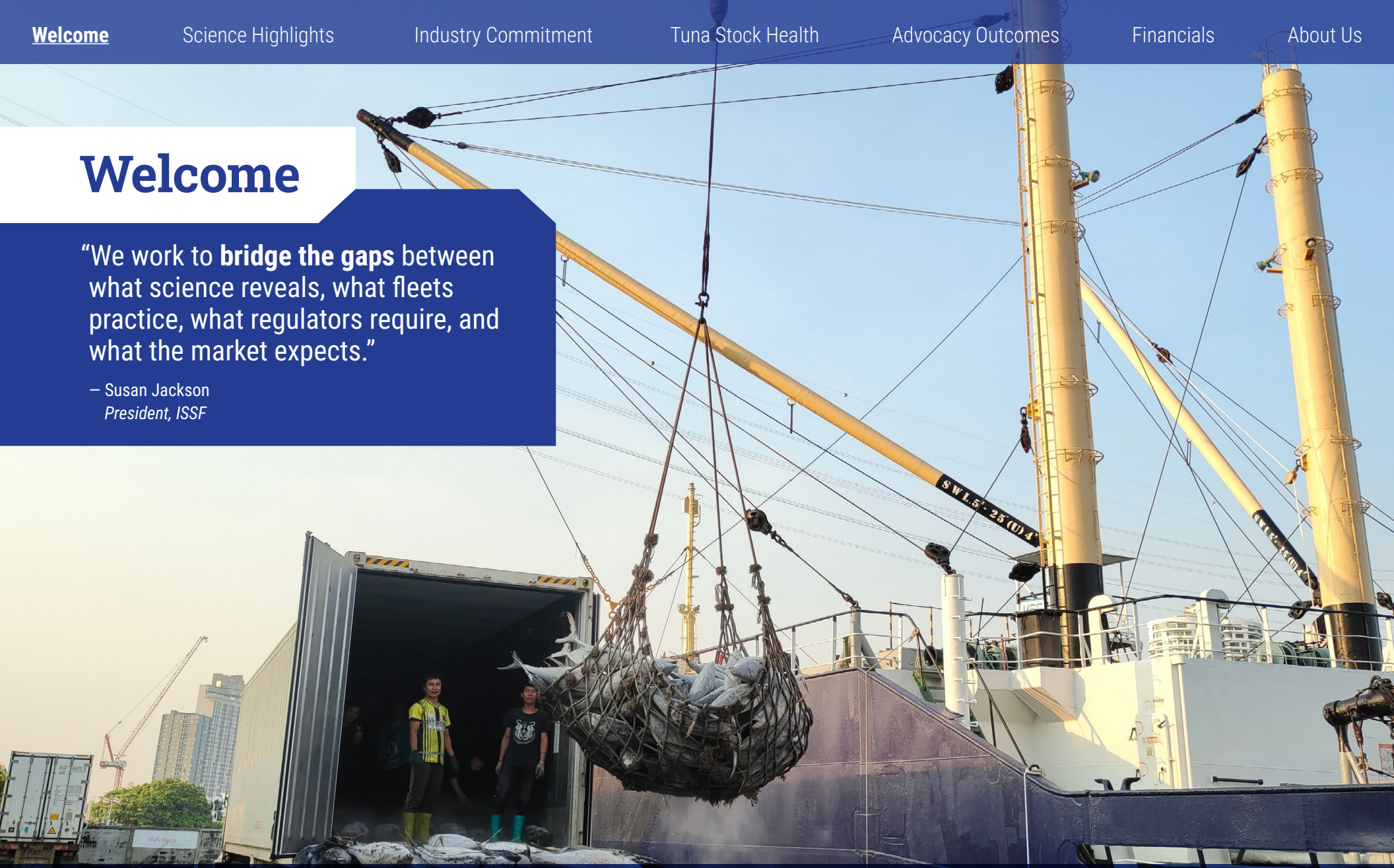


Cover image: ISSF Senior Scientist Dr. Gala Moreno and colleagues from the Maldives Research Institute tested biodegradable rope materials for jelly-FAD designs. Photo: Riyaz Jaurharee

Welcome

"We work to **bridge the gaps** between what science reveals, what fleets practice, what regulators require, and what the market expects."

— Susan Jackson
President, ISSF



IN THIS SECTION:

Photo: Roylan Tkg / Shutterstock.com

Science Driving Measurable Progress

Susan Jackson | President, ISSF

Dear Friends,

When eight progressive seafood companies, scientists, and environmental leaders joined me in founding ISSF in 2009, we set out to do something ambitious: build a *science-driven* sustainability organization that not only understands the *challenges* facing tuna fisheries but also helps to *solve* them.

Seventeen years later, that mission remains ISSF's foundation. We translate scientific insights into practical sustainability recommendations for seafood companies, tuna fleets, and policymakers.

As you will see in this year's annual report, our focus on outcomes is delivering measurable progress in tuna conservation and fisheries management worldwide. As one indicator of ISSF's value and impact, our research partners contributed nearly $12 million in 2025 to support coordinated science projects.

TURNING INSIGHTS INTO ACTION

ISSF is a think tank, field lab, and influence organization rolled into one. We work to bridge the gaps between what science reveals, what fleets practice, what regulators require, and what the market expects.

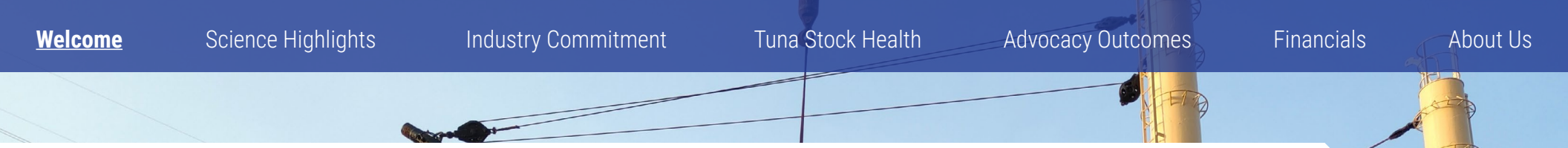
Our team works side by side with fishing crews to test bycatch mitigation techniques under real-world conditions. We develop tools that help conservation-minded seafood buyers to locate the vessels that are following best practices. And we help equip government and Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) policymakers with the best available *independent* science.

We also prioritize transparency and accountability. ISSF tracks key indicators such as tuna stock health and fleet capacity, benchmarks RFMO measures against scientific advice, and publicly reports on industry adherence to our conservation measures. Through our ProActive Vessel

"Our focus on *outcomes* is delivering measurable progress in tuna conservation and fisheries management worldwide."

— Susan Jackson

Photo: gdefilip / Shutterstock.com



Register (PVR) and Vessels in Other Sustainability Initiatives (VOSI) lists, we provide accessible, verified information on vessels committed to sustainable fishing.

MEASURING SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS

Our 2025 results show clear progress and meaningful impact:

- **Healthier tuna stocks:** As measured by our "Status of the Stocks" report, nearly 100% of the global tuna catch now comes from stocks not experiencing overfishing, up from 71% in 2011. In the Indian Ocean, reductions in yellowfin catches — called for in ISSF Conservation Measure 1.3 — facilitated stock rebuilding.
- **High industry compliance:** ISSF participating companies achieved 99.62% conformance with our 33 conservation measures, as verified by independent auditors.
- **Strong scientific influence on RFMO policy:** Our scientists participated in RFMO annual meetings and 36 RFMO science meetings, producing 28 working documents — in addition to ISSF technical reports and peer-reviewed publications — to support stronger RFMO measures on harvest strategies, electronic monitoring, and observer coverage.
- **Enhanced tools and outreach:** We hosted 35 skipper workshops, updated our sustainable fishing guidebook for purse-seine fishers in 10 languages, and co-authored a new FAO e-learning course on management procedures for fisheries managers.
- **Expanded vessel participation:** More than 500 additional vessels registered on the PVR and VOSI last year, and VOSI began tracking electronic monitoring adoption.
- **Broader market engagement:** A record 73 retailers and food-service companies now reference ISSF tools and conservation measures in their tuna sourcing policies.
- **Closer NGO alignment:** ISSF's environmental NGO peers align with our science-based positions about 90% of the time.

While I celebrate these hard-earned outcomes, we need *all* sustainable fishing stakeholders to stand up for better fisheries management and ocean protections.

INVESTING STRATEGICALLY IN STRONGER TUNA FISHERIES

With that in mind, consider how you can partner with us — whether by advancing science, reducing fishing's environmental impact, or promoting sustainability commitments across the seafood supply chain. We welcome your perspectives and are ready to reinforce your efforts with our data, tools, programs, and expertise.

I especially encourage tuna processors, traders, and marketers of any size to explore ISSA membership, empowering your business to access third-party and transparency audits; align with NGO and market expectations; and directly support solution-oriented science, fishery improvements to earn Marine Stewardship Council certification, and transparent vessel monitoring through the PVR and VOSI.

Thank you for your interest in our work and your commitment to sustainable tuna fisheries.

Susan Jackson
President, ISSF

JOIN THE MOVEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE TUNA

Companies across the seafood supply chain can support ISSF's work by joining the International Seafood Sustainability Association (ISSA) — our sister organization — to become ISSF participating companies.

ISSA membership powers ISSF's science, innovation, and advocacy — helping improve the long-term health of global tuna fisheries and the ecosystems they depend on.

Participating companies help drive initiatives such as:

- **Science-based conservation measures** that safeguard tuna stocks and support responsible fisheries management
- **Transparency and accountability tools,** including the ISSF ProActive Vessel Register (PVR) and Vessels in Other Sustainability Initiatives (VOSI)
- **On-the-water research and innovation,** such as bycatch mitigation techniques and biodegradable FAD designs
- **Industry collaboration and market engagement** that advances sustainable sourcing, MSC certification pathways, and Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs)

ISSA members publicly report their performance against ISSF conservation measures through independent audits — demonstrating transparency, credibility, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

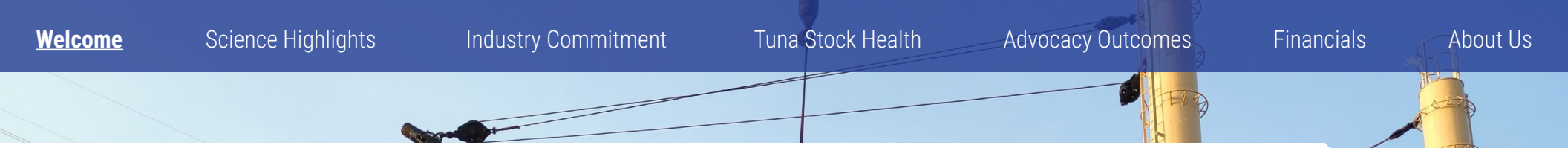
Joining ISSA is more than a commitment to sustainability — it is a strategic investment in the future of responsible tuna fisheries.

Photo: Roylan Tkg / Shutterstock.com

EXPLORE ISSA MEMBERSHIP

Visit the ISSA site to learn more and apply

Reach out with questions



2025 At a Glance

SCIENCE

- **36 tuna RFMO scientific meetings attended by ISSF, PLUS:**
  - 10 peer-reviewed publications
  - 12 ISSF technical reports
  - 28 Tuna RFMO working documents
- **31 coordinated research projects** on ecosystem impacts; tuna stock health; monitoring, control and surveillance; and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
- **35 in-person purse-seine and longline skippers' workshops** totaling 663 participants
- **1,138 fishers** completed the ISSF Skippers' Guidebooks to Sustainable Fishing Practices

VERIFICATION

- **1,213 vessels** listed on the Vessels in Other Sustainability Initiatives (VOSI) *(+405 from 2024)*
- **1,839 vessels** listed on the ProActive Vessel Register (PVR) *(+100 from 2024)*
- **99.62% ISSF participating company conformance rate,** marking the 10th consecutive year above 90% and a sustained increase from ~80% in 2015

INFLUENCE

- **73 retailers and foodservice operators** incorporated ISSF conservation measures, participation, and/or the PVR/VOSI in their sourcing policies
- **~90% alignment** between NGO advocacy positions and ISSF RFMO priorities
- Engaged with **75% of active purse-seine fisheries improvement projects** (FIPs) and **60% of longline** FIPs
- **Completed 108 submissions to 70 fisheries** – including 64 MSC-certified fisheries and 6 under assessment

Science Highlights

We focus on applied science — translating our research findings into practical improvements for managing tuna fisheries more sustainably.

FAD manufacturers in China at a Jelly-FAD construction workshop, preceding trials at sea by Chinese fleets, led by SPC (The Pacific Community) and ISSF. Photo: Gala Moreno

IN THIS SECTION:

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)

ADVANCING ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (EAFM)

Long-term tuna fishery sustainability depends on examining the marine ecosystem in which tuna live — not just tracking the status of individual stocks.

In 2025, ISSF advanced this next phase of fisheries science by more strongly integrating an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) into our recommendations for tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) processes.

EXPANDING SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

EAFM expands traditional stock assessments by incorporating ecosystem and climate indicators — such as predator-prey dynamics, bycatch interactions, oceanographic conditions, and climate-driven changes — into scientific advice. Last year, ISSF scientists contributed to this transition by participating in RFMO scientific meetings, developing working papers, and collaborating with global research partners to improve how ecosystem and climate information can inform management decisions.

This work builds on ISSF's long-standing research on bycatch mitigation, fish aggregating device (FAD) management, and the broader ecosystem impacts of commercial tuna fishing. In 2025, our coordinated research initiatives and technical engagement across RFMOs, helped to move ecosystem considerations from concept toward practical application in harvest strategies and management procedures.

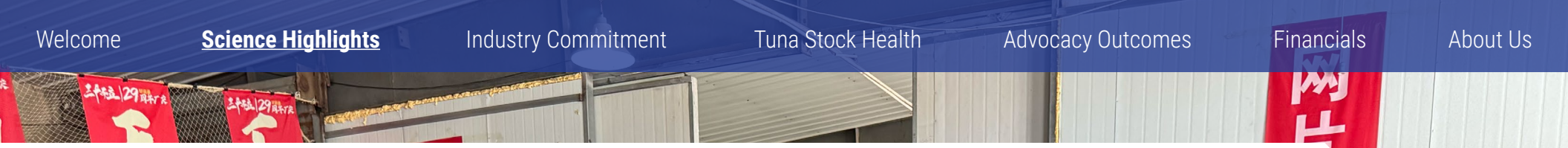
ALIGNING ACROSS OCEANS

At the same time, ISSF supported international collaboration through its role in the FAO-led Common Oceans Tuna Project, helping convene scientists and managers to align EAFM approaches across ocean regions and accelerate the development of ecosystem and climate indicators.

As RFMOs continue to incorporate ecosystem information into their advice and decision-making, ISSF's science is helping ensure that tuna fisheries management evolves to address not only target stock status but also the resilience of the ocean systems that sustain tuna.

ISSF Director of Science Dr. Hilario Murua participated in the 3rd Joint RFMO workshop on EAFM in Rome. Photo: ISSF

ISSF Director of Science Dr. Hilario Murua, ISSF Vice President of Policy Holly Koehler, and ISSF Senior Scientist Dr. Gala Moreno (L-R) at the IATTC meeting in Panama. Photo: Unknown



JELLY-FAD DESIGN WINS SEAFOOD INNOVATION AWARD

For years, ISSF scientists have been working alongside fishers to develop, test, and refine a more sustainable fish aggregating device (FAD) to reduce bycatch, ghost fishing, and ocean pollution in tuna fisheries.

In October 2025, the Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) recognized ISSF's new FAD design — the jelly-FAD — with its Responsible Seafood Innovation Award in the fisheries category.

GSA — an NGO that advances responsible seafood practices globally through education, advocacy, and demonstration — has sponsored the awards since 2012 to celebrate fresh solutions to some of the fishing industry's toughest challenges.

Preventing Entanglement & Marine Pollution

Inspired by the neutral buoyancy of jellyfish, the jelly-FAD is a lighter, simpler structure than conventional FAD designs — and earlier biodegradable designs — that have been used to attract tuna. Working alongside tuna fishers, ISSF scientists tested jelly-FADs' efficacy and durability in all oceans.

Jelly-FADs are made without netting to reduce the risk of shark and other marine animal entanglement. They also are nearly 100% biodegradable, assembled with bamboo, cotton, organic fibers, and other sustainable and affordable materials, many of which can be locally sourced. The design reduces structural stress from wind and ocean currents, thereby extending its lifespan.

Streamlining FAD Features

A jelly-FAD — with a submerged raft, a three-dimensional bottom drogue, and flotation buoys — is designed to drift slowly in the open ocean. This reduces the likelihood of it leaving the fishing grounds, thereby helping to prevent FAD loss, abandonment, and the resulting marine litter.

As ISSF's *Jelly-FAD Construction Guide* demonstrates, tuna fishers do not need to have unusual materials, special equipment, or advanced carpentry skills to build these FADs. Fleets can even customize jelly-FADs for their unique needs.

Today, tuna fleets worldwide are deploying jelly-FADs successfully to make their catch, and ISSF continues to refine the design with fisher input and also research additional biodegradable natural materials.

Dr. Gala Moreno. a senior scientist at ISSF, presented ISSF's jelly-FAD research at the GSA awards conference in Cartagena, Colombia. Photo: ClickSalinas

FIND OUT MORE

Responsible Seafood Innovation Awards

ISSF *Jelly-FAD Construction Guide*

Industry Commitment

"Our compliance program for participating companies and vessels, which is third-party audited and verified, goes beyond scorecards. It fosters transparency, with public reporting serving as a tool for accountability and a catalyst for industry-wide progress."

— Susan Jackson
President, ISSF

IN THIS SECTION:

Photo: Verno Pattalala / Shutterstock.com

ISSF Conservation Measures

Providing science-based recommendations alone cannot drive tuna fishery change. Achieving conservation objectives requires a consistent implementation of best practices across fleets, companies, and supply chains.

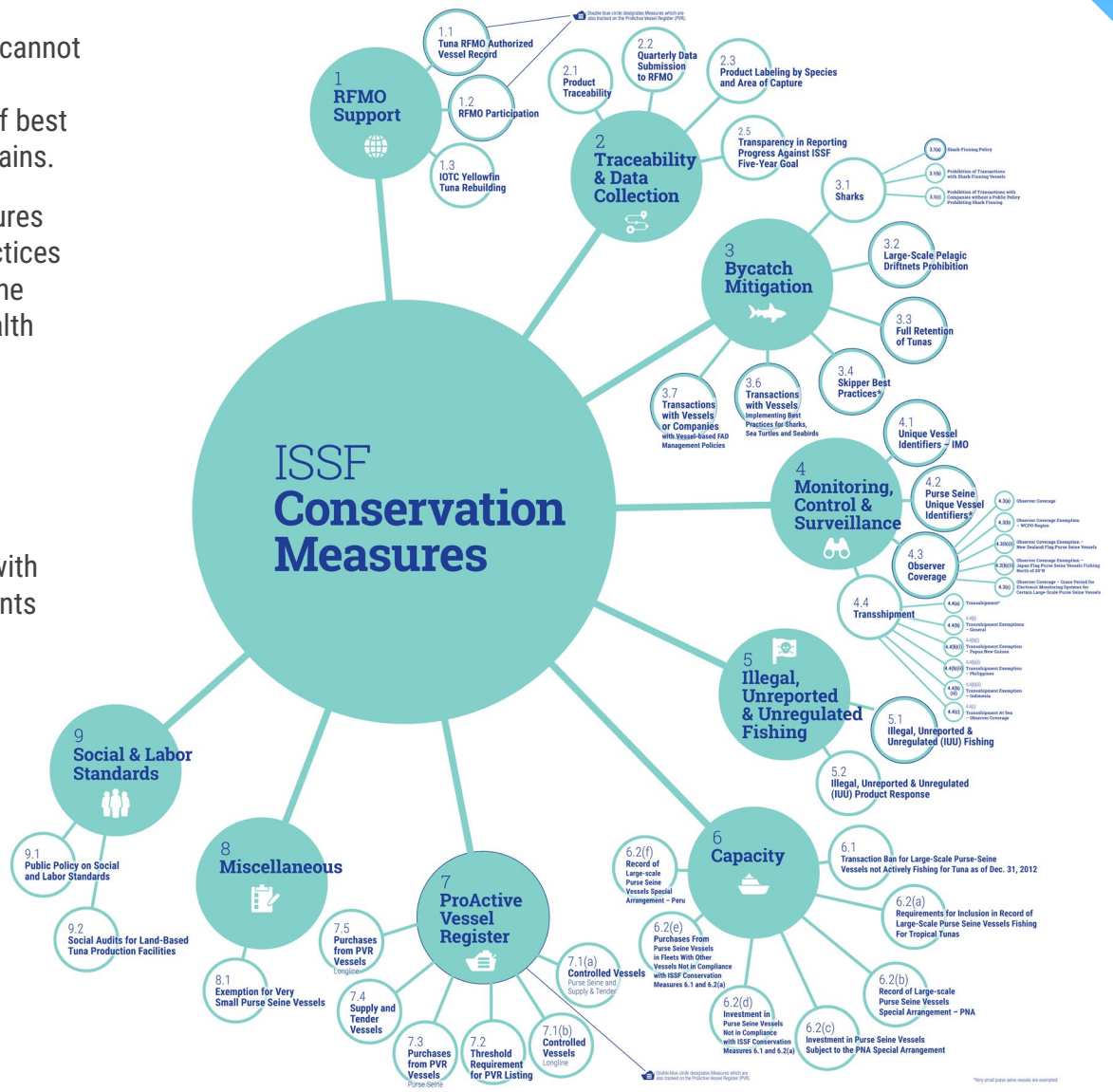
Since 2009, ISSF has adopted conservation measures to promote and accelerate sustainability best practices for processors, traders, marketers, and others in the seafood industry — and improve the long-term health of tuna fisheries.

ISSF expects the tuna industry to demonstrate and deepen its commitment to sustainable fishing and responsible seafood sourcing. From bycatch mitigation to product traceability, each ISSF participating company has committed to comply with ISSF conservation measures and other commitments designed to drive positive change — and to do so transparently through third-party audits.

FIND OUT MORE

ISSF Conservation Measures

Download the full infographic



As of 12/31/2025

ISSF Participating Company Compliance

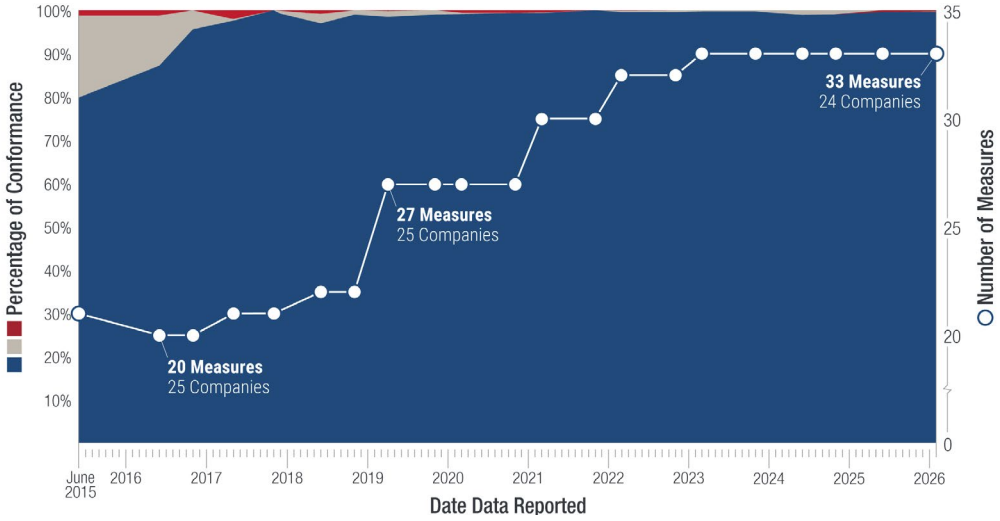
To ensure our conservation measures are well implemented in practice, ISSF requires independent, third-party assessment of each company's performance.

Each ISSF participating company commits to comply with all applicable ISSF conservation measures — which cover everything from vessel activity to product labeling — and be independently audited on their operational transparency and compliance.

MRAG Americas conducts independent third-party auditing to assess and report compliance based on a rigorous compliance audit protocol. Each company's compliance report is public on the ISSF website to ensure transparency and accountability.

In 2025, companies made continued progress in conformance with ISSF conservation measures. Compliance reporting also reflected the expanded scope of ISSF conservation measures, with companies reporting performance on additional requirements related to responsible sourcing, vessel monitoring and transparency, and strengthened traceability expectations. These audits provide the seafood supply chain — from fleets to retailers — with verified assurance that participating companies are meeting their sustainability commitments.

CHANGE OVER TIME AGGREGATE COMPLIANCE



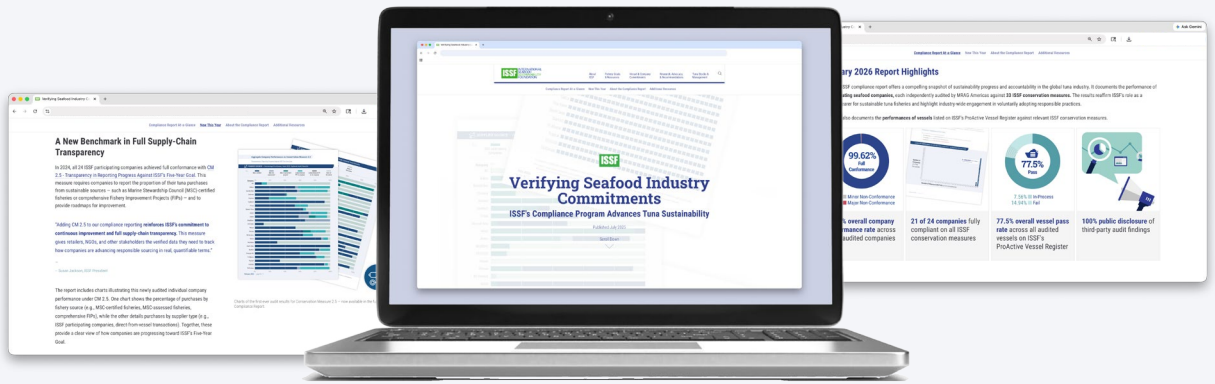
All companies, as reported February 2026

2025 AUDIT RESULTS

As reported February 2026
All companies; across all measures

FIND OUT MORE

- Update to ISSF Annual Conservation Measures & ProActive Vessel Register Compliance Report (February 2026)
- Individual Company Compliance Audit Reports
- ISSA Compliance Policy



VERIFYING SEAFOOD INDUSTRY COMMITMENTS

This interactive ISSF Web feature highlights independently audited compliance results across ISSF participating companies — showing both individual performance and aggregate progress over time.

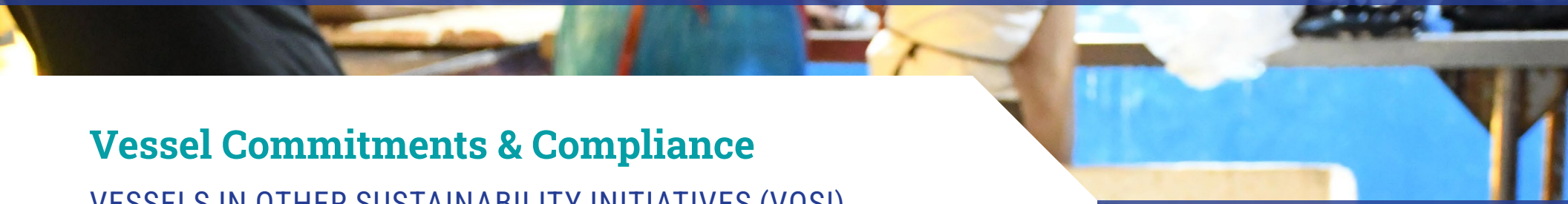
It also includes consolidated data on vessel-level compliance through the ProActive Vessel Register (PVR), which tracks alignment with key ISSF conservation measures and is independently audited by MRAG Americas.

Together, these insights demonstrate how transparency, third-party verification, and implementation of best practices are driving measurable improvements across the global tuna supply chain.

FIND OUT MORE

Verifying Seafood Industry Commitments: ISSF's Compliance Program Advances Tuna Sustainability

Photo: ultramansk / Shutterstock.com



Vessel Commitments & Compliance

VESSELS IN OTHER SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES (VOSI)

Beyond company-level reporting on conservation-measure performance, ISSF also facilitates the assessment and verification of sustainable fishing practices at the vessel level.

ISSF's Vessels in Other Sustainability Initiatives (VOSI) continues to expand as a key tool for verified vessel-level transparency across global tuna fisheries.

The VOSI is a searchable, online resource that compiles data on vessels demonstrating implementation of sustainable fishing practices beyond those reflected on ISSF's ProActive Vessel Register (PVR) online vessel list. All reported practices on the VOSI are independently verified through third-party auditing by MRAG Americas, ensuring that vessel-level commitments are credible, consistent, and transparent to stakeholders across the seafood supply chain.

In 2025, ISSF redesigned the VOSI platform, significantly expanding the range of best practices tracked — particularly for longline fisheries — to reflect evolving science and industry expectations. New fields focus on reducing bycatch of vulnerable species and include the use of circle hooks, finfish bait, and monofilament branch lines, as well as landing sharks with fins naturally attached and avoiding the use of shark lines.

The platform continues to track key purse-seine–related practices, such as the use of non-entangling FADs; provision of FAD buoy position and echosounder data; participation in biodegradable FAD trials and FAD recovery initiatives; and engagement in MSC-certified fisheries, fishery improvement projects (FIPs), and MSC Improvement Programs.

The updated interface enhances usability and accessibility, allowing stakeholders to search and filter vessels based on sustainability attributes and to view VOSI data alongside PVR compliance information.

PVR VESSEL COMPLIANCE

In addition to tracking ISSF participating company results, our annual compliance report shows how ProActive Vessel Register-listed vessels performed in aggregate on 12 applicable ISSF conservation measures.

Update to ISSF Annual Conservation Measures & ProActive Vessel Register Compliance Report (February 2026)

PROACTIVE VESSEL REGISTER (PVR)

Tuna vessels of all gear types can apply to join the PVR and be audited on their compliance with select sustainability measures that are directly linked to ISSF conservation measures.

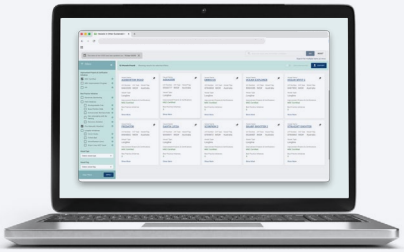
In addition to reporting ISSF participating companies' performance on ISSF conservation measures, the ISSF compliance report shows PVR vessels' aggregate compliance on relevant ISSF conservation measures. Individual vessel compliance information can be found on the PVR.

Together, these tools provide a more complete and verified picture of how vessels are implementing science-based best practices across all gears and ocean regions — helping markets, NGOs, and industry partners assess progress and drive continued improvement.

APPLY FOR VESSEL REGISTRATION ON THE PVR & VOSI

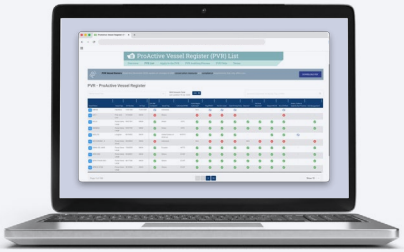
For vessels that follow best practices in sustainable tuna fishing, registration on ISSF vessel lists can help to showcase their conservation commitments — and increase their visibility to seafood-sourcing companies and other important stakeholders.

We invite vessel owners to learn more about the PVR and VOSI, including to read the PVR Terms and Conditions. There are no fees to be registered. Registered vessels agree to undergo an annual third-party auditing process.



PVR Overview

PVR Application Form

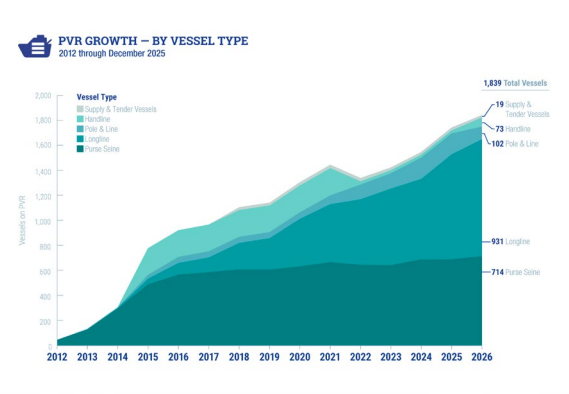


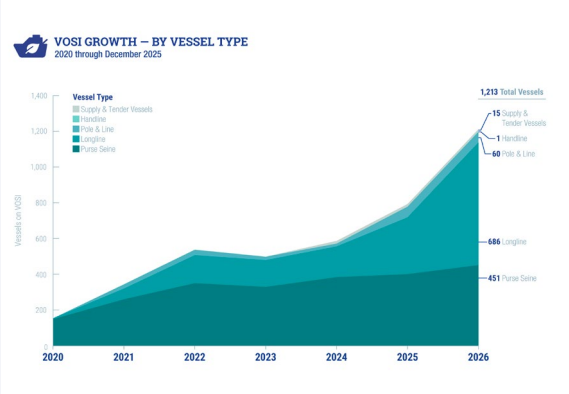
VOSI Overview

VOSI Application Form

VESSEL LIST GROWTH

- At the end of 2025, the ProActive Vessel Register (PVR) listed an all-time-high 1,839 vessels — an increase of 100 from 2024 — representing 83% of large-scale tropical tuna purse-seine fishing vessel hold capacity globally.
- The Vessels in Other Sustainability Initiatives (VOSI) reached 1,213 vessel registrations, an increase of 405 vessels year over year, reflecting expanded tracking of best practices across fleets.
- Together, these tools demonstrate growing vessel-level transparency and implementation of ISSF conservation measures across global tuna fisheries.





Download the PVR growth infographic

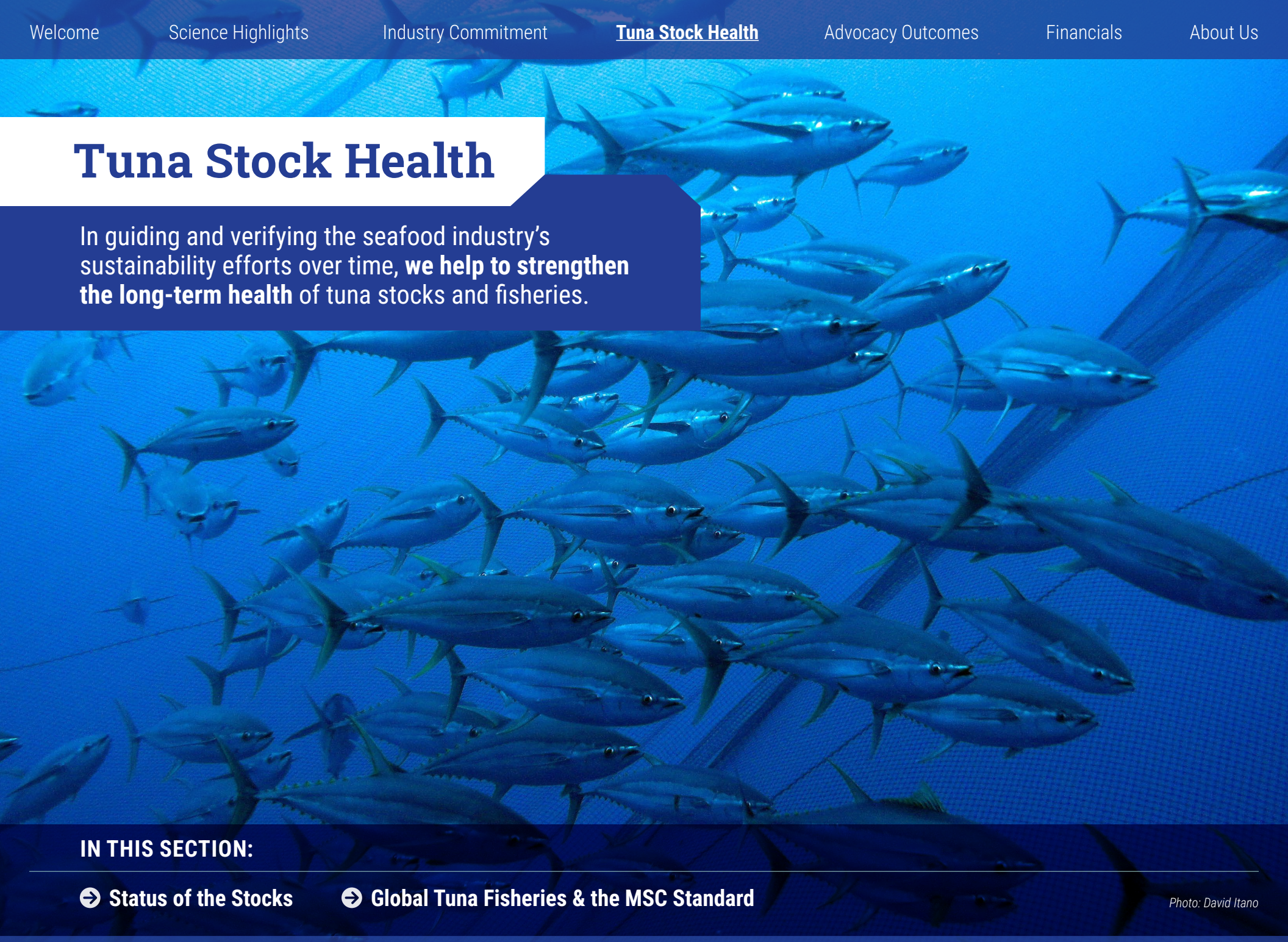
Download the VOSI growth infographic

FIND OUT MORE

Vessel & Company Commitments

Tuna Stock Health

In guiding and verifying the seafood industry's sustainability efforts over time, **we help to strengthen the long-term health** of tuna stocks and fisheries.



IN THIS SECTION:

Photo: David Itano

Status of the Stocks

Each year, ISSF publishes its Status of the Stocks report to provide stakeholders with an independent scientific overview of the health of the world's major commercial tuna stocks. The report evaluates 23 tuna stocks globally, using the latest abundance and fishing mortality estimates produced by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

ISSF's 2025 findings highlight the significant progress achieved in tuna conservation over the past decade through science-based fisheries management. Today, 97% of the global commercial tuna catch comes from stocks at healthy abundance levels, and nearly 100% comes from stocks not experiencing overfishing — a substantial improvement compared with earlier years of the report series.

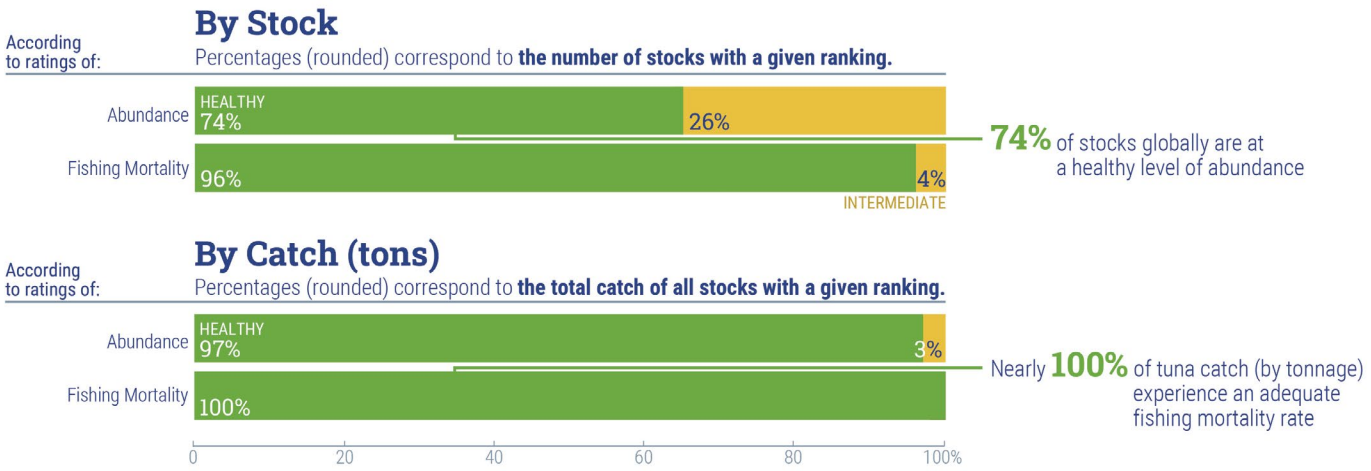
The report also examines how stocks are managed, including the use of reference points, harvest strategies, and management procedures, and is updated several times each year as new scientific assessments become available.

A complementary report, *Tuna Fisheries' Impacts on Non-Tuna Species and Other Environmental Aspects*, examines the environmental impact of tuna fishing on other marine species, or "bycatch."

To visualize current and historical data from our stock status report — on tuna stock health, tuna catch by fishing method, stock area, and species — use our Interactive Stock Status and Catch Tool. You can download and share the customized graphics you create.

DISTRIBUTION OF STOCKS OF MAJOR COMMERCIAL TUNAS

According to abundance ratings and fishing mortality ratings (As reported January 2026)



FIND OUT MORE

Interactive Stock Status and Catch Tool

Download the full infographic

Global Tuna Fisheries & the MSC Standard

Improvements in tuna stock health also enable tuna fisheries in all oceans to meet sustainability benchmarks, include certification the globally recognized Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainable seafood program.

Helping tuna fisheries to meet and maintain MSC sustainability criteria continues to be ISSF's ultimate objective. All of ISSF's work, including its tools and programs, supports MSC certification and fishery improvement more broadly.

ISSF publishes an independent report that evaluates and "scores" tuna stocks against MSC principles focused on stock status and management effectiveness (Principle 1 and Principle 3, respectively). Read more about the MSC certification process and fisheries improvement on our website.

SUPPORTING MSC FISHERY CERTIFICATION

As an NGO partner, ISSF supports the MSC certification process in many ways — particularly by providing expert feedback on fisheries under assessment.

In 2025, ISSF scientists completed 108 submissions across 70 fisheries (64 certified, 6 under assessment) on Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification and assessment processes. Of these submissions, 31 were addressed to Announcement Comment Draft reports (ACDR), 22 to Public Comment Draft reports (PCDR), and the remaining 55 to Annual Surveillance audits.

ISSF comments span all phases of the MSC certification process and address issues such as:

- Harvest strategies for tuna species
- Implementation and verification of Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) management best practices
- Tuna longline fisheries best practices
- Efficacy of mitigation measures for bycatch reduction
- Improvement of observer coverage, monitoring, and traceability
- Ensuring shark finning is not taking place

ISSF input also includes recommended fishery advocacy actions to tuna RFMOs — such as advancing harvest strategies — that MSC-certified fisheries could include in their Client Action Plans to strengthen sustainability performance.

Advocacy Outcomes

To support continuous improvements in tuna fisheries worldwide, **we advocate science-based policies** at the RFMO level.

IN THIS SECTION:

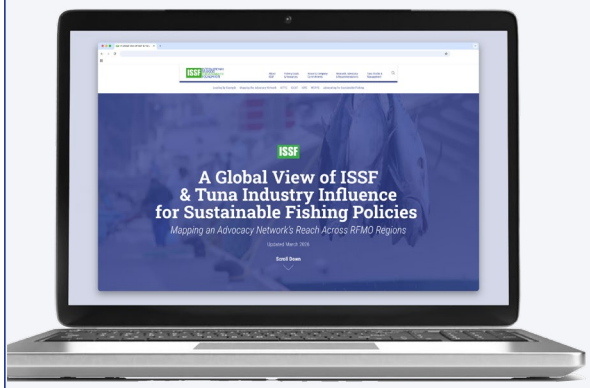
- **Policy Recommendations to RFMOs**
- **Tuna Sustainability Market Forums**

Photo: Uladzimir Navumenka / Shutterstock.com

Policy Recommendations to RFMOs

Our advocacy priorities include:

- Strengthened RFMO member compliance processes, including greater follow-up and transparency in these processes to ensure full implementation of all adopted measures
- Implementation of rigorous harvest strategies, including harvest control rules (HCRs) and reference points
- Science-based FAD management measures, requiring the use of both non-entangling FAD designs with no netting and biodegradable materials, and adopting FAD marking guidelines and tracking and recovery policies
- Adoption of best-practice bycatch mitigation for sea turtles, cetaceans, sharks and rays, seabirds, and effective shark conservation and management measures, including a fins-naturally attached requirement without exceptions for sharks
- Strengthened MCS measures, including tightening the regulation of at-sea transshipment; improving vessel monitoring systems; increasing observer coverage on fishing vessels and carriers through wider use of modern technologies, such as EM/ER; and strengthening port State measures
- Effective management of fleet capacity, including establishing mechanisms that support developing coastal state engagement in the fishery



GLOBAL INFLUENCE NETWORK

We developed a Web feature that visualizes the locations and impact of ISSF participating companies and other "influencer" groups advocating for sustainable RFMO fishing policies.

A Global View of ISSF & Tuna Industry Influence for Sustainable Fishing Policies

NGO ADVOCACY ALIGNMENT

Our analysis of approximately 50 environmental NGOs' statements showed they were aligned about 90% of the time in 2025 with ISSF's advocacy priorities for the four tropical-tuna RFMOs.

Aligned collective advocacy to RFMOs with partner NGOs has increased steadily overall since 2016.

ISSF RFMO Priorities

TUNA SUSTAINABILITY MARKET FORUMS

ISSF's science-based recommendations are most effective when they are reinforced across the full seafood value chain — from scientific advice to RFMO decision-making to market adoption.

In 2025, ISSF continued to strengthen this connection by deepening engagement with retailers, food-service companies, and NGO partners, helping translate technical progress into practical, credible sustainability approaches.

We convened targeted Tuna Sustainability Market Forums in Madrid and London, bringing together retailers, seafood companies, and environmental organizations to discuss progress in tuna fisheries, priority RFMO actions, and how tools such as the ProActive Vessel Register (PVR) and Vessels in Other Sustainability Initiatives (VOSI) can support transparency and informed decision-making. These forums created space for direct dialogue across sectors, reinforcing shared expectations and highlighting the role of verified vessel practices in supporting market confidence.

Strengthening Market Confidence

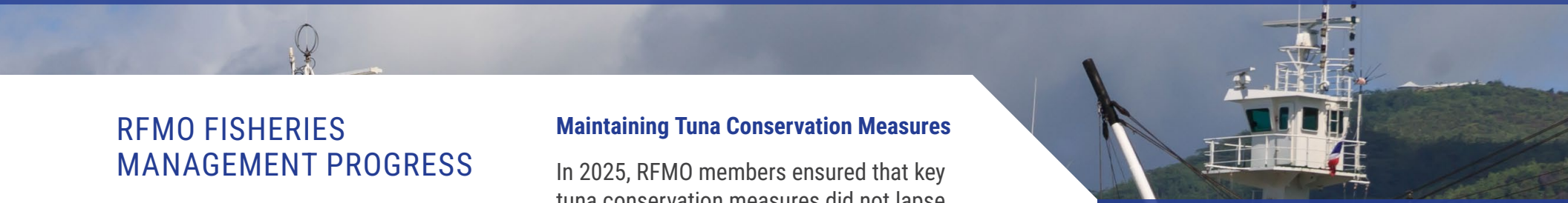
This engagement occurred alongside continued growth in market alignment. In 2025, 73 retailers and foodservice operators globally referenced ISSF, its participating companies, conservation measures, and/or vessel transparency tools in their public sustainability policies or commitments, including three new policy adoptions.

At the same time, alignment among environmental NGOs with ISSF's RFMO priorities reached about 90%, reflecting increasing consistency in advocacy messaging across the sector.

Through coordinated engagement with markets and NGOs, ISSF helps ensure that science-based recommendations are not only advanced within RFMOs but also supported by consistent signals from buyers and stakeholders — strengthening incentives for adoption, implementation, and verification across global tuna fisheries.

ISSF Market Outreach Associate Michael Cohen addressed guests at ISSF's Tuna Sustainability Market Forum in London in November 2025. Photo: Michael Cockerham

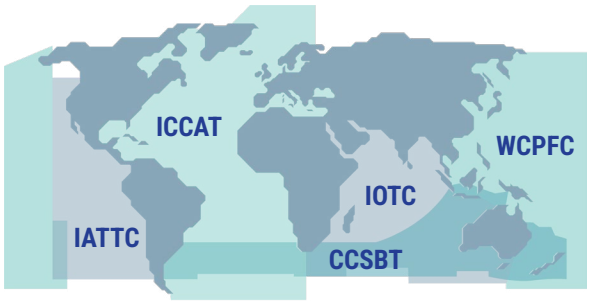
The Market Forum in Madrid in October 2025 featured ISSF presenters Susan Jackson, Dr. Victor Restrepo, and Michael Cohen as well as experts from the Marine Stewardship Council and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership. Photo: Lorena Recio



RFMO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRESS

Science-based advocacy contributed to continued management progress in 2025 across the world's tuna regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). ISSF scientists and policy experts participated in 36 RFMO scientific meetings and submitted 28 working documents, supporting governments with data, analysis, and best practices to strengthen fisheries management.

Across the four tropical-tuna RFMOs — IOTC, IATTC, ICCAT, and WCPFC — progress was made in strengthening conservation measures, implementing and advancing harvest strategies, strengthening bycatch protections, improving monitoring and observer systems, and reforming compliance frameworks. All RFMOs made progress on these issues.



Maintaining Tuna Conservation Measures

In 2025, RFMO members ensured that key tuna conservation measures did not lapse and, in some cases, were strengthened and continued to evolve toward science-based management.

- **IOTC** confirmed the results of the 2024 yellowfin stock assessment and implemented catch limits through management procedures for skipjack and bigeye tuna.
- **IATTC** extended its tropical tuna conservation measure for one year while maintaining Individual Vessel Threshold and Enhanced Monitoring Programs.

Advancing Harvest Strategies

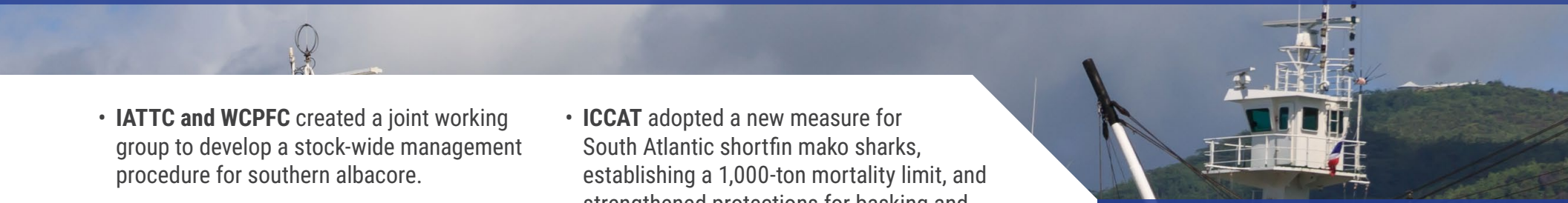
RFMOs continued to move toward harvest strategies — pre-agreed management rules that provide predictable, science-based management of fisheries.

- **ICCAT** adopted a management procedure for western Atlantic skipjack tuna.
- **WCPFC** adopted an interim management procedure for South Pacific albacore.
- **IOTC** adopted a management strategy evaluation framework for blue sharks and continued development of management procedures for albacore and yellowfin.

TRACK PARTICIPATING COMPANY ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

As part of ISSF's comprehensive advocacy initiatives, 13 ISSF participating seafood companies conducted their own direct outreach to governments and RFMOs last year — such as meeting government delegations and serving on national advisory committees — to urge policy action in line with ISSF science-based priorities.

Participating Company Advocacy



- **IATTC and WCPFC** created a joint working group to develop a stock-wide management procedure for southern albacore.

Improving FAD Management

Progress continued toward improved management of fish aggregating devices (FADs) and the transition toward more sustainable designs.

- **IOTC** advanced development of a regional FAD register, expected to become fully operational in 2026.
- **IATTC** introduced new requirements to maintain satellite buoy communications for drifting FADs in certain regions to support recovery efforts.
- **ICCAT** began the phase-in of biodegradable FAD requirements in 2025, with IATTC and IOTC beginning implementation in 2026.

Strengthening Bycatch Protections

Several RFMOs adopted or strengthened measures aimed at reducing impacts on sharks and other vulnerable species.

- **IOTC** adopted a revised shark measure including strengthened fins-naturally-attached requirements, restrictions on shark lines, and improved best practices for shark and mobulid ray handling.
- **IATTC** extended its silky shark conservation measure.
- **ICCAT** adopted a new measure for South Atlantic shortfin mako sharks, establishing a 1,000-ton mortality limit, and strengthened protections for basking and great white sharks.
- **WCPFC** adopted a revised seabird conservation measure expanding protections and mitigation requirements in high-risk areas.

Enhancing Monitoring, Control and Compliance

RFMOs continued efforts to strengthen compliance systems and monitoring frameworks.

- **IOTC** amended its transshipment rules to require newly authorized carrier vessels to be flagged to IOTC members and introduced improvements to its compliance framework.
- **IATTC** advanced elements of a multi-year work plan to improve responses to compliance infractions.
- **ICCAT** strengthened its port state measures and agreed to streamline elements of its compliance review process.
- **WCPFC** agreed to review its non-public data rules in 2026, laying groundwork for improved observer participation in compliance assessments.

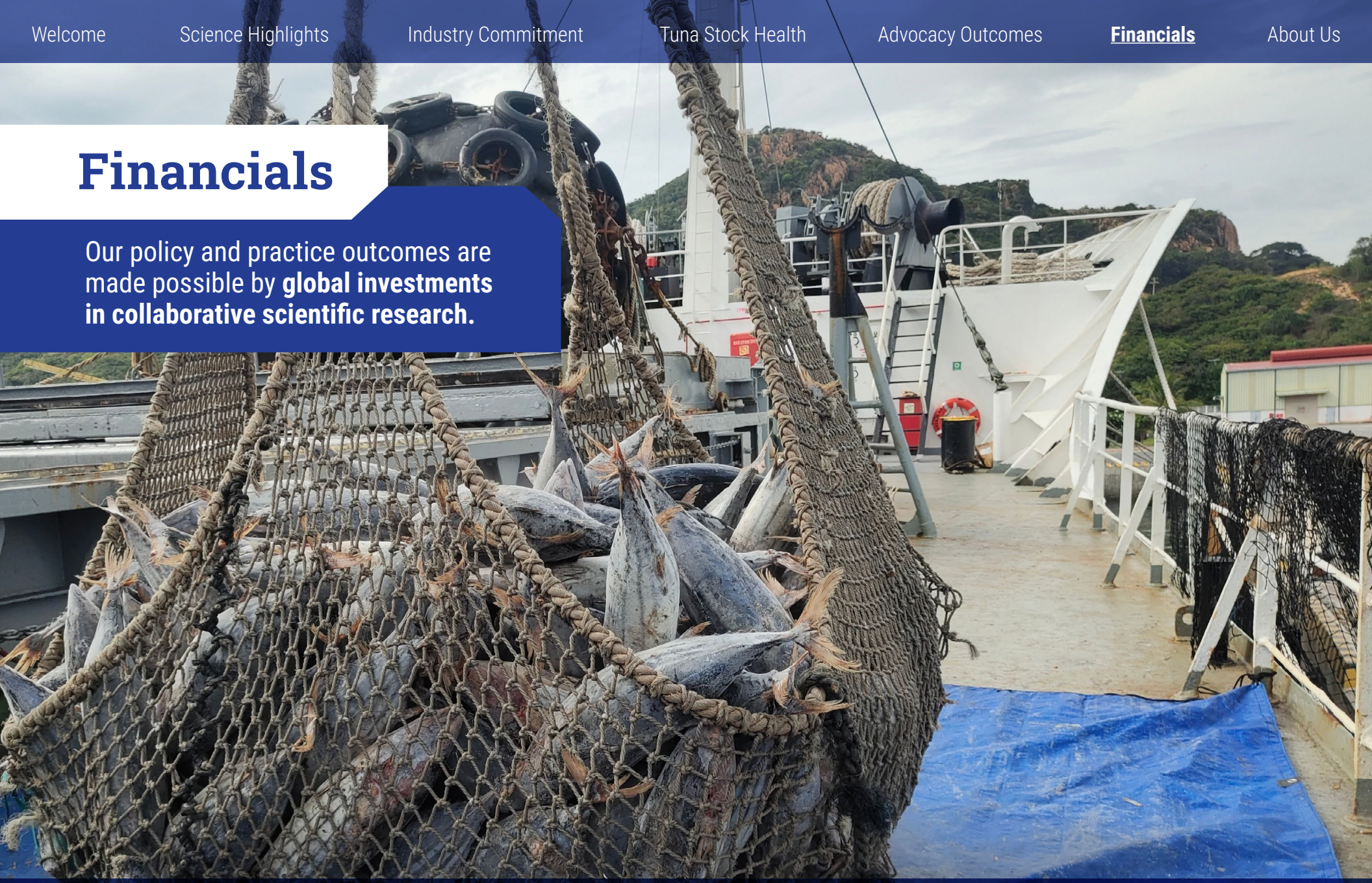
FIND OUT MORE

The State of Global Tuna Sustainability in 2026: Momentum, Modernization, and the Path Ahead

Tuna fishers in Ghana learned how to build non-entangling, biodegradable jelly-FADs in a workshop with ISSF scientists. Photo: Nando Rivero

Financials

Our policy and practice outcomes are made possible by **global investments in collaborative scientific research.**



IN THIS SECTION:

Photo: Roylan Tkg / Shutterstock.com

Collaborative Research Investments

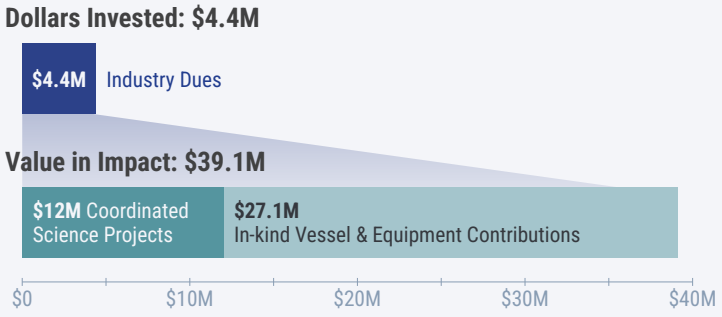
In 2025, ISSF participating companies contributed more than $4.4 million to our work. And over ISSF's 17-year history, they have invested more than $62 million. That amount does not include contributions in the form of vessel time and equipment that make ISSF's tuna fisheries research possible — an amount valued at over $27 million this year and typically ranging from $25-100 million per year depending on the research program.

ISSF staff are also involved in collaborative research projects with other scientific, research, and management institutions, whose investments last year reached about $12 million.

A visual overview of our revenue and our expenses below shows how working dollars are allocated across ISSF's Science, Influence, and Verification strategic pillars of work.

IMPACT OF INDUSTRY DOLLARS INVESTED IN ISSF SCIENCE

Each seafood-industry dollar invested in our organization **generates over eight times its value** in impact through our programs.

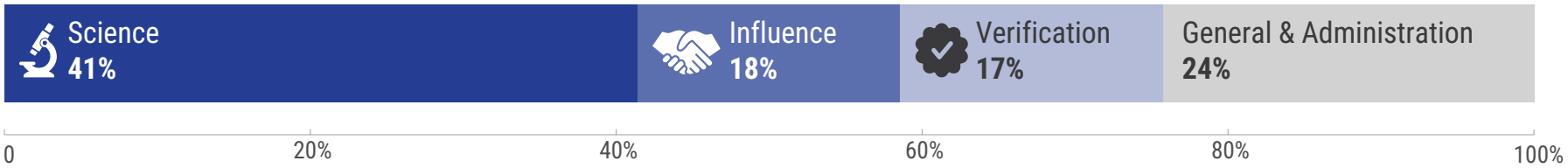


2025 TOTAL REVENUE

Total $5,805,131

2025 ACTUAL EXPENSES

Total $5,707,437



About Us

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- ISSF Partners & Stakeholders
- ISSF Team
- Board of Directors
- Scientific Advisory Committee
- Environmental Stakeholder Committee

Fishers in Ghana learned how to build customized biodegradable FADs for their fleets in a workshop with ISSF Senior Scientist Dr. Gala Moreno. Photo: Nando Rivero

ISSF Partners & Stakeholders

Through our Board, committees, and staff, ISSF collaborates with many partner and stakeholder organizations — scientists, seafood industry leaders, NGO experts, fishing policymakers, and more.

Download the full infographic

Collaborative biodegradable FAD workshop in China with tuna fishers and scientists, led by SPC (The Pacific Community) and ISSF. Photo: Gala Moreno

Retailers, seafood buyers, and other stakeholders learned about sustainable tuna sourcing at two ISSF market forums. Photo: Michael Cockerham

ISSF Team

- **Susan Jackson** | President, ISSF
- **Holly Koehler** | Vice President, Policy and Outreach
- **Dr. Victor Restrepo** | Vice President, Science & Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee
- **Mary Sestric** | Vice President, Communications
- **Erika Smith** | Vice President, Finance
- **Michael Cohen** | Markets Outreach Associate
- **Ana Justel-Rubio** | Research and Compliance Assistant
- **Lynne Mandel** | Manager, Operations & Company Services
- **Dr. Gala Moreno** | Senior Scientist
- **Dr. Hilario Murua** | Director, Science
- **Dr. Lorena Recio-Vázquez** | Data Analyst & Research Assistant
- **Sharon VanOuse** | Content Manager

Board of Directors

- **Tony Lazazzara** | Chair, ISSF Board of Directors & Group Director, Global Fish Procurement, Thai Union Group
- **Dr. Andrew Rosenberg** | Vice Chair, ISSF Board of Directors & Marine Scientist & Environmental and Science Policy Expert
- **Susan Jackson** | President, ISSF
- **Javier Garat** | Secretary General, Spanish Fishing Confederation, Cepesca & President, Association of National Organizations of Fishery Enterprises in the European Union (Europêche)
- **William Gibbons-Fly** | Executive Director, American Tunaboat Association (ATA)
- **Ben Gilmer** | Chair, ISSF Environmental Stakeholder Committee & Director, Large-Scale Fisheries, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- **Melissa Murphy** | Distinguished Service Professor of Marketing and Corporate Entrepreneurship, Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University & President, Melissa Murphy Marketing
- **Ichiro Nomura** | Fisheries Policy Advisor, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia
- **Dr. Victor Restrepo** | Vice President, Science, ISSF & Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee
- **Dr. Josu Santiago** | Head of the Tuna Research Area, AZTI
- **Amanda Stern-Pirlot** | Chief Standards Officer, Marine Stewardship Council

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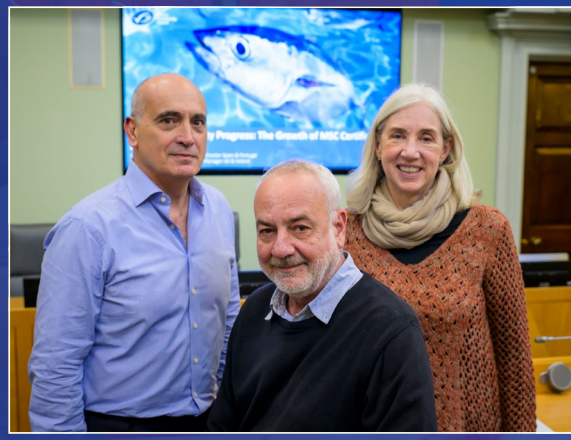
ISSF Staff Bios
Board of Directors Bios



ISSF Markets Outreach Associate Michael Cohen, ISSF Vice President of Science Dr. Victor Restrepo, and ISSF President Susan Jackson (L–R) presented at ISSF's 2025 Retailer Forum in London. Photo: Michael Cockerham

Scientific Advisory Committee

- **Dr. Victor Restrepo** | Vice President, Science, ISSF & Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee
- **Dr. Keith Sainsbury** | Vice Chair, ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee & Associate Professor, Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania
- **Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva** | Member, ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee & Coordinator of Scientific Research, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
- **Alejandro Anganuzzi** | Member, ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee & Former Global Coordinator, Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project
- **Dr. Laurent Dagorn** | Member, ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee & Senior Scientist, IRD — French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development
- **Dr. Patrice Guillotreau** | Member, ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee & Senior Researcher, IRD — French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development
- **Dr. Ana Parma** | Member, ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee & Principal Investigator, National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET)
- **Dr. Graham Pilling** | Member, ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee & Deputy Director, Fame (Head of The Oceanic Fisheries Programme), The Pacific Community (SPC)
- **Dr. Gerald Scott** | Member, ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee & Independent Fisheries Scientist

Environmental Stakeholder Committee

- **Ben Gilmer** | Chair, ISSF Environmental Stakeholder Committee & Director, Large-Scale Fisheries, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- **Dr. Andre Boustany** | Member, ISSF Environmental Stakeholder Committee & Principal Investigator of Global Ocean Conservation, Monterey Bay Aquarium
- **Sonja Fordham** | Member, ISSF Environmental Stakeholder Committee & Founder, Shark Advocates International
- **Bill Holden** | Member, ISSF Environmental Stakeholder Committee & Senior Tuna Fisheries Outreach Manager, Marine Stewardship Council
- **Dr. Vishwanie Maharaj** | Member, ISSF Environmental Stakeholder Committee & Lead, Tunas and Other Multilateral Fisheries, World Wildlife Fund-Inc. (WWF-US)
- **Dr. Alexia Morgan** | Member, ISSF Environmental Stakeholder Committee & Science Lead, Tuna and Large Pelagic Species, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP)
- **Nina Rosen** | Member, ISSF Environmental Stakeholder Committee & Project Director, FishWise

FIND OUT MORE

Scientific Advisory Committee Bios

Environmental Stakeholder Committee Bios

At the IATTC annual meeting in Panama, ISSF Director of Science Dr. Hilario Murua presented at an FAO side event on harvest strategies. Photo: Shana Miller

Connect with Us

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) — a global coalition of seafood companies, fisheries experts, scientific and environmental organizations, and the vessel community — undertakes and facilitates science-based initiatives for long-term tuna conservation, FAD management, bycatch mitigation, marine ecosystem health, capacity management and illegal fishing prevention. Helping global tuna fisheries meet and maintain sustainability criteria to achieve the Marine Stewardship Council certification standard is ISSF's ultimate objective.

WEBSITE
iss-foundation.org

E-MAIL
info@iss-foundation.org

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