



**Comité Européen Interprofessionnel du Thon Tropical**

Brussels, 22 October 2014  
EUR/14/016

**EUROTTHON Statement on the Video Footage by Greenpeace**

*Having reviewed the video it is clear that this footage is several years old, pre-dating new standards and practices put in place by Regional tuna Management Organizations and the European tuna industry in the last 3 to 4 years. Contrary to what the video suggests, the accidental catch of any vulnerable species in a purse seine set remains an extremely rare occurrence.*

*The European Tuna Industry does not turn a blind eye to these incidents. The catch of vulnerable species such as sharks, rays or turtles are systematically recorded by the independent human and electronic observers accompanying our crews. We are working in close cooperation with international scientific institutions to make sure we continuously improve our fishing techniques in order to reduce unwanted by-catch to the lowest level possible. These best fishing practices have been put into practice by the European tuna fleet in recent years -- well ahead of what the RFMO regulations stipulate.*

*For example: the EUROTTHON tuna fleet has committed to the use of only non-entangling FADs, further reducing the risk of sharks or turtles being caught in any nets. Details of all these best fishing practices can be consulted on the EUROTTHON website and through the French and Spanish tuna associations.*

*In summary, all our crews are trained to release sharks, turtles, and other untargeted species caught accidentally in the best manner to make it possible for them to survive. We have voluntarily introduced audits by scientific credited bodies to verify compliance with these best practices. The European Tuna industry is taking every step it can to protect the vulnerable species of our oceans, something we would expect from the entire global tuna fleet.*

\*\*\*