



# LARGE PELAGIC SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PLATFORM

Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities

## An international guarantee for a global pioneer process

The UNDP Green Commodities Programme is facilitating supply chain improvement to overcome the underlying barriers to sustainable production of high-traded commodities in Latin American, Asian, and African countries. With the participation of governments, producers, traders, academicians, civil society organizations, and global big byers, the programme has potential for impacting achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.



## A national response for a more demanding world, market and environment

National and international markets are beginning to demand and require seafood products to come from sustainable sources and fisheries with better practices. In response to this demand, the Costa Rican government, led by:



will be taking coordinated actions through the



# LARGE PELAGIC SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PLATFORM

The platform will be driven by its participants, linking ongoing and new efforts to set up a **dialogue**, enhance synergies, reach consensus among national and international stakeholders, producers, companies, and civil society to improve the social, environmental and production performance of the value chain of seafood products in Costa Rica. The country's fishermen and exporters have expressed a commitment to be members of this initiative.



The platform's ultimate aim is to achieve lasting change in order to improve competitiveness and, consequently, sustainability of domestic seafood products through:

- Elaboration of a National Action Plan for Large Pelagic Fishery that would contribute to focus investment and avoiding duplication or inconsistency in uncoordinated activities.
- Development of "precision fisheries" by improving the systems of information, traceability, technology, and fishery statistics.
- Encouragement of fishery improvement projects (FIPs) on best practice for large pelagic fisheries and other forms of fishery certification.
- Increased demand for sustainable marine products within and outside of Costa Rica.
- Global positioning of Costa Rica as a country committed to sustainable use of marine resources.

### Progress in Costa Rica

- Installation of satellite monitoring devices on more than 60% of original fishing vessels.
- Fishermen in the main fishing ports trained in proper handling and release of sea turtles.
- Robust traceability system for CITES-based species, according to external assessment.
- Good hygiene and manufacturing practices for fish processing plants.
- Scientific-based regulations for sustainable tuna management to improve the tuna catch by the country's target fishing.
- Improvement of fishery information collection through observer programs, logbooks, and biological sampling at gillnets.
- Port inspections of 100% landing of large pelagics.
- Cutting-edge research on large pelagics and new technologies.
- Fishery improvement projects (FIPs) ongoing.
- Organized chambers of Costa Rican fishermen.

## Oceanic pelagic fishing in Costa Rica

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (589,682.99 km<sup>2</sup>)  
10 times its land area



## What are large pelagics?

Large pelagics are large species, such as tuna, mahi mahi, sharks and swordfish, which live most of their life in surface waters on the open ocean and make large-scale migrations.



Large pelagics are mainly fished with a line of hooks known as a "longline"

"Green Stick" is another gear and technique used for tuna fishing.

99% of sea turtle incidentally caught with surface longlines are alive, and their probability of survival increased with captains and crews trained in their proper handling and release.

"Green Stick" is a highly selective fishing method with only a 0,5% rate of bycatch.



For more information:



info@pelagicoscr.org