

COMMITTING TO FISHERIES TRANSPARENCY IN THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA BY 2023

In October 2018, the government of the Federated States of Micronesia announced its commitment to achieve full tuna fishery transparency by 2023. It will do so by introducing electronic monitoring and improved human observer coverage of all industrial tuna fishing vessels in its waters. Their vision is to achieve full tuna fishery transparency by 2023.

Because most of the IUU fishing in Pacific waters is by licensed vessels, simply tracking fishing boats—using satellites, drones, vessels and planes—is not enough. Electric monitoring systems use technology such as video cameras, remote sensors, global positioning system (GPS) satellites, and hard drives installed on fishing boats to automatically gather information about:

- Fishing effort
- Target catch composition
- Bycatch of non-target species
- Retained catch
- Discards

Capturing this type of data will mean more fishery control, better value capture, and improved fishery sustainability. It will help stamp out IUU tuna fishing, help stocks recover, reduce bycatch, and ensure fairness. Electronic monitoring technology can ensure traceability throughout the supply chain and can prove to consumers that the tuna they buy is legally and sustainably caught without slave labor instead within safe work conditions.



“Our bold commitment to transparency and sustainability in our fisheries can help recover tuna stocks and reduce bycatch of other sensitive species like sharks and sea turtles, so that marine ecosystems, and the Pacific Island communities dependent on them, can thrive. If the government of Federated States of Micronesia and our parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) partners are successful in implementing electronic monitoring through the T-3 Challenge, we’ll help to secure the sustainability of half of the global tuna supply.”

—Peter M. Christian,
Federated States of Micronesia president

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ABOUT US

The Federated States of Micronesia is made up of the four island states of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae and has a population of 103,000 people. The Federated States of Micronesia shares maritime borders with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, Guam and Papua New Guinea. To learn more, visit norma.fm.

TNC is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world’s toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. Working in 72 countries, we use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners. To learn more, visit nature.org.

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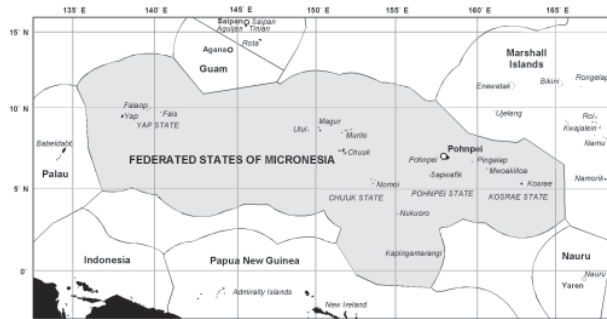


TECHNOLOGY FOR TUNA TRANSPARENCY (T-3) CHALLENGE

For the first time ever, a developing country has committed to 100 percent transparency in its entire tuna fishery through state-of-the-art electronic monitoring and human observer coverage. It’s a bold move that could trigger a wave of transformation for seafood markets worldwide.

**Join the T-3 Challenge
and help us commit to
full fishing transparency.**

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT IN PACIFIC TUNA FISHERIES



Eating canned tuna at your next meal? With over half the world's supply of skipjack tuna controlled by eight Pacific island nations, odds are good that the tuna on your plate is from this region. Integral to diets around the world, tuna are also vital to livelihoods. Within the Federated States of Micronesia, one of these Pacific island nations, tuna is critical to the socio-economic well-being of its people and revenues from fishing fund the construction of roads, schools, hospitals, and the provision of critical public services.

Yet Pacific island nations lose US\$600 million every year because of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. IUU fishing doesn't just mean "pirate" fishing. More than 90 percent of IUU fishing occurs by licensed fishing fleets, which are not-reporting or under-reporting catches. Not only do Pacific island nations economies suffer from these losses, but there are serious consequences to marine ecosystems. Large numbers of sharks, rays, sea turtles, and even marine mammals are being caught as bycatch. Without accurate data to show what boats are actually catching, it is difficult to establish and enforce fishery rules that will ensure the sustainability of these fish stocks.

To fill this critical gap in fisheries data, the government of the Federated States of Micronesia is working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and private sector partners to implement electronic monitoring within the Federated States of Micronesia's waters. The Federated States of Micronesia has the 14th largest exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the world, making this initiative a globally-important sustainability commitment with potential to scale across the region and beyond.

AMPLIFYING FUTURE PROSPERITY WITH THE T-3 CHALLENGE

The Technology for Tuna Transparency (T-3) Challenge is a call from President Christian to his Pacific Island peers and to the broader Pacific community to join the Federated States of Micronesia as it makes bold strides towards ensuring that fleets fishing its waters do so with 100 percent transparency.

The T-3 Challenge has the potential to transform global markets since the Pacific islands control over 50 percent of the world's supply of skipjack tuna. This is the first time a developing nation has made this type of commitment to 100 percent transparency across its commercial fisheries. The government of the Federated States of Micronesia and TNC are hoping it will encourage others to follow and spark a worldwide shift in fishing practices.

We need your support to:

- Secure the sustainability of half of the global tuna supply.
- Ensure the socio-economic well-being of the region's people.
- Drive ecosystem resilience by minimizing bycatch of at-risk species like sharks, rays, sea turtles, birds, and marine mammals.



Photos, above and cover: © Nick Hall

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE T-3 CHALLENGE?

Become a Participating Country

Our Pacific islands, and the broader Pacific community, are united by our communal vision of independence, prosperity, and peace. Our unity is our greatest strength, and I hope you will join us to signal that full transparency in our tuna fisheries makes sense for businesses, people, and the future of the oceans we all depend on. Join the T-3 Challenge as a participating country and:

- Commit to shifting to 100 percent transparency of industrial fishing vessels operating in your waters through a combination of state-of-the-art electronic monitoring and human observer coverage by 2023.
- Secure the sustainability of half of the global tuna supply.

Join as a Global Fishing Industry and Seafood Supply Chain Partner

Building up to 100 percent transparency will take significant commitment and investment. TNC is calling upon the global fishing industry and seafood supply chain partners to invest in the adoption of electronic monitoring and source your products from T-3 Challenge participating countries and companies. Your investments in turn will help secure the resilience of the Pacific's fisheries. Investments may include:

- Supporting and sourcing products directly from countries who choose to match the Federated States of Micronesia's commitments to full transparency.
- As a catch sector company, committing to uphold the T-3 Challenge when out on the water.

Drive the Challenge Forward with your Philanthropic Contributions

TNC has a US\$2.5 million funding goal to support the T-3 Challenge participants and has generously contributed ten percent of this goal to kick-off the T-3 Challenge. We are asking bilateral, multilateral, philanthropic, and private sector stakeholders to join us and:

- Defray the start-up costs of adopting electronic monitoring, so that Pacific island nations aren't forced to sacrifice the socio-economic well-being of their people for marine resource resilience.