



## ENDORSEMENT

WHEREAS, the Coral Triangle, located in the Indo-Pacific spans to the countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste;

WHEREAS, the Coral Triangle has the highest level of biodiversity where 76% of known coral species, 37% of known reef fish species, and 33% of the world's coral reefs are found;

WHEREAS, there are about 120 million people within the CT who depend on the Coral Triangle for income, livelihood and food security;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Archipelago, the second largest nation in the world next to Indonesia, comprised of more than 7,100 islands that cover about 33,900 km<sup>2</sup> and an estimated 2.2 million km<sup>2</sup> of archipelagic waters, is located at the apex of the Coral Triangle;

WHEREAS, these vast and rich resources are threatened by natural and anthropogenic causes that resulted to the degradation of habitats, overexploitation of resources and deterioration of the environment;

WHEREAS, the Coral Triangle Initiative was created by the six countries that agreed and committed to conserve and sustainably manage the coastal and marine resources within the Coral Triangle region, taking into consideration the laws and policies of each country;

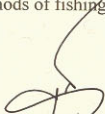
WHEREAS, the CT6 responded to the threats in the Coral Triangle by developing the CTI Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) where the Ecosystem Approach to Management of Fisheries (EAFM) and other Marine Resources, is one of the goals;

WHEREAS, the EAFM ensures that the exploitation of tuna stocks is sustainable, with tuna spawning areas and juvenile growth stages adequately protected;

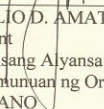
WHEREAS, through the assistance from the Philippine government, the Frabelle Fishing Corporation, Luen Thai and Sun Warm Fishing Corporation, three international long line fishing operators with local partners, are using circle hooks, a sustainable method of tuna fishing to reduce by-catch in their operation;

THEREFORE, we would like to commend the Frabelle Fishing Corporation, Luen Thai and Sun Warm Fishing Corporation in their efforts in ensuring that their tuna long line fishing operation is done in a sustainable manner;

WE ENDORSE, the use of circle hooks as one of the most sustainable methods of fishing to ensure reduction of by-catch in tuna fishing operations.



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