



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ursula Marais, General Manager/ CEO

[ursula@tropicstar.net](mailto:ursula@tropicstar.net)

Panama Tel: +00507 396 6413

USA Tel: 800-682-3424

[www.tropicstar.com](http://www.tropicstar.com)

## **Panama Government Authorities Clarify Agreement Between Panama and China Regarding Bonita (Tuna) Fishing.**

*Purse Seine Vessels will not be allowed to fish in Panamanian waters. Fishing protections still in place.*

**Piñas Bay, PANAMA (January 10, 2019)** – ARAP –the Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panama, (Fishing Authorities of Panama) announced a clarification about the signing of a protocol between Panama and to the People's Republic of China regarding fishing in Panama. In a statement, ARAP reiterated that purse seine fishing will not be allowed in Panama and is currently prohibited by existing guidelines and laws. The protocol does not alter or modify the current legislation that regulates the activity of fishing in Panama.

The ARAP release states that, based on current regulations, it will not authorize purse-seine vessels, whether for internal or external service, national or foreign flag, to operate or develop tuna extraction activities with nets of purse seine in the jurisdictional waters of the Republic of Panama. ARAP explained that the capture of this resource with fishing gear known as purse seines, is prohibited by the provisions of Executive Decree No. 239 of 2010. Article 1.

“We appreciate the clarification from ARAP regarding the protection of tuna and other species from harmful fishing methods like purse seine fishing.” said Ursula Marais, General Manager and CEO of Tropic Star Lodge. “We are relieved and happy with the clarification. Knowing that the fishery in Panama will remain protected from harmful practices like purse seine fishing is important to us as a leader in sportfishing conservation and fishery management.”

“Pressure from within Panama and across the worldwide sportfishing community resulted in ARAP’s formal statement that purse seine fishing is currently against the law in Panama and will remain so.” Marais continues, “We want to thank everybody who joined us in voicing their concerns about the China/ Panama protocol.”

ARAP's statement continues to explain that tuna fishing is limited to the restrictions established by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), of which Panama is a Contracting Party and in general, by the international agreements signed and adopted and ratified by the Republic of Panama.

Located on the Pacific coast of the Darien jungle in Panama, Tropic Star Lodge as been providing fishing adventures for serious anglers for more than 55 years. Tropic Star Lodge is an industry leader in catch and release conservation and utilization of best fishing practices. Tropic Star Lodge strives to protect and conserve the treasured species found in the waters off Piñas Bay, Panama.

####