

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

81ST MEETING

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA
27 SEPTEMBER-1 OCTOBER 2010

DOCUMENT IATTC-81-06b

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The staff recommends the following measures for the conservation of tunas in the IATTC Convention Area:

1. YELLOWFIN AND BIGEYE TUNAS:

- a. This recommendation is applicable in the years 2011-2013 to all purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 4 to 6 (more than 182 metric tons carrying capacity), and to all longline vessels that fish for or catch yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area.
- b. Pole-and-line, troll, and sportfishing vessels, and purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 1-3 (less than 182 metric tons carrying capacity) are not subject to this recommendation.

1.1. Purse-seine vessels

- a. All purse-seine vessels covered by this recommendation must stop fishing in the Convention Area for a period of 62 days in each of the years 2011-2013. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods in each year: 29 July to 28 September, or 18 November to 18 January of the following year.

For 2012 and 2013, the results of the conservation measures and the status of the bigeye and yellowfin stocks shall be evaluated, and the duration of the closures for those years may be adjusted.

- b. Notwithstanding the provisions requiring closures of the fisheries, purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity class 4 (between 182 and 272 metric tons carrying capacity) will be able to make only one single fishing trip of up to 30 days' duration during the specified closure periods, provided that any such vessel carries an observer of the IATTC Observer Program.
- c. For each of the years 2011-2013, the fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tunas by purse-seine vessels within the area of 96° and 110°W and between 4°N and 3°S illustrated in Figure 1 be closed from 0000 hours on 29 September to 2400 hours on 29 October.
- d. In each one of the years covered by this recommendation, and for each one of the two closure periods, each member of the IATTC shall notify the Director, by 15 April, of the names of all the vessels that will observe each closure period. As soon as practicable after this date, the Director shall publish on the Commission website the names of the vessels and the closure period applicable to each vessel for that year.

Each vessel that fishes during 2011-2013, regardless of the flag under which it operates or whether it changes flag or the jurisdiction under which it operates during the year, must observe the closure period to which it was committed for that year. Any vessel that is added to the Regional Vessel Register during the course of a given year must observe one of the two closures during that year.

- e. Each member shall:
 - i. Before the date of entry into force of the closure, take the legal and administrative measures necessary to implement the closure;

- ii. Inform all interested parties in its national tuna industry of the closure;
- iii. Inform the Director that these steps have been taken;
- iv. Ensure that at the time a closure period begins, and for the entire duration of that period, all the purse-seine vessels fishing for yellowfin, bigeye, or skipjack tunas that are committed to observing that closure period and that fly its flag, or operate under its jurisdiction, in the Convention Area are in port, except that vessels carrying an observer from the IATTC Observer Program may remain at sea, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area. The only other exception to this provision shall be that vessels carrying an observer from the IATTC Observer Program may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area.

1.2. Longline vessels:

- a. Each member shall take the measures necessary to control the total annual catch of bigeye tuna in the Convention Area during each of the years 2011-2013 by longline tuna vessels fishing under its jurisdiction.
- b. China, Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei shall take the measures necessary to ensure that their total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the Convention Area during 2011-2013 do not exceed the following levels:

Metric tons	
China	2,507
Japan	32,372
Korea	11,947
Chinese Taipei	7,555

For 2012 and 2013, the above limits on longline catches may be adjusted based on any adjustments to the conservation measures for purse-seine vessels adopted for those years. Other members shall take the measures necessary to ensure that their total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the Convention Area during 2011-2013 do not exceed the greater of 500 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001.

Members whose annual catches of bigeye have exceeded 500 metric tons during any of the years 2006-2010 shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director.

2. PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA:

Each member with flag vessels that catch Pacific bluefin tuna shall take the measures necessary to:

- a. Control the fishing mortality of Pacific bluefin tuna by commercial tuna vessels fishing under its jurisdiction during each of the years 2011-2012 to ensure that the annual catches in the Convention Area by the commercial vessels under its jurisdiction do not exceed the average annual level of such catches during 1994-2007.

Each member shall take the measures necessary to control the fishing mortality of Pacific bluefin tuna and inform the Director of any such measures.

- b. Ensure that the total annual effort in the Convention Area for Pacific bluefin tuna by sportfishing vessels under its jurisdiction does not exceed the maximum annual level of such fishing effort during 2006-2010.

All members shall provide monthly reports of sportfishing catches and fishing effort to the Director.

3. NORTHERN ALBACORE TUNA:

- a. As discussed during the 80th meeting of the IATTC, form an *ad hoc* working group to develop an operational definition of the “current levels” of effort specified in paragraph 1 of Resolution C-05-02;
- b. Amend Resolution C-05-02 to require that the required six-monthly reports include information on effort as well as catch;
- c. Amend Resolution C-05-02 to clarify that data provided should be for the Convention Area only.

4. FULL RETENTION OF TUNA CAUGHT BY PURSE SEINES

Renew, for each of the years 2011-2013, the program to require all purse-seine vessels to first retain on board and then land all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna caught, except fish considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size. A single exception shall be the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set.

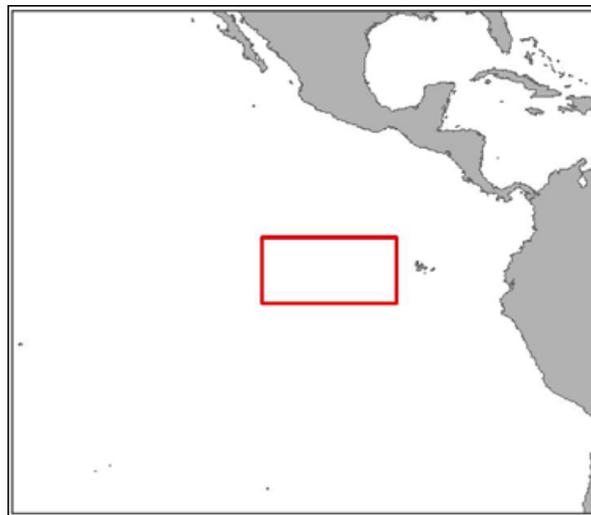


Figure 1. Closure area