

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June – 1 July 2016

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. General presentation of proposals submitted by Members on resolutions and others	
4. a. The fishery in 2015 and status of the tuna and billfish stocks	IATTC-90-04a
b. Review of the Commission staff's research	
c. Report and recommendations of the 7 th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee	IATTC-90-04c
d. Conservation recommendations by the Commission staff	IATTC-90-04d
5. Reports of subsidiary bodies and working groups:	
a. 4 th Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance	
b. 7 th Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission	
c. 17 th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity	
d. Activation of the capacity of Guatemala and Venezuela	
6. Observer program for transshipments at sea	IATTC-90-06
7. Implementation of Resolution C-14-09 on a review of the IATTC and AIDCP (Report of the consultant)	
8. Implementation of Resolution C-14-07 on procedures for implementing Article XII.1 of the Antigua Convention	
9. Discussion of resolutions and recommendations	
10. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the July 2016-July 2017 period	
11. Election of Chairs of subsidiary bodies and working groups	
12. Other business	
13. Place and date of next meeting	
14. Adjournment	

APPENDICES

1	List of attendees	
2.	RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN 2016	
2a	Amendment of Resolution C-15-03 on the collection and analyses of data on fish-aggregating devices	C-16-01
2b	Harvest Control Rules for tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack)	C-16-02
2c	Pacific bluefin tuna	C-16-03
2d	Amendment to Resolution C-05-03 on the conservation of sharks caught in associa-	C-16-04

	tion with fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean	
2e	Management of shark species	C-16-05
2f	Conservation measures for shark species, with special emphasis on the silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>), for the years 2017, 2018, and 2019	C-16-06
2g	Financing for fiscal year 2017	C-16-07
3.	PROPOSALS	
3a	B-1A European Union. Minimum standards for inspection in port	
3b	D-1 Ecuador. Permissibility of discards	
3c	F-1 United States. Conservation of Pacific bluefin tuna	
3d	G1-A United States. Multiannual program for the conservation of tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean during 2017-2019	
3e	H-1 United States. Boarding and inspection procedures	
3f	I-1 United States. Safety of observers at sea.	
3g	J-1 United States. Amendment to Resolution C-11-02 to mitigate the impact on seabirds of fishing for species covered by the IATTC	
3h	K-1 Mexico. Amendment to Resolution C-11-08 on observers on longline vessels	
3i	L-1 Mexico. Use of information on compliance	
4	REPORTS	
4a	Report of the 4 th meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance	
4b	Report of the 7 th meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (“Review Committee”)	
4c	Report of the 17 th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity (May 2016)	
4d	Report of the 17 th meeting (resumed) of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity (June 2016)	
5	OTHERS	
5a	Chile: Statement as an observer	
5b	Ecuador: Statement on carrying capacity	
5c	Proposal from the Chair of the WCPFC Northern Committee for a joint meeting on bluefin	

The 90th meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was held in La Jolla, California (USA), from 27 June to 1 July 2017. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the IATTC, Mr. Guillermo Morán, of Ecuador. In accordance with paragraph 10 of the Commission's rules of procedure, Ms. Marlene Galdámez, of El Salvador, was elected rapporteur.

Chile made a statement on its participation in the meeting as an observer (Appendix 5a).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, noting that, at the request of Guatemala and Venezuela, the matter of activating their capacity would be addressed under item 5 d of the agenda, and that the following four items would be addressed under item 12, *Other business*: a) a presentation by the United States on the conservation of sea turtles, b) the holding of a coordination meeting on bluefin with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), c) a presentation by Mexico on its bluefin tuna management program, and d) a request by Panama on the certification of catches not associated with dolphins.

3. General presentation of proposals submitted by Members on resolutions and others

Members who had submitted proposals for resolutions were given the opportunity of presenting them in detail. This presentation, complemented by the answers to questions asked by other Members, allowed the process of discussion and negotiation of these proposals to commence in advance of their consideration under item 9 of the agenda.

4. a. The fishery in 2015 and status of the tuna and billfish stocks

Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the Commission, presented Document IATTC 90-04a. As regards yellowfin tuna, the assessment indicates that the recent fishing mortality rates are slightly lower and that the spawning biomass is below that level. The stock may have changed in the last decade from a high to an intermediate productivity regime.

As regards bigeye tuna, it is predicted that with current fishing mortality, the recent levels of catch and effort, and average recruitment, the spawning biomass will continue to recover, and will stabilise at a level slightly higher than that corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY). With the expansion of the fishery on floating objects, currently the impact of the purse-seine fishery on the bigeye stock is much greater than that of the longline fishery. Discards of small bigeye have a small but detectable effect on the depletion of the stock.

As regards skipjack tuna, the main concern is the steady increase in the rate of exploitation. However, this rates seems to have been stable in recent years. Data- and model-based indicators have not detected any adverse consequences of this increase

As regards bluefin tuna, the main concerns about this stock are the extremely low levels of both spawning biomass and recruitment. Bluefin tuna spawning stock biomass is depleted to 2.6% of the estimated unfished spawning stock biomass and two out of the last three recruitments as estimated by the Japanese troll CPUE index are at the lowest levels observed since 1980. In this negative context the impact of the fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) is less than that in the fisheries in the Western Pacific and, due to the fact that the assessment of stock status is uncertain, catch levels should be based on the years in which the impact was lower, until the uncertainty in the assessment is reduced. This management measure should ensure the sustainability of the fishery, provided that equivalent measures are taken in the Western Pacific.

Various Members commented on the increase in fishing on floating objects, the drop in the average size of bigeye caught by purse-seine vessels, which in 2015 was the lowest since 2010, and the increase in the capacity of the purse-seine fleet in the EPO.

Along with Dr. Compeán, various Members noted that the information from the purse-seine fishery was good, but it would be useful to obtain more information on the use of FADs and on purse-seine vessels smaller than Class 6 (less than 364 t carrying capacity). In contrast, the information from the longline fishery is scarce, and it is necessary to make efforts to obtain more, including through a greater coverage by on-board observers or with electronic monitoring systems. The need for improved reporting by longline vessels was also discussed.

Various Members expressed concern about the status of silky sharks. In response to a question, Dr. Compeán indicated that about 90% of the impact of fishing on sharks is due to the longline fishery in coastal areas, and only 10% to the purse-seine fishery.

Many Members expressed concerns regarding Pacific bluefin tuna, whose situation is critical and called for urgent measures to be adopted. The need to collaborate more closely with the WCPFC and adopt compatible measures that will allow Pacific-wide management of the species was stressed.

The United States indicated that its proposal on a multiannual program for the conservation of tunas in the EPO during 2017-2019 was in keeping with the situation described by the staff.

b. Review of the Commission staff's research

Dr. Richard Deriso, the Commission's Coordinator of Scientific Research, presented information on the work carried out by the Commission staff, summarised in Document [SAC-07-07a](#), prepared for the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in May. The main areas of work include, among others, assessments of the stocks of the principal tuna species, tagging studies (funded by the European Union), tuna biology, ecosystem studies, bycatch studies (sea turtles, sharks, rays, dolphins, seabirds, whale sharks),

data processing, capacity building (training observers, sampling programs, and shark assessment workshops, among others), and the development of a database with the *Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano* (OSPESCA)

It was noted that it would be useful to have a medium-term research plan, which can help to identify financing priorities and better organization of the work. It was stated that a plan of that type would be worked on, nonetheless annually information is presented extensively to the Scientific Advisory Committee. For this year the document with information on research in progress can be consulted ([SAC-07-07a](#) Staff activities and research plan).

Japan recalled that paragraph 3 of Resolution C-14-06 on the conservation of Pacific bluefin tuna indicates that at the annual meeting of the IATTC in 2016, the scientific staff shall present, for the Commission's review, the results of the fishing season in 2015 with regard to CPCs endeavour to reduce the proportion of the catch of fish of less than 30 kg in the catch towards 50% of the total catch and requested the scientific staff to present the results. The scientific staff informed Japan that this work would be done based on the consideration that nearly all the catch in the EPO is for export, and support from the industry of the corresponding Member would be required. Japan was disappointed at the scientific staff's explanation and requested that the results be presented at this meeting, or at the latest the next Commission meeting. It stressed the importance of the implementation of the paragraph for persuading its fishermen, especially its coastal fisherman including set net fishermen, to implement the mandatory 50% reduction of catch of small Pacific bluefin tuna; for coastal set net fishermen, if their catch limit is reached, they are obliged to release not only small Pacific bluefin tuna but also other target fish in the net.

Mexico reported that it had solid data on catches of bluefin and from the fattening ranches, which are provided to the ISC for the assessments. The companies have undertaken not to catch or retain tunas of less than 30 kg.

The Central American countries expressed interest in working on capacity-building, and in having support for the collection and management of data that will facilitate their compliance with IATTC rules and measures.

The European Union commented that there should be a dialogue between scientists and those responsible for management in regards to Management Strategies, so it would be useful to hold a workshop with this purpose.

Chinese Taipei noted the importance, both for obtaining data and for the conservation of the resources, of explaining the requirements in a manner that is easy to understand even without knowledge of the language used, such as, for example, maps of seabird nesting areas, or the main protected areas.

Upon information being requested about the workshop on dolphin stock assessment for which the European Union provided funds, it was commented that it will be held from 18 to 20 October 2016 in La Jolla, California, as announced on the Commission's website.

c. Report and recommendations of the 7th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee

Dr. Compeán reported on the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) held in May 2016. A quorum was present at the SAC and the members made the following recommendations:

1. That the staff present alternatives for management measures, such as: a single closure to be applied to all fisheries and vessel sizes, or a single closure with two periods during the year, the establishment of more time-area closures (like the *corralito*) where there is a high incidence of catch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, individual vessel quotas, capacity reductions, and restrictions on fishing gear deployments, that would apply to fisheries on the basis of their relative impacts and as alternatives to the 87 days of closure proposed by the IATTC scientific staff for tropical tuna species in the years 2017 and 2018.
2. Support the staff's recommendation on Pacific bluefin tuna.

3. Over a five-year period, increase observer coverage of longline vessels over 20 meters length overall to 20% annual coverage.¹
4. That countries with longline vessels over 20 meters length overall update which vessels are active, inactive, and/or sunk, and if possible inform the IATTC staff of the duration of their fishing operations.
5. Establish observer coverage for purse-seine vessels of less than 364 metric tons carrying capacity, and evaluate the use of electronic monitoring systems.
6. Evaluate the use of electronic monitoring systems with the objective of proposing minimum standards for adoption by the Commission and so augment observer coverage in longline and purse-seine fisheries.
7. Clarify the scope of the Antigua Convention with respect to associated species that are part of the same ecosystem and are affected by fishing (e.g. sharks and dorado) in order to facilitate research and management priorities.
8. Build and strengthen the capacity of developing states in data collection, research, and compliance with IATTC measures (e.g. training workshops, data collection, analyses, and standardization of data), with the aim of establishing a data collection program for fisheries and vessels for which a lack of information has been identified
9. Establish a definition of artisanal fisheries (e.g. by vessel size, gear type, well size, etc.) in order to clarify which vessels need to submit data to the IATTC.
10. Strengthen and continue the work and research on FADs with the objective of designing a management plan for FADs as soon as possible.
11. That the staff continues work on models for predicting catches of bigeye tuna, and expand these efforts to consider other species, particularly yellowfin tuna.
12. If the Commission decides to activate the capacity of Guatemala and Venezuela, considered favorably at the 88th meeting, increase the closure period as recommended in Document [SAC-06 INF-B](#) and its *addendum*, as a conservation measure that offsets that capacity.
13. Establish or continue tagging programs for tropical tunas, silky sharks, and dorado, to improve estimates of growth and hypotheses of stock structure.
14. Evaluate unilateral management measures adopted by Members, like Costa Rica within its EEZ, and their impacts on stocks of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas.
15. Strengthen scientific cooperation with the WCPFC and encourage the adoption of harmonized conservation measures for bigeye and bluefin tunas in both organizations.
16. The SAC thanked Japan for providing datasets including samples for its training and commercial vessels, separately. It was noted that, according to the information provided, training and commercial vessels seem to be catching different sizes. In light of these results the SAC recommended that the staff continues working with Japan in order to explore recruitment signals in the training vessel data.
17. The SAC congratulated the IATTC Secretariat for developing a tool to access the results of the assessments through the IATTC web page. It was noted that this tool is very useful and the SAC recommended that the Secretariat continue development of such a tool into the future.

¹ Japan stated that it does not agree with this recommendation because it considers that the need of scientific observers described in the preamble of Resolution C- 11-08 can be achieved under the current coverage with an appropriate research plan . China, Korea and Chinese Taipei stated also that they do not agree with this recommendation.

18. The SAC thanked the Secretariat for presenting the results of the work undertaken with the coastal countries to assess the status of dorado and capacity-building activities undertaken by IATTC staff. The SAC noted the socio-economic importance that dorado fisheries have in the region and recommended that this work continue in the future.

The Commission took note of the recommendations, many of which relate to matters addressed in the proposals for resolutions submitted for its consideration, and recognizing the importance of the Committee's contribution, in particular to the process of discussion and adoption of conservation measures

Some Members expressed disagreement with recommendation 3 (increasing observer coverage on long-line vessels), since they considered that, with a suitable research plan, the present 5% coverage is sufficient for scientific purposes. However, it has been noted that many CPCs are not meeting the 5% coverage rate.

The European Union noted that approving recommendation 12 (activation of the capacity of Guatemala by Venezuela) does not necessarily mean that it will be utilised, but emphasised that, if it was utilised, the staff recommended that the duration of the closure be extended for five additional days to compensate its effect on the stocks.

Japan expressed its views on the function of the SAC regarding the development of recommendations to the Commission; it considered that the SAC can recommend to the Commission, 1) specific issues and items to be addressed by the scientific staff as part of its future work (Annex 4(c) of the Convention) and 2) priorities and objectives of the program for data collection and monitoring established in Article VII, subparagraph (i) of paragraph 1, of the Convention (Annex 4(d) of the Convention). Japan stated that some recommendations such as recommendation 16 (the SAC thanked Japan for providing datasets including samples for its training and commercial vessels, separately) could not be made in accordance with its views mentioned above.

d. Conservation recommendations by the Commission staff

Dr. Deriso presented the recommendations of the scientific staff (document IATTC-90-04d). The Commission reviewed them one by one, and agreed that, in order to implement them, they should be embodied in resolutions of the Commission. The recommendations, and the comments on them, are summarised below.

i. Yellowfin, skipjack, and bigeye tunas

Recommendation: *Extend the closures of the purse-seine fishery for tropical tunas established in Resolution [C-13-01](#) be from 62 days to 87 days during 2017-2019, and that all the other provisions of the resolution be maintained as they are.*

The United States noted its proposal G-1, which extends the current tuna conservation measures in Resolution C-13-01 through 2019, with a few adjustments, including extending the duration of the closure in accordance with the recommendation of the scientific staff,

ii. Pacific bluefin tuna

Recommendation: *Extend the measures established in the current resolution for two more years and encourage the WCPFC to adopt additional measures to reduce the catch of adults in order to reduce the immediate risk of low spawner abundance on recruitment.*

Several Members did not support the staff's encouragement toward the WCPFC to take additional measures, taking into account in particular that catches have been decreasing and the outlook for the recovery of the stock has improved stating that such actions should be imposed to WCPFC and IATTC equally. On the other hand, some Members emphasized the advisability of discussing the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in a joint working group for subsequent adoption by the respective Commission. The EU called for the adoption of urgent measures for the recovery of the stock and expressed disappointment at the lack of progress.

iii. North Pacific albacore tuna

Recommendation: *Continue Resolutions [C-05-02](#) and [C-13-03](#).*

Several Members expressed their support for this recommendation. Japan noted the importance of collaborating with the WCPFC's International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) and its working group on albacore, which includes a member of the IATTC staff, in all matters related to this stock.

iv. Harvest control rule

Recommendation: *Adopt the interim harvest control rule described in Document [IATTC-90-04d](#) and conduct additional and alternative assessments, in order to enable a permanent harvest control rule to be adopted.*

Various Members supported this recommendation. The IATTC scientific staff pointed out that part of this harvest control rule is a long-standing informal practice of the Commission. The United States asked the IATTC scientific staff for clarification if the harvest control rule was intended to apply to all fisheries, not just purse seine. Dr. Deriso responded that the harvest control rule was intended to apply to all fisheries and that the same F-multiplier for a stock applies across all fisheries. The United States expressed support for further analysis of the target and limit reference points and understands that this will be done through the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) work that the IATTC scientific staff plans to undertake. The United States expressed its understanding that any interim harvest control rule will be included as a candidate in the Management Strategy Evaluation, along with alternative harvest control rules.

Japan pointed out that, according to the recommendation on harvest control rule which is based on the fishing mortality rate for the species, not that for the fishery, even if purse seine fishery made an adverse impact to a tuna stock, other fisheries which had been affected by purse seine would be further imposed management measures consistent with purse seine fishery. Japan stated that it is not a fair treatment and more appropriate approach such as harvest control rule by fishing gear should be considered.

v. Conservation of sharks and rays

v.1. General recommendations

1. **For the purse-seine fishery**, *require vessels to install equipment to facilitate the safe release of sharks and rays, and establish detailed protocols for dealing with captured animals that will avoid injuring them.*
2. **For the longline fishery**, *prohibit the use of 'shark lines' and make submitting data on catches of sharks (Resolution C-05-03) mandatory.*
3. **Research:** *Conduct and support experiments on mitigating shark catches, especially in longline fisheries, data collection projects, and observers aboard purse-seine vessels not currently covered by the IATTC observer program (see Section 11).*

Several Members supported these recommendations and stated their interest in working towards implementing them. The United States noted that its proposal on Shark Conservation (Resolution C-16-04) included several elements of these recommendations.

v.2. Additional recommendations for silky sharks.

1. *For purse-seine vessels: promote the safe release of silky sharks, and require that the sharks be promptly released unharmed.*
2. *For other vessels, limit incidental catches of sharks to 20% of the total catch by trip.*
3. *Close fisheries directed at silky sharks for three months each year.*

4. *Limit the catch of silky sharks of less than 100 cm to 20% of the total number caught during a trip.*
5. *Identify silky shark pupping grounds and prohibit fishing with steel leaders within these areas.*

In the discussion of those recommendations, contrary positions were expressed regarding the prohibition of fishing with steel leaders. Costa Rica and the European Union announced that they would submit a joint proposal for implementing these recommendations.

v.3. Additional recommendations for hammerhead sharks

1. *Prohibit retention of hammerhead sharks by purse-seine vessels, and require that they be promptly released unharmed, to the extent feasible.*
2. *Record, through observer programs for purse-seine vessels of all capacity classes, the number and status (dead/alive) of hammerhead sharks caught and released.*

There were no comments.

v.4. Additional recommendations for whale sharks

Adopt a stand-alone resolution that would include the measures of Resolution [C-15-03](#) (on FADs) related to whale sharks plus others specific to that species.

There were no comments.

v. Seabirds

Recommendation: *Revise Resolution C-11-02 consistent with current knowledge regarding seabird mitigation techniques (Document [SAC-05 INF-E](#)). Take note of the updated seabird density information, and expand the area of application of measures in the North Pacific.*

The United States drew attention to its proposal for a resolution to mitigate the impact on seabirds of fishing for species covered by the IATTC, which would enable this recommendation to be implemented.

vii. Handling of sea turtles in longline fisheries

Recommendation: *In addition to encouraging the use of videos and other educational materials, including guides to identifying the various species of sea turtles, adopt the following additional measures described in Document SAC-07-08).*

Various Members supported the proposal by the United States to reactivate the the working group on bycatch to address these issues.

viii. Configuration of fishing gears

Recommendation: *The Commission should require that vessels submit the purse-seine and longline gear description forms appended to Document [SAC-05-05](#). Any significant modifications made to the gear subsequently should be reported on these forms prior to departing port with the modified gear.*

Japan and Chinese Taipei expressed the opinion that it would be difficult to have the information submitted unless some way of obtaining it without violating its confidentiality could be found.

ix. Non-entangling FADs

Recommendation: *Hanging any materials, such as net webbing, that may entangle any fauna under FADs deployed in the EPO should be avoided. Continue to conduct and support research on the effectiveness of various materials.*

The European Union recalled that it provided funds to carry out research related to this recommendation.

x. Identification and marking of FADs

Recommendation: *Vessels should authorize the companies that operate the satellite systems used to track FADs to provide to the IATTC, directly or through whatever mechanism the governments and/or*

vessel owners consider suitable, the positions of each FAD from deployment to recovery, with a time lag of four months, or other agreed period, to protect the owner's proprietary information.

There were no comments.

xi. Improve the quality of the bycatch data of purse seiners

Recommendation: Undertake an experimental program using video cameras on the well deck or other convenient locations to identify means of improving data quality, since in recent years, the equipment and procedures used to load catches into the wells of purse-seine vessels have changed, making it increasingly difficult for the observers to determine the species, sizes, and quantities of bycatches.

There were no comments.

xii. Observer coverage of longline vessels

Recommendation: The staff maintains its recommendation of 20% observer coverage of longline vessels over 20 m length overall until sufficient information is available to justify a revision.

While various Members supported this recommendation, stressing the need to adopt it for the reasons explained by the scientific staff, others maintained their opposition to it, arguing that 1) the need of scientific observers described in the preamble of Resolution C- 11-08 can be achieved under the current coverage with an appropriate research plan, 2) estimation of the catch of species caught infrequently in longline fisheries, which is used for basis of calling for an increase of the coverage, is considered not to be included in the purpose of the resolution, 3) review the achievement of observer coverage and proper submission of scientific data collected by observers should be conducted before starting consideration of increase of the coverage, and 4) in light of the current economic situation around longline tuna business, it is not possible to increase the coverage of observers whose cost are paid by the fishermen. Venezuela recalled that observers should use forms developed by the IATTC, and that the IATTC Regional Vessel Register should indicate whether longline vessels are active or inactive.

xiii. Observer coverage of purse seiners of less than 363 t of carrying capacity

Recommendation: To give consideration to the establishment of an observer program for purse-seine vessels of less than 363 t carrying capacity, at a level of coverage adequate to reliably monitor these vessels' catches and bycatches.

Ecuador, in addition to pointing out that its class 4 and 5 vessels carry observers if they make the fishing trip allowed during a closure, stated that a potential problem might be recruiting enough observers.

The European Union emphasised the importance of this recommendation, and brought up the possibility of using electronic observation and monitoring systems instead of observers.

In addition to these recommendations, Dr. Compeán reported that, in accordance with the request by the recent meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, the staff analysed the following alternative options for tuna conservation, described in Document [IATTC-90-04d\(i\)](#):

1. Reducing the capacity of the purse-seine fleet by 25,000 cubic meters (m^3).
2. Catch limits for bigeye and yellowfin of 57,900 and 232,800 metric tons (t), respectively (including discards), the average annual catch of these two species by Class-6² purse-seine vessels during 2013-2015. The purse-seine fishery would be closed when the limit for either species was reached.
3. Catch limits for bigeye and yellowfin based on projections of catches, calculated as described below. As in the previous option, the purse-seine fishery would be closed when the limit for either species was reached.

² Carrying capacity > 363 t

4. *A spatial closure in addition to the 30-day closure of the high-seas area specified in paragraph 5 of Resolution C-13-01 (the “corralito”). As discussed in Document [SAC-07-07e](#), such a closure could be implemented in the area bounded by 120° and 150°W and 5°N and 5°S for 110 days³, at a time when the temporal closures are not in effect. This option may not avoid the need for a yellowfin catch limit, since the spatial closure is considerably more effective for bigeye than for yellowfin.*

Regarding the first option, the difficulty of implementing it was noted, unless a very concrete and specific plan for reducing capacity were in place that would also allow the reduction to be apportioned among the various national fleets.

It was noted that the main disadvantage of options 2 and 3 is that they would lead to a race to catch the greatest quantity possible before the limit was reached, and that probably all vessels would choose the second closure period, which would greatly reduce the effectiveness of the current system of two periods; furthermore, it is difficult to implement this type of measure, since it is necessary to determine when the limit is reached and then ensure that vessels stop fishing and return to port. The Commission staff clarified that these options would be in addition to the existing 62-day closure.

It was noted that the Scientific Advisory Committee discussed measures additional to the four presented in order to develop a conservation measure that incorporated the best options. The possibility of a system of national limits for problem species, such as bigeye, was mentioned, but recognizing the difficulties of adopting and administering it.

It was proposed that the closures be applied to all purse-seine vessels, without exceptions, not only to those of classes 4 to 6. The staff was asked to calculate the impact of this alternative, and of limiting long-line capacity.

Guatemala requested that the staff provide options for offsetting the activation of the capacity already authorised for Guatemala and Venezuela as alternatives to the recommended five additional days of closure.

Japan expressed its disagreement with including longliners in the closures, since the purse-seine fishery, and especially the fishery on FADs, impact bigeye much more than the others. Any calculation should analyze the impact on bigeye for each fishery.

It was also agreed that the scientific staff would analyse and present in a new document a range of additional alternative management measures, including their impact on the length of temporal closures.

5. Reports of subsidiary bodies and working groups:

a. 4th meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance

The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Lillo Maniscalchi, of Venezuela, presented his report (Appendix 4a).

The Commission approved a budget of US\$ 6,737,489 for 2017, which does not include funds for the 91st meeting of the Commission and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, thanks to the offer by Vanuatu of hosting the meetings, and would therefore cover all the related expenditures, including the staff's travel costs (air tickets and daily subsistence). It was highlighted that this budget is about US\$ 200,000 less than that of 2016 (US\$ 6,774,232), and about US\$ 240,000 less than the budget of US\$ 6,978,852 recommended by the Committee on Administration and Finance, which was in turn US\$ 34,000 less than the budget of US\$ 7,012,647 requested by the staff.

³ Number of closure days = $365 * 0.06 / 0.2$, where 0.2 is the expected reduction in fishing mortality of bigeye for a 365-day closure and $0.06 = 1 - (\text{bigeye } F \text{ multiplier of } 0.94)$. This calculation was confirmed by applying it to a closure during February-June, months historically and currently without closures.

Regarding the Special Fund for developing countries, the Commission approved the utilization of funds for 2016 as indicated in Document CAF-04-05b. For 2017 it is planned to earmark US\$ 30,000 to support the participation of the developing Members in the meetings of the Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies.

The Commission approved (a) a budget of US\$ 950,000 for the transshipment program for longline vessels in 2017; (b) that Panama should be included in the formula for distributing the costs of the program; and (c) signing a contract with the MRAG consortium for 2017-2019.

Mexico proposed that the percentage of the budget that the IATTC contributes to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) be increased from its current 30%, but there was no consensus on this.

b. 7th meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission

The Chair of the Committee, Mr. David Hogan, of the United States, presented his report (Appendix 4b). The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. Include Resolution C-13-03 (*Supplemental Resolution on North Pacific Albacore*) in the Annual Compliance Questionnaire, as well as the letter the Secretariat sends with data reporting requirements.
2. Review the situation of budget contribution arrears in the context of Antigua Convention, taking into account receipt of pending contributions as may be discussed in the meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance, and consider actions that may be taken to encourage compliance.
3. Reiterate the deadline for submission of transit waivers and consider the utility, in light of frequency of events, of developing criteria to assess situations in which a vessel is inoperable or other factors that warrant adjusting the rules governing the issuance of waivers to the observer requirement when transiting.
4. Adjust procedures and forms to provide access to captains to review and sign observer records on compliance, as in the AIDCP.
5. The compliance report for the Compliance Committee should show, and Members should be asked to report, implementation of longline observer coverage using the metric agreed to by the Scientific Advisory Committee.
6. In the near-term, the Commission should send a letter to all CPCs reminding them of the need for full compliance with the observer requirements, requesting data on implementation of observer requirements, and calling for the use of the standardized form for reporting of the observer data as agreed by the SAC. The letter should include a near-term deadline for the implementation data submission. CPCs should also be asked to update the information on and status of their longline vessels on the IATTC Register.
7. The Compliance Committee should include an additional agenda item for the 8th Meeting of the Compliance Committee to discuss tools in Resolution C-11-07 (*Resolution for Improved Compliance with Resolutions Adopted by the Commission*) to identify members whose implementation of any measures are inadequate and/or need improvement, including a process to request an action plan to encourage stronger implementation of Resolution C-11-07.
8. Regarding the Compliance Questionnaire, when a response is “not applicable”, CPCs should provide a rationale for using that response. An option may be to change the questionnaire form to include an additional field in the event of a “not applicable” response.
9. Data on whale sharks should be collected, to include details on how a whale shark caught in a fishery was released, for purposes of eventually developing best practices for the safe release of whale sharks.

10. Review and clarify inconsistencies in resolutions. For example, clarify the possible inconsistency between Resolutions C-04-05 and C-05-03 on sharks for assessing compliance.
11. Include all CPCs in the Compliance Compendium, even if there are no compliance cases identified.
12. When CPCs report on sanctions or other actions applied to their vessels, CPCs should endeavor to add more information, subject to national laws and procedures. For example, describe the type of sanction, but not necessarily the amount.
13. On data buoys, reiterate the critical importance of the arrays and the pressing need for CPCs to reinforce awareness of their fleet, and effectively address any compliance cases, especially those from the 2015 compliance report.
14. Regarding the IUU vessel list, a letter should be sent to Fiji requesting engagement regarding the *Xin Ji 16*, and a similar request should be included in the transmittal of the IUU list to the WCPFC and any other relevant RFMOs. CPCs could also reach out to Fiji bilaterally.
15. Renew cooperating non-member status for four applicant CPCs: Bolivia, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia, and consider communicating an admonition that the Commission would not renew the status in future years if the CPCs did not participate in the Commission's subsidiary bodies.

c. 17th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity

The Chair of the working group, Mr. Luis Torres, of Ecuador, presented his report (Appendix 4d). He explained that this was a continuation of the meeting initiated in May 2016, chaired by Mr. Luis Molledo, of the European Union, whose report is attached as Appendix 4c.

Mr. Torres presented the document on *Elements for implementing a fleet capacity management plan in the IATTC*, as revised by the working group on 24 June. The Commission reviewed and approved the elements in the document and agreed that the formulation of a management plan should continue. The European Union would work in conjunction with the Secretariat on the design of the plan, with substantive contributions from all Members. Attention was drawn to the possibility of hiring an external consultant, using a fund of US\$ 90,000 offered by the World Bank.

d. Activation of the capacity recognized to Guatemala and Venezuela

Guatemala requested progress in the activation of the capacity already conceded to Guatemala and Venezuela. The chair recalled the proposal by Mexico the 89th meeting of activating that capacity when conservation measures for 2017 entered into force, conditioned only on an approved plan for managing capacity in the EPO. He also recalled the measures that it had offered to adopt unilaterally in order to compensate for the increase in global capacity that the activation of its capacity would entail. Venezuela also stressed the need that the capacity that it had been conceded be activated, noting that it would be used only in the fishery associated with dolphins and not with FADs.

Many Members expressed their support for the activation of the capacity for both countries, indicating that the matter had been discussed for years and now was the time to approve it without any further delay. However it was reminded that the activation of that capacity must be carried out in parallel with the application of measures that compensate for the increase. For the time being, no decision was reached in this regard.

Guatemala stated that, to address this agenda item properly, it was necessary to adopt the multiannual program for the conservation of tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean during 2017-2019. He requested accordingly that this agenda item be suspended and taken up later during the 90th meeting (resumed) of the Commission for that purpose.

Peru and Vanuatu recalled their requests for capacity, which should be considered under the same scheme as above. Peru explained that the capacity would be used to fish for skipjack in its national waters, and

thus would not cause overfishing.

6. Observer program for transshipments at sea

The Chair noted that Document [CAF-04-05c](#) on the financing of the observer program for transshipments at sea and Document IATTC-90-06 Observer program for transshipments at sea had already been presented during the meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance, and the resulting recommendations had already been approved during the review of the report by that Committee (item 5a).

7. Implementation of Resolution C-14-09 on a review of the IATTC and AIDCP (Report of the consultant)

The consultants from the Moss-Adams company, which carried out the review of the IATTC and AIDCP, presented their report ("[IATTC-AIDCP Performance review - final report](#)").

The Commission agreed that the report would be received as presented, and that the next task should be to handle its recommendations. It requested the Director to formulate an action plan and to circulate it within 90 days, after which the Members would have 30 days to make comments on it.

Some Members stressed that many of the recommendations involve actions that must be undertaken by the Members of the Commission themselves and by the Commission as a whole, besides those concerning the operation of its administration and staff. In addition, in order to be implemented, many of the recommendations should be first translated into resolutions.

8. Discussion of resolutions and recommendations

a. Resolutions adopted:

The following resolutions were approved:

Resolution	Subject	Appendix
C-16-01	Amendment of Resolution C-15-03 on the collection and analyses of data on fish-aggregating devices	2a
C-16-02	Harvest Control Rules for tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack)	2b
C-16-03	Pacific bluefin tuna	2c
C-16-04	Amendment to Resolution C-05-03 on the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean	2d
C-16-05	Management of shark species	2e
C-16-06	Conservation measures for shark species, with special emphasis on the silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>), for the years 2017, 2018, and 2019	2f
C-16-07	Financing for fiscal year 2017	2g

In relation of Resolution C-16-05, it was agreed that the definition of “shark line” in the resolution is consistent with that used in WCPFC CMM2014-05. When Resolution C-16-16 was adopted, Japan expressed its view that silky shark, as an important fishery resource in the EPO, should be managed by IATTC instead of CITES and all fisheries management authorities should join decision making process for COP17 in which silky shark was proposed to be listed in CITES Appendix II.

b. Proposals presented, but not approved:

The status of the other proposals submitted (Appendices 3a-1) is as follows:

Prop	Subject	Status	Appendix
B-1A	European Union. Minimum standards for inspection in port	Not discussed due to lack of time; pending	3a
D-1	Ecuador. Permissibility of discards	Pending	3b
E-1	Japan. Bigeye tuna catch limit transfer	Incorporated into proposal G-1A	3c

F-3	United States and Mexico. Conservation of Pacific bluefin tuna	Pending	3f
G1-A	United States. Tuna Conservation 2017-2019	Pending	3g
H-1	United States. Boarding and inspection procedures	Withdrawn	3h
I-1	United States. Safety of observers at sea.	Pending	3i
J-1	United States. Seabirds conservation	Not discussed due to lack of time; pending	3j
K-1	Mexico. Observers on longline vessels	No consensus for its adoption	3k
L-1	Mexico. Use of information on compliance	Pending	3l

The United States presented its proposal to improve the safety of observers at sea (Proposal I-1), which was supported by the European Union. A couple delegations expressed concern regarding the costs associated with the proposal, and it was also noted that there are additional cost effective ways to improve the safety of observers. The United States requested that the IATTC staff provide an analysis of costs of the safety equipment, using information from MRAG, and provide this information to CPCs in advance of the October 2016 AIDCP and IATTC meetings. The United States offered to work with the IATTC staff to share information on the cost of safety equipment.

In general terms, Mexico stressed the need to modify the procedure followed for the presentation and discussion of the proposals for resolutions and recommendations with the aim of ensuring that the participants have enough time to study and negotiate them before having to decide about their possible adoption. In the same sense and with the support of the European Union and the United States he also pointed out the need to provide the Secretariat with the means and funding necessary for carrying out the meetings, efficiently in particular hiring additional support in the area of translation for the preparation and duration of the meetings. With regard to the catch limits established in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Resolution C-13-01, Japan reported that it had transferred its catch limit allocation to Korea (2,000 t) and China (6,000 t) for 2016.

9. Implementation of Resolution C-14-07 on procedures for implementing Article XII.1, paragraph 1, of the Antigua Convention

The Chair reported that Dr. Guillermo Compeán, current Director of the Commission, had been re-elected for a an additional four-year period, in accordance with the provisions of the Antigua Convention and following the procedure established in Resolution C-14-07.

10. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the July 2016-July 2017 period

11. Election of Chairs of subsidiary bodies and working groups

Although nominations were made for the Chair of the Commission, consideration of these two items was postponed, as it was decided to continue the 90th meeting of the IATTC in October 2016 (see item 13).

12. Other business

a) United States: presentation on sea turtles

The United States made a presentation, stressing the need to take urgent measures for the conservation of sea turtles. They proposed that to this end the working group on bycatch, inactive since 2007, be activated before the meeting of the Commission in 2017.

Various Members expressed their support for this proposal, indicating that the working group could address matters additional to the protection of sea turtles. The United States offered to act as contact for starting the work, and stressed the importance of the participation of other international organizations and non-governmental organizations in the work of the group; it stated that it would seek external financing for the meetings of the group, in order not to affect the Commission's budget.

A Member and the IATTC scientific staff suggested that shark and mobulid ray bycatch issues also be considered in the working group. Various environmental NGOs strongly supported this proposal, and asked that the bycatch working group include Mobulid rays in the species to be considered.

b) Coordination meeting with the WCPFC on bluefin

The Commission accepted the invitation (Appendix 5c) received from the Chair of the WCPFC to hold a joint working group meeting on bluefin tuna during the meeting of the WCPFC's Northern Committee scheduled for August-September of 2016 in Fukuoka, Japan.

c) Mexico: presentation on bluefin tuna management program

Mexico made a presentation on its bluefin tuna management program and its catch documentation system for that species. The presenter pointed out that at the meeting of the Commission in June 2015, Mexico committed voluntarily to limit its catch of the species in 2016 to 2,750 t, less than the limit of 3,300 t established in Resolution C-14-06. The fleet had exceeded the limit, so the corresponding authority ordered that a quantity of tuna equal to the excess catch be released from the fattening pens.

Some Members recognized the action undertaken by Mexico, which demonstrates its commitment to the conservation of the bluefin tuna.

d) Panama: request on the certification of catches not associated with dolphins

There was no presentation on this item.

13. Place and date of next meeting

It was agreed to suspend the meeting, and continue it on 12-14 October 2016, at the same location, in conjunction with the meetings of the AIDCP to address the following pending issues (this meeting would be preceded on October 11 by a technical meeting on tuna conservation measures).

1. Measures for the conservation of tunas.
2. Activation of the capacity of Guatemala and Venezuela.
3. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
4. Election of Chairs of committees and subsidiary groups
5. Pending proposals

The Director was asked to circulate the agenda for the technical meeting for comments.

The 91st annual meeting of the Commission will be held in Vanuatu in July 2017, on dates to be decided.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was not adjourned, but suspended, 8:00 p.m. on 1 July 2016.

APPENDICES

1 List of participants

2. RESOLUTIONS

- 2a Amendment of Resolution C-15-03 on the collection and analyses of data on fish-aggregating devices C-16-01
 - 2b Harvest control rules for tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack) C-16-02
 - 2c Resolution on Pacific bluefin tuna C-16-03
 - 2d Amendment to Resolution C-05-03 on the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean C-16-04
 - 2e Resolution on the management of shark species C-16-05
 - 2f Conservation measures for shark species, with special emphasis on the silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), for the years 2017, 2018, and 2019 C-16-06
 - 2g Financing for fiscal year 2017 C-16-07
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3. PROPOSALS

- 3a B-1A **European Union.** Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port
 - 3b D-1 **Ecuador.** Permissibility of Discards
 - 3c F-1 **United States.** Conservation of Pacific Bluefin Tuna
 - 3d G1-A **United States.** Multiannual Program for the Conservation of Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean during 2017-2019
 - 3e H-1 **United States.** Boarding and Inspection Procedures
 - 3f I-1 **United States.** Observer Safety at Sea
 - 3g J-1 **United States.** Amendment to Resolution C-11-02 to Mitigate the Impact on Seabirds of Fishing for Species Covered by the IATTC
 - 3h K-1 **Mexico.** Amendment to Resolution C-11-08 on Observers on Longline Vessels
 - 3i L-1 **Mexico.** Use of Information on Compliance
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4 REPORTS

- 4a Report of the 4th meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance
 - 4b Report of the 7th meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures adopted by the Commission (“Review Committee”)
 - 4c Report of the 17th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity (May 2016)
 - 4d Report of the 17th meeting (resumed) of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity
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5 OTHERS

- 5a **Ecuador:** Statement on carrying capacity
- 5b **Chile:** Statement as an observer
- 5c Proposal by the Chair of the WCPFC Northern Committee for a joint meeting on bluefin tuna

Appendix 1

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Appendix 2a.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-01

**AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION C-15-03 ON THE COLLECTION
AND ANALYSES OF DATA ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Taking into account the best available scientific information on the status of the bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack stocks;

Committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Understanding that all fishing gears, including fish-aggregating devices (FADs), have an effect on the stocks and the pelagic ecosystem in the EPO, and that such effects should be fully understood by the Members of the Commission;

Attentive to the provisions of IATTC Resolution C-99-07 on measures related to the regulation of FADs;

Agreeing that, to accurately provide the scientific advice necessary to effectively manage tuna fisheries in the EPO, it is necessary for the scientific staff of the IATTC to have access to, and analyze, the relevant data regarding such fisheries and gears, and for Commission Members to put in place measures as needed to collect such information in their fisheries;

Acknowledging that observers currently collect data on FADs in the EPO that have been examined by the IATTC staff (Document SAC-02-13) and that the Commission has adopted measures for further research on FADs; the significant effect that FADs may have on bigeye tuna spawning biomass, according to IATTC estimates (Document SAC-03-06); that skipjack tuna is captured on FADs and in unassociated schools in the EPO (Document SAC-03-03), and according to IATTC estimates, its exploitation rate has been increasing in recent years (Document SAC-03-07);

Recognizing that these measures need to be expanded and improved upon to ensure that the effects of the use of FADs on highly migratory fish stocks along with non-target, associated and dependent species, are fully understood and that the Commission can receive the best available scientific advice concerning mitigation of any negative effects;

Committed to ensuring that such scientific advice is taken into account in the development of the Commission's conservation and management measures concerning fishing for tunas;

Noting that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) has recommended that the Commission should strengthen the work on FADs by holding a meeting involving managers, scientists, and other stakeholders;

Noting that, based on recent scientific analysis, the development of improved FAD designs, in particular non-entangling FADs, both drifting and anchored, helps reduce the incidence of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles and other species;

Further noting that whale sharks are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, including from fishing, and

noting the ecological and economic value these species can bring to the EPO; and

Concerned about the potential effects of purse-seine operations on the status of whale sharks when deliberately or accidentally set upon;

AGREES:

1. For the purposes of this Resolution, the term “Fish-Aggregating Device” (FAD) means anchored, drifting, floating or submerged objects deployed and/or tracked by vessels, including through the use of radio and/or satellite buoys, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for purse-seine fishing operations.

SECTION 1. FAD DATA COLLECTION

2. Beginning 1 January 2017, CPCs shall require the owners and operators of all purse-seine vessels flying their flag, when fishing on FADs in the IATTC Convention Area, to collect and report the information contained in Annex I. The data may be collected through a dedicated logbook, modifications to regional logsheets, or other domestic reporting procedures.
3. CPCs shall provide the data collected for the previous calendar year, pursuant to Paragraph 2, which are available at the time of submission, to the Director. CPCs shall submit the data to the Director no later than 60 days prior to each regular meeting of the SAC.
4. No later than the IATTC annual meeting in 2018, the scientific staff of the IATTC, in coordination with the SAC, shall present to the Commission the preliminary results of its analyses of the information collected pursuant to Paragraph 2, and shall identify additional elements for data collection, as well as specific reporting formats, necessary to evaluate the effects of the use of FADs on the ecosystem of the EPO fishery. The analyses shall also incorporate information from data on FADs collected by observers through the *Flotsam Information Record*.
5. In addition, no later than the IATTC annual meeting in 2018, the scientific staff of the IATTC, in coordination with the SAC and taking into account the outcomes of the *Ad Hoc Working Group* on FADs, shall present to the Commission initial recommendations based on information collected, based on this resolution and through other mechanisms, for the management of FADs, including possible effects of FADs in the tuna fishery in the EPO. The Commission shall consider adopting management measures based on those recommendations, including a region-wide FAD management plan, and which may include, *inter alia*, recommendations regarding FAD deployments and FAD sets, the use of biodegradable materials in new and improved FADs and the gradual phasing out of FAD designs that do not mitigate the entanglement of sharks, sea turtles, and other species.
6. The scientific staff of the IATTC, in coordination with the SAC, shall also formulate recommendations for regulating the management of the affected stocks for presentation to the Commission, on the basis of the results of its analyses of the collected FAD information. Such recommendations shall include methods for limiting the capture of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna associated with fishing on FADs.
7. In 2018, compliance with the FAD reporting requirements of this Resolution will be comprehensively reviewed by the *Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures adopted by the Commission* and presented to the Commission.
8. Data collected pursuant to this resolution shall be treated under the rules established in the IATTC Resolution on Confidentiality.

SECTION 2. FAD IDENTIFICATION

9. No later than 1 January 2017, CPCs shall require the owners and operators of their applicable flagged purse-seine fishing vessels to identify all FADs deployed or modified by such vessels in accordance with a Commission identification scheme detailed in footnote 1 of Annex 1.

SECTION 3. NON-ENTANGLING FADS

10. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, the design and deployment of FADs should be based on the principles set out in Annex II.
11. Annex II is consistent with the 2015 recommendations of the scientific staff of the IATTC. The scientific staff of the IATTC, in coordination with the SAC, shall continue to review research results on the use of non-entangling material and biodegradable material on FADs, and shall provide specific recommendations no later than the 2018 IATTC annual meeting, consistent with Paragraph 5.

SECTION 4. WHALE SHARKS

12. CPCs shall prohibit their flag vessels from setting a purse-seine net on a school of tuna associated with a live whale shark, if the animal is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.
13. CPCs shall require that, in the event that a whale shark is not deliberately encircled in the purse-seine net, the master of the vessel shall:
 - a. ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure its safe release; and
 - b. report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag CPC, including the number of individuals, details of how and why the encirclement happened, where it occurred, steps taken to ensure safe release, and an assessment of the life status of the whale shark on release (including whether the animal was released alive but subsequently died).

SECTION 5. AD HOC PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FADS

14. An *ad hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs (Working Group) is established.
15. This Working Group shall be multi-sectorial, involving various stakeholders such as scientists, fishery managers, fishing industry representatives, administrators, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and fishers. Expressions of interest to participate in the Working Group shall be provided to the Director, who shall inform CPCs and the Chair of the FADs Working Group.
16. To the highest degree possible, the Working Group shall conduct its work electronically or, if convenient and cost-effective, in targeted face-to-face meetings that take place in conjunction with other Commission meetings.
17. The Working Group shall report on a regular basis to the Commission and present an initial report of its findings at the 2017 meeting of the SAC.
18. The Terms of Reference of the Working Group are those indicated in Annex III.
19. The Working Group shall liaise, as far as possible, with other similar working groups on FAD management established in other tuna regional fisheries management organizations (tuna RFMOs), in particular the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).
20. The IATTC, at its 2017 annual meeting, will review the progress and outcomes of the Working Group and will decide on the necessity for its continuation.
21. This Resolution replaces Resolution C-15-03.

Annex I

CPCs are required to ensure their vessel owners and operators record and report to the appropriate national authorities any interaction with FADs, using a standard format to be developed by the Commission staff.

For each interaction with a FAD, the following information shall be recorded:

- i. Position;
- ii. Date;

- iii. Hour;
- iv. FAD identification⁴;
- v. FAD type (*e.g.*, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD);
- vi. FAD design characteristics (dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure);
- vii. Type of the activity (set, deployment, hauling, retrieving, loss, intervention on electronic equipment, other (specify));
- viii. If the activity is a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and bycatch; and
- ix. Characteristics of any attached buoy or positioning equipment (positioning system, whether equipped with sonar, *etc.*).

Annex II

Principles for design and deployment of FADs

1. If a flat raft is used as a FAD, the surface structure should not be covered, or only covered with material that attempts to minimize entanglements.
2. Any subsurface component of the FAD should be constructed in a manner designed to avoid entangling marine life.
3. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, the use of natural or biodegradable materials (such as hessian canvas, hemp ropes, *etc.*) for drifting FADs should be promoted.

Annex III

The objectives of the Working Group are the following:

1. Collect and compile information on FADs in the EPO, including but not limited to data collected by the IATTC and reports prepared by the scientific staff of the IATTC;
2. Review the FAD data collection requirements established in this Resolution to assess the need for revision;
3. Develop data reporting formats and definitions of terms related to FAD fishing (*e.g.* biodegradable FADs, non-entangling FADs, *etc.*), to implement obligations under this Resolution, in cooperation with the scientific staff, to be submitted to the Commission for consideration;
4. Compile information regarding developments on FADs in other tuna RFMOs;
5. Compile information regarding developments on the latest scientific information on FADs, including information on non-entangling FADs, and identify priority areas for research;
6. Prepare annual reports for the SAC, including specific recommendations, as appropriate; and
7. Identify and review possible FAD management measures, in coordination with the scientific staff and the SAC, and make recommendations to the Commission, as appropriate.

⁴ CPCs shall obtain unique alphanumeric codes from the IATTC staff on a periodic basis and distribute those numbers to the vessels in their fleets for FADs that may be deployed or modified, or in the alternative, if there is already a unique FAD identifier associated with the FAD (*e.g.*, the manufacturer identification code for the attached buoy), the vessel owner or operator may instead use that identifier as the unique code for each FAD that may be deployed or modified. The alphanumeric code shall be clearly painted in characters at least 5 cm in height. The characters shall be painted on the upper portion of the attached radio or satellite buoy in a location that does not cover the solar cells used to power the equipment. For FADs without attached radio or satellite buoys, the characters shall be painted on the uppermost or emergent top portion of the FAD. The vessel owner or operator shall ensure the marking is durable (for example, use epoxy-based paint or an equivalent in terms of lasting ability) and visible at all times during daylight. In circumstances where the observer is unable to view the code, the captain or crew shall assist the observer (*e.g.* by providing the FAD identification code to the observer).

Appendix 2b.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-02

**HARVEST CONTROL RULES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS
(YELLOWFIN, BIGEYE, AND SKIPJACK)**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 90th meeting:

Aware of its responsibility regarding the scientific study of tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area, and for adopting conservation and management measures for those resources, and

Recognizing that the sustainability of the resource can be reduced if the increase in fishing effort is considerable, and

Aware that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase, and

Bearing in mind that Article 7.5.3a of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing indicates that regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) should determine stock-specific target reference points, and, at the same time, the action to be taken if they are exceeded, and

Bearing in mind also that Article 7.5.3b of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing indicates that RFMOs should determine stock-specific limit reference points, and, at the same time, the action to be taken if they are exceeded; when a limit reference point is approached, measures should be taken to ensure that it will not be exceeded, and

Taking note of the variety of opinions that exist regarding the appropriate target reference points relating to the level of fishing mortality or the level of biomass that allow the long-term sustainable exploitation of the fish stocks, with the best possible catches; and on appropriate limit reference points related to the maximum values of fishing mortality or the minimum values of biomass, which should not be exceeded, and

Recognizing that, for the fishery for tropical tunas in the Convention Area, decision rules based on the precautionary principle will have to be developed to ensure that management objectives are achieved, including those deriving from the limit and target reference points adopted, and

Bearing in mind that, on the basis of the best available scientific information and the precautionary approach, the IATTC has used as an operational harvest control rule (HCR) limiting fishing mortality (F) at levels that do not exceed the level corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and

Considering that the Commission, during its 87th annual meeting, adopted interim limit and target reference points for yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna, and

Bearing in mind that the IATTC scientific staff indicates in Document SAC-07-07g, that the appropriateness of the operational HCR currently used with regard to the limit reference points has not been investigated in depth; therefore a more comprehensive management strategy evaluation (MSE) is necessary to evaluate the HCR; and alternative HCRs should be considered that include hard and soft limit reference points, that use reference points based on biomass, and that establish well-defined scientific management recommendations in the case that the reference points are exceeded,

Resolves as follows:

1. For the purposes of this Resolution, the following definitions⁵ apply:
 - a. A limit reference point is a conservation reference point based on a level of spawning biomass (S_{LIMIT}) or fishing mortality (F_{LIMIT}) that should be avoided because going beyond it could endanger the sustainability of the stock; $F_{0.5R0}$ and $S_{0.5R0}$ assuming steepness $h = 0.75$ were adopted by the 87th meeting of the IATTC as interim limit reference points for tropical tunas in the EPO.
 - b. A target reference point is a management objective based on a level of spawning biomass (S_{TARGET}) or a fishing mortality rate (F_{TARGET}) that should be achieved and maintained. S_{MSY} and F_{MSY} were adopted by the 87th meeting of the IATTC as interim target reference points for tropical tunas in the EPO.
 - c. Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) are decision rules that aim to achieve the target reference point and avoid the limit reference point by specifying pre-agreed management actions.
2. The recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff on conservation measures for the stocks of tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack), shall take as their technical basis the limit and target reference points adopted provisionally.
3. The harvest control rule (HCR) recommended by the scientific staff for the purse-seine fishery for tropical tunas shall be adopted, in accordance with the following principles:
 - a. The scientific recommendations for establishing management measures in the fisheries for tropical tunas, such as closures, which can be established for multiple years, shall attempt to prevent the fishing mortality rate (F) from exceeding the best estimate of the rate corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (F_{MSY}) for the species that requires the strictest management.
 - b. If the probability that F will exceed the limit reference point (F_{LIMIT}) is greater than 10%, as soon as is practical management measures shall be established that have a probability of at least 50% of reducing F to the target level (F_{MSY}) or less, and a probability of less than 10% that F will exceed F_{LIMIT} .
 - c. If the probability that the spawning biomass (S) is below the limit reference point (S_{LIMIT}) is greater than 10%, as soon as is practical management measures shall be established that have a probability of at least 50% of restoring S to the target level (dynamic S_{MSY}) or greater, and a probability of less than 10% that S will descend to below S_{LIMIT} in a period of two generations of the stock or five years, whichever is greater.
 - d. For fisheries that use gears other than purse-seine nets, the recommendations by the IATTC scientific staff on additional management measures shall be as consistent as possible with those adopted for the purse-seine fishery, while taking account of the impact of those fisheries on the species compared with that of purse-seine fishery.
4. The scientific staff of the Commission shall carry out additional assessments of these HCRs and alternatives, which shall be presented to the Scientific Advisory Committee for examination in order to allow the Commission to adopt a permanent HCR.
5. The IATTC shall continue to promote, encourage, and insist on compatibility between the

⁵ Other definitions :

F_{MSY} : fishing mortality rate corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield;

B_{MSY} : spawning biomass corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield;

$S_{0.5r0}$: spawning biomass corresponding to that which produces a 50% reduction in recruitment as calculated in a Beverton-Holt spawner-recruit model with steepness of 0.75;

$F_{0.5R0}$: fishing mortality that causes spawning biomass to be reduced to $S_{0.5r0}$

conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in their objectives and efficacy with regard to the tropical tuna stocks.

6. The Director shall communicate this Resolution to the Secretariat of the WCPFC.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-03

RESOLUTION ON PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 90th Meeting:

Taking into account that the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is caught in both the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Expressing concern that the latest stock assessment in 2016 by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) shows the following:

- The spawning stock biomass (SSB) declined steadily from 1996 to 2010
- The decline appears to have ceased since 2010, although the stock remains near historically low levels and is experiencing exploitation rates above all calculated biological reference points except F_{MED} and F_{loss} ;
- If the low recruitment of recent years continues, the risk of the SSB falling below its historically lowest observed level would increase; and
- Further reductions in fishing mortality, particularly of juveniles, would contribute to achieving the recovery objective, *i.e.*, rebuilding the SSB to the historical median by 2024 with a probability of at least 60%.

Recognizing that the 2012 stock assessment by the ISC showed that further reductions in fishing mortality and catch over the whole range of ages should be considered in both Commissions to reduce the risk of the SSB falling below its historically low level.

Recalling that Article VII, paragraph 1(c) of the Antigua Convention provides that the Commission shall “adopt measures that are based on the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention and to maintain or restore the populations of harvested species at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield...”;

Recognizing also that the impact of the fishery for Pacific bluefin tuna in the WCPO on SSB is proportionally much greater (84%) than in the EPO fisheries (16%), and that its rate of increase in recent years has also been comparatively much greater;

Affirming that it is necessary to adopt comparable, compatible, and rigorous management measures, taking into account the catch in the EPO and WCPO fisheries in both Commissions (IATTC and WCPFC) that have the responsibility and competence over this resource, in order to reduce the fishing mortality throughout its range and to ensure to the rebuilding of the stock;

Noting that, consistent with guidance from the 89th Meeting of the IATTC, the Chairman of the IATTC wrote to the Executive Director of the WCPFC on 1 December 2015, exhorting the WCPFC to consider at its annual meeting, among other things, working on the development of a coordinated rebuilding and management plan for the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna, and that the IATTC shall ask the WCPFC for a joint meeting with all interested parties after the stock assessment by the ISC in 2016, in order to adopt

equivalent reference points;

Noting further that, in a 24 June 2016 communication from the Chairman of the Northern Committee (NC) of the WCPFC to the Director of the IATTC, the NC Chairman proposed a joint IATTC/NC meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna management, and proposed further that it be held in conjunction with the next meeting of the NC (NC12) in Fukuoka, Japan, in August 2016; and

Acknowledging once again the importance for both Commissions taking complementary and effective measures to reduce the fishing mortality of Pacific bluefin tuna throughout the entire range of age classes, and the importance of moving forward with such a Joint IATTC/NC meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna management at the earliest time practicable;

Resolves as follows:

1. In order to review the current management measures, notably the initial rebuilding target, and to promote the objectives of rebuilding the Pacific bluefin stock and a long-term management framework for the stock and associated fisheries, CPCs shall coordinate with the WCPFC, through a series of joint meetings to occur at least annually, beginning with the first meeting in August 2016, and continuing until CPCs have accomplished the objectives.
2. The Director, on behalf of the Commission, shall respond to the communication from the Chairman of the NC, agreeing to an initial Joint IATTC/NC working group meeting, with the following comments concerning structure and objectives:
 - a. IATTC agrees to hold the joint meeting during NC12.
 - b. The joint meetings shall be co-chaired by one representative from the IATTC and NC, respectively.
 - c. Meetings shall be open to observers.
 - d. The outcomes of the meetings shall be directly reported to the NC and IATTC so they may be considered for adoption through IATTC Resolutions and WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures;
 - e. The objectives of the joint meetings are the following:
 - i. To review the current management measures and the initial rebuilding target, and discuss at this first joint meeting (i) the conduct of the meeting(s) under joint chairmanship; (ii) the respective roles and responsibilities of the ISC and the IATTC scientific staff, and ways to promote further cooperation between the two; and (iii) how future joint meetings will be held, including a commitment to holding the joint meeting on an annual basis.
 - ii. To reach agreement that the basin-wide rebuilding plan for Pacific bluefin and long-term management framework will be harmonized across the Pacific, and will be designed to return the population to a target reference point to be agreed.
 - iii. To reach agreement that the joint meeting shall develop advice for the two Commissions consistent with the objective that the IATTC and WCPFC are able to adopt harmonized management objectives with precautionary levels of risk; target and limit reference points that are based on best scientific practices and the best available science, the respective Convention mandates, and appropriate candidate harvest control rules that include pre-agreed management actions; and
 - iv. To reach agreement that the candidate harvest control rules will be tested through a Management Strategy Evaluation, and then a harmonized final harvest control rule will be proposed for adoption by the respective Commissions.

Appendix 2d.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-04

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-05-03 ON THE
CONSERVATION OF SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH
FISHERIES IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission:

Resolves as follows, in order to amend Resolution C-05-03:

1. Paragraph 8 of Resolution C-05-03 is replaced by the following paragraph:

“8. CPCs shall, where possible, in cooperation with the IATTC scientific staff, undertake research to:

 - a. identify ways to make fishing gears more selective, where appropriate, including research in-to alternative measures to prohibiting wire leaders;
 - b. improve knowledge of key biological/ecological parameters, life-history and behavioural traits, and migration patterns of key shark species;
 - c. identify key shark mating, pupping, and nursery areas; and
 - d. improve handling practices for live sharks to maximise post-release survival.”
2. Current paragraph 9 of Resolution C-05-03 is deleted.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-05

RESOLUTION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SHARK SPECIES

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Noting that sharks are part of the pelagic ecosystems in the IATTC Convention Area and are caught by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species and in fisheries targeting sharks;

Recalling that under the Antigua Convention, “fish stocks covered by this Convention” means “stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area”, and that under Article VIII, paragraph 1 (c), the Commission shall “adopt measures to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention”;

Further recalling that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f) of the Antigua Convention establishes that the Commission shall “adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by the Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened”;

Recognizing that the [IATTC Fishery Status Reports](#) show the silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) and the hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna spp.*) as the shark species most frequently caught by purse-seine vessels fishing for tuna in the Convention Area,

Further recognizing that the [Specifications for data provision](#)⁶ circulated by the Director on 25 March 2016 identify silky and hammerhead sharks as among the “principal species known to be caught by vessels and gears fishing for species under the purview of the Commission in the Convention Area”;

Noting the commitments that IATTC Members have made regarding shark conservation in other IATTC resolutions, including Resolution [C-11-10](#) on the conservation of oceanic whitetip sharks and Resolution [C-05-03](#) on the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries in the Convention Area; and

Further noting the IATTC staff’s [2016 conservation recommendations](#) for the release of sharks caught by purse-seine vessels and for prohibiting the use of shark lines by longline vessels;

Agrees that:

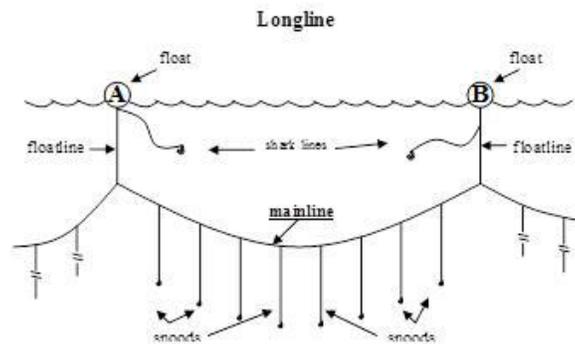
1. The IATTC scientific staff shall develop a workplan, with a timeline to share with the Commission in advance of the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2017, for completing full stock assessments for the silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) and hammerhead sharks (*i.e.*, *Sphyrna lewini*, *S. zygaena* and *S. mokarran*). The workplan shall clearly identify any data requirements needed to complete the stock assessments for these species and the action plan for meeting the timelines in the workplan.
2. CPCs shall require their fishers to collect and submit catch data for silky and hammerhead sharks, and shall submit the data to the IATTC in accordance with IATTC data reporting requirements. CPCs

⁶ <http://www.iatcc.org/PDFFiles2/Misc/Data-provisions-requirements-2016ENG.pdf>

shall also record, through observer programs or other means, for purse-seine vessels of all capacity classes, the number and status (dead/alive) of silky sharks and hammerhead sharks caught and released, and report it to the IATTC.

3. CPCs shall require purse-seine vessels flying their flag to follow safe release requirements for all sharks, except those retained aboard the vessel. Any shark (whether alive or dead) caught in the Convention Area that is not retained must be promptly released unharmed, to the extent practicable, as soon as it is seen in the net or on the deck, without compromising the safety of any persons. If a shark is alive when caught and is not retained, the shark must be released by using the following procedures, or equally effective means:
 - a. Sharks must be released out of the net by directly releasing them from the brailer into the ocean. Sharks that cannot be released without compromising the safety of persons or the sharks before being landed on deck must be returned to the water as soon as possible, either utilizing a ramp from the deck connecting to an opening on the side of the vessel, or through escape hatches. If ramps or escape hatches are not available, the sharks must be lowered with a sling or cargo net, using a crane or similar equipment, if available.
 - b. The use of gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments is prohibited for the handling of sharks. No shark may be lifted by the head, tail, gill slits, or spiracles, or by using bind wire against or inserted through the body, and no holes may be punched through the bodies of sharks (*e.g.*, to pass a cable through for lifting the shark).
 - c. No whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) may be towed out of a purse-seine net, *e.g.*, using towing ropes.
4. CPCs shall prohibit longline vessels flying their flag and targeting tuna or swordfish in the Convention Area from using “shark lines” (individual lines attached to the floatline or to the floats directly, and used to target sharks; Figure 1).
5. This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2018.

Figure 1. Schematic diagram of a shark line.



INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-06

**CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR SHARK SPECIES, WITH
SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE SILKY SHARK (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), FOR THE YEARS 2017, 2018, AND 2019**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 90th meeting:

Considering that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f), of the Antigua Convention indicates that the Commission shall “adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by [the] Convention”;

Recalling Article IV, paragraph 3, of the Antigua Convention, which states that “where the status of target stocks or non-target or associated or dependent species is of concern, the members of the Commission shall subject such stocks and species to enhanced monitoring in order to review their status and the efficacy of conservation and management measures, revising those measures regularly in the light of new scientific information available”;

*Recognizing that silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) are the shark species most commonly caught as bycatch by purse-seine vessels in the Convention Area;*

Recognizing that measures should be implemented to allow silky shark populations to rebuild in the Convention Area; and

Aware of the need to establish conservation measures for the protection of sharks, especially the silky shark;

Agrees as follows:

1. Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) shall prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, landing, or storing, in part or whole, carcasses of silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) caught by purse-seine vessels in the IATTC Convention Area.
2. CPCs shall require all longline vessels whose fishing licences do not include sharks as a fishing target but catch sharks incidentally, to limit bycatch of silky sharks to a maximum of 20% of the total catch by fishing trip in weight. The 20% limit is set as an interim limit in the absence of data and scientific analysis on which to base conservation and management measures, and will be revised, based on recommendations by the scientific staff, once improved species-level catch and composition data are available.
3. CPCs shall require their multi-species fisheries using surface longlines⁷ to limit the catch of silky sharks of less than 100 cm total length to 20% of the total number of silky sharks caught during the trip.

⁷ For the purposes of this resolution, surface longlines are those in which the majority of hooks fish at depths shallower than 100 meters, in normal circumstances, and target species other than swordfish.

4. CPCs shall subject the fisheries referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 to effective monitoring measures to determine if the 20% maximum is exceeded, such as through port inspections and review of observer data, and shall report to the Commission information on percentages reached, in accordance with IATTC data submission requirements.
5. CPCs shall require vessels to not fish in silky shark pupping areas, as may be adopted by the Commission, in accordance with the recommendation of the IATTC scientific staff, in coordination with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC),
6. For those multi-species fisheries using surface longlines that have captured more than 20% of silky sharks in weight on average, CPCs shall prohibit the use of steel leaders during a period of three consecutive months each year. The average proportion of silky sharks in the catch will be calculated from data of the previous calendar year. New vessels entering the multi-species fisheries affected by this Resolution and those for which no data are available from the period immediately prior shall be subject to the provisions of this paragraph.
7. The IATTC scientific staff, in coordination with the SAC, shall recommend the most appropriate period for the purposes of paragraph 6 on the basis of the analysis of the data provided by CPCs to be taken into consideration in the revision of this measure.
8. Vessels of less than 12 m length overall using manually-operated fishing gear (*i.e.* without mechanical or hydraulic winches) and that do not deliver to motherships at any time during the fishing trip are excluded from the application of this resolution. For this excluded fleet, CPCs shall work with the Commission's scientific staff on the immediate establishment of data-collection programs, which shall be presented at the meeting of the SAC in 2017.
9. CPCs shall notify the Director, before 1 October of each year, the single period of restricted use of steel leaders referred to in paragraph 6 which will be observed for the following calendar year.
10. CPCs shall keep a record of the vessels and the period to which each vessel operator or owner has committed for the enforcement of this resolution.
11. CPCs shall require the collection and submission of catch data for silky sharks, in accordance with IATTC data reporting requirements. CPCs shall also record, through observer programs and other means, for purse-seine vessels of all capacity classes, the number and status (dead/alive) of silky sharks caught and released, and report it to the IATTC.
12. The Commission shall prioritize research by the scientific staff in the following areas:
 - a. Identification of the pupping areas of the silky shark.
 - b. Mitigation of bycatch of sharks, especially in longline fisheries, and survival of sharks caught by all types of gears, giving priority to gears with significant catches. Survival experiments should include studies of the effects on survival of shorter sets and the use of circle hooks.
 - c. Improve handling practices for live sharks to maximise post-release survival.
 - d. The appropriateness of the percentage limit on silky sharks catch established in paragraphs 2 and 3.
13. This Resolution shall be reviewed annually at the meeting of the SAC, in order to evaluate the adequacy of the measures, notably those in paragraphs 2, 3 and 6.
14. This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2017, and shall be reviewed at the IATTC annual meeting in 2019.

Appendix 2g.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-07

FINANCING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California, USA, on the occasion of its 90th Meeting:

Understanding the importance of ensuring sufficient funding for the Commission in a timely manner, so that it may continue to effectively develop and implement the agreed conservation and management program for the living marine resources of the IATTC Convention Area, and conduct the associated data collection and research;

Noting that non-payment of the agreed contributions may impair the Commission's ability to continue its operations;

Aware that the allocation of the costs of supporting the Commission among Members should be transparent, fair and equitable, stable, and predictable, but also should allow for redistribution of costs as new Members join;

Taking into account Resolution C-15-05, whereby the Commission, at its 89th Meeting, agreed on a formula for calculating the contributions of the Members to the Commission's budget for the years 2013-2017 and beyond,;

Taking into account the relevant provisions of the Antigua Convention;

Noting that several non-Members derive benefits from catching or utilizing fish covered by the Convention, but do not make contributions to the Commission's budget;

Taking note of the Commission staff's proposals regarding the budget presented in Document CAF-04-04; and

Recognizing the need to seek economies in the operation of the Commission, in order to reduce costs;

Agrees:

1. To adopt a budget of US\$ 6,737,489 for fiscal year (FY) 2017.

2. That the Members shall contribute to the Commission's budget for FY 2017 in accordance with the following schedule:

	FY 2017 (US\$)
Belize	35,387
Canada	117,004
China	149,021
Colombia	279,534
Korea	185,629
Costa Rica	70,861
Ecuador	1,171,914
El Salvador	62,460
United States	1,746,553
France	99,939
Guatemala	40,993
Japan	351,207
Kiribati	33,424
Mexico	909,706
Nicaragua	58,702
Panamá	477,072
Peru	61,979
Chinese Taipei	167,589
European Union	295,377
Vanuatu	48,658
Venezuela	374,480
Total	6,737,489

Appendix 3a.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

PROPOSAL IATTC-90 B-1A

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

IATTC RESOLUTION FOR AN IATTC SCHEME FOR MINIMUM
STANDARDS FOR INSPECTION IN PORT

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Goal: this Resolution is intended to fight against IUU fishing and contribute to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources in the IATTC Convention Area through strengthened, harmonized and transparent minimum standards for inspections.

In line with similar proposals adopted by other RFMOs, the most essential elements of the proposal is the inspection of vessels, designation of ports, prior notifications and reporting of possible infringements. It is therefore more in line with the requests from developing coastal CPCs as it also includes a number of simplified provisions in order to facilitate consensus at the IATTC.

In addition to that, it will be the first ever port inspection measure adopted by IATTC. Therefore it will ensure consistency with management measures taken in other RFMOs and improve the results of the measures aimed towards conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. This will contribute to more responsible management of the stocks under the IATTC's mandate.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

DEEPLY CONCERNED that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing has a detrimental effect upon fish stocks, marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of legitimate fishers in particular in developing States,

CONSCIOUS of the role of the port State in the adoption of effective measures to promote the sustainable use and the long-term conservation of living marine resources,

RECALLING that under the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the right to fish carries with it the obligation to do so in a responsible manner so as to ensure effective conservation and management of living aquatic resources,

RECOGNIZING that measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing should build on the primary responsibility of flag States and use all available jurisdiction in accordance with international law, including minimum standards for inspection in port, coastal State measures, and measures to ensure that nationals do not support or engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

RECOGNIZING that minimum standards for inspections in port provide a powerful and cost-effective means of preventing, deterring and eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

AWARE of the need for increasing coordination at the regional and interregional levels to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing through minimum standards for inspection in port, and

RECALLING the relevant provisions the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 24 November 1993, the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and other relevant international law,

Agrees as follows:

Assessment in Anticipation of Implementation

1. Following the adoption of this Resolution, the IATTC Secretariat will identify the needs of developing CPCs related to the implementation of this Resolution; to present options and facilities for capacity building for those CPCs that might require and desire such assistance; to identify and assess any other barriers to effective full implementation; and to develop solutions to any such barriers.
2. This assessment will be accomplished through consultations, through questionnaires sent to all developing CPCs as set forth in Annex 2, and through any other available information.
3. Within 60 days following the deadline for receipt of the completed questionnaires, the Secretariat shall provide all CPCs with a report summarizing the responses, identifying any developing CPCs that may not have responded, and providing a detailed description of identified barriers to implementation.
4. The Commission, at its annual meeting in 2017, shall review the assessment report of the Secretariat and any individual reports from developing CPCs, as provided in paragraph 32.

Scope

5. Nothing in this Resolution shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Commission (hereinafter referred to as “CPCs”) under international law. In particular, nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to affect the exercise by CPCs of their authority over their ports in accordance with international law, including their right to deny entry thereto as well as to adopt more stringent measures than those provided for in this Resolution.

This Resolution shall be interpreted and applied in conformity with international law, taking into account applicable international rules and standards, including those established through the International Maritime Organization, as well as other international instruments.

CPCs shall fulfill in good faith any obligations ultimately assumed pursuant to this Resolution and shall exercise the rights recognized herein in a manner that would not constitute an abuse of right.

6. With a view to monitoring compliance with IATTC Resolutions, each CPC, in its capacity as a port CPC, shall apply this Resolution for an effective scheme of port inspections in respect of foreign fishing vessels carrying IATTC-managed species caught in the IATTC Convention Area (Convention Area) and/or fish products originating from such species caught in the Convention Area that have not been previously landed or transhipped at port, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels".
7. A CPC may, in its capacity as a port CPC, decide not to apply this Resolution to foreign fishing vessels chartered by its nationals operating under its authority and returning to its ports. Such chartered fishing vessels shall be subject to measures by the CPC which are as effective as measures applied in relation to vessels entitled to fly its flag.
8. Without prejudice to specifically applicable provisions of other IATTC Resolutions, and except as otherwise provided in this Resolution, this Resolution shall apply to foreign fishing vessels equal to or greater than 20 meters in length overall.
9. Each CPC shall subject foreign fishing vessels below 20 meters length overall, foreign fishing vessels operating under charter as referred to under paragraph 7, and fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag to

measures that are at least as effective in combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU)⁸ fishing as measures applied to vessels referred to in paragraph 8.

10. CPCs shall take necessary action to inform fishing vessels entitled to fly their flag of this and other relevant IATTC Resolutions.

Points of Contact

11. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall designate a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications pursuant to paragraph 17. Each CPC shall designate a point of contact for the purpose of receiving inspection reports pursuant to paragraph 28(b) of this Resolution. It shall transmit the name and contact information for its points of contact to the IATTC Director no later than 30 days following the entry into force of this Resolution. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the IATTC Director at least 7 days before such changes take effect. The IATTC Director shall promptly notify CPCs of any such change.
12. The IATTC Director shall establish and maintain a register of points of contact based on the lists submitted by the CPCs. The register and any subsequent changes shall be published promptly on the IATTC website.

Designated ports

13. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Resolution.
14. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall ensure that it has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections in every designated port pursuant to this Resolution to the greatest extent possible.
15. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall provide to the IATTC Director within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Resolution a list of designated ports. Any subsequent changes to this list shall be notified to the IATTC Director at least 14 days before the change takes effect.
16. The IATTC Director shall establish and maintain a register of designated ports based on the lists submitted by the port CPCs. The register and any subsequent change shall be published promptly on the IATTC website.

Prior notification

17. Each port CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall, except as provided under paragraph 18 of this Resolution, require foreign fishing vessels seeking to use its ports for the purpose of landing and/or transshipment to provide, at least 48 hours before the estimated time of arrival at the port, the following information:
 - a) Vessel identification (External identification, Name, Flag CPC, IMO No, if any, and IRCS);
 - b) Name of the designated port, as referred to in the IATTC register, to which it seeks entry and the purpose of the port call (landing and/or transshipment);
 - c) Fishing authorization or, where appropriate, any other authorization held by the vessel to support fishing operations on IATTC-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species, or to transship related fishery products;
 - d) Estimated date and time of arrival in port;
 - e) The estimated quantities in kilograms of each IATTC-managed species and/or fish products

⁸ IUU fishing refers to illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing activities as defined in Annex 1.

originating from such species held on board, with associated catch areas. If no IATTC species and/or fish products originating from such species are held on board, a 'nil' report shall be transmitted;

- f) The estimated quantities for each IATTC-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species in kilograms to be landed or transshipped, with associated catch areas.

The port CPC may also request other information as it may require to determine whether the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, or related activities.

- 18. The port CPC may prescribe a longer or shorter notification period than specified in paragraph 17, taking into account, inter alia, the type of fishery product, the distance between the fishing grounds and its ports. In such a case, the port CPC shall inform the IATTC Director, who shall publish the information promptly on the IATTC website.
- 19. After receiving the relevant information pursuant to paragraph 17, as well as such other information as it may require to determine whether the foreign fishing vessel requesting entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, the port CPC shall decide whether to authorize or deny the entry of the vessel into its port. In case the port CPC decides to authorize the entry of the vessel into its port, the following provisions on port inspection shall apply.

Port inspections

- 20. Inspections shall be carried out by the competent authority of the port CPC.
- 21. Each year CPCs shall inspect at least 5% of landing and transshipment operations in their designated ports as are made by foreign fishing vessels.
- 22. The Port CPC shall, in accordance with its domestic law, take the following, inter alia, into account when determining which foreign vessels to inspect:
 - a) Whether a vessel has failed to provide complete information as required in paragraph 17;
 - b) Requests from other CPCs or relevant regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) that a particular vessel be inspected, particularly where such requests are supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question;
 - c) Whether clear grounds exist for suspecting that a vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, including information derived from RFMOs.

Inspection procedure

- 23. Each inspector shall carry a document of identity issued by the port CPC. In accordance with domestic laws, port CPC inspectors may examine all relevant areas, decks and rooms of the fishing vessel, catches processed or otherwise, nets or other fishing gears, equipment both technical and electronic, records of transmissions and any relevant documents, including fishing logbooks, Cargo Manifests and Mates Receipts and landing declarations in case of transshipment, which they deem necessary to ensure compliance with the IATTC Resolutions. They may take copies of any documents considered relevant, and they may also question the Master and any other person on the vessel being inspected.
- 24. Inspections shall involve the monitoring of the landing or transshipment and include a cross-check between the quantities by species notified in the prior notification message in paragraph 17 and the quantities which are landed, transhipped or held on board by the vessels. Inspections shall be carried out in such a way that the fishing vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience, and that degradation of the quality of the catch is avoided to the extent practicable.
- 25. On completion of the inspection, the port CPC inspector shall provide the Master of the foreign fishing vessel with the inspection report containing the findings of the inspection, including possible subsequent measures that could be taken by the competent authority of the CPC. The inspector shall

sign the report. The Master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report, to contact the competent authority of the flag CPC. A copy of the report shall be provided to the Master.

26. The port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report electronically or by other means to the flag CPC point of contact and the IATTC Director no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port CPC should notify the IATTC Director within the 14 day time period the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted.
27. Flag CPCs shall take necessary action to ensure that Masters facilitate safe access to the fishing vessel, cooperate with the competent authority of the port CPC, facilitate the inspection and communication and not obstruct, intimidate or interfere, or cause other persons to obstruct, intimidate or interfere with port CPC inspectors in the execution of their duties.

Procedure in the event of infringements

28. If the information collected during the inspection provides evidence that a foreign fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the IATTC Resolutions, the inspector shall:
 - a) record the infringement in the inspection report;
 - b) transmit the inspection report to the port CPC competent authority, which shall promptly forward a copy to the IATTC Director and to the flag CPC point of contact;
 - c) to the extent practicable, ensure safekeeping of the evidence pertaining to such alleged infringement.
29. If the infringement falls within the legal jurisdiction of the port CPC, the port CPC may take action in accordance with its domestic laws. The port CPC shall promptly notify the action taken to the competent authority of the flag CPC and to the IATTC Director, who shall promptly publish this information in a secured part of the IATTC website.
30. Infringements that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the port CPC, and infringements referred to in paragraph 29 for which the port CPC has not taken action, shall be referred to the flag State and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State.. Upon receiving the copy of the inspection report, the flag CPC shall promptly investigate the alleged infringement and notify the IATTC Director of the status of the investigation and of any enforcement action that may have been taken within 6 months of such receipt. If the flag CPC cannot provide the IATTC Director this status report within 6 months of such receipt, the flag CPC should notify the IATTC within the 6 month time period the reasons for the delay and when the status report will be submitted. The IATTC Director shall promptly publish this information in a secured part of the IATTC website. CPCs shall include in their Compliance questionnaire information regarding the status of such investigations.
31. Should the inspection provide evidence that the inspected vessel has engaged in IUU activities as referred to in Resolution C-05-07, the port CPC shall promptly report the case to the flag CPC and notify as soon as possible the IATTC Director, along with its supporting evidence.

Requirements of developing CPCs

32. On the basis of the outcome of the assessment exercise set forth in Annex 2 and in paragraphs 1 to 3, developing CPCs requiring assistance shall submit a plan of action for the implementation of this Resolution. CPCs shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to a port inspection scheme consistent with this Resolution. As of 1 January 2018, and following the result of the assessment of needs, the Special Sustainable Development Fund established by Resolution C-14-03, either directly or through supplementary voluntary contributions from CPCs, shall provide assistance to developing CPCs in order to, *inter alia*:
 - a) Develop their capacity including by providing technical assistance and establishing an

appropriate funding mechanism to support and strengthen the development and implementation of an effective system of port inspection at national, regional or international levels and to ensure that a disproportionate burden resulting from the implementation of this Resolution is not unnecessarily transferred to them; and

- b) Facilitate their participation in meetings and/or training programmes of relevant regional and international organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of a system of port inspection, including monitoring, control and surveillance, enforcement and legal proceedings for infractions and dispute settlements pursuant to this Resolution.

General provisions

- 33. CPCs are encouraged to enter into bilateral agreements/arrangements that allow for an inspector exchange program designed to promote cooperation, share information, and educate each party's inspectors on inspection strategies and methodologies which promote compliance with IATTC Resolutions. A description of such programs should be provided to the IATTC Director which should publish it on the IATTC website.
- 34. Without prejudice to the domestic laws of the port CPC, the flag CPC may, in the case of appropriate bilateral agreements or arrangements with the port CPC or at the invitation of that CPC, send its own officials to accompany the inspectors of the port CPC and observe or take part in the inspection of its vessel.
- 35. Flag CPCs shall consider and act on reports of infringements from inspectors of a port CPC on a similar basis as the reports from their own inspectors, in accordance with their domestic laws. CPCs shall cooperate, in accordance with their domestic laws, in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from inspection reports as set out in this Resolution.
- 36. The IATTC Director shall develop model formats for prior notification reports and inspection reports required under this Resolution, taking into account forms adopted in other relevant instruments, such as international organisations and other RFMOs, for consideration at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Commission.
- 37. The Commission shall review this Resolution no later than its 2020 Annual Meeting and, if appropriate, taking into account developments in other RFMOs and/or international fora and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness. The Secretariat will report annually on the implementation of this measure.
- 38. This Resolution shall enter into force on January 1, 2020.

ANNEX 1

As defined by FAO in the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, IUU fishing means:

Illegal fishing refers to fishing activities:

1. conducted by national or foreign vessels in waters under the jurisdiction of a State, without the permission of that State, or in contravention of its laws and regulations;
2. conducted by vessels flying the flag of States that are parties to a relevant regional fisheries management organization but operate in contravention of the conservation and management measures adopted by that organization and by which the States are bound, or relevant provisions of the applicable international law; or
3. in violation of national laws or international obligations, including those undertaken by cooperating States to a relevant regional fisheries management organization.

Unreported fishing refers to fishing activities:

1. which have not been reported, or have been misreported, to the relevant national authority, in contravention of national laws and regulations; or
2. undertaken in the area of competence of a relevant regional fisheries management organization which have not been reported or have been misreported, in contravention of the reporting procedures of that organization.

Unregulated fishing refers to fishing activities:

1. in the area of application of a relevant regional fisheries management organization that are conducted by vessels without nationality, or by those flying the flag of a State not party to that organization, or by a fishing entity, in a manner that is not consistent with or contravenes the conservation and management measures of that organization; or
2. in areas or for fish stocks in relation to which there are no applicable conservation or management measures and where such fishing activities are conducted in a manner inconsistent with State responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law.

ANNEX 2

Assessment of Capacity to Implement

The Secretariat shall, within 30 days following adoption of this Resolution, transmit to all developing CPCs an assessment questionnaire designed to assess, for each obligation anticipated under this resolution, the extent to which each CPC:

1. Is already applying a particular obligation within laws and/or regulations;
2. For each obligation not already applied, the capacity of each CPC to implement it and the approximate time that will be required to do so;
3. For each obligation that a CPC deems inapplicable or unimplementable, request that the CPC provide the reasons for that determination.

The assessment questionnaire shall include the following obligations envisioned in this Resolution, *inter alia*:

1. The ability of the CPC to designate specific port(s) which foreign vessels may enter
2. The capacity of the CPC to inspect at least 5% of foreign vessels entering the designated ports
3. The capacity of the CPC to designate and empower a competent national authority to receive and process “Prior Notification” information as required in paragraph 18 from inbound foreign vessels;
4. The capacity under national laws of a CPC to empower inspectors to execute the “Inspection Procedures” in paragraphs 23 to 27
5. The capacity of the CPC to implement the “Procedure in the event of infringement” set forth in paragraphs 28 to 31;
6. The specific needs identified by the CPC for assistance in the areas of capacity building.

Developing CPCs shall respond in full to the Assessment Questionnaire to the Secretariat within 90 days of receipt.

Within 60 days following the deadline for receipt of the completed questionnaires, the Secretariat shall provide all CPCs with a report summarizing the responses, identifying any developing CPCs that may not have responded, and providing a detailed description of identified barriers to implementation.

Appendix 3b.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

PROPOSAL IATTC-90 D-1A

SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PERMISSIBILITY OF DISCARDS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA) on the occasion of the 90th Meeting:

*Considering that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) published in January 2011 the *International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards*, advising regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) to recognise the importance of resolving the problems related to bycatches and to collaborate with the other RFMOs to address matters of common interest;*

Aware that in many cases the size of the fish caught is less than the minimum catch size, and that their capture implies an effect on the stocks of tuna species that are fished in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Aware that if the catch of juvenile tunas persists, the sustainability of the resources could be adversely affected;

Aware that, during the catching of tunas, they become entangled in the nets, which affects the quality of fish that goes into the wells;

Recognising the importance of Recommendation 11-10 of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) on the collection of information and the harmonisation of data on bycatch species and discards in ICCAT fisheries for the stocks of tunas in the region and the stocks of highly migratory tunas;

Responding to the recommendations of the CPCs, which includes the need for all CPCs to collect and provide to the Director data on discards or bycatch species;

RESOLVES:

For tropical tunas (skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye) caught by purse-seine vessels:

1. To establish a system for collecting information on discards of tropical tunas in the purse-seine fishery.
2. The observers aboard purse-seine vessels shall collect information on any discarded tropical tunas and report it on a form to be developed by the Secretariat for this purpose, describing the amount, size, and status of the discarded fish, as well as the reasons why it was discarded.
3. The information generated shall be evaluated by the scientific staff of the Commission for the impacts of discards on the stocks, and the results shall be presented at the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in 2017.
4. On the basis of this evaluation, the SAC and Commission will review the retention requirements of Resolution C-13-01 or the Resolution that replaces it in 2016.
5. Until the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2017, paragraph 17 of Resolution C-13-01 is suspended, and a discard percentage of between 0.5% and 1% of the total catch per trip will be allowed.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

PROPOSAL IATTC-90 F-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

**MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN,
2017-2018**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 90th Meeting:

Taking into account that the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is caught in both the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Expressing concern that the latest stock assessment of 2016 by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) shows the following:

- Although the spawning stock biomass appears to have grown slightly in the last few years, it is smaller than estimated in 2014, in both absolute size and relative to its estimated size in the absence of fishing; and,
- Spawning stock biomass remains near the historic low point;

Noting that the IATTC Scientific Staff recommends extending the current management measures in Resolution C-14-06 an additional two years, as well as conserving not only juveniles, but also the spawning population;

Recalling that Article VII, paragraph 1(c) of the Antigua Convention provides that the Commission shall “adopt measures that are based on the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention and to maintain or restore the populations of harvested species at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield...”;

Affirming that it is necessary to adopt compatible management measures throughout the range of the Pacific bluefin tuna resource to contribute to the rebuilding of the stock;

Putting on record again that more than 80% of the impact on the spawning stock biomass of Pacific bluefin tuna results from WCPO fisheries, and urging joint action with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to recover the stock;

Urging all IATTC Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) involved in this fishery to participate in a fair and equitable manner, and without exceptions, in the discussion and adoption of conservation measures applicable to the stock throughout its entire range;

Mindful that these measures are intended as an interim step towards assuring sustainability of the Pacific bluefin tuna resource, consistent with the precautionary approach, and that future conservation measures should be based not only on these interim measures, but also on the development of future scientific

information and advice of the ISC and the IATTC scientific staff;

Noting that the IATTC has adopted mandatory conservation and management measures for bluefin tuna for 2012-2016, and that the measures resulted in reduced catches in the EPO;

Recalling that the Commission has adopted interim limit and target reference points for tropical tunas, but not for Pacific bluefin;

Noting that the WCPFC has adopted an initial rebuilding target, and a workplan for the adoption of reference points and decisions rules for Pacific bluefin;

Recognizing the need for a basin-wide rebuilding plan for Pacific bluefin and a long-term management framework for the stock and associated fisheries;

Desirous that combined conservation and management measures by the WCPFC and the IATTC, together with other voluntary measures aimed at controlling fishing mortality, should be implemented to better the condition of the Pacific bluefin tuna stock;

Resolves as follows:

Long-term Management Framework

1. The Commission shall work to develop a rebuilding plan. The Commission shall do so by adopting catch limits and other necessary management measures that, based on information provided by the IATTC scientific staff and the ISC, are expected to achieve the rebuilding plan. Implementation and progress of this plan shall be reviewed at least every two years, and catch limits and other management measures shall be modified, if necessary, based on the review.
2. As part of the future rebuilding plan, no later than the IATTC meeting in 2017, the Commission, with advice from the IATTC scientific staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), shall develop candidate long-term management objectives and limit reference points for Pacific bluefin tuna. No later than the IATTC meeting in 2018, the Commission shall select long-term management objectives, and one or more limit reference points, and a list of candidate harvest control rules. The Commission shall select a harvest control rule consistent with a rebuilding plan adopted at the earliest possible date.
3. The Commission should also adopt one or more target reference points for Pacific bluefin tuna at the earliest possible date.
4. The decisions made in respect to Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 shall be designed so as to conserve and recover the Pacific bluefin tuna stock, and, to the extent feasible, be comparable to those made by the WCPFC. This cooperative process should be informed by the joint IATTC/WCPFC meeting to be held in 2016. Additionally, the decisions made with respect to Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 shall be evaluated when new stock assessment or management strategy evaluation results become available.
5. To enhance the effectiveness of this resolution and Pacific-wide progress towards rebuilding the Pacific bluefin tuna stock, CPCs are encouraged to coordinate with the concerned WCPFC members bilaterally. Additionally, the IATTC shall coordinate with the WCPFC to reduce catch in regions where Pacific bluefin tuna are known to spawn.
6. CPCs shall continue to cooperate to establish a catch documentation scheme for Pacific bluefin tuna that is, if possible, electronic.

Catch Limits and Reporting

7. Each CPC shall report sport fishery catches of Pacific bluefin tuna semi-annually to the Director. CPCs shall continue their current management of sport fisheries.
8. During 2017 and 2018, in the IATTC Convention Area, total commercial catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by all CPCs shall not exceed 6,600 metric tons, for an effective maximum annual catch rate of 3,300 metric tons per year by all CPCs combined. No CPC shall exceed 3,500 metric tons in 2017.

9. Any CPC other than Mexico with historical commercial catches of Pacific bluefin in the Convention Area may catch 600 metric tons of Pacific bluefin in 2017 and 2018, combined. This catch (i.e., 600 metric tons) is included within the catch referenced in paragraph 8.
10. The limits described in paragraphs 8 and 9 apply to Pacific bluefin tuna of all sizes, not only to fish of less than 30 kg.
11. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the catch limits specified in paragraphs 8 and 9 are not exceeded in 2017 and 2018.
12. CPCs shall report to the Director when their catch has reached 80%, 90%, and 100% of the limits specified in paragraphs 8 and 9.
13. At the 2017 annual meeting, the Commission shall evaluate the effectiveness of this resolution, taking into consideration the results of the ISC's 2016 Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment, and conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna adopted by the WCPFC.

Appendix 3d.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

PROPOSAL IATTC-90 G-1A

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

**MULTIANNUAL PROGRAM FOR THE CONSERVATION OF TUNA
IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2017-2019**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 90th Meeting:

Aware of its responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and for formulating recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) with regard to these resources;

Recognizing that the potential production from the resource can be reduced if fishing effort is excessive;

Aware that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase;

Taking into account the best scientific information available, reflected in the IATTC staff's recommendations, and the precautionary approach;

Understanding that those include extending the closure for large purse-seine vessels to maintain the populations at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield; and

Recognizing the importance of conservation measures taken by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) for the tuna stocks in that region and the stocks of highly migratory tunas in the Pacific Ocean;

Agrees:

To apply in the Convention Area the conservation and management measures for yellowfin and bigeye tuna set out below, and requests that the staff of the IATTC monitor the fishing activities of the respective CPC's flag vessels relative to this commitment, and report on such activities at the next meeting of the Commission;

1. These measures are applicable in the years 2017-2019 to all CPCs' purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 4 to 6 (more than 182 metric tons carrying capacity), and to all their longline vessels over 24 meters length overall, that fish for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area.
2. Pole-and-line, troll, and sportfishing vessels, and purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 1-3 (182 metric tons carrying capacity or less) are not subject to these measures.
3. All purse-seine vessels covered by these measures must stop fishing in the Convention Area for a period of 87 days in 2017, 87 days in 2018, and 87 days in 2019. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods in each year as follows:

2017 – from [] to [], or from [] to [] 2018.

2018 – from [] to [], or from [] to [] 2019.

2019 – from [] to [], or from [] to [] 2020.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3, 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 On-Board Observer Program of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP).
5. The fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna by purse-seine vessels within the area of 96° and 110°W and between 4°N and 3°S illustrated in Figure 1 shall be closed from 00:00 hours on 29 September to 24:00 hours on 29 October.

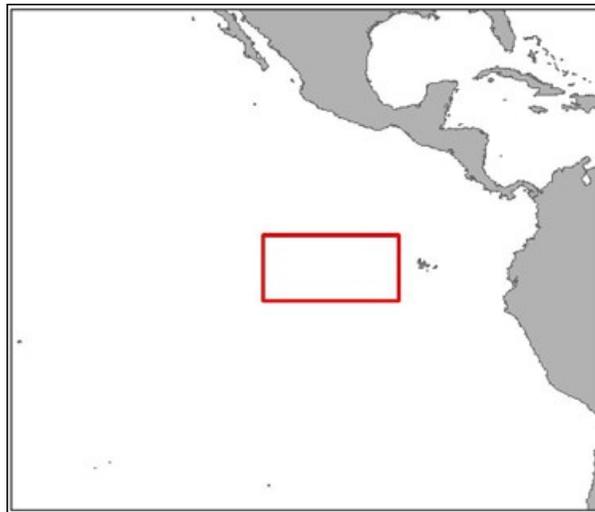


Figure 1. Closure area

6. a. In each one of the years in which these measures are applicable, and for each one of the closure periods, each CPC shall notify the Director, by 15 July, the names of all the purse-seine vessels that will observe each closure period.
- b. Every vessel that fishes during 2017-2019, regardless of the flag under which it operates or whether it changes flag or the jurisdiction of the CPC under which it fishes during the year, must observe the closure period to which it was committed.
7. a. Notwithstanding the provision of subparagraphs 6a and 6b, a request by a CPC, on behalf of any of its vessels, for an exemption due to *force majeure*⁹ rendering said vessel unable to proceed to sea outside said closure period during at least a period equivalent to the closure period prescribed in paragraph 3 above or a vessel that was in port and not fishing for at least 120 consecutive days, shall be sent to the Secretariat.
- b. In addition to the request for an exemption, the CPC shall send the evidence necessary to demonstrate that the vessel did not proceed to sea and that the facts on which the request for exemption is based were due to *force majeure* or to being in port and not fishing for at least 120 consecutive days.
- c. The Director shall immediately send the request and the evidence electronically to the other

⁹ For the purposes of paragraph 7, only cases of vessels disabled by mechanical and/or structural failure, fire, or explosion shall be considered *force majeure*

CPCs for their consideration, duly coded in order to maintain the anonymity of the name, flag and owner of the vessel.

d. The request shall be considered accepted, unless an IATTC Member objects to it formally within 15 calendar days of the receipt of said request, in which case the Director shall immediately notify all CPCs of the objection.

e. If the request for exemption is accepted:

i. the vessel shall observe a reduced closure period of 30 consecutive days in the same year during which the *force majeure* event or at least 120 consecutive days in port and not fishing occurred, in one of the two periods prescribed in paragraph 3, to be immediately notified to the Director by the CPC, or

ii. in the event said vessel has already observed a closure period prescribed in paragraph 3 in the same year during which the *force majeure* event or at least 120 consecutive days in port and not fishing occurred, it shall observe a reduced closure period of 30 consecutive days the following year, in one of the two periods prescribed in paragraph 3, to be notified to the Director by the CPC no later than 15 July.

This exemption applies to the vessels of fleets that observe either of the closure periods prescribed in paragraph 3.

8. Each CPC shall, for purse-seine fisheries:

a. Before the date of entry into force of the closure, take the legal and administrative measures necessary to implement the closure;

b. Inform all interested parties in its tuna industry of the closure;

c. Inform the Director that these steps have been taken;

d. 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 AIDCP On-Board 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 AIDCP On-Board Observer Program may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area.

9. China, Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during 2017-2019 do not exceed the following levels:

2017-2019	Metric tons
China	2,507
Japan	32,372
Korea	11,947
Chinese Taipei	7,555

10. For 2018 and 2019, the total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the Convention Area shall be adjusted appropriately based on any conservation measures that may be adopted for purse-seine vessels in those years, as ratified or adjusted in accordance with paragraph 20.

11. All other CPCs with historical catch undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during 2017-2019 do not exceed the greater of 750

metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001^{10,11}. CPCs whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director for the remainder of that calendar year. For 2018 and 2019, the limits in this paragraph shall remain in effect if the conservation measures for purse-seine vessels are maintained, as ratified or adjusted in accordance with paragraph 20.

12. Overage by a CPC of a bigeye tuna annual catch limit listed in paragraph 9 or 11 shall be deducted from that CPC's annual catch limit the following year.
13. a. A CPC with an annual catch limit of bigeye tuna under paragraph 9 or 11 may transfer part of that limit to one or more CPCs, provided that the CPC that receives the transfer also has a catch limit under paragraphs 9 and 11, and that the total tonnage transferred by a CPC during a year does not exceed [15] [30] percent of that CPC's annual catch limit. Both CPCs involved in a transfer shall, separately or jointly, notify the Director [10 days] in advance of the intended transfer, specifying the tonnage to be transferred and the year in which the transfer will occur, and the Director shall promptly notify all CPCs of the transfer. The CPC that receives the transferred catch limit shall be responsible for its management, including monitoring and monthly reporting of catch, and may not retransfer any or all of the transferred catch limit to another CPC.
 - b. Such transfers may not be used to retroactively offset an overage by another CPC of its catch limit.
 - c. The amount of bigeye transferred in any one year shall be considered without prejudice by the Commission for the purposes of establishing any future limits or allocations.
14. Landings and transshipments of tuna or tuna products that have been positively identified as originating from fishing activities that contravene these measures are prohibited. The Director is requested to provide relevant information to CPCs to assist them in this regard.
15. Each CPC shall submit to the Director, by 15 July of each year, a national report on its updated national compliance scheme and actions taken to implement these measures, including any controls it has imposed on its fleets and any monitoring, control, and compliance measures it has established to ensure compliance with such controls.
16. In order to evaluate progress towards the objectives of these measures, in 2018 and 2019 the IATTC scientific staff will analyze the effects on the stocks of the implementation of these measures, and previous conservation and management measures, and will propose, if necessary, appropriate measures to be applied in future years.
17. Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the Director is requested to continue the experiments with sorting grids for juvenile tunas and other species of non-target fish in the purse-seine nets of vessels that fish on FADs and on unassociated schools, by developing an experimental protocol, including parameters for the materials to be used for the sorting grids, and the methods for their construction, installation, and deployment. The Director shall also specify the methods and format for the collection of scientific data to be used for analysis of the performance of the sorting grids. The foregoing is without prejudice to each CPC carrying out its own experimental programs with sorting grids and presenting its results to the Director.
18. For 2017, renew the program to require all purse-seine vessels to first retain on board and then land all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna caught, with the following three exceptions, allowing tropical

¹⁰ The Commission acknowledges that France, as a coastal State, is developing a tuna longline fleet on behalf of its overseas territories situated in the Convention Area.

¹¹ The Commission acknowledges that Peru, as a coastal State, will develop a tuna longline fleet, which will operate in strict compliance with the rules and provisions of the IATTC and in accordance with the resolutions of the Commission.

tunas to be discarded if:

- a. they are considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size (*i.e.* fish may not be discarded simply because they are small and may therefore be of lower commercial value. Size is not a reason fish are unfit for human consumption and therefore is not an acceptable reason to allow discards).
- b. they are caught in the final set of a trip, when there is insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set.
- c. a serious equipment malfunction occurs that makes it impossible to load the catch into the vessel's wells.

At its annual meeting in 2018, the IATTC will review the results of the program, including compliance, and decide whether to continue it.

19. The IATTC shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness, especially in the overlap area, including by frequent consultations with the WCPFC, in order to maintain, and inform their respective members of, a thorough understanding of conservation and management measures directed at bigeye, yellowfin, and other tunas, and the scientific bases and effectiveness of those measures.
20.
 - a. In 2017 the results of these measures shall be evaluated in the context of the results of the stock assessments and of changes in the level of active capacity in the purse-seine fleet and, depending on the conclusions reached by the IATTC scientific staff, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, based on such evaluation, the Commission shall, at its meeting in 2017, adopt conservation and management measures for the sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like species.
 - b. In 2018, the results of these measures shall be evaluated in the context of the results of the stock assessment and of changes in the level of active capacity in the purse-seine fleet and, depending on the conclusions reached by the IATTC staff, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, based on such evaluation, the Commission shall, at its meeting in 2018, adopt conservation and management measures for the sustainable use of the tunas and tuna-like species.
21. Except in cases of *force majeure* and vessels in port and not fishing for at least 120 consecutive days prescribed in paragraph 7, no exemptions will be allowed with regard to the closure periods notified to the Director in accordance with paragraph 6a, nor with regard to the fishing effort of the purse-seine fleets of the respective CPCs.

Appendix 3e.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

PROPOSAL IATTC-90 H-1 REV

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

RESOLUTION ON BOARDING AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Rationale: The Commission relies upon a number of monitoring, control, and surveillance activities to effectively manage fishing vessels in the Convention Area. High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) schemes are recognized as playing a critical role in ensuring effective enforcement of RFMO resolutions, a level playing field for participants, and sustainable fishing practices. Ensuring compliance with IATTC resolutions and recommendations is essential for the effective functioning of the Commission. The Commission has the opportunity to build upon the precedents and best practices set by other RFMOs that have established HSBI schemes.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Recalling that Article VIII of the Antigua Convention provides that the Commission shall promote the application of any relevant provision of the Code of Conduct and of other relevant international instruments including, inter alia, the International Plans of Action (IPOAs) adopted by the FAO in the framework of the Code of Conduct;

Recognizing that paragraph 28.7, among others, of the FAO IPOA to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing provides that States should cooperate in monitoring, control and surveillance, including through international agreements;

Further Recognizing paragraph 80.8 in the FAO IPOA IUU, described above, pertains to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and recommends that States consider the development within an RFMO, where appropriate, of boarding and inspection regimes consistent with international law, recognizing the rights and obligations of masters and inspection officers;

Taking into account that IUU fishing activities in the Convention Area undermine the effectiveness of IATTC resolutions, and high seas boarding and inspection programs have been recognized by the international community as an important tool for combating IUU fishing;

Committed to a level playing field for IATTC Members and Cooperating Non-Members and sustainable fishing practices in the eastern Pacific Ocean;

Considering that other regional tuna fisheries organizations and other regional fisheries management organizations in the Pacific have adopted High Seas Boarding and Inspection schemes, the Commission has the opportunity to build on these efforts;

Further considering that two RFMOs that have overlapping Convention Areas with IATTC, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), have High Seas Boarding and Inspection schemes;

Understanding that consistency between the WCPFC and the IATTC is useful for measures such as High Seas Boarding and Inspection, and that this Resolution strives for consistency with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2006-08;

Agrees that:

DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of interpreting and implementing these procedures, the following definitions shall apply:
 - a. “Convention” means the 1949 Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and the Convention for the Strengthening of the IATTC Established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (Antigua Convention).
 - b. “Commission” means the Commission established by the Convention, commonly known as the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC);
 - c. “Member” means a member of the Commission as defined in Articles I (para. 7) and XXXI (para. 5). With regard to fishing entities that are Members of the Commission, paragraph 5 of this resolution shall apply.
 - d. “Party” means High Contracting Party to the 1949 Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and Party to the Antigua Convention.
 - e. “Authorities of the Inspection Vessel” means the authorities of the Member of the Commission under whose jurisdiction the inspection vessel is operating;
 - f. “Authorities of the Fishing Vessel” means the authorities of the Member of the Commission under whose jurisdiction the fishing vessel is operating;
 - g. “Authorized inspection vessel” means any vessel included in the Commission Register as authorized to engage in boarding and inspection activities pursuant to these procedures;
 - h. “Authorized inspector” means inspectors employed by the authorities responsible for boarding and inspection included in the Commission Register and authorized to conduct boarding and inspection activities pursuant to these procedures.

PURPOSE

2. Boarding and inspection and related activities conducted pursuant to these procedures shall be for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Convention and any resolution adopted by the Commission and in force.

AREA OF APPLICATION

3. These procedures shall apply on the high seas within the Convention Area.

GENERAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

4. Each Member of the Commission may, subject to the provisions of these procedures, carry out boarding and inspection on the high seas of fishing vessels engaged in or reported to have engaged in a fishery regulated pursuant to the Convention.
5. Unless otherwise decided by the Commission, these procedures shall also apply in their entirety as between a Party and a Fishing Entity that is a Member of the Commission, subject to a notification to that effect to the Commission from the Party concerned.
6. Each Member of the Commission shall ensure that vessels flying its flag accept boarding and inspection by authorized inspectors in accordance with these procedures. Such authorized inspectors shall comply with these procedures in the conduct of any such activities.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

7. These procedures shall be implemented in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner, taking into account, *inter alia*:
 - a. such factors as the presence of observers on board a vessel and the frequency and results of past inspections; and
 - b. the full range of measures to monitor compliance with the provisions of the Convention and agreed resolutions, including inspection activities carried out by the authorities of Members of the Commission in respect of their own flag vessels.
8. While not limiting efforts to ensure compliance by all vessels, priority for boarding and inspection efforts pursuant to these procedures may be given to:
 - a. fishing vessels that are not on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register;
 - b. fishing vessels reasonably believed to engage or to have been engaged in any activity in contravention of the Convention or any IATTC resolution adopted thereunder;
 - c. fishing vessels whose flag Member does not dispatch patrol vessels to the area of application to monitor its own fishing vessels;
 - d. fishing vessels without observers on board;
 - e. large-scale tuna fishing vessels;
 - f. fishing vessels with a known history of violating any conservation and management measure adopted by international agreement or any country's national laws and regulations.
9. The Commission shall keep the implementation of these procedures under review.

PARTICIPATION

10. The Commission shall maintain a register of all authorized inspection vessels and authorities or inspectors. Only vessels and authorities or inspectors listed on the Commission's register are authorized under these procedures to board and inspect foreign-flagged fishing vessels on the high seas within the Convention Area.
11. Each Member that intends to carry out boarding and inspection activities pursuant to these procedures shall so notify the Commission, through the Executive Director, and shall provide the following:
 - a. with respect to each inspection vessel it assigns to boarding and inspection activities under these procedures:
 - i. details of the vessel (name, description, photograph, registration number, port of registry (and, if different from the port of registry, port marked on the vessel hull), international radio call sign and communication capability);
 - ii. notification that the inspection vessel is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service;
 - iii. notification that the crew has received and completed training in carrying out boarding and inspection activities at sea in accordance with any standards and procedures as may be adopted by the Commission.
 - b. with respect to inspectors it assigns pursuant to these procedures:
 - i. the names of the authorities responsible for boarding and inspection;
 - ii. notification that such authorities' inspectors are fully familiar with the fishing activities to be inspected and the provisions of the Convention and resolutions in force; and
 - iii. notification that such authorities' inspectors have received and completed training in carrying out boarding and inspection activities at sea in accordance with any standards and procedures as may be adopted by the Commission.

12. Where military vessels are used as a platform for the conduct of boarding and inspection, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall ensure that the boarding and inspection is carried out by inspectors fully trained in fisheries enforcement procedures, or duly authorized for this purpose under national laws, and that such inspectors meet the requirements established in these procedures.
13. Authorized inspection vessels and inspectors notified by Members of the Commission pursuant to paragraph 11 shall be included on the Commission Register once the Executive Director confirms that they meet the requirements of that paragraph.
14. To enhance the effectiveness of the Commission's boarding and inspection procedures, and to maximize the use of trained inspectors, Members of the Commission may identify opportunities to place authorized inspectors on inspection vessels of another Member of the Commission. Where appropriate, Members of the Commission should seek to conclude bilateral arrangements to this end or otherwise facilitate communication and coordination between them for the purpose of implementing these procedures.
15. The Executive Director shall ensure that the register of authorized inspection vessels and authorities or inspectors is at all times available to all Members of the Commission and shall immediately circulate any changes therein. Updated lists shall be posted on the Commission website. Each Member of the Commission shall take necessary measures to ensure that these lists are circulated to each of its fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area.

PROCEDURES

16. Authorized inspection vessels shall fly, in clearly visible fashion, the IATTC inspection flag as designed by the Commission.
17. Authorized inspectors shall carry an identity card approved by appropriate authorities of the inspection vessel identifying the inspector as authorized to carry out boarding and inspection procedures under the auspices of the Commission and in accordance with these procedures.
18. An authorized inspection vessel that intends to board and inspect a fishing vessel on the high seas that is engaged in or reported to have engaged in a fishery regulated pursuant to the Convention shall, prior to initiating the boarding and inspection:
 - a. make best efforts to establish contact with the fishing vessel by radio, by the appropriate International Code of Signals or by other accepted means of alerting the vessel;
 - b. provide the information to identify itself as an authorized inspection vessel - name, registration number, international radio call sign and contact frequency;
 - c. communicate to the master of the vessel its intention to board and inspect the vessel under the authority of the Commission and pursuant to these procedures; and
 - d. initiate notice through the authorities of the inspection vessel of the boarding and inspection to the authorities of the fishing vessel.
19. In carrying out boarding and inspection pursuant to these procedures, the authorized inspection vessel and authorized inspectors shall make their best efforts to communicate with the master of the fishing vessels in a language that the master can understand. If necessary to facilitate communications between the inspectors and the master of the vessel, the inspectors shall use the relevant part of the standardized multi-language questionnaire to be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to all Members of the Commission with authorized inspection vessels.
20. Authorized inspectors shall have the authority to inspect the vessel, its license, gear, equipment, records, facilities, fish and fish products and any relevant documents necessary to verify compliance with the resolutions in force pursuant to the Convention.
21. Boarding and inspection pursuant to these procedures shall:
 - a. be carried out in accordance with internationally accepted principles of good seamanship so as to

- avoid risks to the safety of fishing vessels and crews;
 - b. be conducted as much as possible in a manner so as not to interfere unduly with the lawful operation of the fishing vessel;
 - c. take reasonable care to avoid action that would adversely affect the quality of the catch; and
 - d. not be conducted in such manner as to constitute harassment of a fishing vessel, its officers or crew.
22. In the conduct of a boarding and inspection, the authorized inspectors shall:
- a. present their identity card to the master of the vessel and a copy of the text of the relevant measures in force pursuant to the Convention in the relevant area of the high seas;
 - b. not interfere with the master's ability to communicate with the authorities of the fishing vessel;
 - c. complete the inspection of the vessel within 4 (four) hours unless evidence of a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 35 below, is found;
 - d. collect and clearly document any evidence they believe indicates a violation of measures in force pursuant to the Convention;
 - e. provide to the master prior to leaving the vessel a copy of an interim report on the boarding and inspection including any objection or statement which the master wishes to include in the report;
 - f. promptly leave the vessel following completion of the inspection; and
 - g. provide a full report on the boarding and inspection to the authorities of the fishing vessel, pursuant to paragraph 28, which shall also include any master's statement.
23. During the conduct of a boarding and inspection, the master of the fishing vessel shall:
- a. follow internationally accepted principles of good seamanship so as to avoid risks to the safety of authorized inspection vessels and inspectors;
 - b. accept and facilitate prompt and safe boarding by the authorized inspectors;
 - c. cooperate with and assist in the inspection of the vessel pursuant to these procedures;
 - d. not assault, resist, intimidate, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay the inspectors in the performance of their duties;
 - e. allow the inspectors to communicate with the crew of the inspection vessel, the authorities of the inspection vessel, as well as with the authorities of the fishing vessel being inspected;
 - f. provide them with reasonable facilities, including, where appropriate, food and accommodation; and
 - g. facilitate safe disembarkation by the inspectors.
24. If the master of a fishing vessel refuses to allow an authorized inspector to carry out a boarding and inspection in accordance with these procedures, such master shall offer an explanation of the reason for such refusal. The authorities of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the authorities of the fishing vessel, as well as the Commission, of the master's refusal and any explanation.
25. The authorities of the fishing vessel, unless generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to safety at sea make it necessary to delay the boarding and inspection, shall direct the master to accept the boarding and inspection. If the master does not comply with such direction, the Member shall suspend the vessel's authorization to fish and order the vessel to return immediately to port. The Member shall immediately notify the authorities of the inspection vessel and the Commission of the action it has taken in these circumstances.

USE OF FORCE

26. The use of force shall be avoided except when and to the degree necessary to ensure the safety of the inspectors and where the inspectors are obstructed in the execution of their duties. The degree of force

used shall not exceed that reasonably required in the circumstances.

27. Any incident involving the use of force shall be immediately reported to the authorities of the fishing vessel, as well as to the Commission.

INSPECTION REPORTS

28. Authorized inspectors shall prepare a full report on each boarding and inspection they carry out pursuant to these procedures in accordance with a format that may be specified by the Commission. The authorities of the inspection vessel from which the boarding and inspection was carried out shall transmit a copy of the boarding and inspection report to the authorities of the fishing vessel being inspected, as well as the Commission, within 3 (three) full working days of the completion of the boarding and inspection. Where it is not possible for the authorities of the inspection vessel to provide such report to the authorities of the fishing vessel within this timeframe, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall inform the authorities of the fishing vessel and shall specify the time period within which the report will be provided.
29. Such report shall include the names and authority of the inspectors and clearly identify any observed activity or condition that the authorized inspectors believe to be a violation of the Convention or resolutions in force and indicate the nature of specific factual evidence of such violation.

SERIOUS VIOLATIONS

30. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 35, the authorities of the inspection vessels shall immediately notify the authorities of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the Commission.
31. Upon receipt of a notification under paragraph 30, the authorities of the fishing vessels shall without delay:
 - a. assume their obligation to investigate and, if the evidence warrants, take enforcement action against the fishing vessel in question and so notify the authorities of the inspection vessel, as well as the Commission; or
 - b. authorize the authorities of the inspection vessel to complete investigation of the possible violation and so notify the Commission.
32. In the case of 31(a) above, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall provide, as soon as practicable, the specific evidence collected by the authorized inspectors to the authorities of the fishing vessel.
33. In the case of 31(b) above, the authorities of the inspection vessel shall provide the specific evidence collected by the authorized inspectors, along with the results of their investigation, to the authorities of the fishing vessel immediately upon completion of the investigation.
34. Upon receipt of a notification pursuant to paragraph 30, the authorities of the fishing vessel shall make a best effort to respond without delay and in any case no later than within 3 (three) full working days.
35. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the Convention or resolutions adopted by the Commission:
 - a. fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag Member, in accordance with Resolution C-14-01;
 - b. failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
 - c. fishing in a closed area;
 - d. fishing during a closed season;

- e. intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable resolution adopted by the Commission;
- f. significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the Convention;
- g. using prohibited fishing gear;
- h. falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
- i. concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
- j. multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the Commission;
- k. refusal to accept a boarding and inspection, other than as provided in paragraphs 24 and 25;
- l. assaulting, resisting, intimidating, sexually harassing, interfering with, or unduly obstructing or delaying an authorized inspector;
- m. intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system; or
- n. such other violations as may be determined by the Commission, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures.

ENFORCEMENT

- 36. Any evidence obtained as a result of a boarding and inspection pursuant to these procedures with respect to violation by a fishing vessel of the Convention or resolution adopted by the Commission and in force shall be referred to the authorities of the fishing vessel for action in accordance with Article XVIII and Article XIX of the Antigua Convention as well as Resolution C-11-07.
- 37. For the purposes of these procedures, the authorities of the fishing vessels shall regard interference by their fishing vessels, captains or crew with an authorized inspector or an authorized inspection vessel in the same manner as any such interference occurring within its exclusive jurisdiction.

ANNUAL REPORTS

- 38. Members of the Commission that authorize inspection vessels to operate under these procedures shall report annually to the Commission on the boarding and inspections carried out by its authorized inspection vessels, as well as upon possible violations observed. The reports shall be provided to the Commission at least 30 days prior to the IATTC Annual Meeting.
- 39. Members of the Commission shall include in their annual statement of compliance within their Annual Report to the Commission under Resolution C-11-07 of the Convention action that they have taken in response to boarding and inspections of their fishing vessels that resulted in observation of alleged violations, including any proceedings instituted and sanctions applied.

OTHER PROVISIONS

- 40. Authorized inspection vessels, while carrying out activities to implement these procedures, shall engage in surveillance aimed at identifying fishing vessels of non-Members undertaking fishing activities on the high seas in the Convention area. Any such vessels identified shall be immediately reported to the Commission.
- 41. The authorized inspection vessel shall attempt to inform any fishing vessel identified pursuant to paragraph 40 that it has been sighted or identified as engaging in fishing activities that are undermining the effectiveness of Convention and that this information will be distributed to the Members of the Commission and the flag state of the vessel in question.
- 42. If warranted, the authorized inspectors may request permission from the fishing vessel and/or the flag state of the vessel to board a vessel identified pursuant to paragraph 40. If the vessel master or the vessel's flag state consents to a boarding, the findings of any subsequent inspection shall be transmitted to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall distribute this information to all Commission Members as well as to the flag State of the fishing vessel.

43. Any claim submitted for damage, injury, death or loss resulting from an operation carried out under these procedures shall be processed and considered by the Member whose official(s) are asserted by the claimant to be responsible for the acts or omissions out of which the claim arises, in accordance with the domestic laws of that Member.

COMMISSION COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT

44. Authorized inspection vessels in the same operational area should seek to establish regular contact for the purpose of sharing information on areas in which they are patrolling, on sightings and on boarding and inspections they have carried out, as well as other operational information relevant to carrying out their responsibilities under these procedures.
45. The Commission shall keep under continuous review the implementation and operation of these procedures, including review of annual reports relating to these procedures provided by Members. In applying these procedures, Members of the Commission may seek to promote optimum use of the authorized inspection vessels and authorized inspectors by:
- a. identifying priorities by area and/or by fishery for boarding and inspections pursuant to these procedures;
 - b. ensuring that boarding and inspection on the high seas is fully integrated with the other monitoring, compliance and surveillance tools available pursuant to the Convention;
 - c. ensuring non-discriminatory distribution of boarding and inspections on the high seas among fishing vessels of Members of the Commission without compromising the opportunity of Members of the Commission to investigate possible serious violations; and
 - d. taking into account high seas enforcement resources assigned by Members of the Commission to monitor and ensure compliance by their own fishing vessels, particularly for small boat fisheries whose operations extend onto the high seas in areas adjacent to waters under their jurisdiction.

SETTLEMENT OF DISAGREEMENTS

46. In the event of a disagreement concerning the interpretation, application or implementation of these procedures, the parties concerned shall consult in an attempt to resolve the disagreement.
47. If the disagreement remains unresolved following the consultations, the Executive Director of the Commission shall, at the request of the parties concerned, and with the consent of Commission, refer the disagreement to the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (Compliance Committee). The Compliance Committee shall establish a panel of five representatives, acceptable to the parties to the disagreement, to consider the matter.
48. A report on the disagreement shall be drawn up by the panel and forwarded through the Compliance Committee Chair to the Commission within two months of the Compliance Committee meeting at which the case is reviewed.
49. Upon receipt of such report, the Commission may provide appropriate advice with respect to any such disagreement for the consideration of the Members concerned.
50. Application of these provisions for the settlement of disagreements shall be non-binding. These provisions shall not prejudice the rights of any Member to use the dispute settlement procedures provided in the Convention.
51. This Resolution shall enter into force 1 January 2018.

Appendix 3f.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

PROPOSAL IATTC-90 I-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING OBSERVER SAFETY AT SEA

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Rationale: Observer programs collect data essential to the functions of the Commission and the safety of observers is critical to their ability to perform their duties. There are no established requirements for safety equipment for IATTC observer programs and there is variability in these requirements for the national observer programs. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission adopted minimum standards to improve observer safety at sea at its meeting in December 2015.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Taking into account that observers collect data that is essential to the functions of the Commission and that the safety of observers is critical to their ability to perform their duties;

Recognizing that longline, purse seine, and transshipment vessels are required to carry observers under resolutions of the IATTC;

Concerned that there are no established safety equipment requirements for IATTC observer programs and there is variability in these requirements in the national observer programs;

Considering that consistent safety requirements should apply to all observers operating within the legal and institutional framework of the IATTC;

Agrees that:

1. All IATTC observer programs including the IATTC Regional Observer Program for transshipment vessels, the national observer programs for longline vessels, and any future observer program required by the IATTC shall ensure that observers will be provided before any boarding for a trip with (1) an approved independent two-way communication satellite device, and (2) a waterproof personal lifesaving beacon.¹²

2. All IATTC observer programs must have a designated officer or officers responsible for monitoring the signal from the approved independent two-way satellite communication device at all times.

¹² Noting that this may consist of a single device such as “Satellite Emergency Notification Device” or it may be a combination of an independent satellite-based system such as a Satellite phone plus a portable lifesaving beacon.

3. All IATTC observer programs must have an established procedure for a designated officer or other authorized persons to initiate contact with the observer, the vessel, and, if necessary, the appropriate enforcement authority of the member or cooperating non-member with jurisdiction over the vessel; this procedure must clearly describe the steps that must be taken in the event of various emergencies.

4. This Resolution shall go into effect January 1, 2018.

Appendix 3g.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

PROPOSAL IATTC-90 J-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-11-02 TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT ON SEABIRDS OF FISHING FOR SPECIES COVERED BY THE IATTC

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Description and Rationale: Last year, The United States proposed to revise Resolution C-11-02 (*Resolution to mitigate the impact on seabirds of fishing for species covered by the IATTC*) to implement recommendations from IATTC staff arising from the 2014, 2015, and 2016 meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee. The United States is presenting an updated proposal for consideration at the 90th meeting of the IATTC. This document reflects comments received on the U.S. proposal at the 89th meeting of the IATTC, as well as incorporates information presented at the 2016 SAC.

Like the 2015 proposal, this one includes a requirement for Southern Areas to use at least two of the following three mitigation methods in combination, line weighting, night setting, and tori lines, generally consistent with current advice from the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) regarding seabird mitigation techniques, as described in document [SAC-05 INF-E](#). For the tori line requirement for vessels ≥ 35 m total length for the Southern Areas, we now propose a delay in implementing, until January 1, 2018, the requirement to deploy two tori lines. In the northern areas, the proposal retains the two column approach to provide for additional options for bycatch mitigation measures and includes blue-dyed bait, side-setting, deep-setting line shooter, night setting with minimum deck lighting, tori lines, weighted branch lines, and management of offal discharge.

Based on new information, the proposal seeks to apply the mitigation measures at least to all areas north of 23°N. The islands in the areas currently excluded from the area of application of seabird bycatch mitigation measures contain breeding colonies of the Laysan albatross, which is known to range widely across the North Pacific, including coastal-to-oceanic (off the continental shelf) waters throughout the California Current, northward to the Aleutian Islands, and the high seas of the eastern north Pacific in general. The eastern north Pacific, north of 23°N, is also an important foraging area for a great many additional species of seabirds that rely on these waters; these include shearwaters, petrels, Black-footed Albatross, and al-cids (see SAC-07 INF-C(b)).

Like the 2015 proposal, this one continues to include the following three annexes: (1) an updated map of where measures to reduce seabird bycatch would be required, (2) updated minimum technical specifications for the mitigation measures that are included in the resolution, and (3) supplemental, voluntary guidelines for the design and deployment of tori lines. The specifications, which are mandatory, and the supplemental guidelines are based on ACAP best practice advice.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in the United States on the occasion of its 90th Meeting:

Concerned that some seabird species, notably albatrosses and petrels, are threatened with global extinction;

Recognizing that some threatened and endangered seabird species are found in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Recalling that tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations responsible for other ocean areas have adopted measures to mitigate the accidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries;

Noting advice from the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources that together with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the greatest threat to Southern Ocean seabirds is mortality in longline fisheries in waters adjacent to its Convention Area;

Taking account of the work of the IATTC, including the IATTC Technical Meeting on Seabirds held on 11 May 2009, that has shown that combining multiple mitigation measures is more effective than using a single measure in reducing bycatch of seabirds;

Noting that scientific research into mitigation of seabird bycatch in longline fisheries has shown that the effectiveness of measures depends on the type of vessel, the season, and the species of seabirds present; and

Noting that effective mitigation measures can reduce the loss of bait, reduce time required for removing bycaught seabirds, and therefore increase catches;

Agrees that;

1. Commission Members and cooperating non-Members (CPCs) shall, to the greatest extent practical, implement the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) if they have not already done so.
2. CPCs shall report to the IATTC on their implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries.

Southern Areas

3. CPCs shall require their longline vessels¹⁰ when setting longline gear south of 30°S, plus the area bounded by the coastline at 2°N, west to 2°N-95°W, south to 15°S-95°W, east to 15°S-85°W, and south to 30°S (see Annex 1), to simultaneously use at least two of these three measures: weighted branch lines, night setting and tori lines. Vessels shall follow the technical specifications for these measures provided in Annex 2. Annex 3 provides supplemental guidelines for the design and deployment of tori lines.

Northern Areas

4. CPCs shall require their longline vessels¹³ of more than 14 meters length overall that use hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical systems to use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1 when setting gear¹⁴, including at least one from Column A, in the Convention Area north of 23°N. Vessels shall follow the technical specifications for these measures provided in Annex 2. Annex 3 provides supplemental guidelines for the design and deployment of tori lines.

¹³ Vessels propelled by outboard motors are not subject to this resolution.

¹⁴ Management of offal discharge is a mitigation measure employed during gear hauling, as well as gear setting, and shall be employed as described in the Annex 2 Technical Specifications.

Table 1: Mitigation measures

Column A	Column B
Night setting with minimum deck lighting	<i>Tori line</i> ¹⁵
<i>Tori line</i>	Deep-setting line shooter
Weighted branch lines	Management of offal discharge
Side-setting with bird curtains and weighted branch lines ¹⁶	Blue-dyed bait

5. CPCs are encouraged to undertake and support research and trials aimed at developing and refining mitigation methods for longline fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean that are operationally feasible, demonstrated to significantly reduce seabird interactions, and are cost-effective and to share the results of such work with the Commission. The scientific staff of the IATTC, in coordination with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), shall present to the Commission at its 2018 annual meeting recommendations for whether additional best practice measures, including measures that address bycatch during hauling, should be added to Table 1, and whether any of the current measures should be removed.

Other Areas

6. CPCs with longline vessels¹ fishing in the EPO, other than the area mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4, are encouraged to have their vessels employ at least one of the mitigation measures listed in Column A of Table 1 when setting their gear.

All Areas

7. CPCs shall inform the IATTC, by August 1, 2017, using a form to be developed by the IATTC Secretariat, which of the mitigation measures they require their vessels to use, as well as the technical specifications for each of those mitigation measures. Each CPC shall report for subsequent years any changes it has made to its required mitigation measures or technical specifications for those measures.

8. CPCs shall annually provide to the IATTC, using a form to be developed by the IATTC Secretariat all available relevant information on interactions with seabirds, or collected by observers, including mitigation used, observed species-specific seabird bycatch rates and numbers, to enable the SAC to estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries managed by the IATTC.

9. CPCs are encouraged to establish national programs to place observers aboard longline vessels flying their flags or fishing in their waters, for the purpose of, *inter alia*, gathering information on the interactions of seabirds with the longline fisheries.

10. CPCs are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that seabirds captured alive during longline fishing operations are released alive and in the best condition possible, and that, whenever possible, hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird. Research into the survival of released seabirds is encouraged.

11. CPCs shall implement the provisions of this resolution that differ from those in Resolution C-11-02 no later than August 1, 2017, and until that date, the provisions of C-11-02 shall remain in effect.

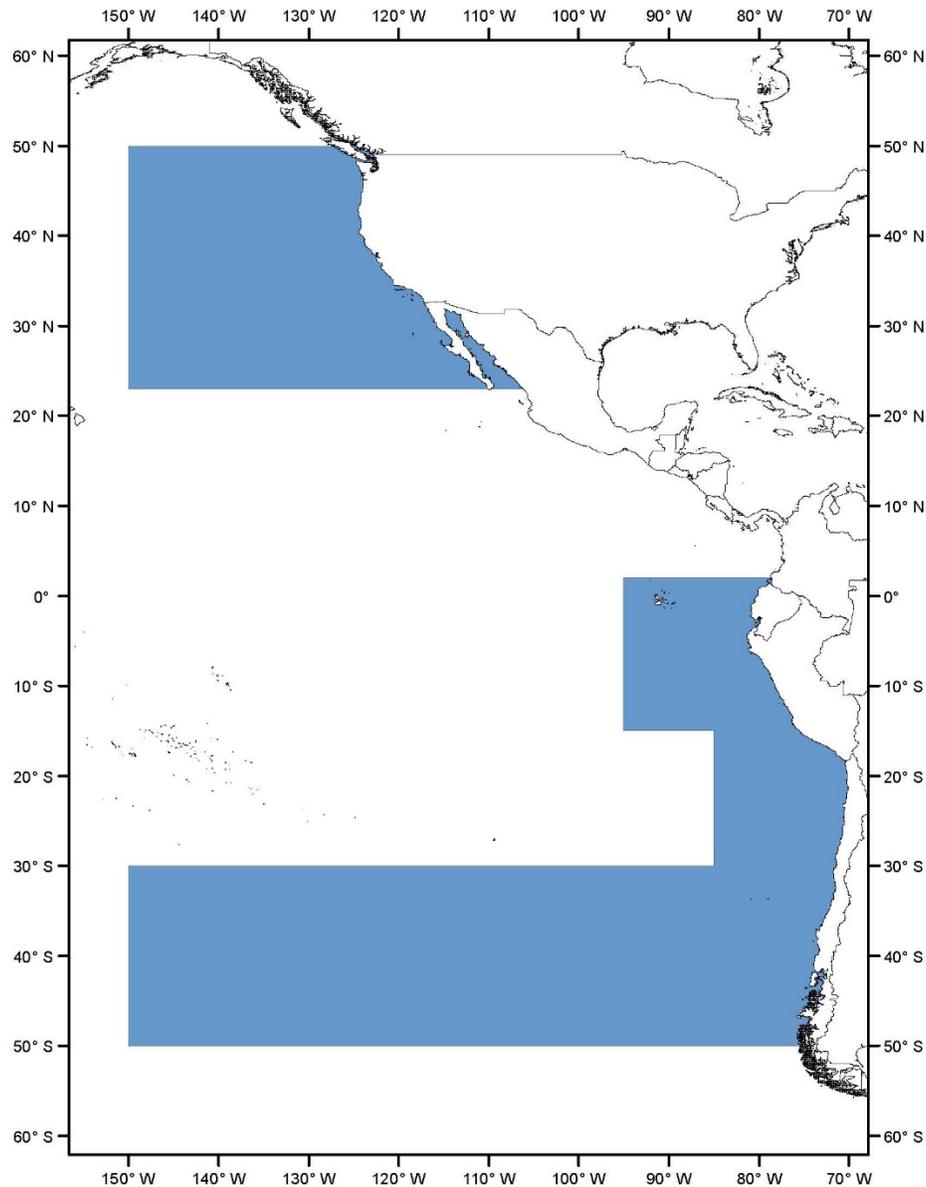
12. The effectiveness of this resolution to reduce seabird bycatch in the EPO, including the mitigation measures, the area of application, and the technical specifications adopted pursuant to this resolution, shall be subject to review and possible modification, taking into account the scientific advice from the SAC and the IATTC scientific staff.

¹⁵ For the Northern Areas, If tori line is selected from both Column A and Column B this equates to simultaneously using two (i.e., paired) tori lines.

¹⁶ If using side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines from column A this will be counted as two mitigation measures.

13. The SAC will also consider the need to extend this resolution to other fleets operating in the EPO.
14. This resolution replaces IATTC Resolution C-11-02.

Annex 1



Areas¹⁷ (shaded) within the EPO in which the use of mitigation measures for reducing seabird bycatch is required as specified in paragraphs 3 and 4: north of 23°N and south of 30°S, plus the area bounded by the coastline at 2°N, west to 2°N-95°W, south to 15°S-95°W, east to 15°S-85°W, and south to 30°S.

¹⁷ This map is for illustrative purposes only.

Annex 2

Technical Specifications

1. Night setting

- i. No setting between nautical dawn and nautical dusk.
- ii. Nautical dusk and nautical dawn are defined as set out in the Nautical Almanac tables for relevant latitude, local time and date.
- iii. Deck lighting is to be kept to a minimum. Minimum deck lighting should not breach minimum standards for safety and navigation.

2. Weighted branch lines

- i. Following minimum weight specifications are required:
 - greater than or equal to a total of 45 grams (g) attached within 1 meter (m) of the hook; or
 - greater than or equal to a total of 60 g attached within 3.5 m of the hook; or
 - greater than or equal to a total of 98 g weight attached within 4 m of the hook.

3. Tori lines

3a. For vessels ≥ 35 m total length

- i. Vessels shall deploy at least 1 tori line during the entire longline setting to deter birds from approaching the branch line. If vessels only use one tori line, the tori line shall be deployed windward of sinking baits. Without prejudice to subparagraph ii below, the flag State shall encourage vessels to use a second tori line at times of high bird abundance or activity, where practical. If two tori lines are used, they should be deployed simultaneously, one on each side of the line being set, and Baited hooks should be deployed within the area bounded by the two tori lines.
- ii. After January 1, 2018, in the Southern Areas, two tori lines shall be deployed during the entire longline setting. The lines shall be deployed simultaneously, one of each side of the line being set, and baited hooks shall be deployed within the area bounded by the two tori lines.
- iii. Tori lines with a mix of long and short brightly colored streamers shall be used. Long streamers shall be placed at intervals of no more than 5 m, and must be attached to the line with swivels that prevent streamers from wrapping around the line. Long streamers of sufficient length to reach the sea surface in calm conditions must be used. Short streamers (greater than 1 m in length) shall be placed no more than 1 m apart.

Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a desired aerial extent greater than or equal to 100m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall have a minimum length of 200 m, and shall be attached to a tori pole > 7 m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical.

3.b For vessels < 35 m total length

Vessels shall deploy a single tori line, using either long and short streamers or short streamers only. Streamers shall be brightly colored. Long and/or short (but greater than 1 m in length) streamers must be used and placed at intervals as follows:

Long streamers placed at intervals of no more than 5 m for the first 55 m of tori line.

Short streamers placed at intervals of no more than 1 m.

Long streamers shall be attached to the line with swivels that prevent streamers from wrapping around the line. All long streamers shall reach the sea-surface in calm conditions.

Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a desired aerial extent of 75 m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall have a minimum length of 100 m, and shall be attached to tori pole > 6 m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical. If the tori line is less than 150 m in length,

it must have a towed object attached to the end so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.

If two tori lines are used, they should be deployed simultaneously, one on each side of the line being set, and baited hooks should be deployed within the area bounded by the two tori lines.

4. Side setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines

- i. Mainline must be deployed from port or starboard side as far from stern as practicable (at least 1 m), and if mainline shooter is used, must be mounted at least 1m forward of the stern.
- ii. When seabirds are present ensure the mainline must be deployed slack so that baited hooks remain submerged.
- iii. Bird curtain must be employed:
 - Pole aft of line shooter at least 3 m long;
 - Minimum of 3 main streamers attached to upper 2 m of pole;
 - Main streamer diameter minimum 20 mm;
 - Branch streamers attached to end of each main streamer long enough to drag on water (no wind) – minimum diameter 10 mm.

5. Management of offal discharge

i. Any of the following:

- Either no offal discharge during setting or hauling; or
 - Strategic offal discharge from the opposite side of the boat to setting/hauling to actively encourage birds away from baited hooks.
- ii. All hooks must be removed from the offal prior to discharge.

6. Deep-setting line shooter

Line shooters must be deployed in a manner such that the hooks are set substantially deeper than they would be lacking the use of the line shooter, and such that the majority of hooks reach depths of at least 100 m.

7. Blue dyed bait

The IATTC Secretariat shall distribute a standardized color placard. All bait must be dyed to the shade shown in the placard.

Annex 3

Supplemental Guidelines for Design and Deployment of Tori Lines

Preamble

Minimum technical standards for deployment of tori lines are found in Annex 2 of this Resolution, and are not repeated here. These supplemental guidelines are designed to assist in preparation and implementation of tori line regulations for longline vessels. While these guidelines are relatively explicit, improvement in tori line effectiveness through experimentation is encouraged, within the requirements of Annex 2 in the Resolution. The guidelines take into account environmental and operational variables such as weather conditions, setting speed and ship size, all of which influence tori line performance and design in protecting baits from birds. Tori line design and use may change to take account of these variables provided that line performance is not compromised. On-going improvement in tori line design is envisaged and consequently review of these guidelines should be undertaken in the future.

Tori line design

1. An appropriate towed device on the section of the tori line in the water can improve the aerial extension.
2. The above water section of the line should be sufficiently light that its movement is unpredictable to avoid habituation by birds and sufficiently heavy to avoid deflection of the line by wind.
3. The line is best attached to the vessel with a robust barrel swivel to reduce tangling of the line.
4. The streamers should be made of material that is conspicuous and produces an unpredictable lively action (e.g., strong fine line sheathed in red polyurethane tubing) suspended from a robust three-way swivel (that again reduces tangles) attached to the tori line.
5. Each streamer should consist of two or more strands.
6. Each streamer pair should be detachable by means of a clip so that line stowage is more efficient.

Deployment of tori lines

1. The line should be suspended from a pole affixed to the vessel. The tori pole should be set as high as possible so that the line protects bait a good distance astern of the vessel and will not tangle with fishing gear. Greater pole height provides greater bait protection. For example, a height of around 7 m above the water line can give about 100 m of bait protection.
2. If vessels use only one tori line it should be set to windward of sinking baits. If baited hooks are set outboard of the wake, the streamer line attachment point to the vessel should be positioned several meters outboard of the side of the vessel that baits are deployed.
3. Deployment of multiple tori lines is encouraged to provide even greater protection of baits from birds. If vessels use two tori lines, baited hooks should be deployed within the area bounded by the two tori lines.
4. Because there is the potential for line breakage and tangling, spare tori lines should be carried onboard to replace damaged lines and to ensure fishing operations can continue uninterrupted. Breakaways can be incorporated into the tori line to minimize safety and operational problems should a longline float foul or tangle with the in-water extent of a streamer line.
5. When fishers use a bait casting machine (BCM), they must ensure coordination of tori line and machine by:
 - a. ensuring the BCM throws directly under the tori line protection, and
 - b. when using a BCM (or multiple BCMs) that allows throwing to both port and starboard, two tori lines should be used.
6. When casting branchline by hand, fishers should ensure that the baited hooks and coiled branchline sections are cast under the tori line protection, avoiding the propeller turbulence which may slow the sink rate.
7. Fishers should be encouraged to install manual, electric or hydraulic winches to improve ease of deployment and retrieval of tori lines.

Appendix 3h.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

PROPOSAL IATTC-90 K-1

SUBMITTED BY MEXICO

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-11-08 ON
OBSERVERS ON LONGLINE VESSELS**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The current resolution C-11-08 on observers on longline vessels makes it obligatory to have a coverage of 5% of fishing effort made by its longline fishing vessels more than 20 meters long.

Within the recommendations for the current year on tuna conservation, the scientific staff of the IATTC has previously noted the following:

“The information provided is insufficient for a rigorous evaluation of the adequacy of 5% coverage for their longline fisheries. The data show that 5% is too low a level of coverage to allow accurate estimates of the catch of species caught infrequently in those fisheries. In other studies in which large amounts of information has been collected, a 20% level of coverage has been calculated to be adequate to provide reliable estimates of the infrequently-caught species.

The staff maintains its recommendation of 20% observer coverage of large longline vessels until sufficient information is available to justify a revision.”

In this context, it is considered advisable that the current resolution be modified in order to accommodate a necessary and greater coverage of 20%.

The changes that should be made to the current resolution are indicated below.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 90th Meeting:

Noting the need to ensure and promote uniform and equitable treatment of all tuna-fishing vessels operating in the Area under the Antigua Convention;

Recommending the need to collect better scientific information on target species as well as comprehensive data on interactions with non-target species, in particular, sea turtles, sharks and seabirds

Noting that large purse-seine vessels operating in the Antigua Convention Area are required to carry 100% scientific observers aboard, in accordance with the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program and that this effort has resulted in a greater knowledge of the fishery and its interactions;

Taking into account and reaffirming the recommendation by the Seventh Meeting of the Commission’s Scientific Advisory Committee to increase the coverage by observers to 20% in longline fishing vessels of 20 m length overall within a maximum period of the next five years and in a gradual manner;

Considering furthermore that the SAC 7 also recommended that countries with longline vessels over 20 meters length overall update which vessels are active, inactive, and/or sunk, and if possible inform the IATTC staff of the duration of their fishing operations;

Agrees that:

1. Each Member and Cooperating non-Member (CPC) shall ensure that, from 1 January 2017, fishing effort shall be determined by the number of fishing days.
2. Each CPC shall ensure that from that date, the coverage by observers shall be representative of the activities of its fleet and therefore, during a maximum period of five years, shall increase the coverage by observers of longline vessels over 20 m length overall up to 20% coverage.
3. Each CPC shall update the list of its vessels, indicating specifically which vessels are active, inactive, and/or sunk, and if possible inform the IATTC staff of the duration of their fishing operations.
4. The main task of the scientific observer shall be to record any available biological information, the catches of target fish species, species composition, and any available biological information, as well as any interactions with non-target species such as sea turtles, seabirds and sharks.
5. The Director, in cooperation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall review the reporting format detailing the required data to be collected by scientific observers on longline vessels and will communicate it to the Commission.
6. Scientific observers shall submit to the authorities of their flag CPC a report on these observations at the latest 30 days after the end of each fishing trip.
7. Every year, CPCs shall submit to the Scientific Advisory Committee, through the Director, by 31 March, the scientific observers' information on the previous year's fishery, in a format established by the Scientific Advisory Committee.
8. Evaluate the use of electronic monitoring systems in order to establish minimum standards and extend observer coverage in longline fisheries.

Appendix 3i.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

PROPOSAL IATTC-90 L-1

SUBMITTED BY MEXICO

**RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF INFORMATION ON
COMPLIANCE**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Recalling that the “Antigua Convention”, in Article XXII establishes that the Commission shall determine rules of confidentiality for access, use and disclosure of information pursuant to the Convention.

Considering that in the framework of Resolution C-11-07 on Compliance it is established that the IATTC reviews annually the compliance and implementation by each Member of the Commission’s resolutions, based on, *inter alia*, the compliance report provided by the Director.

Recognizing that multilateral actions are more appropriate and effective than unilateral actions.

Affirming therefore the importance of strengthening multilateral cooperation, through mechanisms agreed in the IATTC, and particularly the exchange of information.

Taking into consideration that Article XVIII of the “Antigua Convention” on implementation, compliance and enforcement by Parties provides that each Party shall authorize the use and release, subject to any applicable rules of confidentiality, of pertinent information recorded by on-board observers of the Commission or a national program.

Also considering the clear reduction of the number of possible infractions of IATTC resolutions by purse-seine vessels operating in the EPO as has been observed in the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission, which shows that multilateral work is being done and with good results.

Agrees:

- 0) That information on compliance that is provided by any Member in the framework of IATTC resolutions is of a strictly confidential nature and its use shall be restricted to the purposes that the Commission itself may establish, unless the Member authorizes its disclosure or use.
- 1) That the Commission and the member countries may use the information referred to in item 1 above only within the framework of the IATTC.
- 2) That Resolutions adopted within the Commission, as well as their observation by the Members are for the purpose of complying with the Commission's objectives. Therefore, no Member may use the information contained in the compliance report provided by the Director particularly for unilateral processes that have not been agreed previously by the Commission.

Appendix 4a.

<p>INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE 4TH MEETING La Jolla, California (USA) 23 June 2016</p>
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REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
15. Opening of the meeting	
16. Adoption of the agenda	
17. Review of the financial audit report	
18. Review of budgets for 2017 and 2018	CAF-04-04
19. Financial contributions by Members:	
a) Regular budget (Resolution C-15-06)	
b) Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity (Resolution C-14-03)	CAF-04-05b
c) Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution C-12-07)	
d) Other	CAF-04-05c
20. Other business	
21. Recommendations to the Commission	
22. Adjournment	

APPENDIX

1. List of attendees

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Lillo Maniscalchi, of Venezuela, opened the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Review of the financial audit report

It was reported that the financial audit report was provided to the Commissioners and Heads of Delegation in advance of the meeting. No comments were made.

4. Review of budgets in 2017 and 2018

Ms. Nora Roa, of the IATTC staff, presented Document CAF-04-04, stating that an increase of the budget to US\$ 7,230,573 was being requested for 2017, first to keep up with inflation, which affects all costs related to the activities of the Commission, as well as all activities associated with meetings and the implementation of projects and programs. With regard to the staff, salaries should be adjusted to compensate for increases in the cost of living, and increases in the cost of health insurance and other necessities. She

recalled that the activities of the Commission and its staff continue to grow, not only in accordance with the broader mandate derived from the Antigua Convention, but also because of the additional tasks assigned by the Members. It is therefore essential that the Commission consider the requested budget. She emphasized that it is fundamental that all contributions of Members to the budget be paid in a timely manner, and that the situation with regard to the pending arrears of some Members be resolved promptly.

The budget items were reviewed in detail and compared with the report presented by the auditors to facilitate the Members' understanding of them. The variations, and the reasons for them, were emphasized, with explanations of the items for which increases were requested or economies proposed. Some of the items reviewed were IATTC staff salaries and the requested increase, the replacement of vehicles, printing costs, and payments to the pension fund, among others.

After a long discussion, it was agreed that the Committee would recommend approval of the salary increases, but without the requested retroactive increase, the purchase of a single vehicle in 2017 and an additional vehicle in 2019, and payments to the pension fund, but with reductions of staff travel expenditures. Cost savings were realized through a reduction of travel expenses for staff, and a reduction of funding for regional offices and related supplies.

The staff was asked to present three budget scenarios for consideration by the Commission showing each Member's contributions under each scenario.

In the first scenario, the budget would cover annual meeting expenses in 2017 (US\$85,000), and the second would assume that these costs were paid by a Member that offered to host the meeting. The third scenario would include the cost of opening and operation of a field office in Costa Rica.

The Committee agreed that, for the Commission to be able to consider the opening of a new field office, it would need a document that defined the need for the office and its functions, costs, and benefits. The Director responded that Puntarenas has become an important port for landings, so it would be useful to have personnel that could collect the corresponding data, also that the Government of Costa Rica has offered to provide the office facilities.

Ecuador, recalling the economic emergency resulting from the recent earthquake, requested an additional scenario in which Ecuador would pay the same contribution as in 2016, without any increase. However, some Members, while expressing their solidarity with Ecuador, made it clear that they could not agree to such exceptions in the calculation of contributions.

5. Financial contributions by Members

a. Regular budget (Resolution [C-13-06](#))

The Secretariat presented information on the outstanding debts by Members, highlighting two Members, Panama and Venezuela, are two years behind in their contributions, and could therefore lose the right to participate in decision-making, in accordance with Article XV, paragraph 4, of the Antigua Convention. Also, including the payments outstanding for 2016, the total outstanding contributions add up to US\$ 6,831,509, which is nearly equivalent to a year's budget.

Panama reported that it had recently made payments and that it would make great efforts to make contributions and gradually eliminate the balance of the arrears. Mexico, Ecuador, Venezuela and Vanuatu reported that their internal procedures were underway for them to cover their 2016 contributions in 2016 or outstanding balances.

b. Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building (Resolution [C-14-03](#))

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, of the Commission staff, presented Document CAF-04-05b on the Special Fund established by Resolution C-14-03 for building institutional capacity in developing Member countries. He noted that the 89th meeting of the IATTC agreed that the budget of the Commission would include an additional 2% for that Fund, distributed among the Members in accordance with the formula for the annual contributions. The amount of 2% of the 2016 budget is roughly US\$ 130,000, but as of May 2016, the

fund had only received approximately US\$ 60,000, of which US\$ 14,325 has already been spent to support attendance by scientists from six Members to the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in May 2016.

The remaining funds, along with those that are hoped to be collected during the next months, would be used to support the creation of a standardized system of collection, processing and analysis of data; and training in the development of databases, statistics analysis, and stock assessment. Efforts will be made to retain funds in the amount of US \$30,000 to support the participation of developing Members at annual meetings of the Commission and subsidiary groups.

The Committee agreed to this plan for 2016, but emphasized that the predominant use of the Fund should not be to finance participation in meetings, but rather to strengthen the capacities of developing countries. Accordingly, the Committee requested that these countries work with the Secretariat to develop a plan for 2017 or identify specific projects to be financed by the fund, as well as for the meeting travel support to be financed by the Fund, which could motivate greater support from developed countries.

c. Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution [C-12-07](#)).

Mr. Belmontes presented Document [CAF-04-05c](#), as well as information on the operational components of the transshipment monitoring program in Document IATTC-90-06. He noted that the program has been in place for seven years under a contract with the Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG) consortium, which implements the program. A budget of US\$ 950,000 is proposed for 2017, and it is recommended that Panama join the other participants in the program to share the costs, since the number of transshipments by Panamanian vessels had recently increased greatly.

Mr. Belmontes also reported that MRAG had proposed increasing the price it charges for the observers, from US\$ 333 to US\$ 340 per day at sea, and from US\$ 334 to US\$ 350, and those rates would be fixed for three years if a contract were signed for that period.

The Committee decided to recommend that the IATTC approve the budget of US\$ 950,000 for 2017, include Panama in the contribution calculations, and sign a contract with MRAG for a 3-year period.

6. Other matters

With regard to the outstanding budget contributions, the European Union, in addition to recalling the consequences implications of the application of Article XV, paragraph 4, of the Antigua Convention, emphasized that there should be a commitment by the debtor Members to pay promptly, and if there were no concrete results in that respect, in 2017 the EU would present a proposal to address this issue.

Panama stated that in a letter circulated by the Secretariat it expressed its commitment to make annual payments that would pay down its debt of about US\$ 2.100.000 completely within 10 years. Some Members stated that, in view of this commitment, Panama should be allowed to retain its right to participate in decision making this year, in the understanding that the matter should be decided at a meeting of Heads of Delegation.

7. Recommendations to the Commission

The Committee agreed to submit to the Commission the following recommendations:

- 1) Present three budget scenarios for 2017 to the Commission:
 - a) US\$ 7,065,552; includes US \$85,000 for the annual meeting in 2017.
 - b) US\$ 6,978,852; as for the first scenario, but not including the \$85,000 for the annual meeting in 2017.
 - c) US\$ 7,008,452; as for the second scenario, plus US\$ 29,020, the predicted cost of opening and operation of a field office in Costa Rica.
- 2) In relation to the Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity in developing countries, approve

the use of the remaining resources from 2016 consistent with Table 2 of Document CAF-04-05b (Annex 2). For 2017, approve expenditures of up to US\$ 30,000 to support participation in the annual meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary groups, with the expectation of the development of a plan, to be drafted by developing Member countries, identifying specific projects for use of the remaining funds.

- 3) Approve a budget of US\$ 950,000 for the transshipment program for 2017, include Panama in the calculation of contributions to the program, and sign a 3-year contract with MRAG in order to freeze costs during that period.

8. Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m. on 24 June 2016.

Appendix 4b.

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION**

7TH MEETING

**La Jolla, California, USA
22-23 June 2016**

CHAIR'S REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2015:	
a. Report by the staff on compliance	COR-07-03
b. Review of the questionnaires completed by CPCs relating to Resolution C-11-07	
4. Consideration of the provisional IUU Vessel List	COR-07-04
5. Cooperating non-Members	COR-07-05
6. Other business	
7. Recommendations for the Commission	
8. Adjournment	

APPENDIX

1. List of attendees (to be added in minutes)

The seventh meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (Compliance Committee) was held in La Jolla, California, USA, on 22-23 June 2016. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. David Hogan of the United States.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted with the inclusion under Item 6, Other Business, of a request by the United States to make a presentation updating the Committee on recent cases of interactions with data buoys, in contravention of Resolution C-11-03 (*Resolution Prohibiting Fishing on Data Buoys*).

3. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2015

a) Report by the staff on compliance

The Secretariat presented the document COR-07-03, which summarized compliance with IATTC resolutions in 2015. Notably, potential infractions of the tropical tuna discard prohibition under Resolution C-13-01 (*Multiannual Program for the Conservation of Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean During 2014-*

2016) doubled since 2014. The presentation led to discussions on items of format (i.e., whether to or not to include discards in the report), and more general compliance and conservation concerns.

Regarding Resolution C-12-07 (*Amendment to Resolution C-11-09 on Establishing a Program for Transshipments by Large-Scale Vessels*), the discussion centered around the provisions of the resolution on reporting of transshipment declaration forms. Some Members viewed the language as non-binding for reporting, whereas others viewed reporting as a responsibility, if not a requirement, to help address any concerns about the adequacy of monitoring of transshipments at sea.

Regarding two resolutions relating to sharks, C-04-05 (*Consolidated Resolution on Bycatch*) and C-05-03 (*Resolution on the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean*), the EU noted an inconsistency in the language. Resolution C-04-05 states all bycatch should be released, to the extent practicable; whereas, Resolution C-05-03 states all bycatch should be released except if used for human consumption. It was also noted that, more generally, there are inconsistencies in language in other resolutions as well.

There were also differences of opinions on the concept of transferring the longline bigeye catch limits established in Resolution C-13-01. A member opined that because there was not an explicit mechanism regulating the rules of transfer, they considered the practice prohibited. Other CPCs responded that while it was not expressly authorized, it was also not prohibited. It was noted that this topic of discussion has arisen in previous meetings, and that there is a proposal to formalize a mechanism for transfers.

There was also a discussion of the amount of information CPCs provided to the Compliance Committee with regard to results of investigations. A Member suggested that CPCs should provide more details regarding the sanctions imposed, so that the Committee could assess their effectiveness. Although, as the Chair noted, it is important to be informed to learn from other Members, some Members stated that judgment on whether the sanction was strong enough is not within the scope of the Committee and that it may infringe upon national sovereignty. The Committee was reminded by a Member that, under the Antigua Convention, the Compliance Committee may consider development of tools to promote strengthened implementation, and that the Committee might begin work to define criteria for identifying gaps in implementation for purposes of requesting action plans, as well as mechanisms for their application, to be submitted to the Commission for consideration.

The Committee also discussed the importance of deadlines for report submissions and Member recommendations to include that information in the compliance summary report made by the IATTC staff.

The report presented by the staff included two tables related to whale sharks. In response to a question by the staff, Members requested that all information pertinent to catches of whale sharks be included in the report for transparency, even if later found to not be in contravention of the applicable resolution (Resolution C-15-03, *Collection and Analyses of Data on Fish-Aggregating Devices*, in this case). For example, vessels of two Members set on whale sharks, but the presentation noted that the set was unintentional, and therefore not in contravention of Resolution C-15-03. Members of the Committee replied that this information should still be included in the report. Whale shark information was presented in two tables, one with potential infractions and the other with cases known to not be infractions, and it was suggested that this format biased the reader and therefore the information should be combined into a single table.

Regarding Resolution C-11-08 (*Resolution on Scientific Observers for Longline Vessels*), the Committee requested that the percentage of coverage be included in the Secretariat's summary report. The Secretariat presented percent effort with observer coverage per each CPC. Before the meeting concluded, IATTC staff presented concerns and recommendations to improve consistency in longline observer information provided to the IATTC by CPCs. In general, it was noted that the information provided varies and may not be comparable. As such, the Commission should work to standardize the information collected and submitted to the IATTC. The Committee was reminded that the Scientific Advisory Committee already recommended a reporting format for the observers, as well as for the CPC summary reports to be provided to the IATTC Secretariat. The Committee also discussed providing a comprehensive distribution of

letters to all CPCs to ask for submissions in timely manner, and include on the agenda for next year an item on the development of criteria to identify areas that need strengthening for the purpose of requesting the development of action plans.

Regarding Resolution C-13-03 (*Supplemental Resolution on North Pacific Albacore*), a Member reminded the Committee that, as reflected in the minutes of the 87th Annual Meeting of the IATTC, the Commission agreed to maintain Resolution C-13-03. This includes submitting catch and effort data in the format specified in the resolution. It was noted that many CPCs have not submitted data since the first year it was required, and that the data that was submitted is incomplete.

The Committee discussed the importance of timely budget contributions by Members of the Commission, noting that during this discussion some members updated the Committee that payments had very recently been made. The Committee was reminded of the consequences under the Antigua Convention for two Members in arrears by an amount exceeding 24 months.

In light of a complicated case involving potential transit without the appropriate waiver, in contravention of Resolution C-09-04 (*Resolution on the International Dolphin Conservation Program*), the Committee found there is no mechanism to describe circumstances in which a vessel may be incapable of fishing, and possibly exempt from the observer requirement when transiting. Guatemala made a presentation on the case and provided a written note to append to this Chair's report, which is attached.

b) Review of the questionnaires completed by CPCs relating to Resolution [C-11-07](#)

With the exception of Kiribati, which did not send a delegation to the Committee meeting, each Member made a brief presentation on its responses to the questionnaire and, in a few cases, possible cases of non-compliance recorded in 2015. Kiribati and cooperating non-members Bolivia, Honduras, Indonesia, and Liberia were provided the opportunity to present when the Compliance Committee meeting was reopened during the IATTC plenary.

During the review, a more general discussion on captain review of observer forms occurred. In an effort to provide a more timely and fair investigation, some Members suggested that vessel captains be provided the opportunity to review observer records. Similar to the requirements under the AIDCP, captains could sign the form. However, others expressed different views and suggested this is something that could be considered by the Commission.

The Committee also had a more general discussion on sea turtle mitigation efforts and conservation concerns during the review of questionnaires. It was noted that because of the small amount of longline observer coverage, it is very difficult to know the impacts to sea turtles.

4. Consideration of the provisional IUU Vessel List

There were no new cases to report. Regarding the Vessel *Xin Ji 16* from Fiji, the Director stated that the Secretariat would again contact Fiji, and the Committee also suggested other avenues, including contacting the WCPFC, as well as bilateral work by Members. It was recommended that this vessel should stay on the IUU vessel list.

5. Cooperating non-Members

The four applicant CPCs seeking renewal of their Cooperating Non-Member status did not participate in the meeting of the Committee, so the meeting was suspended until the plenary when all but Bolivia were present. The Committee, after considering the respective requests, recommended that the Commission renew the Cooperating Non-Member status for Bolivia, Honduras, Indonesia, and Liberia.

It was noted that it was necessary to again remind Cooperating Non-Members of the importance of participating effectively at meetings of the IATTC and its subsidiary bodies. One Member noted that Indonesia's application was identical to its application in 2015, and that the Secretariat should request that Indonesia provide an updated set of materials.

6. Other business

The United States presented an update to recent events in contravention of Resolution C-11-03. The United States emphasized a recent vandalism event on a buoy related to the DART (Deep-Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis) buoy array in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Vandals removed all electronic components of the South Acapulco buoy, leaving it completely disabled. The United States was able to repair the buoy, but without this buoy areas of Central America would have a one-hour delay in detection of a tsunami. The United States provided an update on the TAO (Tropical Atmosphere Ocean) buoys, similar to the presentation last year, noting that the number of interactions with data buoys has increased, and reiterated its request to other nations to raise awareness in their fleets and help prevent and deter this illegal activity.

In reference to its proposal before the Commission on the use of compliance information, Mexico highlighted again the need to draw the Commission's attention to the improper use that has been made of the information shared by the Parties in compliance to Resolution C-11-07, and mainly, in contravention of Articles XVII and XXII of the Antigua Convention, which clearly establish the regulatory framework and the rules of confidentiality for the information provided by the Parties. Mexico noted that the information presented in the Commission must be used for the specific purpose stipulated by the Antigua Convention and not on an unilateral basis.

7. Recommendations for the Commission

The Committee makes the following recommendations to the Commission:

16. Include Resolution C-13-03 (*Supplemental Resolution on North Pacific Albacore*) in the Annual Compliance Questionnaire, as well as the letter the Secretariat sends with data reporting requirements.
17. Review the situation of budget contribution arrears in the context of Antigua Convention, taking into account receipt of pending contributions as may be discussed in the meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance, and consider actions that may be taken to encourage compliance.
18. Reiterate the deadline for submission of transit waivers and consider the utility, in light of frequency of events, of developing criteria to assess situations in which a vessel is inoperable or other factors that warrant adjusting the rules governing the issuance of waivers to the observer requirement when transiting.
19. Adjust procedures and forms to provide access to captains to review and sign observer records on compliance, as in the AIDCP.
20. The compliance report for the Compliance Committee should show, and Members should be asked to report, implementation of longline observer coverage using the metric agreed to by the Scientific Advisory Committee.
21. In the near-term, the Commission should send a letter to all CPCs reminding them of the need for full compliance with the observer requirements, requesting data on implementation of observer requirements, and calling for the use of the standardized form for reporting of the observer data as agreed by the SAC. The letter should include a near-term deadline for the implementation data submission. CPCs should also be asked to update the information on and status of their longline vessels on the IATTC Register.
22. The Compliance Committee should include an additional agenda item for the 8th Meeting of the Compliance Committee to discuss tools in Resolution C-11-07 (*Resolution for Improved Compliance with Resolutions Adopted by the Commission*) to identify members whose implementation of any measures are inadequate and/or need improvement, including a process to request an action plan to encourage stronger implementation of Resolution C-11-07.
23. Regarding the Compliance Questionnaire, when a response is "not applicable", CPCs should provide a rationale for using that response. An option may be to change the questionnaire form to include an

additional field in the event of a “not applicable” response.

24. Data on whale sharks should be collected, to include details on how a whale shark caught in a fishery was released, for purposes of eventually developing best practices for the safe release of whale sharks.
25. Review and clarify inconsistencies in resolutions. For example, clarify the possible inconsistency between Resolutions C-04-05 and C-05-03 on sharks for assessing compliance.
26. Include all CPCs in the Compliance Compendium, even if there are no compliance cases identified.
27. When CPCs report on sanctions or other actions applied to their vessels, CPCs should endeavor to add more information, subject to national laws and procedures. For example, describe the type of sanction, but not necessarily the amount.
28. On data buoys, reiterate the critical importance of the arrays and the pressing need for CPCs to reinforce awareness of their fleet, and effectively address any compliance cases, especially those from the 2015 compliance report.
29. Regarding the IUU vessel list, a letter should be sent to Fiji requesting engagement regarding the *Xin Ji 16*, and a similar request should be included in the transmittal of the IUU list to the WCPFC and any other relevant RFMOs. CPCs could also reach out to Fiji bilaterally.
30. Renew cooperating non-member status for four applicant CPCs: Bolivia, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia, and consider communicating an admonition that the Commission would not renew the status in future years if the CPCs did not participate in the Commission’s subsidiary bodies.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on Wednesday, June 29, 2016 during the annual meeting of the IATTC.

STATEMENT BY GUATEMALA
F/V VICENTE: Transit without an observer – Result of the investigations

1. Introduction

The F/V VICENTE was indicated to have made a transit without an observer from Manta to Guayaquil, Ecuador, leaving on 18JAN16, the last day of the closure, and arriving on 21JAN16. Guatemala was consulted by the Director of the IATTC about this transit and gave a provisional answer the needs to be expanded, in the light of the investigations carried out to that end. On that account, the Guatemalan delegation offers explanations given that the VICENTE was last on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register in 2014 under Guatemalan flag, and because currently it has received a capacity loan property of the State of Guatemala.

2. Legal aspects

- 2.1. The VICENTE was registered as a vessel out of service under Panamanian flag valid until 06NOV16. It was undergoing major repairs, after various years of being inactive and having suffered a fire in September 2014. Its presence in an Ecuadorian port was due to the need to attend to those repairs while it was in the process of nationalization.
- 2.2. The vessel was not listed to participate in the fishery in 2015;
- 2.3. It was not included in the IATTC Register;
- 2.4. It was not, physically nor legally, a fishing vessel, because it did not have a class of service indicated, nor was it in an operational state for fishing;
- 2.5. It was also not obliged to comply with any closure in 2015, as is shown by the list of vessels subject to the closure of Resolution C-13-01;
- 2.6. The vessel was removed from the IATTC Register towards the end of 2014 and was out throughout the year 2015. In 2016, the process of including it therein is underway, but at the time of the transit it had not paid the assessment corresponding to the current year, for which reason it could not be assigned an observer to accompany the transit in accordance with subparagraph c), paragraph 12, Annex II of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), which states that “[n]o observer shall be assigned to a vessel for which the required fees have not been paid.”;

3. Factual aspects

- 3.1. The vessel owners requested on 08JAN16, that is, before the transit commenced, an exemption from the Ecuadorian fisheries authority, which declined precisely for that reason on 15JAN16 and because the vessel was not yet flying its flag. The matter was referred to the Ecuadorian maritime authority, since it was not a fishing vessel. This latter authority gave permission to carry out the transit to the shipyard as of 17JAN16;
- 3.2. The transit was carried out in conditions that did not permit fishing operations, since the vessel had only a navigator (without a fishing captain), with a crew reduced to the minimum required for reasons of safety, without carrying a purse-seine net not a skiff and without freezing capacity;
- 3.3. The reason for the transit was to enter dry dock in a shipyard, operated by the Ministry of National Defence of Ecuador, in accordance with the contract for providing services agreed with the vessel owners on 08JAN16, with the vessel having to present itself as of 15JAN16 to use its turn;
- 3.4. The VICENTE cancelled its previous registry definitively on 14MAR16, being in good standing with its previous flag, and was registered in Ecuador entirely normally on 04APR16.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1. A vessel's remaining in port during the closure as a general rule, the obligation to carry an observer if it must make a transit during the closure and the obligation to obtain, before departing, a transit exemption in controlled conditions, are mechanisms to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal and unreported fishing. Logically, fishing during a closure is a serious infraction; making a transit without having an exemption is a formal fault, comparatively much more minor;
- 4.2. In this particular case, a vessel that has no fishing service because it is being repaired, and that does not have the technological capacity to fish, that is not included in the IATTC Register and had not been committed to comply with a particular closure, constitutes a situation that is moreover singular;
- 4.3. Because it is not obligated, the transit does not match any infraction that is described;
- 4.4. With these explanations, the delegation of Guatemala considers it proper to dismiss this case.

La Jolla, USA, 27JUN16.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FLEET CAPACITY
17TH MEETING
La Jolla, California (USA)
14 May 2016

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

1.	Opening of the meeting
2.	Adoption of the agenda
3.	Review of reports and proposals related to the establishment of a Capacity Management Plan in the EPO:
a.	Plan for the regional management of fishing capacity
b.	Proposal to amend Resolution C-02-03
4.	Review of the list presented at the 89th meeting of the IATTC of all pending capacity claims, disputes, adjustments, and requests
5.	Recommendations for the Commission
6.	Other business
7.	Adjournment

1. Opening of the meeting

Ing. Guillermo Morán, Chairman of the IATTC, opened the meeting and requested nominations for chair, since Ing. Luis Torres, chair of the Group, could not attend. Mr. Luis Molledo, of the European Union (EU), was elected to chair the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Review of reports and proposals related to the establishment of a Capacity Management Plan in the EPO

Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the IATTC, made a presentation on the working documents for the meeting and on the current situation of the levels of utilization of capacity in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).

In response to a question from Guatemala, the Director indicated that the almost 12,000 cubic meters (m³) of capacity pending activation are due to vessels leaving the IATTC Regional Vessel Register or to capacity allocated by the Commission and that is reflected in the monthly capacity reports.

Ecuador requested that in future presentations the temporary capacity loans that some fleets have be reflected in a separate column.

The EU made a presentation on the proposal made at the Cartagena workshop for a gradual reduction in capacity, and referred to various options considered in the Cartagena matrix. The EU proposed addressing some of the capacity disputes and claims as a global package that would also include management measures that would compensate for the increase in fishing effort, and a capacity reduction plan.

Furthermore, the EU emphasized that the proposed increase of 25 more days of closure recommended by the Commission staff at the Scientific Advisory Committee should be a wake-up call to motivate a prompt reduction in capacity or for a plan to address the problem.

Some countries, although they recognize the importance of addressing issues of capacity reduction, stated that in order to adhere to a capacity reduction plan their right to develop their industry as developing coastal countries must first be recognized, and stated that developed countries should take greater responsibility in this process.

Along the same lines, Guatemala indicated that, before it could discuss a reduction plan, a suitable answer to its request for capacity was necessary.

Japan supported the idea of a capacity reduction plan, and recalled that it had provided ideas in this regard, for example a proportional reduction of capacity in cases of vessels being replaced on the Regional Register. Ecuador expressed the need for an architecture of a capacity reduction plan for the purse-seine tuna fleet and to that end the Group should determine the basis for terms of reference to be approved by the IATTC, which would allow for hiring a specialized team that would design this plan with its proper budget.

In answer to a question from Ecuador, the Director indicated that the recommendation on an appropriate level of capacity in the 2005 regional management plan (158,000 m³) is updated periodically and that the last figure recommended in 2015 was 162,000 m³.

Many delegations lauded the work of Lic. Bernal Chavarría at the head of the virtual Working Group on capacity.

The Working Group agreed unanimously to define a series of elements that could form part of a global plan for capacity management, and to work intersessionally on these elements in order to have a first draft ready for discussion at the next meeting of the Working Group.

To this end, the Group agreed that the EU would coordinate the work of this informal group, and that, by 28 May 2016 at the latest, it would send a first draft for the countries participating in the (open) group to review in a maximum period of 14 days. After receiving comments, a revised document would be prepared for 17 June at the latest.

Some of the measures identified by the participants during the discussion were the following:

- Consider the sovereign rights of coastal countries that are Members of the IATTC.
- Percentage reductions in the capacity of vessels that are replaced on the Regional Register.
- Reduce the total capacity of purse-seine vessels, by percentages and in time periods to be defined.
- Freeze the capacity of purse-seine and longline vessels.
- Limit capacity requests voluntarily.
- Establish priorities for capacity requests, considering their antiquity, justification and urgency for, *inter alia*, socio-economic reasons.
- Create a roadmap with deadlines.
- Consider management measures in accordance with their impact on the fishery.
- Transfer capacity from developed countries with inactive capacity.
- Review regularly the target capacity established in the 2005 regional plan.
- Justify capacity requests.
- Consider an incentive plan, seeking resources to withdraw capacity in exchange for economic in-

centives or sources of international cooperation.

- Have a document from the Secretariat on management measures as alternative to increasing the days of closure, considering especially the allocation of catch quotas.
- Indicate different scenarios for reducing total capacity.
- Consider the gradual activation of inactive capacity.

4. Review of the list presented at the 89th meeting of the IATTC of pending capacity claims, disputes, adjustments, and requests

a. Disputes for which the allocation of capacity has been accepted but are pending activation

Venezuela. Recalled its request for the allocation of 1,668 m³ for the vessel *Napoleón*, leaving aside the request for 3,805 m³ for three other vessels.

Guatemala. Recover 3,762 m³ of capacity, claimed since 2003. Guatemala indicated that, as in the case of Venezuela, this dispute had already been recognized by the Commission and should therefore not be discussed, since the only element to define was its activation.

b. Other disputes

There are other disputes involving Vanuatu and Bolivia, neither of which the meeting of the Group. Ecuador stated that it would maintain its legitimate rights in the capacity adjustments/claims to be addressed within the Commission.

c. Capacity requests

Peru. Recalled its request for 5,851 m³, as part of the 14,046 m³ established in the footnote to Resolution C-02-03 and the 5,000 m³ already granted in 2014. Peru indicated that it would use it mainly in its EEZ and that it will also fish for yellowtail and mackerel, therefore, the impact on the fishing effort would not be significant.

Costa Rica. Made a presentation recalling its request for 7,058 m³ as part of the 16,422 m³ established in paragraph 10 of Resolution C-02-03. He indicated that this was not an immediate activation but fundamentally a recognition of capacity. He reiterated the interest in an evaluation by the Commission staff of the impact of the measures that Costa Rica has taken unilaterally and voluntarily in its EEZ.

Colombia. Recalled the request for 4,772 m³ as part of the request for 14,046 m³ contained in the footnote to Resolution C-02-03. Indicated that at this time the intention of their request was to put it on record, and that they did not intend to activate it immediately.

El Salvador. Reiterated its national interest in 2,105 m³ as a developing coastal country, and stated its interest in working on management measures that would offset the increase in capacity.

Nicaragua. Stated that its request for 4,200 m³ is as legitimate as those of the other countries included in the footnote to Resolution C-02-03. It would not be activated automatically, but in parallel with the construction of a tuna processing plant in his country.

Guatemala. Stated its request for 9,000 m³ since they require capacity so that vessels may operate that supply a plant and generate jobs.

México. Stated its request for 2,000 m³ as a coastal country and to generate jobs. This is not an immediate request, and they are respectful of the resource.

The participants in the Group expressed their thanks for the clarifications made in the presentations. The Group noted the usefulness of justifying the requests in writing in the future, in order to facilitate their analysis.

5. Recommendations for the Commission

The chair indicated that there would not be recommendations, but two conclusions:

1. The agreement to work intersessionally to compile into one document, to be discussed at the next meeting of the Group, a series of elements, on the basis of the measures identified by the participants in the discussion of item 3, that could form part of a global package for the management of capacity.
2. Ask the Secretariat to prepare a document on management mechanisms as alternatives to closures, with emphasis on a system of catch quotas, to be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group.

6. Other business

Colombia requested clarification on the dates for presenting and reviewing the draft document that would be prepared by the EU. The timetable agreed under item 3 was referenced.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FLEET CAPACITY
17th MEETING (CONTINUED)
La Jolla, California (USA)
24 June 2016

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

1.	Opening of the meeting
2.	Adoption of the agenda
3.	Review of reports and proposals related to the establishment of a Capacity Management Plan in the EPO: a. Plan for regional management of fishing capacity b. Proposal for amending Resolution C-02-03
4.	Review of the list presented at the 89th meeting of the IATTC of all pending capacity claims, disputes, adjustments, and requests
5.	Recommendations to the Commission
6.	Other business
7.	Adjournment

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Luis Torres of Ecuador, Chairman of the Working Group, opened the meeting on 24 June 2016 in La Jolla, California, noting that this was a continuation of the 17th meeting of the Working Group that was held on 14 May 2016, presided over by Mr. Luis Molledo, nearly all of the agenda being then covered.

The Chair highlighted the good work done on that occasion, emphasizing two areas of progress:

- 1) The Working Group reviewed the pending disputes, claims and requests for capacity, which were recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 2) The Working Group unanimously agreed to outline a series of elements that could form part of a global plan for capacity management, and to work on them during the intersessional period in order to produce a working draft for discussion at this meeting. As agreed, the European Union prepared a working draft that was circulated, and subsequently received comments from some Members.

The European Union presented the document in detail, highlighting that the plan should be considered as a complete package that addresses all pending cases relating to capacity along with conservation measures for tuna that fully compensate for the increase in global capacity. In addition, Members who submitted comments via email (Japan, Costa Rica and United States) explained the nature of their comments. The Group decided to revise the document in a paragraph-by-paragraph fashion, and as a result, they agreed to submit to the Commission the elements of the plan as presented in the Annex to this report.

The European Union said they could work, with the support of the Secretariat, to design a capacity management plan.

2. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m. on 24 June 2016.

Annex

ELEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING A FLEET CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THE IATTC

(REV. 4)

The 17th meeting of the Permanent Working Group (WG) on Fleet Capacity that took place on 14 May 2016 in La Jolla, USA, decided to elaborate a document containing elements that could form part of a global plan for capacity management in the IATTC on the basis of the criteria mentioned by participants during that meeting and taking into account the 2005 Lanzarote Plan of Action, the results of the Cartagena workshop on fleet capacity, and the outcomes of the work of the Virtual Group on Capacity.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. The capacity management plan (the plan) should be designed as a package that addresses comprehensively and in parallel capacity requests, disputes, claims, compensatory management and conservation measures, and capacity reduction, to the levels required.
2. The sovereign rights of coastal developing countries as well as historical rights of other CPCs, shall be duly taken into account in the development of the plan.
3. The plan should be implemented in a phased approach with a clear roadmap and in a manner that ensures the long-term sustainability of tuna stocks in the EPO by maintaining at or restoring to levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield and the conservation of the marine environment.

CAPACITY REQUESTS, CLAIMS, DISPUTES AND ADJUSTMENTS¹⁸

1. As a matter of urgency, a solution should to be found to the activation of capacity in those cases already agreed by the Commission.
2. CPCs with capacity requests, claims, disputes and adjustments should endeavour to voluntarily suspend, limit or reduce, at least temporarily, their claims.
3. Capacity requests, claims and adjustments should be justified on solid grounds and should explain how the capacity will be utilised and contribute to the socio-economic development of the CPC concerned.
4. Pending capacity requests and claims should be activated in a gradual manner, notably taking into account their antiquity, justification and urgency.
5. In order to facilitate access to capacity for CPCs with capacity requests, claims and adjustments, a voluntary scheme should be developed to encourage temporary capacity transfers from CPCs with unused inactive capacity to CPCs with capacity requests, claims and adjustments.

COMPENSATORY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

1. Any capacity increase should be activated only on the condition that it is compatible with a sustaina-

¹⁸ Include the four categories of cases identified by the Commission at its 88th meeting (extraordinary) and as recorded in Document CAP-17-03 (24 June 2016).

ble management of fisheries that is consistent with maintaining at or restoring to levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield.

2. The IATTC should develop and adopt, on the basis of advice from the scientific staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the conservation and management measures necessary to compensate for any agreed capacity increase.
3. Measures to be considered may include closures, time-area closures (like the “*corralito*”) where there is a high incidence of catch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, and individual vessel quotas, among others.
4. Regulations on deploying fishing gear, such as FADs, that would apply to fisheries on the basis of their relative impacts may also be considered.

CAPACITY REDUCTION

1. CPCs should agree to implement the 2005 Lanzarote Plan of Action (*Plan for Regional Management of Fishing Capacity*) and should reduce their purse-seine capacity, by percentages and in time periods to be defined. Possible proposals could be based on the outcomes of the Cartagena workshop, among others.
2. While priority should be given to reduction of purse-seine fleet capacity, the IATTC should evaluate the capacity of longline vessels in the EPO. The IATTC shall ensure that CPCs provide the well volume capacities of longline vessels on the Regional Vessel Register, as required by Resolution C-11-05. The IATTC should also propose target levels and manage the capacity of longline and other fleets other than purse seiners. The IATTC should take into consideration domestic capacity management systems already in place for CPCs. CPCs are encouraged to further reduce longline fleet capacity on a voluntary basis.
3. Regarding the activation of inactive/sunken capacity, restrictions and conditions could be considered in order to avoid excessive sudden increases of the global IATTC fleet capacity and ensure that the Commission avoids negative consequences.
4. The IATTC scientific staff will continue to review regularly the IATTC target capacity agreed by the Commission and report the results to the SAC and to the Commission in order to review the capacity management plan.

STATEMENT BY ECUADOR

The Government of the Republic of Ecuador, on the occasion of the 90th meeting of the IATTC, having seen the technical-scientific recommendations issued by the staff and the Commission's Scientific Advisory Committee, in harmony with its policy of respect for natural resources and their rational utilization, particularly of fisheries resources, in its capacity of coastal country of the Eastern Pacific Ocean with island territories on the high seas; exercising its sovereign Rights to safeguard the investments made for the extraction and processing phases of the tuna industry, and concerned about the socio-economic effects on the economically active population linked directly and indirectly in their connected activities; declares:

1. As an active member of FAO, is respectful of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and the resulting fisheries administration measures that are adopted for its better observance.
2. Is in agreement with the general interest in conducting a sustainable management of the tuna fishery in the Pacific, particularly in the Eastern Pacific.
3. Having reviewed the reports that contain the summary of the status of the fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the recommendations of the staff and the SAC, mainly, the numbers of comparative catches from the year 2015 with significant preceding periods, we can infer that the populations of tropical tunas are stable and that the active fleet remains at numbers with little variation, although it is true that they grew by one CPC's 25,000 m³, this capacity, on the one hand is not fully active in the EPO, and on the other hand, the bases for their inclusion in the Register are not clear, therefore, the increase of 25 days to the current closure period, which has been complied with, with good results in recent years, is not fully justified.
4. That the management and conservation measures, individually and combined, proposed by the scientific staff of the Commission be justified and explained; with the objective that the parties have the arguments necessary for taking decisions. In this context, considering the importance of taking efficient management and conservation measures for the management of tropical tunas, Ecuador considers it important to hold a meeting in the month of October 2016 to assess the feasibility of the following measures:
 - a. Considering the limit reference points for bigeye tuna (*T. obesus*) Ecuador proposes reducing the total catches of this resource by 10%, considering the average of the 2010-2015 period; for which we invite all CPCs to present strategies for achieving this goal.
 - b. Application of sorting grids for small fish (juveniles).
 - c. Among others that any other CPC may propose.
5. Attentive to the requirements for assistance of the countries with less developed fisheries, if they consider it to be in support of the technological development, we are prepared to share experiences that will strengthen the fishing capacity of the region in the interest of a harmonized development.
6. Finally, Ecuador considers it indispensable that, before approving new capacity increases in the EPO the Comprehensive Capacity Reduction Plan that the working group on capacity has to present to that end, should be known and approved.

Appendix 5b.

STATEMENT BY CHILE

Mr. Chairman

This is the second time that we are participating as an Observer State, which shows our interest in knowing in more detail this important Regional Fisheries Organisation.

Chile has participated actively in the creation of the governance of the oceans and in the most relevant instruments that make up the New International Law of the Sea.

Mr Chairman, Chile is a State that is responsible regarding the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources. We are part of the legally binding instruments that make up the New International Law of the Sea and have driven in conjunction with other countries, the generation of political momentum to create actions complementary to the multilateral system, focused on dealing with some of the more important threats that currently affect the health of the ocean.

For this reason, we participated actively in the first “*Our Ocean 2014*” Conference, and organised in Valparaíso, Chile, its second version in the year 2015. This Forum has been constituted in a virtuous circle of voluntary commitments, aimed at generating concrete actions in relevant matters such as combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, combating marine pollution, especially by plastics, ocean acidification and, of course, the need to establish more and better protected marine areas, in accordance with international goals, and which, without a doubt, will generate an important contribution to the care of the ocean as a whole.

Chile has taken actions with respect to some of these global threats. Currently we have a new policy for combating illegal fishing, centred in the international sphere, which will allow progress in the short, medium and long term in establishing responsible and sustainable fishing, with a view to the conservation of marine biodiversity and the protection of marine ecosystems of regional and global importance.

Similarly, we have ratified the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State measures, which stands as another effective tool in combating this illicit activity and also, we have recently adhered to the 1995 New York Agreement on straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks which, without a doubt, is an important step by our country in fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources.

One of the fundamental pillars of this new policy, is international cooperation, for which reason, Chile has wanted to be present at this 90th Annual Meeting, which reflects its interest in this matter. Mr. Chairman, currently Chile is studying ways of increasing cooperation with this Regional Fisheries Organisation. We hope that the result of that study can be established in a reasonable and possible period.

Chile, as the coastal State that it is, and as a country that faces the Pacific, has demonstrated its commitments in various actions aimed at combating these threats regarding compliance with the objective of Sustainable Development No. 14 on the ocean of agenda 2030, which is relevant for all the international community and is in line with the actions we have developed.

Thank you very much Mr Chairman.



June 24, 2016

Dr. Guillermo Compeán,
Director,
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Dear Dr. Compeán:

In 2015 the WCPFC Northern Committee (NC) agreed to request me, as the NC Chair, to contact the IATTC Secretariat to arrange a joint meeting on Pacific Bluefin Tuna management in conjunction with the next NC meeting (paragraph 126 of the NC11 summary report). In accordance with this agreement, I am writing to request that the attached Chair's proposal on the meeting be submitted to the IATTC annual meeting for its approval.

Thank you for your arrangements in advance.

Yours sincerely,



Masanori MIYAHARA
WCPFC NC Chair

WCPFC NC Chair's proposal on a joint meeting on PBF management

Date

During the NC12 (29 Aug 2016 to 2 Sep 2016 @Fukuoka, Japan)

Purpose

The purpose of the joint meeting is to discuss the overall framework of PBF management, especially the following matters. Proposals on PBF management submitted for IATTC90 and NC12 will be discussed at the joint meeting. Because of its nature as an informal WG, results of the joint meeting are reported back to each RFMO (WCPFC and IATTC) through its formal process for the final approval.

- Review management measure of PBF
- Consider and develop reference points and harvest control rules for the long-term management of PBF
- Develop an emergency rule that all CCMs shall comply with when drastic drops of recruitment are detected.
- Decide future steps to establish a catch documentation scheme (CDS) for PBF

Participants

NC members and IATTC members

Chair

The joint meeting is presided by the NC chair.

Results

As explained above, results of the joint meeting are reported back to the WCPFC (with NC's recommendations) and IATTC, respectively, for its final approval.

Others

Observers of the NC12 can attend the joint meeting as observers.