

# INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

## 91<sup>ST</sup> MEETING (EXTRAORDINARY)

La Jolla, California (USA)

7-10 February 2017

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

#### AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Tuna conservation and management measures 2017-2019 and activation of the capacity of Guatemala and Venezuela
4. Other business
5. Adjournment

#### APPENDICES

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1	List of attendees	
<b>2.</b>	<b>RESOLUTIONS</b>	
2	Conservation of tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 2017	<a href="#">C-17-01</a>
<b>3.</b>	<b>PROPOSALS</b>	
3a	G-1D <b>United States.</b> Multiannual program for the conservation of tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean during 2017-2020	
3b	<a href="#">G-2B</a> <b>Colombia and Ecuador.</b> Multiannual program for the conservation of tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean during 2017-2018	
3c	<a href="#">G-5A</a> <b>Mexico.</b> Program for the conservation of tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean during 2017	
3d	A-3 <b>Colombia.</b> Regulation of FADs	

1.

2. The 91st (extraordinary) meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was held in La Jolla, California (USA), on 7-10 February 2017. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1. Two Members were not present: Kiribati and Vanuatu.

#### Opening of the meeting

3. 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 appointed rapporteur.

#### Adoption of the agenda

4. The agenda was approved with a request by the United States to make a presentation under item 4, *Other business*, on progress regarding its proposal on the safety of observers at sea. Colombia requested that its proposal A-3 on regulating FADs be considered together with the other proposals under item 3 of the agenda.

#### Tuna conservation and management measures 2017-2019 and activation of the capacity of

## **Guatemala and Venezuela**

### **5. A. General comments**

6. The discussion started with general comments regarding the organization of work during the meeting. The European Union regretted that a revised and consolidated version of the proposals was not available, since that had been agreed at the previous meeting. It noted as an example the joint proposal by Colombia and Ecuador ([G-2B](#)) which is the same as the one discussed at the previous meeting.

7. Likewise, several Members expressed their concern that none of the existing proposals addressed the problem of the excessive increase in catches of juvenile tunas despite the need for it and taking into account further that only a small part of the fleet was taking most of that catch. Other Members stated that fisheries management involved all fishing gears and set types equally.

8. Several Members stated the need to establish a deadline for requesting information from the IATTC staff during the meeting. They also stressed that sufficient time should be scheduled for consultations at the margins of the meeting with the purpose of reaching agreement on conservation measures for 2017 and also, if possible, for future years.

9. Guatemala and Venezuela noted that any conservation measure that was approved should consider the concomitant activation of the capacity that had been authorized to them during the 88th extraordinary meeting of the IATTC (Guatemala: 3,762 m<sup>3</sup>; Venezuela: 1,668 m<sup>3</sup>).

### **10. B. Review of existing proposals**

11. The Commission staff made a presentation on the analysis of the potential, in terms of tuna conservation, of the three proposals submitted (Document [IATTC-91-03a](#)), which the Commission had requested at its meeting in October 2016.

#### **a) Proposal G1-D (United States)**

12. Dr. Mark Maunder, of the IATTC scientific staff, explained that this proposal, applicable during 2017-2019, includes an individual-vessel catch limit (IVL) of 1.0 t of bigeye and yellowfin combined per cubic meter (m<sup>3</sup>) of capacity, and eight additional days of closure for vessels with a Dolphin Mortality Limit (DML) issued under the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP). When this proposal included only IVLs on floating object sets (as it was left at the Resumed 90th Meeting of the IATTC) it was equivalent to approximately 16-21 (including the additional closure for vessels with DMLs) and 33 days of the existing 62 day-closure of the EPO for yellowfin and bigeye, respectively. The revised version of the U.S. proposal, which was submitted for the 91st Extraordinary Meeting of the IATTC (G-1C), included IVLs for both floating objects sets and non-associated sets, and this was equivalent to about 24-33 days for yellowfin. [Of the three proposals, this one had the greatest benefits for conserving the resource.

13. In this regard, several Members stated their general concerns about IVLs, and specifically that vessels, once they had utilized their IVL, could change to another type of fishing, putting greater pressure on the resource, apart from the difficulty of monitoring the measure, since vessels of less than Class 6<sup>1</sup> do not carry observers on board. Moreover, several Members noted that the proposal lacked elements for regulating fishing on juveniles, in particular because it did not contain measures for limiting the number or use of FADs and regulating their recovery.

14. Peru stated its concern that the proposal included fishing on unassociated tunas and, if so, would not support any measure restricting fishing on unassociated tunas, since scientific information indicates that no measures are required for skipjack, the main species caught using the technique. The United States explained that the intention was to incorporate the entire spectrum of the fisheries and fishing effort, and

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<sup>1</sup> Class 6: > 363 tons carrying capacity

thus fishing on unassociated tunas was included. It stressed that the effects of the measure should be assessed annually, and the measure modified in accordance with the recruitment and maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

15. Mexico pointed out that 25,000 m<sup>3</sup> of capacity were being added to the Regional Vessel Register (RVR), and asked whether this capacity would operate in its entirety, since the actual increase in capacity needed to be known in order to design the measures to be applied. It added that everything suggests that this additional capacity would not operate in the fishery on dolphins, but on floating objects, and there should therefore be a commitment to limit the number of FADs deployed and to recover a certain percentage of them.

16. The United States stated that its fleet, like those of other Members of the IATTC, is utilizing its available capacity on the Regional Register, in accordance with Resolution C-02-03. It noted that there is no certainty that the vessels included as active on the Register will operate full time in 2017 in the EPO, and that possibly in 2018 the activity of the US fleet in the EPO will be reduced, but the US is unable to predict this or provide any guarantees. For precautionary reasons, the capacity recorded to date should be taken into account.

17. The European Union mentioned the possibility of establishing a global catch limit, and asked the scientific staff for its opinion on what it might be, for indicative purposes. It expressed concern about monitoring the IVLs. Likewise, it insisted on the importance of considering the fishing mortality of yellowfin tuna in the design of conservation measures to be adopted.

18. Mexico and Venezuela, with Colombia's support, noted that fishing effort on FADs has increased considerably in recent years. Since this mode of fishing is the main cause of mortality of juvenile tunas, there is an urgent need for regulatory measures.

19. Later in the meeting, the United States submitted a modified version of its proposal that included global catch limits for bigeye and yellowfin as a safeguard for the IVL management system. This was provided to address concerns from other CPCs and as precaution in case purse seine vessels caught higher amounts than the previous averages of the vessels. Although several members expressed support for the proposal, consensus could not be reached.

**b) Proposal [G-2B](#) (Ecuador and Colombia)**

20. Dr. Maunder explained that this proposal is applicable during 2017-2018 and includes a global catch limit for bigeye and yellowfin combined in sets on FADs of 95% of the 2013-2015 average, which will be divided among the countries. The remaining 5% would be available to distribute among vessels without catch limits. This proposal is equivalent to approximately 4-6 and 11 additional days of the existing 62 day-closure of the EPO for yellowfin and bigeye, respectively.

21. Several delegations noted their concern that this proposal could be an incentive to catch all of the amount set as the limit, as a result of its being distributed among countries and not among vessels, while a limit is not a goal to be reached, unlike a quota. Others also noted that the proposal does not include the closure of the "*corralito*", which has proven effective, when, on the contrary, the possibility of increasing its area or duration or of establishing other similar closures should be considered.

22. Panama asked why, in the proposal, the longline catch limit for bigeye was increased from 500 to 750 t for Members that traditionally do not fish with longlines, since the idea is to limit catches. Colombia explained that the increase was in response to the concern of one Member that the limit of 500 t would be reached.

23. Mexico and Venezuela, with Colombia's support, insisted that conservation efforts should focus on regulating the fleets that are causing the greatest mortality of juveniles, mainly through the deployment of FADs, a concept that is not included in the proposal. Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei also expressed their concern about the increase in catches of juvenile bigeye by the FAD fishery, and emphasized the need

for measures of the fishery for their protection.

24. Guatemala requested further information on the application of the national catch limits in cases of capacity loans, and specifically whether the limit would be allocated to the country that loans the capacity or the one that receives it.

25. The European Union stated that a measure for FADs only was insufficient, since it has no impact on conservation of yellowfin tuna, and therefore the proposal was inadequate for guaranteeing the protection of the resource.

26. Ecuador indicated that the proposed limits are below the recorded average catches, and do not exceed the MSY. It indicated that the intention was not to motivate a race to reach the individual limits, and that the wording of the corresponding paragraphs could be adjusted. In response to the question by Guatemala, Ecuador clarified that the catch limit would be awarded to the State that received the capacity loan for the duration of the loan.

#### **c) Proposal G-5A (México)**

27. Dr. Maunder explained that this proposal, applicable during 2017, includes all purse-seine vessels in the 62-day temporal closure. It eliminates the exemptions due to *force majeure*, as well as the exemption for Class-4 vessels to make a trip of up to 30 days' duration during the closure, requires that vessels recover 50% of the FADs they deploy before the beginning of the temporal closure, and includes limits on the number of FADs that vessels may deploy, linked to their well volume, and also proposes a single closure rather than two periods. Mexico made some additional comments, in particular to explain that the proposal is based on the perspective of a massive increase in fleet capacity and also to insist on the need for recovering deployed FADs. There were no questions or comments.

#### **d) Additional presentations**

28. Dr. Maunder presented Document [IATTC-90 INF-B Addendum 1](#), an analysis of the potential of other measures additional to the 62-day closure included in the previous proposals.

29. Colombia also made a presentation with an analysis of the impact on the fishery of the increase of capacity of the last years and in particular the activation of the 25,000 m<sup>3</sup> of the United States fleet. In the presentation, it was argued that the last stock assessment of bigeye and yellowfin by the IATTC scientific staff indicated that the F multiplier was 1.05 for bigeye and 1.02 for yellowfin. Therefore, the fishing effort could increase by 5% for bigeye and 2% for yellowfin without exceeding the maximum sustainable yield. From assessing the 2016 catches of the United States fleet, it can be seen that this fleet mainly focuses on the capture of skipjack and that its catches of yellowfin and bigeye amount only to 1.8% and 3.9%, respectively, of the total catches in the EPO. Accordingly, if the increase in fleet capacity is measured by the impact on fishing mortality for yellowfin and bigeye, there may be no need for an increase in the days of closure. However, Colombia expresses its concern about the increase in the use of FADs and the corresponding catch of juveniles, and therefore insists on studying the possibility of implementing a limit for the deployment of FADs per vessel.

30. The European Union expressed its disagreement with these conclusions and affirmed that conservation measures additional to the existing 62-day closure must be adopted, on the basis of the recommendations of the scientific staff.

31. The United States indicated that its fleet is not the only one responsible for the increase in capacity, since other fleets have increased it, and asked the comments from the Commission staff on the information presented by Colombia. Dr. Rick Deriso, IATTC Coordinator of Scientific Research, reported that, when the increase from 62 to 87 days of closure was recommended, the staff did not have final information on catches, which is now available and indicates that in 2016 they were lower than in 2015, despite the increase in fleet capacity.

#### **32. C. Establishment of an open working group**

33. Numerous delegations requested that a single consolidated proposal be worked on. Working at parallel tables was proposed to attempt to make progress on agreement on the issues that involved the greatest differences, or in bilateral consultations. When the failure to achieve results when working in this manner at the previous meeting was recalled, it was agreed to form an open working group. Japan stated that any consolidated proposal should be subject to a scientific review of its effect on tuna conservation. It was agreed that, if no progress was made on a consolidated proposal, the plenary would reconvene to consider the recommendation by the scientific staff to increase the existing 62 days of closure.

34. Ms. Zuleika Pinzón, of Panama, was elected to chair the work of this group, which reviewed two particular issues: catch limits and measures for managing FADs.

**a) Catch limits**

35. Several delegations expressed themselves in favor of a system of individual-vessel catch limits (IVLs), arguing that negotiating national limits would take a great deal of time, maybe even years, with the difficulty of first reaching agreement on the criteria for this distribution and the danger that the system established might not necessarily turn out to be a fair and balanced.

36. Several other delegations supported a global limit for bigeye and yellowfin, and pointed out that a proposal for a limit could be found in the documentation already produced by the Secretariat.

37. Nicaragua suggested establishing a system similar to that for DMLs, with a global limit and an individual-vessel limit, which would make it possible to eliminate or at least to reduce the risk of a "race" to reach the global limit.

38. Ecuador asked what the scientific basis would be for determining a global limit, and noted that this type of limit would lead to a race to reach it, while, with national limits, each Member would be responsible for distributing the IVLs. Ecuador recalled that the longline catch limits are based on historical catches, and stressed that the proposal for a global limit would affect Ecuador's interests and would not guarantee that the mortality of juvenile yellowfin would be reduced.

39. Colombia stated that it shared Ecuador's concern regarding the danger of a race, and suggested the possibility of a hybrid system, with a global limit and national allocations.

40. Venezuela noted that global limits are already applied in the IATTC for bluefin and albacore tunas, and noted that the measure would be only for one year, thus providing the possibility of improving it as necessary based on experience.

41. The United States noted the difficulties of calculating the historical catches on which the national limits might be based, in particular in the case of those fleets which, like its own fleet, had been in the EPO for a short time. It also highlighted the difficulty of verifying catches by vessels without observers.

42. Several delegations stated that a system of IVLs would avoid the risk of a "race" for fish, would not discriminate against fleets with no catch history, and would allow the capacity of Guatemala and Venezuela to be activated.

**b) Management measures for FADs**

43. Mexico noted that the number of sets on FADs has increased significantly in recent years, and proposed that the number of FADs that a vessel may deploy be limited and that vessels be required to recover a certain percentage of the FADs deployed. Colombia, Nicaragua, and Venezuela supported this proposal, and Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei stated their interest in regulating the number of FADs in order to reduce the mortality of juvenile bigeye.

44. While considering that no clear correlation between fishing mortality and FADs number can be established, the European Union stated that a limit on the number of active FADs allowed should be established, and should be either distributed among vessels in accordance with their capacity, as in the Mexican proposal, or alternatively treated as a global maximum limit. Regarding recovering FADs, the way

of doing it should be analyzed so that it would be viable.

45. The United States acknowledged the concern about regulating the use of FADs, and accepted limiting the number of FADs aboard its vessels, but could not agree to setting up a commitment to recovering them. The United States also noted that the IATTC scientific staff had previously indicated that there is no clear correlation between the number of FADs deployed by individual vessels and fishing mortality.

46. Ecuador reported that it is working at the national level on a management and data collection plan for FADs, and the results would be shared with the Scientific Advisory Committee. Ecuador indicated that it could accept a limit of up to 500 FADs per vessel and allow the Committee to review it based on the best information available. It stressed the need to review the information available on recovering FADs in order to take appropriate decisions.

#### **47. D. Continuation of the discussions**

48. When the plenary resumed, Ms. Pinzón reported that the working group had made some positive progress but was not able to overcome essential differences regarding catch limits and regulating FADs.

49. Also, Ecuador and the United States reported on bilateral discussions they had held, in which the application of a national catch limit for Ecuador and IVLs for the other Members was discussed as a possible solution. Many delegations expressed a preference for working multilaterally, and for measures that were the same for all.

50. In view of the lack of agreement on a consolidated proposal, the discussion focused again on the IATTC scientific staff's recommendation for a possible extension of the existing 62-day closure. The United States and the European Union recalled their position of accepting the 87 days recommended by the scientific staff. Mexico indicated that it could accept 70 days of closure if measures for regulating FADs were also applied.

51. The European Union requested clarification on the number of days of closure necessary for 2017 and the conservation effect of extending the closure of the *corralito*. Dr. Deriso stated that the increase of more than 3% in the capacity of the purse-seine fleet since April 2016, when the staff formulated its original recommendations, meant that 33 additional days of closure were now needed rather than 25, even without the activation of the additional capacity of Guatemala and Venezuela, and that extending the *corralito* closure would be equivalent to only three days of closure. Dr. Maunder presented information, already reviewed at previous meetings, on a closure area for yellowfin, and recalled that it had been concluded that closing areas for this species would negatively affect bigeye, since the fleet would move to areas where that species is caught. The European Union stated that it was very clear that the duration of both closures, total and *corralito*, should be extended.

52. Ecuador stated that it could not accept any increase of the existing 62-day closure. The United States, supported by the European Union, stressed that it would not support a measure that was the same as that for previous years, because the scientific information indicated the need for more drastic measures.

53. The European Union proposed changing the dates in the second closure period in 2017 so that it would finish on 31 December, for a total of 80 days of closure during the year. Several delegations indicated that changing the dates the application of the 62 days of closure would have no real benefit for the resource, and Guatemala added that the proposal also did not consider the additional four days of closure to compensate the activation of its capacity.

#### **54. E. Proposal approved**

55. In response to the Chairman's suggestion of extending the existing measure in 2016 to 2017, Japan presented a proposal (G-6), which consisted essentially of extending the application of the provisions of the Resolution C-13-01 during 2017, but with the addition of global purse-seine catch limits for yellowfin and bigeye combined, as an emergency solution. ("5. The IATTC establishes a Commission-wide annual catch

limit of the average level observed during the period 2013-2015 (i.e. XXX,XXX mt) for yellowfin and bigeye (combined) caught by size class 6 purse seine vessels. (...)" )

56. Mexico noted that this proposal would not resolve the problem of the catches of juvenile tunas. Japan, China, Korea, and Chinese Taipei echoed this statement, and stated that they would prefer to increase the days of the existing 62 days closure, but stressed that the proposal offered an emergency solution for 2017, in order to prevent the adverse effects on those stocks due to the absence of conservation measures.

57. The European Union considered that limits should be established for each fishing gear, i.e. FADs, non-associated and dolphins, on the basis of the 2013-2015 average as recommended by the scientific staff.

58. In general, the Members were of the opinion that this proposal, even if it was not the most suitable, was at least the best guarantee of having a conservation measure of 2017. Nevertheless, Ecuador stated that it preferred to maintain its proposal for national catch limits.

59. In view of the lack of consensus regarding the conservation measures proposed at the meeting and considering the possible eventuality of implementing a measure that would not reflect the consensus of all IATTC Members, several countries expressed their view. Likewise, Peru made a broad legal analysis of consensus in the decision-making of IATTC, specifically in the decision-making of the Commission. With the elimination of the possibility of a management and conservation measure that would not be applicable to all Members and would not be adopted by consensus, which would be contrary to the provisions of the Antigua Convention, renewed efforts were made to achieve a compromise acceptable to all.

60. After an extended discussion about whether to apply the limits to the fishery on FADs only, and at the request of the European Union, Japan suggested dividing the global catch limits among the three types of set (on tunas associated with dolphins, associated with floating objects, and unassociated). Peru opposed the inclusion of unassociated sets, and stated that, because] they catch mainly skipjack, a species that does not require measures. that would restrict its utilization.

61. The EU, Mexico, Costa Rica and numerous delegations expressed their disagreement with excluding this type of set from the proposal, since it left the door open to the uncontrolled exploitation of skipjack, whose catch rates have doubled in recent years. However, with the aim of achieving consensus, they would accept this exclusion, with the understanding that at the next meeting of the Commission the possibility of regulating the exploitation of skipjack would be reviewed. For non-associated sets the closure days would continue to apply but not any additional measures.

62. Ecuador did not agree with the total annual catch limits established for fishing on floating objects by purse seiners of all capacity classes. Therefore, Colombia proposed to establish the same annual catch limit for fishing on floating objects, but only for purse seiners of capacity classes 4, 5 and 6. Ecuador accepted this proposal and a consensus was reached on the total annual catch limits for fishing on floating objects and on dolphins.

63. Mexico proposed eliminating the exemptions due to *force majeure*, in order to reduce fishing effort. Venezuela, Japan, and the European Union supported the initiative, but it was withdrawn at the request of Ecuador and the United States.

64. At the request of Colombia, with the support of most of the Members, a provision was introduced to limit the number of FADs deployed. The EU suggested limiting the number of active FADs to 400 per vessel. The United States requested that the provision not be binding, and that it 'encourage' instead of 'require', but in that case Colombia preferred that the provision not be introduced for now, and stated for the record the pressing need to adopt measures for regulating the use of FADs. Colombia also noted that the United States had previously agreed to include a compulsory limit for the number of deployed FADs and that it had never opposed that provision but until the end of the negotiations.

65. Mexico suggested that sets on unassociated tunas and floating objects be defined, indicating that in

some RFMOs the rule is that any set made less than two nautical miles from a floating object is not considered 'unassociated'.

66. Guatemala requested the inclusion of a sentence that indicated that with the conservation measures adopted the capacity authorized by the Commission at its 88th extraordinary meeting for Guatemala and Venezuela would be activated. Ecuador recalled that, as recorded in the minutes of the meeting, Guatemala offered at that time to limit fishing by this capacity to the technique of fishing on dolphins. In this regard, Guatemala indicated that it would subject its activation of the conservation measures recommended by the Commission, as there is no problem in fishing on dolphins with that capacity.

67. There was consensus for approving the activation of the capacity of Guatemala and Venezuela; both countries thanked the Commission, indicating that this was a very important step since the matter had been under discussion for years.

68. Without prejudice to the adoption of measures for the year 2017, El Salvador highlighted the importance of arriving in future at management and conservation measures for tunas that would make a difference for developing Members that have small fleets, in addition to taking into account the capacity requested by developing Members.

69. Peru asked that its request for 5,851 m<sup>3</sup> of capacity submitted previously be considered as part of the adoption of conservation measures at the current meeting. Several delegations indicated that the discussions on conservation and management measures for 2017 and the adoption of the corresponding resolution were not the time to address pending capacity requests, whose review should continue in the Permanent Working Group on fleet capacity and within the Commission. It was noted that the cases of Guatemala and Venezuela are different from the pending requests, since they had been previously approved by the Commission.

70. Finally, the text of Resolution [C-17-01](#) on conservation and management measures for tunas during the year 2017 was approved (Appendix 2). At the time, it was adopted *ad referendum* until the European Union (whose representative had to leave the meeting before it finished) joined the consensus, which it did in the following days, after receiving a copy of the text as adopted.

## **Other business**

### **a) Location of the 92nd meeting of the IATTC**

71. Costa Rica asked about the situation regarding Vanuatu's offer to host the next annual meeting of the IATTC. The Chair reported that Vanuatu, which was not present at the meeting, had not yet confirmed it officially. The Commission asked the Director to communicate with the Government of Vanuatu in order to clarify the situation.

72. Mexico repeated its offer, made at the meeting of the IATTC in October 2016, to host the meeting if it could not be held in Vanuatu.

### **b) US proposal on observer safety at sea**

73. Due to lack of time the presentation announced by the United States at the beginning of the meeting could not be made.

## **Adjournment**

74. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM on 10 February 2017.

## Appendix 1.

### ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES

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**Appendix 2.**

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**91<sup>ST</sup> EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

**La Jolla, California (USA)**

**7-10 February 2017**

**RESOLUTION C-17-01**

**CONSERVATION OF TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN  
DURING 2017**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 91<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary 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;

*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 2017 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 62 days in 2017. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods, as follows:  
29 July to 28 September 2017, or from 18 November 2017 to 18 January 2018.
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 period, provided that any such vessel carries an observer authorized pursuant to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP)
5. The IATTC establishes a total annual catch limit of the average level observed during 2013-2015 for yellowfin and bigeye (combined) caught by capacity class 4, 5, and 6 purse-seine vessels of 97,711 t for the fishery on floating objects, and 162,182 ton dolphins by Class-6 vessels. These catch limits

include the activation of the capacity recognized for Guatemala and Venezuela at the 88th Meeting of the IATTC. The Director shall notify CPCs when the catch of yellowfin and bigeye by capacity class 4, 5, and 6 purse-seine vessels reaches 80% of the total catch limit in sets on floating objects or dolphins, respectively. At 90% of the total catch limit, the Director shall notify CPCs of an estimated closure date for the respective fishery, and at 100% the Director will announce the closure of the respective fishery. CPCs shall ensure that purse-seine vessels flying their flag stop making sets on floating objects or dolphins when the total limit is reached in the respective fishery.

6. 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 0000 hours on 29 September to 2400 hours on 29 October.

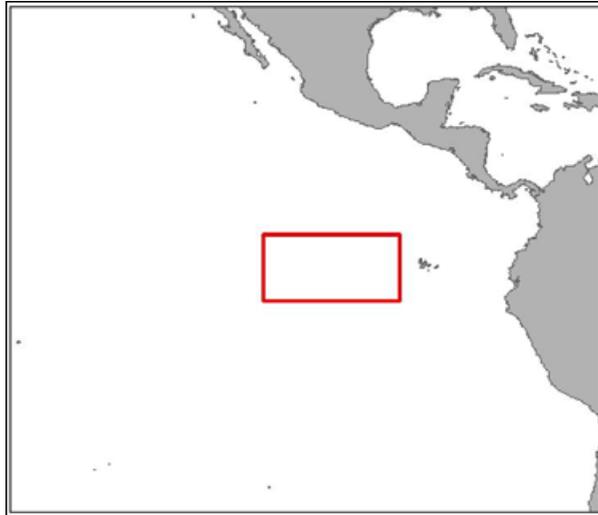


Figure 1. Closure area

7.
  - a. 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, 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.
8.
  - a. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph 7a and 7b, a request by a CPC, on behalf of any of its vessels, for an exemption due to *force majeure*<sup>2</sup> 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, 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*.
  - c. The Director shall immediately send the request and the evidence electronically to the other 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.

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<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of paragraph 8, only cases of vessels disabled by mechanical and/or structural failure, fire, or explosion shall be considered *force majeure*

- 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 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 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.

- 9. 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 authorized pursuant to the AIDCP 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 authorized pursuant to the AIDCP may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area.
- 10. 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 do not exceed the following levels:

<b>Metric tons</b>	<b>2017</b>
China	2,507
Japan	32,372
Korea	11,947
Chinese Taipei	7,555

- 11. All other CPCs undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during 2017 do not exceed the greater of 500 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001<sup>3,4</sup>. CPCs whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director.
- 12. 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.
- 13. Each CPC shall submit to the Director, by 15 July of 2018, 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.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

14. In order to evaluate progress towards the objectives of these measures, in 2017 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.
15. 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.
16. 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, except fish considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size. A single exception shall be the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set. At its annual meeting in 2017, the IATTC will review the results of the program, including compliance, and decide whether to continue it.
17. 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.
18. In 2017 and 2018 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 take further actions including substantial extension of closure days for purse seine vessels or equivalent measures at its meeting in 2017.
19. Except in cases of *force majeure* prescribed in paragraph 8, no exemptions will be allowed with regard to the closure periods notified to the Director in accordance with paragraph 7a, nor with regard to the fishing effort of the purse-seine fleets of the respective CPCs.

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**91<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**

**La Jolla, California (USA)**

**7-10 February 2017**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-91 G-1D**

**SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES**

**MULTIANNUAL PROGRAM FOR THE CONSERVATION OF  
TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2017-2020**

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 91<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary 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, or other equivalent measures, for large purse-seine vessels to maintain or restore the populations at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY); 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 2017-2020 (with the exception of paragraphs 5 and 6 that are not applicable in 2017) 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, 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, 62 days in 2018, 62 days in 2019, and 62 days in 2020. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods in each year as follows:

2017 – 3 July to 28 September, or from 30 October 2017 to 18 January 2018.

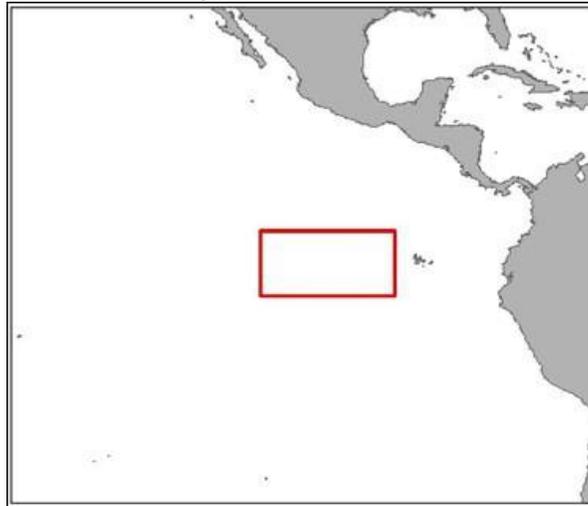
2018 – 29 July to 28 September, or from 18 November 2018 to 18 January 2019.

2019 – 29 July to 28 September, or from 18 November 2019 to 18 January 2020.

2020 – 29 July to 28 September, or from 18 November 2020 to 18 January 2021.

4. Applicable in each of 2018, 2019, and 2020, all purse seine vessels of class 6 that target adult yellowfin tuna (that have dolphin mortality limits (DMLs)) must stop fishing in the Convention Area for an additional 8 days contiguous with the closure periods of paragraph 3.
5. Applicable in each of 2018, 2019, and 2020, each purse seine vessel of class 6 shall be subject to a limit on the combined retained catches of bigeye and yellowfin tuna from sets on floating objects and from non-associated sets. The annual limit is [1.0 mt/m<sup>3</sup>] of vessel capacity (as recorded on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register as of January 1, 2017). The IATTC scientific staff shall annually review and recommend any necessary adjustments to the catch limit in the context of the stock assessments and fishing capacity to ensure fishing mortality is not exceeding MSY. Based on the recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff, the Commission shall consider these adjustments for adoption. The IATTC staff shall provide updates of the catch data by trip to the CPCs and the CPCs shall make these estimates available to vessel owners or operators for tracking purposes. Once a vessel reaches [80%] of its limit, the owner or operator shall monitor the catch by set and may use estimates from the weekly catch reports by observers to ensure the limit is not exceeded. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that vessels flying their flag do not exceed their annual limit. CPCs shall report to the IATTC any overage in accordance with the compliance process under Resolution C-11-07. For compliance purposes, the finalized catch data provided by the IATTC staff will be used to compare to the catch limit for each vessel. Any overage of an annual limit by a vessel shall be deducted from that vessel's limit the following year. Underages (i.e., any portion of the annual limit not caught in a calendar year) may not be carried forward to the following year and are not transferrable.
- 5bis. As an additional precautionary measure to complement the individual vessel limit system, the IATTC establishes a Commission-wide annual catch limit of 127,988 mt for yellowfin and bigeye (combined) caught by size class 6 purse seine vessels in floating object sets and non-associated sets. The Secretariat shall notify CPCs when the catch of yellowfin and bigeye from floating object and non-associated sets reaches 80% of the Commission-wide catch limit. At 90% of the Commission-wide catch limit the Secretariat will notify CPCs of an estimated closure date, and at 100% the Commission will announce the closure. CPCs shall ensure vessels flying their flag stop fishing on floating objects and non-associated sets when this Commission-wide limit is reached.
6. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3, purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity class 4 (between 182 and 272 metric tons carrying capacity) may make a single fishing trip of up to 30 days duration during the specified closure periods, provided that any such vessel carries an observer authorized pursuant to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP).
7. 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 0000 hours on 29 September to 2400 hours on 29 October in each of 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Figure 1. Closure area



8. a. In each year in which these measures are applicable, and for each one of the closure periods, each CPC shall notify the Director, by 19 June for 2017 and 15 July for 2018-2020, the names of all the purse-seine vessels that will observe each closure period.
- f. Every vessel that fishes during 2017-2020, 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.
9. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs 8a and 8b, a request by a CPC, on behalf of any of its vessels for an exemption for either of the following shall be sent to the Secretariat: (i) due to *force majeure*<sup>5</sup> 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 (ii) due to a vessel that was in port without conducting fishing activities for at least 120 consecutive days.
- 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 without conducting fishing activities for at least 120 consecutive days.
- c. The Director shall review the request to ensure all relevant information was submitted to complete the request and shall consider the request incomplete until all the relevant information is submitted. The relevant information shall include valid documents 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 without conducting fishing activities for at least 120 consecutive days. Once the Director confirms the request is complete, the Director shall immediately send the request and the evidence electronically to the other 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 circulation of the request to all CPCs, in which case the Director shall immediately notify all CPCs of the objection.
- e. If a IATTC Member objects to the request:
  - i. The CPC who submitted the request will have 15 days from the date the objection was circulated to respond. The Director will circulate this response to CPCs.

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<sup>5</sup> For the purposes of paragraph 9, only cases of vessels disabled by mechanical and/or structural failure, fire, or explosion shall be considered *force majeure*.

- ii. IATTC Members will again have 15 days to respond.
- iii. If the request is again objected to by a Member, the request will not be considered accepted and the Director will notify the CPC of this result.
- f. If the request for exemption is accepted:
  - i. The CPC shall immediately notify the Director if the vessel will observe a reduced closure period of 30 consecutive days in one of the two periods prescribed in paragraph 3 in the same year during which the *force majeure* event occurred, or the vessel stayed in port during at least 120 consecutive days, 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 vessel was in port for at least 120 consecutive days without conducting fishing activities, 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.

- 10. Each CPC shall, for its 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. The only exceptions to this provision shall be that vessels carrying an observer authorized pursuant to the AIDCP may remain at sea or leave port during the closure, provided they do not make a set in the Convention Area.
- 11. 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 2017-2020 do not exceed the following levels:

2017-2020	Metric tons
China	2,507
Japan	32,372
Korea	11,947
Chinese Taipei	7,555

- 12. For 2018, 2019, and 2020, the total annual longline catch limits in paragraph 11 for 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 adjusted in accordance with paragraph 22.
- 13. All other CPCs with historical catch shall undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area in each of 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 do not exceed the greater of 750 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001.<sup>6,7</sup> CPCs whose

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

annual catches have exceeded ~~500~~750 metric tons for a calendar year shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director for the remainder of that calendar year. If the conservation measures for purse-seine vessels are maintained, the limits in this paragraph shall remain in effect, unless adjusted in accordance with paragraph 22.

14. Overage by a CPC of a bigeye tuna annual catch limit listed in paragraph 11 or 13 shall be deducted from that CPC's annual catch limit the following year.
15.
  - a. A CPC with an annual catch limit of bigeye tuna under paragraph 11 or 13 may transfer part of that limit to one or more CPCs within a calendar year, provided that the CPC that receives the transfer also has an applicable catch limit under paragraphs 11 or 13, and that the total tonnage transferred by a CPC during a year does not exceed 15 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, the estimated amount (in weight and year-to-date) of bigeye tuna caught by longline vessels greater than 24 meters length overall of the CPC receiving the transfer at the time of the transfer, and the year in which the transfer will occur. 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 of the transferred catch limit to another CPC.
  - b. Such transfers may not be used to retroactively offset an overage of its catch limit by a CPC.
  - c. The amount of bigeye tuna transferred in any one year shall be considered without prejudice by the Commission for the purposes of establishing any future limits or allocations.
16. Landings and transshipments of tuna or tuna-like 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.
17. 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.
18. In order to evaluate progress towards the objectives of these measures, in each of 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 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.
19. 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.
20. CPCs shall require purse seine vessels flying their flag For 2018, 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 two three exceptions allowing tropical 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.

At its annual meeting in 2020, the IATTC will review the results of the program, including compliance, and decide whether to continue it.

21. 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.
22. In 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 the IATTC scientific staff shall evaluate the results of these measures, including paragraph 4, in the context of the results of the stock assessment and of changes in the level of active capacity in the purse-seine fleet. Based on the conclusions reached by the IATTC staff, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, the Commission shall adopt conservation and management measures, at its annual meetings in 2018, 2019, and 2020, to modify this Resolution, as appropriate, to ensure the sustainable use of the tunas and tuna-like species (e.g., to ensure stocks are maintained or restored at levels of abundance which can produce MSY).
23. Except in cases of force majeure and vessels in port without conducting fishing activities for at least 120 consecutive days prescribed in paragraph 9, no exemptions will be allowed with regard to the closure periods notified to the Director in accordance with paragraph 8a.

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**90<sup>TH</sup> MEETING (RESUMED)**

**La Jolla, California (USA)**

**12-14 October 2016**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-90 G-2B**

**SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR**

**MULTIANNUAL PROGRAM FOR THE CONSERVATION OF TUNA  
IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2017-2018**

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

*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 recommendations recognize that the purse-seine capacity has increased by 10% since 2014 and include an increase in the days of closure for large purse-seine vessels in order to maintain the populations at levels of abundance that can produce the maximum sustainable yield.*

*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;

**CHAPTER I**

**TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL CLOSURE FOR THE PURSE-SEINE TUNA FLEET**

1. These measures are applicable in the years 2017-2018 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 62 days in 2017 and 62 days in 2018. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods in each

year as follows:

2017 – 29 July to 28 September, or from 18 November to 18 January 2018.

2018 – 29 July to 28 September, or from 18 November to 18 January 2019.

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.
  - 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.
  - g. Every vessel that fishes during 2017-2018, 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.
6.
  - a. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs 5a and 5b, a request by a CPC, on behalf of any of its vessels, for an exemption due to *force majeure*<sup>8</sup> 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 did not fish during 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 during at least 120 consecutive days.
  - h. The Director shall immediately send the request and the evidence electronically to the other CPCs for their consideration, duly coded in order to maintain the anonymity of the name, flag and owner of the vessel.
  - i. 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.
  - j. 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 occurred or to staying in port during at least 120 consecutive days and without conducting fishing activities, 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 occurred or to staying in port during at least 120 consecutive days and without conducting fishing activities, 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.

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

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<sup>8</sup> 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*

- e. Before the date of entry into force of the closure, take the legal and administrative measures necessary to implement the closure;
- f. Inform all interested parties in its tuna industry of the closure;
- g. Inform the Director that these steps have been taken;
- h. 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.

## CHAPTER II

### BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN CATCH LIMITS FOR PURSE-SEINE TUNA FLEET IN SETS ON FLOATING OBJECTS

Countries	Tons
Colombia	3,282.30
Ecuador	60,752.40
Mexico	2,399.40
Nicaragua	2,597.10
Panama	10,651.80
European Union	1,998.60
United States	1,040.10
Venezuela	1,764.90
Others (according to IATTC register)	5,052.00

- 8. From the year 2017 to the year 2018 Class-6 purse-seine vessels, that are on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, shall limit the catches of bigeye and yellowfin tuna caught in sets on floating objects, for which a maximum catch limit of 89,538.60 tons is established for the entire EPO, calculated on the basis of average of the historical catches in sets on floating objects between the years 2013 and 2015 (99,487.33 t) by the tuna purse-seine fleet in the Eastern Pacific Ocean with a reduction of 10% (9,948.73 t).
- 9. The global catch limit shall be allocated for each country in accordance with its historical average of catches 2013-2015 during the years that its vessels have operated minus 10%, which shall be allocated as follows:
  - a. The 5% reduced from the general catch limit for bigeye and yellowfin tuna which are 4,974.37 tons, shall be considered as a reserve that would be issued under a rate of up to 0.50 tons of bigeye and yellowfin tunas/cubic meter of well per vessel and year, for CPCs whose allocation is less than 5% of the global catch limit.
  - b. For which the following criteria shall apply:
    - i. Vessels that entered the fishery on FADs during 2015 and 2016 and that have a minimal historical value.
    - ii. Active vessels on the IATTC Register that did not make sets on FADs before the year 2015.
    - iii. Fortuitous cases with that demonstrate that they could not operate for more than a continuous year during the period between 2013 and 2015.

- iv. Inactive and sunk vessels on the IATTC Register that do not have a history.
    - c. The rules for distributing this remainder are the following:
      - i. That xxx % of the catch limit allocated to the CPC has been utilized.
      - ii. That the country makes the initial request to the IATTC Secretariat.
      - iii. That the request does not exceed 100 % of the allocation to the CPC.
      - d. On the other hand, the remaining 5% of the determined global catch limit, for the catches of bigeye and yellowfin tunas in sets on floating objects during the 2013 to 2015 period, shall not be utilized, with the objective of reducing the fishing mortality of these two species contributing to the conservation of both species.
10. The rate for allocating the catch limit from the 5% shall be reviewed by the IATTC scientific staff every year, to recommend to the Commission whether it needs to be modified in accordance with the levels of maximum sustainable yield of bigeye and yellowfin tuna.
11. The catch limit allocated to each CPC for bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the EPO in accordance with paragraph 8 of this same resolution, shall be distributed as an individual catch limit by the CPC, in accordance with the following rules:
- a. The modality for allocating the individual catch limit that each CPC establishes shall be communicated to the IATTC Secretariat by 15 December of each year.
  - b. Appropriate monitoring of the catches with on-board observers shall be established, together with other equipment that help to improve the monitoring of possible discards.
  - c. The catch limit of bigeye and yellowfin tuna for each vessel, shall be applied only to sets on floating objects, therefore, they will not be applied to sets on breezers or dolphins.
  - d. The fisheries authority of each CPC shall monitor the unloadings of bigeye and yellowfin tuna, which shall be corroborated in the processing plants up to 72 hours after the unloading. For appropriate compliance with this paragraph, each CPC shall develop a protocol for monitoring and verifying unloadings within a maximum period of 60 days from the approval of this resolution.
  - e. Once the vessel reaches 80% of the individual bigeye and yellowfin tuna catch limit, the fisheries authority shall notify this immediately to the vessel owner with copy to the IATTC Secretariat, so that it ceases to make fishing sets on floating objects on reaching 100%.
  - f. CPCs shall send monthly reports to the IATTC Secretariat on the use of their allocated catch limit.
  - g. If the CPC exceeds its allocated annual catch limit, the excess shall be deducted from its catch limit for the following year.
  - h. The catch limit allocated to each CPC shall be used among its flag vessels and the only exception for transfer to another CPC shall be under the cases in which there is a temporary transfer of capacity, subject to the approval by the CPC and informing the IATTC Director.
  - i. Vessels with a historical record that do not fish their allocated catch limit nor transfer it to any other vessel, may request a reduction in the number of days of the closure period referred to in paragraph 3 of this resolution for the following year, in accordance with the parameters that the IATTC scientific staff may establish at the time that the individual catch limit is allocated.
12. With the aim of helping with the objective of reducing the catch of bigeye and yellowfin on floating objects, it is stipulated that the depth of the nets of purse-seine vessels shall not be greater than 24 strips.

### CHAPTER III

#### BIGEYE CATCH LIMITS FOR LONGLINE TUNA FLEET

13. 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 2017-2018 do not exceed the following levels:

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

14. For the year 2018, 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 19.
15. All other CPCs undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during 2017-2018 do not exceed the greater of 750 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001<sup>9,10</sup>. CPCs whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director during the remainder of that calendar year. For 2018, 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 19.
16. The excess of an annual bigeye catch limit established for a CPC in paragraph 9 or 11 shall be deducted from the CPC's annual catch limit for the following year.

### CHAPTER IV

#### SUNDRY PROVISIONS

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. The Director shall prioritize in his research program the experiments with sorting grids or other technological mechanisms for reducing the catch of juvenile tunas and other species of non-target fish in the purse-seine nets of vessels that fish on FADs, 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 likewise for other technological mechanisms that it may be desirable to

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<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

implement. 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.

21. 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 only three minor exceptions so that tropical tunas may be discarded when they are:
  - a. considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size (*i.e.*, size is not a reason for considering the fish unfit for human consumption and is therefore not a reason for discarding it).
  - b. caught in the final set of a trip, when there is not sufficient well space available to load all the tuna caught in that set.
  - c. when serious equipment failures occur.

Notwithstanding the above, it will not be considered an infraction if the discards do not exceed 0.5% of the catches for the fishing trip.

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

22. 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.
  - 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 adopt conservation and management measures for the sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like species at its meeting in 2017.
  - 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 adopt conservation and management measures for the sustainable use of the tunas and tuna-like species at its meeting in 2018.
23. Except in cases of *force majeure* and of vessels staying in port during at least 120 consecutive days and without conducting fishing activities as 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 effort.
24. Any vessel that enters the Regional Vessel Register as a substitute for another vessel that has carried out the closure in the first period shall not be considered for complying with a new closure period.
25. Any vessel that enters the Register in the second semester as a substitute for a vessel that was inactive for more than six months shall not be obliged to carry out any closure period.

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**90<sup>TH</sup> MEETING (RESUMED)**

**La Jolla, California (USA)  
12-14 October 2016**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-90 G-5A**

**SUBMITTED BY MEXICO**

**RESOLUTION ON THE ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN  
DURING 2017**

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

*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;

*Recognizing* that fish aggregating devices (FADs) have a greater negative effect on stocks and the pelagic ecosystem in the EPO compared to other types of sets in purse seine fisheries, and that these effects should be mitigated;

*Taking into account* the best scientific information available on the stocks of tropical tunas, reflected in the recommendations of the IATTC staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), as well as considering the need to apply the precautionary approach considered in Article IV of the Antigua Convention;

*Recalling* the definition of fishing established in Article I, *Definitions*, paragraph 2 of the "Antigua Convention", which stipulates that fishing means "placing, searching for or recovering any fish-aggregating device or associated equipment, including radio beacons";

*Understanding* that the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) itself recommended exploring complementary conservation measures as an alternative to an increase in the days of closure suggested by the scientific staff of the Commission;

*Considering that* a reduction in fishing mortality of juveniles in fishing using floating objects would increase the level of sustainability of resources;

*Making progress towards* the objectives set out in section I, paragraph 6 of Resolution C-16-01, regarding the collection of information and the formulation of recommendations to limit the catch of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna associated with fishing on FADs;

*Recognizing* that reducing the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin mainly associated with fish-aggregating devices (FADs) should be attempted;

*Bearing in mind* that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna and the Indian

Ocean Tuna Commission have established measures for controlling the maximum value of FADs that their vessels can use per year;

*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 being compatible, fair y balanced.

Agrees:

To apply in the Convention Area the conservation and management measures for yellowfin and bigeye and skipjack 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 that such activities be reported on as a priority at the next meeting of the Commission;

1. These measures are applicable in the year 2017 without exception for all CPCs' purse-seine vessels, and to all longline vessels over 24 meters length overall and also for pole-and-line, troll, and sportfishing vessels that fish for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area.
2. All purse-seine vessels covered by these measures must stop fishing in the Convention Area for a period of 62 days in 2017. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods as follows:  
29 July to 28 September, or from 18 November to 18 January 2018.
3. 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, known as the "corralito", shall be closed from 0000 hours on 29 September to 2400 hours on 29 October.

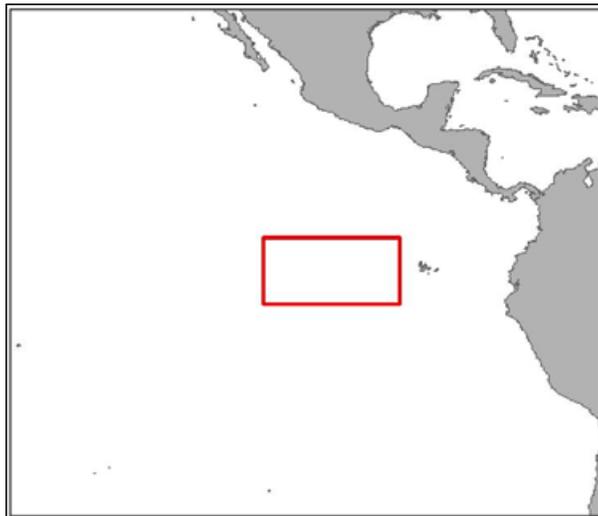


Figure 1. Closure area

4.
  - a. For each one of the closure periods, each CPC shall notify the Director, by 15 July which period each one of its vessels will observe.
  - k. Every vessel that fishes during 2017, 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.
5. Each CPC shall, for its vessels' respective fisheries:
  - i. Before the date of entry into force of the closure, take the legal and administrative measures necessary to implement the closure;
  - j. Inform all interested parties in its tuna industry of the closure;

- k. Inform the Director that these steps have been taken;
  - l. Ensure that at the time a closure period begins, and for the entire duration of that period, all 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. Likewise 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.
- 6. 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 do not exceed the following levels:

<b>Metric tons</b>	<b>2017</b>
China	2,507
Japan	32,372
Korea	11,947
Chinese Taipei	7,555

- 7. For 2017, 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, as ratified or adjusted in accordance with paragraph 19.
- 8. All other CPCs undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during 2017 do not exceed the greater of 500 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001<sup>11,12</sup>. CPCs whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director.
- 9. 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.
- 10. Each CPC shall submit to the Director, by 15 July 2017, 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.
- 11. In order to evaluate progress towards the objectives of these measures, in 2018 the IATTC scientific staff will analyze as a priority 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.
- 12. The Director is requested to continue, in consultation with interested CPCs, a pilot program for research into, and gathering information on, the fish-aggregating devices (FADs) used to aggregate tunas in the Convention Area. The program shall include, *inter alia*, provisions for the marking of FADs, maintaining a record of the numbers of FADs on board each vessel at the beginning and end of each fishing trip, and recording the date, time, and position of the set, as well as removing 50% of FADs before the start of the closure selected by each vessel, not deploying FADs one month before each

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<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

closure period, and additionally, removing the FAD of the last set. The Director is requested to report on the status of this effort at the next annual meeting of the IATTC. The information collected shall be held by the IATTC staff.

13. An annual limit for FAD deployments is established and the CPCs shall ensure that none of their purse-seine vessels of IATTC Classes 1 to 6 deploy more than XXX FADs per cubic meter considering its capacity. For monitoring compliance with the FAD deployment limit by each one of its vessels the CPC shall monitor it using the form for collecting data on FADs established in Resolution C-16-01, and the information provided by the on-board observer on IATTC Class-6 vessels, as well as a program to review the logbooks for vessels classes 1 to 5 without observer on board. The Commission, in conjunction with the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall review the progress and results of the implementation of this measure and may adjust the established limit. In their work, the above-mentioned bodies may consider the recommendations issued by the *ad hoc* Working Group on FADs.
14. 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.
15. 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, except fish considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size. A single exception shall be the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set.
16. 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 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.
17. a. In 2018 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 adopt conservation and management measures for the sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like species at its meeting in 2018.
18. Given the increase of the operative capacity of the purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO, give priority to the work in the framework of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity that will allow a scheme to be defined so that in the short term progress may be made in the management and reduction of the operative capacity in the EPO.
19. Apply, in the meantime, measures in a voluntary manner that will allow the operative capacity of purse-seine vessels operating in the EPO to be reduced, as well as advance in the updating of the IATTC Regional Vessel Register regarding long line vessels that will allow a precise definition of those that are active and inactive with the aim of likewise establishing a limit on operative capacity.

**Appendix 3d**

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**90<sup>TH</sup> MEETING (RESUMED)**

**La Jolla, California (USA)**

**12-14 October 2016**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-90 A-3 REV**

**SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA**

**REGULATION USE OF FADS IN THE PURSE-SEINE FISHERY FOR  
TUNAS 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 90<sup>th</sup> 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;*

*Concerned because the capacity of the purse-seine fleets and the number of FADs that are being deployed 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 the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee recommended looking for complementary conservation measures as an alternative to an increase in the closure days suggested by the scientific staff;*

*Recognizing that attempts must be made to reduce the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin mainly associated with fish-aggregating devices FADs;*

*Reiterating that there is an urgent need to limit the increase in fish-aggregating devices (FADs) deployed in the Convention area; and*

*Taking into account that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission have established measures to control the maximum value of FADs that their vessels can utilize per year;*

*Recalling the definition of fishing in Article I of the "Antigua Convention", which establishes that fishing means "engaging in any activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, harvesting of these stocks".*

*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;

**I. ANNUAL LIMIT ON DEPLOYMENT OF FADs PER VESSEL**

1. Beginning in the year 2017, CPCs shall ensure that none of their purse-seine vessels of Classes 1-6

shall deploy more than de 500 FADs per year.

2. Each CPC shall require before the beginning of the closure period to recover 80% of the FADs deployed during the previous trips.
3. For monitoring compliance with the FAD deployment and recovery limit by each of its vessels, CPCs shall keep track by using the FAD data collection format established in Resolution C-16-01, as well as the information supplied by the observer aboard IATTC Class 6 vessels.
4. The Commission jointly with the Scientific Advisory Committee and the *Ad hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs, shall review the progress and results of the implementation of this measure and may adjust the established limit.