

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico
24-28 July 2017

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 I-1

**SUBMITTED BY BELIZE, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA,
NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA AND PANAMA**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO AMEND PARAGRAPH 4 OF
RESOLUTION C-12-03, IATTC RULES OF PROCEDURE,
REGARDING THE DATE OF THE ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE COMMISSION**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

While the Antigua Convention establishes in its Article VIII that the ordinary meetings of the Commission shall take place once a year, in such location and on such date as the Commission agrees, the usual practice has been that the ordinary meeting is held between the months of June and July of each year. The IATTC Rules of Procedure contained in Resolution C-12-03 reiterate in their paragraph 4 the same provision contained in the Antigua Convention without any concrete specificity.

Since one of the essential tasks of the Commission is to take decisions based on the best available scientific information, which in the framework of the IATTC derives generally from the proposal by the Secretariat and from its analysis in the framework of the Scientific Advisory Committee, it is considered indispensable to rationalise the practice of convening the ordinary meeting of the Commission, so that it occurs not only chronologically after the SAC, but also that there be a sufficient length of time between the conclusion of that important Committee and the beginning of the Annual Meeting.

The experience accumulated in recent years has indicated that CPCs have been constrained in adopting substantive decisions within the Commission, because they did not have enough time to analyse the supporting scientific information, noting that since the SAC is held in the month of May, a month or a little more time to carry out analyses, consultations and coordination to facilitate the adoption of positions from which decisions can derive has been insufficient, which has generated the recurring need for convening new meetings or continuations in the same year to conclude the taking of decisions indispensable for the Commission.

In order to regulate the practice in a manner that will ensure sufficient time between the date on which the scientific advice of the Commission and its analysis by the SAC are available, and the date of the annual meeting of the Commission, this proposal aims to establish a period of not less than three months between the two, which would result in qualitatively better analyses by the parties, more efficient opportunities for discussing and reconciling previous positions and ideally a reduction in calls to extraordinary meetings.

To achieve this, a change to paragraph 4 of Resolution C-12-03 is proposed, so that through a Rule of Procedure there is the necessary clarity about the minimum period that must transpire between the conclusion of the SAC and the annual meeting of the Commission.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, and the occasion of its 92nd meeting:

Agrees:

To amend paragraph 4 of Resolution C-12-03 “IATTC Rules of Procedure”, so that hereafter it reads:

“...

Pursuant to Article VIII.1 of the Convention, the Commission shall meet at least once per calendar year, not less than 3 months after the conclusion of the meeting corresponding to the same year of the Scientific Advisory Committee. The exact date and place of the meeting shall be decided by the Commission.