

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION  
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

**69<sup>a</sup> REUNION - 69<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

MANZANILLO (MEXICO)  
26-28 JUN 2002

**RESOLUTION ON THE CAPACITY OF THE TUNA FLEET OPERATING  
IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN (REVISED)**

*The Parties to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):*

*Aware* that the issue of excess fishing capacity is of concern worldwide and is the subject of an International Plan of Action developed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization;

*Understanding* that excess fishing capacity in a region makes it more difficult for governments to agree on and implement effective conservation and management measures for the fisheries of that region;

*Concerned* that purse-seine fishing capacity in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) has been increasing in recent years;

*Believing* that it is important to limit fishing capacity in the EPO in order to help ensure that the tuna fisheries in the region are conducted at a sustainable level;

*Aware* of the importance of tuna fishing to the economic development of the Parties;

*Committed* to giving full effect to the relevant rules of international law, as reflected in the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention;

*Recalling* the resolutions to limit the capacity of the tuna purse-seine fleet in the EPO approved by the IATTC at its 62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in October 1998 and by correspondence on 19 August 2000;

*Seeking to address* the problem of excess capacity in the tuna purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO by limiting such capacity to a level which, in harmony with other agreed management measures and projected and actual levels of catch, will ensure that tuna fisheries in the region are conducted at a sustainable level:

*Have agreed as follows:*

1. For the purposes of this Resolution, the EPO is defined as the area bounded by the coastline of the American continents, the 40° North parallel, the 150° West meridian and the 40° South parallel.
2. For the purposes of this Resolution, and without setting any precedent, "participant" means Parties to the IATTC, and States and regional economic integration organizations (REIOs), and fishing entities that have applied for membership of the Commission or that cooperate with the management and conservation measures adopted by the Commission. The Commission shall determine which States, REIOs and fishing entities are considered to be cooperating with such management and conservation measures.
3. To finalize and adopt, as soon as possible, a plan for regional management of fishing capacity, as specified in the resolution on fleet capacity of 19 August 2000. Such a plan shall take into account the right of coastal States and other States with a longstanding and significant interest in the tuna fisheries of the EPO to develop and maintain their own tuna fishing industries.
4. To review on a regular basis, and modify if necessary, the methods for estimating fishing capacity and the target level of 158,000 m<sup>3</sup>, established in the resolution on fleet capacity of 19 August 2000, for the total capacity of the purse-seine fleet, taking into account the level of the stocks of tuna and other relevant factors.

5. To use the Regional Vessel Register (“the Register”) established by the resolution of the 66<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Commission, as of 28 June 2002, with any subsequent modifications that do not increase the total capacity of purse-seine vessels established in the Register, as the definitive list of purse-seine vessels authorized by the participants to fish for tunas in the EPO. Any purse-seine vessel fishing for tunas in the EPO that is not on the Register would be considered to be undermining IATTC management measures. The Register shall include only vessels flying the flags of participants. Each participant shall verify the existence and operational status of, and confirm the accuracy of the information on, its vessels, as required by that resolution, including the requirement to promptly notify the Director of the Commission (“the Director”) of any modifications to that information. For purse-seine vessels, the Register shall include only vessels that have fished in the EPO before 28 June 2002. A participant may remove any vessel flying its flag from the Register by notifying the Director.
6. The well volume of each purse-seine vessel, once confirmed by the relevant participant and verified by an independent survey supervised by the Director, shall be reflected in the Register.
7. To prohibit the entry of new vessels, defined as those not included in the Register, to the EPO purse-seine fleet, except to replace vessels removed from the Register, and provided that the total capacity of any replacement vessel or vessels does not exceed that of the vessel or vessels replaced.
8. To prohibit increasing the capacity of any existing purse-seine vessel unless a purse-seine vessel or vessels of equal or greater capacity is removed from the Register.
9. Notwithstanding paragraphs (7) and (8), above, by January 1 of each year, a participant may notify the Director of any purse-seine vessel operating under its jurisdiction and listed on the Register that will not fish in the EPO in that year. Any vessel identified pursuant to this paragraph shall remain on the Register as “inactive” and shall not fish in the EPO in that year. In such cases, the participant may substitute another purse-seine vessel or vessels on the Register, and those vessels shall be authorized to fish in the EPO provided that the total “active” capacity of purse-seine vessels flying the flag of that participant in any year does not exceed the capacity listed for such vessels on the Register as of 28 June 2002.
10. Subject to the provisions of this resolution:
  - 10.1. Notwithstanding paragraphs (7) and (8), the following participants may add purse-seine vessels to the Register after 28 June 2002, within the following limits\*:
 

Costa Rica:	9364 m <sup>3</sup>
El Salvador:	861 m <sup>3</sup>
Nicaragua: <sup>1</sup>	5300m <sup>3</sup>
Peru:	3195 m <sup>3</sup>
  - 10.2. Guatemala may increase its purse-seine fleet by 1700 m<sup>3</sup> and commits to obtaining that capacity within a period of two years.
11. In the implementation of paragraph (10.1) above, a participant wishing to bring a new vessel into the EPO shall (1) so notify the other participants, through the Director, and (2) undertake efforts to find a suitable vessel from the Register for at least four months following such notification

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\* Costa Rica, Colombia, and Peru maintain long-term capacity requests of up to 16,422 m<sup>3</sup>, 14,046 m<sup>3</sup>, and 14,046 m<sup>3</sup>, respectively. The Parties also acknowledge that France has expressed an interest in developing a tuna purse-seine fleet on behalf of its overseas territories in the EPO.

<sup>1</sup> 4038 m<sup>3</sup> in the original resolution adopted in June; modified by consensus of the Parties, 3 November 2002

before bringing a new vessel into the EPO.

12. Notwithstanding paragraphs (7) and (8), a limit of 32 United States vessels authorized and licensed to fish in other areas of the Pacific Ocean under an alternative international fisheries management regime, and that may occasionally fish to the east of 150° West, shall be authorized to fish in the EPO provided that: a) the fishing activity of any such vessels in the EPO is limited to a single trip not to exceed 90 days in one calendar year; b) the vessels do not possess a Dolphin Mortality Limit pursuant to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program; and c) the vessels carry an approved observer. A similar exception shall be considered for vessels of other participants with a similar record of participation in the EPO tuna purse-seine fishery and that meet the criteria listed above.
13. Nothing in this resolution shall be interpreted to limit the rights and obligations of any participant to manage and develop the tuna fisheries under its jurisdiction or in which it maintains a longstanding and significant interest.<sup>2</sup>
14. To urge all non-Parties to provide the information required by this resolution and comply with its provisions.

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<sup>2</sup> This paragraph was agreed *ad referendum* pending consultations among Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela on a possible alternative.