

# INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

## 102<sup>nd</sup> MEETING

Panama City, Panama  
2-6 September 2024

### PROPOSAL IATTC-102 D-3

### SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, CHINESE TAIPEI, AND MEXICO

## MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered virtually, on the occasion of its 99<sup>th</sup> 102<sup>nd</sup> Meeting ~~(resumed)~~:

Taking into account that the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is caught in both the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Recognizing that the ~~2020~~2024 stock assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) shows the following:

- ~~The spawning~~ Spawning stock biomass (SSB) ~~in 2018 is estimated to be 4.5% of unfished SSB (i.e.,~~ has increased over the ~~depletion ratio, which is the ratio of SSB in 2018 relative to the theoretical unfished SSB);~~
- ~~The stock is overfished~~ last twelve years, and ~~is subject to overfishing relative to most of the commonly used reference points; and SSB is below 20%SSB<sub>F=0</sub>, which is~~ reached the second rebuilding target ~~adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC (20%SSBF=0) in 2021;~~

Taking into consideration that IATTC Members, through resolutions and voluntary actions, have, ~~since~~ from 2012 to 2021, effected 40% reductions in the catch of Pacific bluefin tuna across the entire range of age classes available in the EPO;

~~Considering that in 2021 the IATTC Scientific Staff and Scientific Advisory Committee noted in their recommendations that increased catches based on the scenarios analyzed are possible under the harvest strategy prepared by the Joint IATTC-WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group on Pacific bluefin tuna. The choice of catch scenario should take into account the desired rebuilding rate and the distribution of catch between small and large Pacific bluefin tuna;~~

Taking into consideration that the IATTC adopted an interim harvest strategy to maintain the stock above 20%SSBF=0, the IATTC scientific staff recommended that catch increases consider the performance relative to possible future reference points to be evaluated in a management strategy evaluation; and the Scientific Advisory Committee further recommended that the Commission consider a long-term harvest strategy with reference points after the MSE is completed;

Recalling that Article VII, paragraph 1(c) of the Antigua Convention provides that the Commission shall “adopt measures that are based on the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term

conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention and to maintain or restore the populations of harvested species at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield...”;

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

Mindful that these measures are intended as an interim step towards assuring sustainability of the Pacific bluefin tuna resource, consistent with the precautionary approach, and the objectives of the long-term management framework for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the EPO;

Noting that the IATTC has adopted mandatory conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna for 2012-~~2024~~2024, and that the measures resulted in reducing catches in the EPO;

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

~~Recognizing that conservation and management measures by WCPFC and IATTC should be considered in cooperation between the two RFMOs taking into account historical and future projected proportional fishery impacts on SSB between fisheries in the EPO and fisheries in the WCPO;~~

Resolves as follows:

~~1. After the ISC concludes in a stock assessment that the Pacific bluefin tuna spawning stock biomass has met the second rebuilding target of 20%SSB<sub>1-05</sub>, as specified in Paragraph 1 of Resolution C-21-01, and any further increases are recommended by the Joint Working Group of the WCPFC and IATTC,~~1. Any future catch limits shall be considered in cooperation between the IATTC and the WCPFC taking into account the historical proportional fishery impacts on SSB between fisheries in the EPO and fisheries in the WCPO, and the IATTC shall consider a more equitable balance of catch among Members that is reflective of historical harvest in Members’ respective EEZs in the EPO.

The following paragraphs apply to ~~2021-2024~~2025-2026:

~~2.~~ 2. The Commission shall implement this Resolution in accordance with the long-term management objectives of Pacific bluefin tuna in paragraph ~~44~~ of Resolution C-~~24~~23-01 [Amendment to Resolution C-~~18-02~~21-01].

~~3.~~ 3. Each CPC shall report its sport fishery catches ~~of Pacific bluefin tuna semi-annually to the Director by June 30.~~ Each CPC shall ~~continue to~~ ensure that catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by sportfishing vessels operating under its jurisdiction are ~~reduced~~managed in a manner ~~commensurate~~consistent with ~~reductions in commercial catches~~fisheries.

~~4.~~ 4. ~~During 2021-2022, in the IATTC Convention Area, combined total commercial catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by all CPCs shall not exceed the catch limit of 7,295 metric tons. During 2023-2024.~~ During 2025-2026, in the IATTC Convention Area, combined total commercial catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by all CPCs shall not exceed the catch limit of ~~7,990~~12,585 metric tons. The biennial catch limits for each

CPC are specified below in paragraph 5. Within each biennium, CPCs also shall not exceed a one-year maximum catch limit, as specified below in paragraph 5.<sup>1</sup>

~~5.~~ 5.

	Mexico	United States
<del>2021-2022</del> biennial limit	6,556 mt	739 mt
<del>One-year maximum for 2021-2022</del>	3,824 mt	523 mt
<del>2023-2024</del> <u>2025-2026</u> biennial limit	<del>6,973</del> <u>10,763</u> mt	<del>1,017</del> <u>822</u> mt
One-year maximum for <del>2023-2024</del> <u>2025-2026</u>	<del>4,068</del> <u>6,296</u> mt	<del>720</del> <u>1,285</u> mt

~~a.~~ a. During ~~2021-2022~~2025-2026, the United States may catch up to ~~739~~1,822 metric tons for both years combined (biennial limit), and up to ~~523 metric tons in either year (one-year maximum)~~. During ~~2023-2024~~, the United States may catch up to ~~1,017 metric tons for both years combined (biennial limit)~~, and up to ~~720~~1,285 metric tons in either year (one-year maximum). The catch limits for the United States will be subtracted and reserved from the total catch limits in paragraph 4 for the exclusive use of the United States.

~~b.~~ b. During ~~2021-2022~~2025-2026, Mexico may catch up to ~~6,556~~10,763 metric tons for both years combined (biennial limit), and up to ~~3,824 metric tons in either year (one-year maximum)~~. During ~~2023-2024~~, Mexico may catch up to ~~6,973 metric tons for both years combined (biennial limit)~~, and up to ~~4,068~~6,296 metric tons in either year (one-year maximum). The catch limits for Mexico will be subtracted and reserved from the total catch limits in paragraph 4 for the exclusive use of Mexico.

~~6.~~ 6. Any over-harvest shall be deducted from the catch limit in the following year in accordance with Paragraph ~~45~~ of Resolution C-~~21~~23-01. Over-harvest of the 2023-2024 biennial catch limits established in Resolution C-~~18-04~~21-05 shall be deducted from ~~2021-2022~~2025-2026 catch limits applicable to this Resolution. ~~Over harvest of the biennial catch limit applicable to 2021-2022 in this Resolution shall be deducted from the catch limits in this Resolution applicable to 2023-2024.~~

~~7.~~ 7. Under-harvest of 2023-2024 biennial catch limits established in Resolution C-~~18-04~~21-05 shall be added to catch limits in this Resolution applicable to ~~2021-2022~~2025-2026 in accordance with Paragraph ~~56~~ of Resolution C-~~21~~-01. ~~Under harvest of biennial catch limits established in this Resolution applicable to 2021-2022 shall be added to the catch limit established in this Resolution applicable to 2023-2024, in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Resolution C-21~~23-01.

~~8.~~ 8. CPCs should endeavor to manage catches by vessels under their respective national jurisdictions in such a manner and through such mechanisms as might be applied, with the objective of reducing the proportion of fish of less than 30 kg in the catch toward 50% of total catch, taking into consideration the scientific advice of the ISC and the IATTC staff. At the annual meeting of the IATTC in ~~2022, 2023~~2025 and ~~2024~~2026, the Scientific Staff shall present the results of the previous year's fishing season in this regard for the Commission's review. ~~CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the catch limits specified in paragraphs 4 and 5 are not exceeded, without~~

<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding paragraph 5, CPCs not referenced in paragraph 4 may catch Pacific bluefin tuna so long as their catch does not exceed 10 metric tons per year.

~~prejudging the adoption by the CPCs of additional management and conservation measures within their national jurisdiction.~~

~~9.~~ 9. In each year ~~from 2021-2024~~in 2025-2026, each CPC shall report its commercial catches to the Director weekly after 50% of its annual catch limit in each year is reached.

~~10.~~ 10. The Director will send out notices to all CPCs when 75% and 90% of the limits in Paragraphs 4 or 5 have been reached. The Director will send out a notice to all CPCs when the limits in Paragraphs 4 or 5 have been reached. ~~CPCs shall take the necessary internal measures to avoid exceeding the limits established in Paragraphs 4 or 5.~~

~~11.~~ 11. By 31 January of each year in ~~2021-2024~~2025-2026, the Director shall notify all CPCs of the catch limit for each year in ~~2021-2024~~2025-2026 established in Paragraphs 4 and 5 of this resolution that accounts for any over-harvest or under-harvest in accordance with Paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Resolution, and Paragraphs ~~45~~ and ~~56~~ of Resolution C-~~21~~23-01.

12. In each year in ~~2021-2024~~2025-2026, the IATTC Scientific Staff shall present an assessment to the Scientific Advisory Committee of the effectiveness of this resolution also taking into consideration the results of the ISC's latest Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment, harvest scenario projections performed by the ISC, and conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna adopted by the WCPFC. The Commission shall review and consider revising the management measures established in this Resolution based on the best available information, including the harvest strategy based on the management strategy evaluation expected to be completed in 2025, the latest assessment, recruitment information, projections or other relevant information, as well as outcomes of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group on Pacific bluefin tuna.

13. This resolution replaces resolution C-21-05.

~~12.~~