

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101<sup>st</sup> MEETING

Victoria, Canada  
7-11 August 2023

PROPOSAL IATTC-101 C-3 REV

SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA

RESOLUTION C-05-03

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

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

*Recalling* that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks calls on States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt a National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

*Considering* that many sharks are part of pelagic ecosystems in the Convention area, and that sharks are captured in fisheries targeting tunas and tuna-like species;

*Recognizing* the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, as part of shark conservation and management;

~~*Concerned* that an extensive unregulated shark fishery is reported to be conducted in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) by a large number of shark fishing vessels, including some slightly smaller than 24 m length overall, about which the Commission has little information;~~

*Noting* that the IATTC has adopted, in its Consolidated Resolution on Bycatch, a requirement for fishermen ~~on purse seine vessels~~ to release unharmed non-target species, to the extent practicable, including sharks, and that ~~governments with longline fleets also~~ **CPCs** provide the required bycatch information ~~as soon as possible~~;

*Believing* that specific measures to be respected by vessels of all fishing gears are necessary for the conservation of sharks in the EPO;

*Recalling the analyses and recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff, particularly those on attached shark fins, contained in document SAC-14-14; and also considering the recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch, which were endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee at its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

*Resolves as follows:*

1. Each Party and co-operating non-party, co-operating fishing entity or regional economic integration organization (collectively “CPCs”) should establish and implement a national plan of action for conservation and management of shark stocks, in accordance with the *FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks*.
2. ~~In 2006,~~ **T**he IATTC, in cooperation with scientists of CPCs and, if possible, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, shall provide preliminary advice on the stock status of key shark

species and propose a research plan for a comprehensive assessment of these stocks.

3. CPCs shall take the measures necessary to require that their fishers fully utilize any retained catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, and skins, to the point of first landing.

~~4. CPCs shall require their vessels to have onboard fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.~~

4. CPCs shall require their vessels that shark catches subject to utilization and trade keep their fins naturally attached to the body up to the first point of landing; the necessary measures shall be taken to ensure compliance with the measure, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.

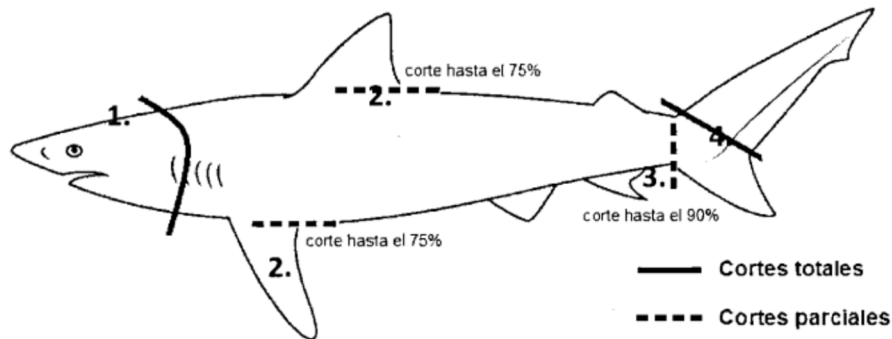
Paragraph 1°. Within the framework of this paragraph, in order to facilitate storage issues, only partial cuts shall be allowed, as follows:

1. The head may be completely cut off.

2. A partial cut up to 75% at the level of the base of the dorsal fin and the base of the pectoral fins.

3. A partial cut at the level of the caudal peduncle up to 90% of the base, allowing the caudal fin to be folded over the posterior area of the shark's trunk.

4. A full diagonal cut on the upper lobe of the caudal fin (tail) (Figure 1).



~~5. The ratio of fin to body weight of sharks described in paragraph 4 shall be reviewed by the Working Group on Stock Assessment and reported back to the Commission in 2006 for revision, if necessary.~~

- ~~5.~~ 5. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, landing or trading in any fins harvested in contravention of this Resolution.

6. In fisheries for tunas and tuna-like species that are not directed at sharks, CPCs shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, to the extent practicable, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.

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

a. identify ways to make fishing gears more selective, as applicable, including research on alternative measures to the prohibition of steel leaders;

b. improve knowledge on key biological/ecological parameters, life-history and behavioral traits, and migration patterns of key shark species;

c. identify key shark mating, pupping and nursery areas; and

d. improve handling practices for live sharks to maximize post-release survival.

~~8. CPCs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gears more selective.~~

~~9. CPCs are encouraged, where possible, to conduct research to identify shark nursery areas.~~

~~10.~~8. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the collection of data on shark catches.

~~11.~~9. Each CPC shall annually report data for catches, effort by gear type, landing and trade of sharks by species, where possible, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data. CPCs shall send to the IATTC Secretariat, by May 1, at the latest, a comprehensive annual report of the implementation of this Resolution during the previous year.

~~12.~~10. Paragraphs 2-~~11.~~9. of this resolution apply only to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IATTC.