

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT) INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

4th WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE) FOR TROPICAL TUNAS

By videoconference
20-21 March 2025

ANNOUNCEMENT

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process in fisheries is to compare the performance of alternative management strategies in meeting management objectives, using computer simulations and relevant fisheries performance metrics. Some parts of the MSE process are highly technical and done by scientists, but others, such as defining objectives, performance metrics and management strategies, require input and participation of managers and other stakeholders. A better understanding of the MSE process and its components will strengthen communication among scientists, managers and other stakeholders, as well as foster their participation in the process.

In [Resolution C-16-02](#) and [Resolution C-23-06](#) the IATTC adopted elements of a management strategy, such as interim reference points, proxy reference points and a harvest control rule (HCR), and the [IATTC Strategic Science Plan](#) includes a [work plan](#) for evaluating the IATTC's current strategy, along with alternatives using MSE. Because the elements, concepts and approaches involved in MSE are mostly new for managers and other stakeholders, a series of workshops were conducted to introduce MSE to different audiences. With financial support from the FAO- GEF Common Oceans project, introductory workshops on MSE for tropical tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) were held in Panama (2015) and the United States (2018), aimed at managers, and a further five, aimed at the tuna industry, took place during 2019 in Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and the United States.

The [work plan](#) includes convening a series of MSE Workshops that began in 2019. The Terms of Reference for these workshops were established in [Resolution C-19-07](#). The first and second IATTC funded and organized MSE Workshops for tropical tunas in the EPO were held during December 2019 ([workshop report](#)) and May 2021 ([workshop report](#)). A third IATTC MSE workshop was held in December 2022 ([workshop report](#)). Their goals were to explain and clarify the MSE process, enhance communication and foster mutual understanding among fisheries scientists, managers, and other stakeholders on matters related to harvest strategies and MSE, and discuss potential management goals and performance metrics with managers and other stakeholders. During the IATTC 102nd Annual Meeting, [Resolution C-24-08](#) was adopted, setting the basis for the creation of an Ad Hoc Working Group to strengthen the dialogue among scientists, managers and other stakeholders on management strategy evaluation.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this workshop, the fourth one funded and organized by the IATTC, are to continue to enhance communication and foster mutual understanding among fisheries scientists, managers, and other stakeholders on matters related to harvest strategies and MSE, and finalize objectives, performance metrics, reference points and harvest control rules for the ongoing bigeye tuna MSE, as discussed during

previous workshops. Scientists, managers, and other interested parties from governments, industry, NGOs, and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend (see tentative agenda).

PARTICIPATION

The workshop welcomes participants from CPC, IGOs and NGOs. A registration form will be posted on the meeting website to allow for individual registration. It would be most appreciated if participants express their intent to attend to Ms. Monica Galvan, Assistant to the Director, at mgalvan@iattc.org.

ARRANGEMENTS: The Workshop will be held by videoconference, utilizing the Zoom platform. An invitation will be sent individually to each registered participant.

The Workshop will be held on **20 and 21 March 2025**. Each session will have a duration of three hours and will start at **12 PM PDT (UTC -7)** to finalize around **3 PM PDT (UTC -7)**.

For the convenience of the participants, a document will be posted on the website with more precise information on how the meeting will be conducted, taking into account the special requirements and limitations of videoconferencing, using as a model previous IATTC meetings held by videoconference.

Languages: English and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation.