

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING (RESUMED)

La Jolla, California (USA)
12-14 October 2016

PROPOSAL IATTC-90 G-5A

SUBMITTED BY MEXICO

**RESOLUTION ON THE ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN
DURING 2017**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 90th Meeting (resumed):

Aware of its responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and for formulating recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) with regard to these resources;

Recognizing that the potential production from the resource can be reduced if fishing effort is excessive;

Aware that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase;

Recognizing that fish aggregating devices (FADs) have a greater negative effect on stocks and the pelagic ecosystem in the EPO compared to other types of sets in purse seine fisheries, and that these effects should be mitigated;

Taking into account the best scientific information available on the stocks of tropical tunas, reflected in the recommendations of the IATTC staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), as well as considering the need to apply the precautionary approach considered in Article IV of the Antigua Convention;

Recalling the definition of fishing established in Article I, *Definitions*, paragraph 2 of the "Antigua Convention", which stipulates that fishing means "placing, searching for or recovering any fish-aggregating device or associated equipment, including radio beacons";

Understanding that the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) itself recommended exploring complementary conservation measures as an alternative to an increase in the days of closure suggested by the scientific staff of the Commission;

Considering that a reduction in fishing mortality of juveniles in fishing using floating objects would increase the level of sustainability of resources;

Making progress towards the objectives set out in section I, paragraph 6 of Resolution [C-16-01](#), regarding the collection of information and the formulation of recommendations to limit the catch of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna associated with fishing on FADs;

Recognizing that reducing the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin mainly associated with fish-aggregating devices (FADs) should be attempted;

Bearing in mind that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission have established measures for controlling the maximum value of FADs that

their vessels can use per year;

Recognizing the importance of conservation measures taken by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) for the tuna stocks in that region and the stocks of highly migratory tunas in the Pacific Ocean being compatible, fair y balanced.

Agrees:

To apply in the Convention Area the conservation and management measures for yellowfin and bigeye and skipjack tuna set out below, and requests that the staff of the IATTC monitor the fishing activities of the respective CPC's flag vessels relative to this commitment, and that such activities be reported on as a priority at the next meeting of the Commission;

1. These measures are applicable in the year 2017 without exception for all CPCs' purse-seine vessels, and to all longline vessels over 24 meters length overall and also for pole-and-line, troll, and sport-fishing vessels that fish for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area.
2. All purse-seine vessels covered by these measures must stop fishing in the Convention Area for a period of 62 days in 2017. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods as follows:
29 July to 28 September, or from 18 November to 18 January 2018.
3. The fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna by purse-seine vessels within the area of 96° and 110°W and between 4°N and 3°S illustrated in Figure 1, known as the "corralito", shall be closed from 0000 hours on 29 September to 2400 hours on 29 October.

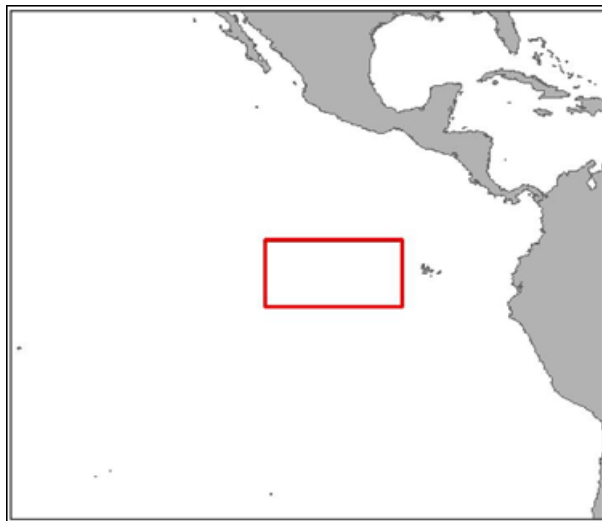


Figure 1. Closure area

4. a. For each one of the closure periods, each CPC shall notify the Director, by 15 July which period each one of its vessels will observe.
- b. Every vessel that fishes during 2017, regardless of the flag under which it operates or whether it changes flag or the jurisdiction of the CPC under which it fishes during the year, must observe the closure period to which it was committed.
5. Each CPC shall, for its vessels' respective fisheries:
 - a. Before the date of entry into force of the closure, take the legal and administrative measures necessary to implement the closure;
 - b. Inform all interested parties in its tuna industry of the closure;
 - c. Inform the Director that these steps have been taken;

- d. Ensure that at the time a closure period begins, and for the entire duration of that period, all vessels fishing for yellowfin, bigeye, or skipjack tunas that are committed to observing that closure period and that fly its flag, or operate under its jurisdiction, in the Convention Area are in port, except that vessels carrying an observer from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program may remain at sea, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area. Likewise vessels carrying an observer from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area.
6. China, Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during 2017 do not exceed the following levels:

Metric tons	2017
China	2,507
Japan	32,372
Korea	11,947
Chinese Taipei	7,555

7. For 2017, the total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the Convention Area shall be adjusted appropriately based on any conservation measures that may be adopted for purse-seine vessels, as ratified or adjusted in accordance with paragraph 19.
8. All other CPCs undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during 2017 do not exceed the greater of 500 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001^{1,2}. CPCs whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director.
9. Landings and transshipments of tuna or tuna products that have been positively identified as originating from fishing activities that contravene these measures are prohibited. The Director is requested to provide relevant information to CPCs to assist them in this regard.
10. Each CPC shall submit to the Director, by 15 July 2017, a national report on its updated national compliance scheme and actions taken to implement these measures, including any controls it has imposed on its fleets and any monitoring, control, and compliance measures it has established to ensure compliance with such controls.
11. In order to evaluate progress towards the objectives of these measures, in 2018 the IATTC scientific staff will analyze as a priority the effects on the stocks of the implementation of these measures, and previous conservation and management measures, and will propose, if necessary, appropriate measures to be applied in future years.
12. The Director is requested to continue, in consultation with interested CPCs, a pilot program for research into, and gathering information on, the fish-aggregating devices (FADs) used to aggregate tunas in the Convention Area. The program shall include, *inter alia*, provisions for the marking of FADs, maintaining a record of the numbers of FADs on board each vessel at the beginning and end of each fishing trip, and recording the date, time, and position of the set, as well as removing 50% of FADs before the start of the closure selected by each vessel, not deploying FADs one month before each closure period, and additionally, removing the FAD of the last set. The Director is requested to

¹ The Commission acknowledges that France, as a coastal State, is developing a tuna longline fleet on behalf of its overseas territories situated in the Convention Area.

² The Commission acknowledges that Peru, as a coastal State, will develop a tuna longline fleet, which will operate in strict compliance with the rules and provisions of the IATTC and in accordance with the resolutions of the Commission.

report on the status of this effort at the next annual meeting of the IATTC. The information collected shall be held by the IATTC staff.

13. An annual limit for FAD deployments is established and the CPCs shall ensure that none of their purse-seine vessels of IATTC Classes 1 to 6 deploy more than ~~100~~ **XXX** FADs per **cubic** ~~at~~ **considering its capacity**. For monitoring compliance with the FAD deployment limit by each one of its vessels the CPC shall monitor it using the form for collecting data on FADs established in Resolution C-16-01, ~~and s-well-as~~ the information provided by the on-board observer on IATTC Class-6 vessels, **as well as a program to review the logbooks for vessels classes 1 to 5 without observer on board**. The Commission, in conjunction with the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall review the progress and results of the implementation of this measure and may adjust the established limit. In their work, the above-mentioned bodies may consider the recommendations issued by the *ad hoc* Working Group on FADs.
14. Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the Director is requested to continue the experiments with sorting grids for juvenile tunas and other species of non-target fish in the purse-seine nets of vessels that fish on FADs and on unassociated schools, by developing an experimental protocol, including parameters for the materials to be used for the sorting grids, and the methods for their construction, installation, and deployment. The Director shall also specify the methods and format for the collection of scientific data to be used for analysis of the performance of the sorting grids. The foregoing is without prejudice to each CPC carrying out its own experimental programs with sorting grids and presenting its results to the Director.
15. For 2017, renew the program to require all purse-seine vessels to first retain on board and then land all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna caught, except fish considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size. A single exception shall be the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set.
16. The IATTC shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness, especially in the overlap area by frequent consultations with the WCPFC, in order to maintain, and inform their respective members of, a thorough understanding of conservation and management measures directed at bigeye, yellowfin, and other tunas, and the scientific bases and effectiveness of those measures.
17. a. In 2018 the results of these measures shall be evaluated in the context of the results of the stock assessments and of changes in the level of active capacity in the purse-seine fleet and, depending on the conclusions reached by the IATTC scientific staff, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, based on such evaluation, the Commission shall adopt conservation and management measures for the sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like species at its meeting in 2018.
18. Given the increase of the operative capacity of the purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO, give priority to the work in the framework of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity that will allow a scheme to be defined so that in the short term progress may be made in the management and reduction of the operative capacity in the EPO.
19. Apply, in the meantime, measures in a voluntary manner that will allow the operative capacity of purse-seine vessels operating in the EPO to be reduced, as well as advance in the updating of the IATTC Regional Vessel Register regarding long line vessels that will allow a precise definition of those that are active and inactive with the aim of likewise establishing a limit on operative capacity.