

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
 SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 13TH MEETING
 (by videoconference)
 16-20 May 2022

DOCUMENT SAC-13-02 Corr. 2
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE PREVIOUS SAC MEETING: PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES

At its annual meetings, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) makes recommendations to the Commission, many of which involve actions by the staff. This document lists the recommendations currently requiring action by the staff and/or the Commission, and their current status: **green**: completed; **yellow**: in progress, incomplete; **orange**: planned, but pending funding; **red**: no action. For the full recommendations made by SAC-12, see [here](#).

	Recommendation, SAC-12	Status (20 May 2022)
A. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)		
1. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT		
1.1 Tropical tuna (yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye)		
1.1.1	The SAC recommends the establishment of a triennial management cycle for the tropical tuna fishery in the EPO (2022-2024). This cycle does not prejudice the possibility for the Commission to review and revise on a yearly basis the conservation and management measures that it has adopted, taking into account their effect on the stocks and the monitoring of the status of the stocks.	Resolution C-21-04 establishes the conservation measures for tropical tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean during the triennial management cycle of 2022-2023. In the event that the <i>status quo</i> conditions are exceeded, Paragraph 10 requires the scientific staff to propose to the Commission an update of its recommendations for the conservation measures.
1.1.2.	The SAC recommends that the provisions of the current resolution (C-20-06) be maintained for 2022-2024, except those related to the FAD fishery which must be reviewed and adjusted, as needed, according to Resolution C-20-05, by the Commission.	Resolution C-21-04 maintains the provisions of resolution C-20-06 for 2022-2023. New provisions related to the FAD fishery were reviewed and adjusted: 1) Individual Vessel Limits (IVL) on bigeye tuna caught in floating-object and unassociated sets, 2) reduced limits on active FADs by vessel size-class, 3) new FAD data provisions.
1.1.3.	Within the management cycle 2022-2024, the SAC recommends that the Commission consider: a) the proposal for operational rule described in SAC-12-08, as part of	Resolution C-21-04 was adopted to establish the conservation measures in 2022-2024: a) The staff's proposed operational rule described in SAC-12-08 was discussed but not adopted;

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	<p>the package of possible measures to be implemented to prevent an increase of fishing mortality beyond the <i>status quo</i> levels;</p> <p>b) adopting measures to control fishing on FADs that avoid exceeding the average fishing mortality in this fishery between 2017 and 2019.</p>	<p>b) Alternative measures were adopted to prevent exceeding the <i>status quo</i> (2017-2019) fishing mortality conditions for bigeye tuna (see 1.1.2).</p>	
1.2 Pacific bluefin tuna			
	<p>The SAC recommends the extension of the provisions of Resolution C-18-01, as already extended by Resolution C-20-02, and that the Commission take note that increased catches based on the scenarios analyzed are possible under the harvest strategy prepared by the joint tuna RFMOs Working Group. The choice of catch scenario should take into account the desired rebuilding rate and the distribution of catch between small and large bluefin.</p>	<p>Resolution C-21-05 was adopted, which establishes measures for conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the EPO in 2021-2024.</p>	
1.3 North Pacific albacore tuna			
	<p>The SAC recommends that CPCs:</p> <p>a) continue to implement Resolutions C-05-02, C-18-03, presently in force;</p> <p>b) use the results of the concluded MSE process to establish reference points and a harvest control rule (HCR) for North Pacific albacore tuna.</p>	<p>a) This recommendation was adopted by the Commission.</p> <p>b) Due to time constraints, there was little time for discussion about reference points and an HCR for N-ALB during SAC-12. See item 6.e.ii on SAC-13 agenda.</p>	
1.4 Silky sharks			
	<p>The SAC, considering the recent improvements in shark fishery data collection in Central America (SAC-11-13), as well as the potential expansion of the data collection program into other coastal states, recommends that:</p> <p>a) Resolution C-19-05 be extended for another biennial period (2022-2023);</p> <p>b) CPCs enhance compliance with the following provisions of</p>	<p>Resolution C-19-05 was amended and replaced by resolution C-21-06 for another biennial period (2022-2024).</p>	

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	<p>Resolution C-19-05 (to be extended in the new resolution):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. prohibiting the use of steel leaders during a period of three consecutive months of each year for the relevant portions of their national fleets; ii. requiring that the Commission be notified of the period of the prohibition, the number of vessels subject to the prohibition, and how compliance with the prohibition will be monitored. 		
1.5 Seabirds			
	<p>The SAC recommends that Resolution C-11-02 be revised consistent with the current state of knowledge regarding seabird mitigation techniques.</p>	<p>No action.</p>	
2. Research in support of conservation and management			
2.1 TROPICAL TUNAS			
	<p>The SAC recommends that, in collaboration with CPCs and relevant stakeholders, including the fisheries sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) stock assessments and risk analysis for tropical tunas continue to be improved; b) an assessment for skipjack tuna be developed, based, among others, on recently collected tagging data, following SAC-12-06; c) BET, YFT and SKJ exploratory assessments be carried out in 2023 with the best available information; d) support for management strategies evaluation (MSE) for tropical tunas continue to be provided, following guidelines from resolutions C-16-02 and C- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The workplan to improve the tropical tuna assessments is ongoing. The first of planned series of workshops was held on 31 Jan – 3 Feb 2022: 1st Workshop on improving the risk analysis for the tropical tunas in the EPO: model diagnostics for integrated stock assessments b) The staff successfully completed an <i>interim</i> stock assessment for skipjack in the EPO (SAC-13-07). Analysis of the tagging data has been initiated for later integration in the skipjack assessment and results so far look promising (SAC-13-08). c) Per the staff's assessment workplan, BET, YFT and SKJ exploratory assessments are planned for 2023. d) The MSE for tropical tunas has been carried out by a contractor, whose funds end in 2023. The MSE workplan for tropical tunas (SAC-13 INF-C) has been extended to 2024 (Resolution C-21-04), however continuation of the MSE process for tropical tunas after 2023 is pending securing additional funds. 	

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	19-07; e) implementation of tagging cruises be continued, with the adoption of the most efficient and appropriate mechanisms to increase their efficiency and feasibility and facilitate their carrying out.	e) The third and final cruise of the IATTC Regional Tuna Tagging Program (RTTP) will be completed in May 2022. The continuation of the tagging cruises depends on the availability of additional funds.	
2.2	Mahi-mahi (Dorado)		
	The SAC recommends that the Commission encourage those Members participating directly or indirectly, as flag States or coastal States, in the catch of Dorado to contribute to and participate in the joint research project presented by Ecuador and Peru in document SAC-12 INF-D, with the understanding that, in the absence of the additional necessary human and financial resources, the only contribution that may be made by the Commission and its scientific staff would be to provide general guidance and technical advice as appropriate and feasible.	An MOU has been established with Comité Regional de Productores y Consumidores de Mahi (COREMAHI) in December 2021. The object of the MOU is collaboration on research related to the conservation of dorado in the EPO. IATTC is currently collaborating with the dissemination of COREMAHI posters with instructions on tag recoveries. Two studies have been conducted by CPCs: stock assessment for dorado in south EPO (SAC-13 INF-O) and genomic characterization of dorado in EPO (SAC-13 INF-P).	
2.3.	Close kin mark-recapture		
	Considering the potential benefits of Close Kin Mark-Recapture for BET, Silky Sharks and other species, the SAC recommends that a workplan be funded, starting with Project H.7.e: <i>Feasibility and sampling design for close-kin mark-recapture analysis of stocks in the EPO.</i>	Planned but pending funding.	
3. DATA COLLECTION			
3.1.	General data provision		
	The SAC recommends that, through a series of workshops planned and facilitated by the staff, Resolution-C-03-05 be revised in consultation with CPCs, taking into consideration the elements presented in document SAC-12-09. These workshops will be organized by main fishery, with the	The staff is tentatively planning to initiate the series of workshops in fall 2022.	

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	<p>purpose of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) discussing improvements in data collection, any required additional resources and capacity building activities; b) developing standard data reporting templates (initial draft appendixes in document SAC-12-09); c) modernizing Resolution-C-03-05 to align data reporting requirements with the Antigua Convention, the WCPFC Scientific Service Provider (SSP) and harmonize them with FAO and other tuna RFMOs standards. 		
3.2.	Data for purse-seine vessels without on-board observers		
	<p>The SAC recommends that each CPC ensure that its competent authority collect the logbook and other pertinent data from every fishing trip made without an observer aboard at the end of the trip, and provides them to the IATTC staff as soon as possible afterwards.</p>	<p>The staff continues to support this recommendation.</p>	
3.3.	Data collection for sharks		
	<p>The SAC recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an IATTC field office be established in Central America near some of the ports where most shark landings occur; b) all vessel captains be required to complete the transshipment declaration forms of Resolution C-12-07 by species, for all shark catches; c) the Regional Program on long-term data collection for shark catches in the artisanal fisheries of Central America (Project C.4.b.) be extended: d) to the other CPCs bordering the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No action. b) No action (see SAC-13 INF-B). c) Made possible through funds provided by the European Union, the sampling program in Central America has reached its completion in December 2021. The results supported a proposal that was presented at the 2021 98th Meeting (resumed) meeting of the Commission to establish a long-term sampling program in Central America (IATTC-98-02c). Unfortunately, the necessary funds to implement such long-term program are not available to date. If these funds to initiate the long-term sampling program in Central America are secured and these efforts are expanded to other regions in the EPO (e.g., South America, Mexico), both data collection and stock assessments for sharks in the EPO could improve. 	

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	<p>Antigua Convention Area as an important mean to improve the monitoring of these species as well as the implementation of the commitments and obligations related to their conservation;</p> <p>e) to other species such as dorado, billfishes, among others, as appropriate.</p>	<p>d) Resources to expand the Central American shark data collection improvements into other EPO coastal nations will soon be available under a phase 2 of the ABNJ project (SAC-13-12).</p> <p>e) The implementation of the data collection programs mentioned above will be a benefit, not only for sharks, but also for other pelagic species captured in the multi-species fisheries for large pelagics (<i>e.g.</i>, tuna, billfish, dorado).</p>	
3.4.	Development of a fishery-dependent ecological sampling program for EPO tuna fisheries		
	<p>The SAC recommends that a fishery-dependent ecological sampling program be developed in collaboration with CPCs and relevant stakeholders, to collect stomach and tissue samples from key predators for ecological analyses of contents, stable isotopes and fatty acids</p>	<p>The SAC supported this recommendation originally made by the staff. In lieu of lack of funds to develop the ecological sampling, the staff recommendation has been modified into a feasibility study to include updating morphometric measurements and opportunistic biological sampling. In collaboration with CPCs and relevant stakeholders, develop a feasibility study (Project F.3.a) for a fishery-dependent sampling program to develop morphometric relationships and collect biological samples from prioritized species to improve catch estimations and assessment models.</p>	
3.5.	Fishing gear configuration		
	<p>The SAC recommends that vessels be required to submit the purse-seine and longline gear description forms appended to Document SAC-05-05. Any significant modifications made to the gear subsequently should be reported on these forms prior to departing port with the modified gear.</p>	<p>No specific action was required since all necessary gear configuration information could be confirmed to be currently provided along with the catch and effort data of individual trips.</p>	
3.6.	Observer coverage of purse-seine vessels of less than 364t carrying capacity		
	<p>The SAC recommends that a plan be developed to establish a fleet-wide observer program for purse-seine vessels of less than 364t carrying capacity, with a sampling coverage of 20%, which may include the use of electronic monitoring.</p>	<p>There is progress with some voluntary observer effort implemented by segments of the fleet (<i>e.g.</i> TUNACONS) as well the completion of the pilot project on Electronic Monitoring in purse-seine vessels (D.2.a) and the adoption of a workplan for an implementation of an EM system in the EPO, including small purse-seine vessels (EMS-01-02). However, a fleet-wide observer program covering all segments of the small purse-seine fleet is still needed.</p>	
3.7.	Longliners observer data standards and reporting		
	<p>The SAC recommends that CPCs submit all operational longline observer data collected from 1 January 2013 to</p>	<p>There has been significant, but incomplete progress on the submission of past-due longline observer data, or alternately the provision of clarifications that the</p>	

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	present, consistent with the minimum data standards contained in Annex B of C-19-08, or provide a clear and complete explanation as to why the missing datasets have not been submitted.	requirement did not apply to a given CPC in a particular year, or the CPC simply has no data to submit.	
3.8.	Electronic monitoring system (EMS)		
	<p>The SAC recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the definitions in Annex 1 of document EMS-01-01 be adopted, at least on a provisional basis; b) the EMS workplan detailed in document EMS-01-02 be adopted, at least on a provisional basis, and work be carried out intersessionally to make adjustments as necessary; c) the staff be tasked, in consultation with the members and other relevant stakeholders, with the development of a draft for the Terms of Reference for the EM workshops, for potential adoption by the Commission at its annual regular meeting in 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The definitions in Annex 1 of EMS-01-01 were adopted on a provisional basis during the 98th Meeting of the IATTC; see Res. C-21-03) b) The EMS workplan detailed in EMS-01-02 was adopted. In 2021-2022, two additional workshops have taken place (2nd Workshop of an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO: Institutional structure, goals and scope of the EMS in the EPO, and 3rd Workshop of an EMS in the EPO: EMS Management considerations). c) In consultation with the Members and relevant stakeholders, the staff developed a draft for the TORs for the EM workshops. These were adopted at the 98th Meeting of the IATTC (see Res. C-21-02). 	