

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

5TH WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE) FOR TROPICAL TUNAS

La Jolla, California (USA)
30 May 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 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 [Resolutions C-16-02](#) and [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. A fourth workshop was held on March 2025 ([workshop report](#)), reviewing the development of [harvest strategies across tuna RFMOs](#), recapping previous workshops on MSE for tropical tunas, highlighting elements in need of refinement for the development of alternative candidate harvest strategies for the ongoing bigeye tuna MSE and providing a first draft of a [candidate harvest strategy for bigeye tuna](#), describing elements already adopted, in need of adoption or in development at IATTC.

[Resolution C-24-01](#) establishes the conservation measures for tropical tunas in the EPO for the 2024-2025 biennial management cycle. The Resolution tasks the staff to present for the Commission in 2025 initial candidate harvest strategies for bigeye tuna. Specifically, according to paragraph 43 of the resolution:

The IATTC shall continue efforts to develop harvest strategies for tropical tunas. The IATTC scientific staff

shall continue to establish the scientific basis, through Management Strategy Evaluation testing, to advise the Commission on initial candidate harvest strategies, starting with bigeye tuna. The staff, consulting with the SAC, shall then present for the Commission's consideration in 2025 a candidate harvest strategy for bigeye tuna, including candidate management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.

This workshop continues the series with the intention of furthering the development of a set of candidate harvest strategies to be tested using MSE and considered for adoption by the Commission.

OBJECTIVES

Two objectives are envisioned for the 5th IATTC Workshop on MSE:

- 1) To present and discuss the staff's proposed candidate harvest strategy (Document SAC-16-06).
- 2) To complete the discussion with stakeholders on the elements still needed to formulate candidate harvest strategies to be tested in the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for bigeye in 2025 and 2026

PARTICIPATION

Scientists, managers, and other interested parties from governments, industry, NGOs, and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend (see tentative agenda). 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 in person and by videoconference (utilizing the Zoom platform). An invitation will be sent individually to each registered participant.

The Workshop will be held on **30 May 2025**. The workshop will start at **9 AM PDT (UTC -7)** to finalize around **4 PM PDT (UTC -7)**.

Languages: English and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation.