



Dear Delegates,

The vessel owners and industry participants of **TUNACONS** submit this letter to request additional support from CPCs for measures that will further tuna conservation at the Commission meeting beginning 30 November, 2020.

COVID-19 presents unprecedented economic and social impacts on the fishery sector in the Pacific Ocean. However, we do not believe that these current circumstances should prevent the IATTC from taking action to ensure sustainable management of tuna stocks and marine ecosystems.

Management measures for tropical tunas

- Maintain the provisions of current resolution (C-17-02).
- Establish a triennial management cycle for the tropical fishery in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (2021-2023).
- Continue improving stock assessments and risk analysis for tropical tunas.

Comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies

- Support the implementation of resolution C-19-07¹, particularly the line referencing convening a second MSE workshop, which has been held off due to COVID-19.
- Likewise, we request that the IATTC financially supports continuity in implementing the MSE work plan proposed by the staff.²

FAD management best practices

- Continue working on scientific research that helps to clearly define the options for managing the fishery in FADs..
- Adopt FAD marking, recovery policies and other best practices.
- Require the provision of FAD position data.

Bycatch mitigation improvements

- Require all sharks to be landed with fins naturally attached.
- Adopt handling and safe release best practices for sharks and manta rays.

Observer coverage in industrial tuna fisheries

- Adopt the proposal prepared by IATTC staff on minimum standards for the implementation of EMS in industrial longline vessels.
- Adopt a 100% observer coverage requirement (human and/or electronic) for industrial tuna fleets, including for all those engaged in at-sea transshipment.

¹ https://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles/Resolutions/IATTC/English/C-19-07-Active_Management%20Strategy%20Evaluation%20workshops.pdf

² https://www.iattc.org/Meetings/Meetings2019/IATTC-94/Docs/English/IATTC-94-04_Staff%20activities%20and%20research%20plan.pdf

- For those trips without observer coverage, encourage CPCs to ensure its competent authority collects data from logbooks and FADs, and provide them to the IATTC staff as soon as possible at the end of a trip.

To date, **TUNACONS** has completed actions to achieve conservation outcomes within the IATTC.

Examples include:

- Developed a National Action Plan (PAN) that guides the short, medium, and long-term actions to guarantee the efficient and sustainable management of the tuna fishery. This plan identifies information gaps and develops a strategy to . Other key points of the PAN include: reducing bycatch, strengthening the monitoring and management of environmental impacts, and improving traceability.
- Advised the Government of Ecuador to submit a proposal for a resolution to adopt harvest control rules for tropical tunas, which was adopted as [Resolution C-16-02](#) by the IATTC in 2016.
- Conducted training workshops with fishers about IATTC regulations, including proper handling of bycatch, and how to test the Eco FAD prototypes being developed under the FIP. contribute to the IATTC's scientific program