

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama

2-6 September 2024

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 E-1 REV 2

SUBMITTED BY CANADA

RESOLUTION C-24-XX ON THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE POLLUTION

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, at the occasion of its 102nd meeting:

CONCERNED that marine pollution, particularly abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), is increasingly recognized as a significant global problem, with detrimental impacts on ocean and coastal environments, wildlife, economies, and ecosystems; and noting the need to reduce such impacts;

CONVINCED that certain activities associated with fishing may affect the Eastern Pacific marine environment and that these activities could play a notable role in IATTC's efforts to conserve and sustainably manage fish stocks covered by the Convention and minimize incidental mortality of non-target species and impacts on marine ecosystems;

RECALLING the mandate of the Commission under Article VII(1)(f) of the Antigua Convention to adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by this Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened;

FURTHER RECALLING the mandate of the Commission under Article VII of the Antigua Convention to adopt appropriate measures to avoid, reduce and minimize waste, discards, catch by lost or discarded gear, catch of non-target species (both fish and non-fish species), and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species.

NOTING that abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear in the marine environment can damage marine, reef, and coastal habitats, be harmful to marine life through ghost fishing, entanglement, ingestion and acting as habitat for the spread of invasive species, and create a navigation hazard;

RECOGNIZING that Article XXIII of the Antigua Convention requires the Commission to adopt measures to assist developing countries that are members of the Commission, to fulfill their obligations under this Convention.

Adopts the followings:

Definitions:

1. For the purposes of this measure, the following definitions will apply:
 - a. E-waste: electrical and electronic equipment used for the normal operation of the vessel or in the accommodation spaces, including all components, subassemblies, and consumables, which are part of the equipment at the time of discarding, with the presence of material potentially hazardous to human health and/or the environment.
 - b. Fishing gear: any physical device or part thereof or combination of items that may be placed on or in the water or on the seabed with the intended purpose of catching, extracting, harvesting, or controlling, for the subsequent catch, extraction, or harvest, of fisheries resources.
 - c. Garbage: includes but is not limited to fishing gear, food waste including avian products (poultry parts such as eggshells), domestic waste, incinerator ashes, clinkers, cooking oil, floating dunnage, lining and packing materials, bags, paper, rags, glass, metal bottles, crockery and similar refuse.
 - i. Fishing gear released into the water with the intention and capacity for later retrieval such as traps and static nets are not considered garbage.
 - d. Marine pollutants: includes but is not limited to e-waste, garbage, and plastics.
 - e. Plastics: a solid material which contains as an essential ingredient one or more high molecular mass polymers, and which is formed during either manufacture of the polymer or the fabrication into a finished product by heat or pressures.
 - f. Vessel: means any vessel used or intended for use for the purpose of fishing, including support vessels, carrier vessels and any other vessels directly involved in such fishing operations and is included in the Regional Vessel Register.

Prohibition on Marine Pollutants

2. CPCs shall prohibit their vessels from discharging marine pollutants, unless permitted under applicable international instruments.
3. Paragraph 2 is not applicable if a vessel discharges marine pollutants:
 - a. for purposes of securing the safety of a vessel and those on board,
 - b. in an effort to save a life at sea, or
 - c. due to environmental factors (severe weather conditions, strong tides or currents, underwater snag)

Abandoned, Lost or discarded fishing gear

4. CPCs shall encourage their vessels to avoid abandoning or discarding fishing gear, as defined in paragraph 6.
5. If a fishing vessel loses control of its fishing gear, or relinquishes control due to circumstances identified in Paragraph 3, and makes every reasonable effort to retrieve the fishing gear, but it is impossible to retrieve, the fishing gear is considered lost.

6. A fishing vessel is deemed to have abandoned and discarded fishing gear if it loses control of the fishing gear, or relinquishes control due to circumstances identified in Paragraph 3, and does not make every reasonable effort to retrieve the fishing gear.

7. Fishing gear released into the water with the intention and capacity of later retrieval is not considered lost, abandoned or discarded, at the time of release.

Storage, Retention, and Disposal

8. CPCs shall ensure their vessels safely store and retain on board all fishing gear not in use.

9. CPCs shall encourage their vessels to safely store and retain on board all retrieved ALDFG and marine pollutants, until they can be disposed of at a port reception facility.

Reporting Requirements

10. CPCs shall encourage their vessels to notify their competent authority of any lost gear at the end of each fishing trip, including the following information:

- a. the name, IMO number, flag State, and call sign of the vessel;
- b. the type/material of the lost gear;
- c. the quantity of lost gear;
- d. the date (DD-MM-YYYY) and time (HH:MM and UTC) that the gear was lost;
- e. the position (longitude/latitude) where the gear was lost;
- f. measures taken by the vessel to retrieve the lost gear; and
- g. the circumstances, if known, that led to the gear being lost.

11. When their vessels discharge marine pollutants due to the circumstances identified in paragraph 3, CPCs shall encourage their vessels to report the following information to their competent authorities:

- a. the name, IMO number and call sign of the vessel;
- b. the quantity and category of pollutants discharged;
- c. the date (DD-MM-YYYY) and time (HH:MM and UTC) of the discharge;
- d. the position (longitude/latitude) of the discharge; and
- e. the circumstances, if known, that led to the discharge.

12. Should any information be received pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 11, CPCs shall transmit this within 72 hours of receipt to the IATTC Secretariat for its notification to all CPCs, so that every attempt can be made to retrieve the lost gear and marine pollutants.

13. CPCs shall report on their implementation of this Resolution as part of the annual IATTC Compliance Questionnaire starting in 2025.

14. Should any information be submitted to the Secretariat pursuant to this Resolution, a summary will be presented by the Secretariat staff to the CPCs at that year's annual meeting of the Commission.

Capacity Development, Training, and Research

15. CPCs are encouraged to provide adequate port reception facilities to receive fishing gear and marine pollutants from fishing vessels.

16. CPCs are encouraged to provide capacity building assistance to developing CPCs with identified port facility inadequacies to develop or provide access to adequate port reception facilities to receive and appropriately dispose of fishing gear and marine pollutants.

17. CPCs are encouraged to develop systems to enable the recording and sharing of information on fishing gear loss and marine pollution, to reduce loss and facilitate recovery of fishing gear and assist fishing vessels with their use and implementation in reporting to their flag State, relevant coastal States, and the Commission.

18. CPCs are further encouraged to conduct training and awareness programs for the crew and masters of fishing vessels flying their flag regarding the impacts of marine pollution, operational practices, and safety protocols relating to retrieval of marine pollution.

Review and Implementation

19. This Resolution will be reviewed by the Commission in 2028 to consider strengthening the measure with respect to the elimination of marine pollution caused by fishing vessels.

20. This Resolution shall not supersede the existing requirements in paragraph 4.d.ii of C-04-05.

21. The date of implementation of this measure is 1 January 2025.