

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

73RD MEETING

LANZAROTE (SPAIN)
20-24 JUNE 2005

DOCUMENT IATTC-73-12

PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES

RESOLUTION ON AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Recalling the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem;

Aware that the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries calls for the sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and requires that fishing be conducted with due regard for the environment;

Taking account of the Commission's resolutions on tuna conservation, bycatch, and the conservation of sea turtles, as well as the International Dolphin Conservation Program;

Committed to conserving all fish stocks covered by the Convention establishing the IATTC;

Aware that special attention may be necessary to ensure the effective conservation of species belonging to the same ecosystem that are affected by fishing for other fish stocks covered by the Convention;

Resolves as follows:

1. To ensure that all decisions of the Commission for conservation and management take into account the effect of such decisions on the associated ecosystem.
2. To adopt measures, based on the best scientific evidence available, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention and to maintain or restore the populations of harvested species at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield.
3. To ensure that the populations of species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by the Convention establishing the IATTC, are maintained or restored above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened.
4. To adopt appropriate measures to minimize impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered, threatened, or protected species, with special attention to minimizing the bycatches of dolphins, turtles, and vulnerable species of sharks.
5. To monitor the average trophic level of the retained and discarded catches in the fishery, and ensure that any changes are not associated with ecosystem degradation.
6. To take account of changes in the physical environment and their effects on any other objective.
7. To take account of changes in the pelagic communities and their effects on any other objective.
8. To require IATTC Parties, cooperating non-Parties, fishing entities or regional economic integration organizations (collectively "CPCs") to provide information on catches and discards of all species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by the Convention.
9. To invite the Director to provide an annual report on matters concerning the implementation of this Resolution.