

# INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

## 102<sup>nd</sup> MEETING

Panama, Panama  
02-06 September 2024

### IATTC-102 INF-B

## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOPS

In recent decades, research has shown the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on marine species, ecosystems, and fishing communities. In recognition of these impacts on the fisheries and conservation and sustainability of target and non-target species covered by the [Antigua Convention](#), the IATTC has adopted a Resolution on climate change in 2023 ([Resolution C-23-10](#)). The resolution states that the Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG), the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), and the Commission will include climate change as a recurrent agenda item at their respective annual meetings, and in general, “highlight and consider the best scientific information available on the relationships between climate change, target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with the target stocks.” As a result of this, IATTC staff conducted a review of various climate-ready tools and frameworks that other countries and international organizations have developed and used this information to create a workplan that promotes climate-resilient tuna fisheries in the EPO ([SAC-15-12](#)). This workplan received ample support during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group, and the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (see [SAC-15 Recommendations](#)).

In recognition of this, IATTC staff continued with the first phase of the workplan (i.e., *Planning*) which includes, among others, the need to “establish terms of references (ToRs) for climate change workshops”. As with other similar participatory processes of the IATTC (e.g., EMS workshops), the development and adoption of such ToRs is timely and desirable, as would define the function and characteristics of the workshop series. The first workshop on developing the scope and framework for the Climate Change workplan is planned to be organized later this year. Throughout the workplan there will be many opportunities for the staff to work and discuss other important components of the workplan with relevant stakeholders, CPCs, and experts on climate change and fisheries through these workshops.

In the attached annex, the staff developed a draft of ToRs for the Commission’s consideration.

## ANNEX

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKSHOPS ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ANTIGUA CONVENTION AREA, INCLUDING ASSESSING AND MITIGATING ITS IMPACTS**

*[ADDITIONAL TEXT, AS NEEDED]*

Taking into account Resolution C-23-10 on climate change and consistent with its provisions;

Taking into account the climate change workplan described in document SAC-15-12, which includes holding workshops to further discuss and develop some of the key climate change components for the promotion of climate-resilient fisheries in the Antigua Convention Area, which received an ample support during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group, and the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, held in June 2024;

Resolves as follows:

1. The Workshops will set out to achieve, without excluding others:
  - a. Scope and goals of work
  - b. Climate-resilient fisheries framework
  - c. Strategic tool identification and development, and
  - d. Tactical tool identification and development, including management action
2. The Workshops will be organized and facilitated by the IATTC scientific staff.
3. The Workshops will be held by videoconference or in person, in order to facilitate participation of all relevant stakeholders from all CPCs.
4. The Workshops will be open to the participation of relevant stakeholders, such as scientists, fishery managers, fishing industry representatives, administrators, representatives of nongovernmental organizations, and fishers. Global experts may be invited to participate, as needed.
5. The Workshops will facilitate a structured process for the Commission to consider the activities and phases of the climate change workplan and its implementation.
6. The Workshops will enhance communication and foster mutual understanding on matters related to the assessment and mitigation of climate change effects and the promotion of climate-resilient fisheries among all relevant stakeholders.
7. The EBWG and the SAC will review the outcomes of the Workshops at its meetings and provide additional input if needed.
8. The outcomes of the Workshops, including any conclusions and recommendations that may have been reached, will be presented at the annual meeting of the Commission, for its consideration and endorsement as appropriate.
9. The IATTC scientific staff will present to the SAC an annual report for Workshops that have occurred since the previous SAC meeting. With the inclusion of any additional input from the SAC and other IATTC scientific staff recommendations as appropriate, which may include updates to the climate change workplan, this document will be presented afterwards to the Commission at its annual meeting, with a summary and assessment of all progress made to date.