

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL**

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR
ANNUAL MEETING**

**RESUMEN DE LAS MINUTAS DE LA VIGESIMA PRIMERA
REUNION ANUAL ORDINARIA**

**March 18, 19 and 22, 1969
San Diego, California**

**Acting Chairman: E. B. Young
Presidente Interino: E. B. Young**

AGENDA

21st REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING

April 18, 19 and 22, 1969

Acting Chairman: E. B. Young

1. Opening of meeting by Acting Chairman.
 2. Consideration and adoption of Agenda.
 3. Current researches and research results.
 4. The 1968 fishing year with yellowfin under regulation, Background Paper No. 1.
 5. Condition of yellowfin stock and quota for 1969, B.P. No. 2.
 6. Revision of Research Program 1969/70, B.P. No. 3.
 7. Recommended Research Program for 1970/71.
 - (a) Researches needed
 - (b) Austerity version B.P. No. 4
 8. Proportion of contributions, B.P. No. 5.
 9. Consideration of alternate methods of regulation, B.P. No. 6.
 10. Administration.
 - (a) Definition of unanimous vote
 - (b) Personnel matters
 11. Approval of Annual Report for 1968.
 12. Election of Officers.
 13. Place and date of next Annual Meeting.
 14. Other business.
 15. Adjournment.
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The twenty-first* regular annual meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission for the year 1969 convened in plenary session in the Dragon Room of the Shelter Island Inn San Diego, California at 10:20 hours March 18, 1969. The following persons were in attendance:

CANADA

E. B. Young (Commissioner and Acting Chairman)
P.A. Larkin (Advisor)

COSTA RICA

Milton H. Lopez G. (Commissioner)
Fernando Flores (Commissioner)
Stewart Heigold (Advisor)
Gabriela S. de Myers (Observer)

JAPAN

Masaaki Miura (Observer)
Shojiro Shimura (Observer)
Ryuichi Tanabe (Observer)
Katsuyoshi Yamano (Observer)
Susumu Sugano (Observer)

MEXICO

Alejandro Cervantes (Commissioner)
Juan Luis Cifuentes L. (Commissioner)
Amin Zarur Menez (Commissioner)
María Emilia Téllez Benoit (Commissioner)
G. L. Kesteven (Observer)
Atilio Colli Villarino (Observer)
Jesús Nieto (Observer)
Raul Ostos (Observer)
Jorge Palacios (Observer)
Juan Rivas (Observer)
Horacio Sarabin (Observer)
Rodrigo Sanchez Salido (Observer)

PERU

Marcela Ritter (Observer)

* The first meeting of the Commission was held on July 18, 1950 in Coronado, California. Two regular meetings were held in 1951, and a special meeting on September 14, 1961. Thus the Commission has met 21 times. Regular meetings began to be numbered in 1965 starting with 17.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

John G. Driscoll, Jr. (Commissioner)
W.H. Holmstrom (Commissioner)
George B. Gross (Delegate)
Gerald V. Howard (Delegate)
Walter Kirkness (Delegate)
Donald L. McKernan (Delegate)
William M. Terry (Delegate)
Wilvan G. Van Campen (Delegate)
Gordon C. Broadhead (Advisor)
Charles R. Carry (Advisor)
W.M. Chapman (Advisor)
August Felando (Advisor)
Steven J. Hoinsky (Advisor)
Anthony Nizetich (Advisor)
Anthony Pisano (Advisor)
John Royal (Advisor)
Oliver Schultz (Advisor)
Ed. P. Silva (Advisor)
Matt Simmundich (Advisor)
Frederick K. Cramer (Observer)
Jack Dinnerstein (Observer)
Steve Edney (Observer)
Robert Kaneen (Observer)
Carl C. Marino (Observer)
Daniel A. Marks (Observer)
Arnie Miranda (Observer)
Philip M. Roedel (Observer)
W.B. Rowland (Observer)
Andrew San Filippo (Observer)
Anthony Sierra (Observer)
Jack Tarantino (Observer)
Frank Williams (Observer)

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (F.A.O.)

J. A. Gulland (Observer)

STAFF OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

Dr. John L. Kask, Director of Investigations
Dr. James Joseph, Principal Scientist
Clifford L. Peterson, Assistant Director
Dr. M. B. Schaefer, Scientific Consultant
P. J. Boylan
T. P. Calkins
B. M. Chatwin
E. B. Davidoff
T. C. Duffield
K. R. Feng
W. L. Klawe
Dr. M.P. Miyake

STAFF OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (Cont.)

C. J. Orange
C. T. Psaropulos
Dr. M. R. Stevenson
Mrs. N. Clark
Mrs. Lucy Dupart (Secretary)
Mrs. Carmen Legier (Secretary)

INTERPRETATION TEAM

Carlos Diez (Interpreter)
Gerardo Lara (Engineer)

Agenda Item (1) - Opening of Meeting by Chairman

The meeting was called to order at 1020 hours by Dr. J.L. Kask, the Director of Investigations of IATTC who explained that, because yellowfin tuna were being caught up so fast in the eastern tropical Pacific this year the Commission Chairman, Dr. A.W.H. Needler thought it advisable to call this special early meeting to set a catch quota for yellowfin before the regular Annual Meeting which this year had been scheduled for April 14 and 15 in Ottawa. It was the view of the Commission's staff that closure to unrestricted fishing for yellowfin would have to be imposed before these April dates. Because of this earlier than expected meeting, however, it did not prove convenient for either the Commission Chairman, Dr. Needler or the Secretary Dr. J.L. McHugh to attend. This presented the Commission with the necessity of electing an Acting Chairman for this meeting. Nominations for the position of Acting Chairman were solicited. The United States moved that Commissioner E.B. Young of Canada be asked to assume the Chairmanship. This was seconded by Costa Rica and unanimously approved, and Mr. Young took the chair.

Dr. Kask, at the Chairman's request then noted that the Commission had lost two very good friends during the past year in the deaths of U.S. Commissioner Eugene D. Bennett who had served on the Commission since its beginning and Fernando Palau C., advisor to the Costa Rican delegation. Both had served with distinction and will be sorely missed.

The Chairman then asked the heads of delegations to introduce themselves as well as members of their delegations.

~~Milton Lopez G. of Costa Rica introduced his fellow Commissioner Fernando Flores and their industry advisor, Mr. Stewart Heigold.~~

Mr. Amin Zarur of Mexico apologized for the late arrival of the Mexican delegation due to changes in air schedules and mentioned that industry observers from Cape San Lucas and Ensenada were present.

The Chairman announced that Panama was unable to send a delegation but had expressed an interest in the meeting and wished to be kept informed of the decisions reached and would vote by telephone or cable if required.

Commissioner Driscoll of the United States introduced himself and his fellow Commissioner, W. H. Holmstrom. He stated that the other U.S. Commissioner, Dr. J. L. McHugh, sent his sincere regrets that he could not attend due to pressing business in Washington. Mr. Driscoll also stated that we greatly missed the presence of Eugene D. Bennett. As head of the host country delegation, Mr. Driscoll stated that he hoped the sudden change of plans and date of the meeting would not cause any shortcomings in the meeting itself.

Mr. E.B. Young, speaking for Canada, introduced his delegation's scientific advisor, Dr. Peter A. Larkin. He announced that Mr. E.H. Gennis had left the tuna business and would no longer serve as member of the Canadian delegation.

The Chairman then introduced the delegates from Japan who were present as observers: Masaaki Miura, Shojiro Shimura, Ryuichi Tanabe and Katsuyoshi Yamuno.

He also introduced Dr. J.A. Gulland of F.A.O. who was present as an observer from that organization.

Dr. Kask stated that the lack of some Commissioners and observers from other countries concerned with the tuna fishery was not due to lack of interest but rather was due to the sudden change in time and place of the meeting.

Agenda Item (2) - Consideration and adoption of the Agenda

The Chairman pointed out that this year's draft agenda followed the pattern of previous years. There were no comments and the agenda was adopted unanimously.

Agenda Item (3) - Current research and research results

The Chairman called upon Dr. Kask to introduce this topic. Dr. Kask stated that the research program in 1968 was reduced due to budgetary limitations but that some significant advances had been made. At this point, Dr. Kask called upon Dr. Joseph, the Commission's Principal Scientist, to review the research program.

The following is a brief summary of the review presented:

1. Statistics of the fishery and population dynamics

A brief summary of the Commission's statistical system and its importance in the overall conservation program was presented. Data on catch and effort were presented for recent years in the fishery and the use of such data in evaluating the effect of fishing on abundance of tuna was discussed.

A review was given of studies by the scientific staff designed to develop mathematical models which would, in turn, be used to describe the effect of fishing on the abundance of tunas.

One such model was designed to account for recent changes in the operating efficiency of purse-seine vessels. An additional model which was described utilizes catch and effort data to predict potential catches from the population of yellowfin exploited in the eastern Pacific. This latter model allows for asymmetrical production curves; it is an extension of the Schaefer model which has been used previously to relate the effects of fishing to the abundance of the fish. A third model which was discussed was a computer simulation of the fishery that is used by the staff to predict the effect of various management strategies on the catches and subsequent condition of the yellowfin stock.

2. Studies of size composition of the catch

The Commission maintains a continuing series of data on length composition of the catch of tunas. These data are collected at the major ports where tuna captured in the eastern Pacific Ocean are landed. It was explained that they are used to estimate growth rates, to monitor changes in size composition of the catch and to compute numbers of fish available to the fishery which resulted from spawnings during a single season (i.e. the year-class strength).

A discussion of studies of year-class strength was given for yellowfin tuna. Research comparing growth rates of yellowfin tuna in recent years with earlier estimates was also discussed.

3. Tagging

During the year the Commission conducted one tagging cruise aboard the purse-seiner Pacific Queen through the kind cooperation of Captain Ollie Virissimo and his crew. There were 540 yellowfin and 9 skipjack tagged during the cruise.

A review of tags returned during 1968 was given, showing movements of fish between the offshore and inshore areas of the fishery.

A discussion was also given of the staff's research in the development of a tagging simulator to design tagging experiments. The simulator utilizes all past information in Commission's files on movement of fish and estimates of mortality rates in a computer model which describes the movements of yellowfin tuna in the eastern Pacific. This model can then be used to design tagging experiments that will lead to 1) an understanding of the movements of fish in the fishery; 2) estimates of rates of migration in and out of the area of the fishery, if such migrations take place; and 3) estimates of rates of natural, fishing and tagging mortality.

4. Studies of the Japanese longline fishery for tunas and billfish.

A review was given of the research conducted by Commission's scientists, in conjunction with a visiting scientist from the Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory in Shimizu, Japan, concerning the Japanese longline fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean. These studies were concerned with an analysis of catch statistical data from this fishery as well as some aspects of the size composition, sexual maturity and general distribution of tunas and billfishes of the eastern Pacific.

5. Spawning and early life history

The results of studies of the spawning and early life history of tuna-like fish in the eastern Pacific, as reflected by larvae distribution, were presented. These studies are concerned with two general programs. The first is the Mazatlan project which was a cooperative study of the area around the mouth of the Gulf of California, carried out by the Mexican Dirección General de Pesca e Industrias Conexas and IATTC. The second is concerned with a larger study, called EASTROPAC, which is a cooperative, international effort to describe the general oceanography of the eastern Pacific.

Analyses are currently underway, by Commission scientists, to relate the seasonal and geographic distribution of tuna larva to general oceanic features.

6. Tuna ecology and oceanography

A brief review of the Tuna Commission's research in the field of oceanography was presented:

a) Mazatlan Project: Data collected during this project (mentioned above) have been analyzed and reports are being prepared to describe some aspects of the physical, chemical and biological oceanography of the area.

b) EL NIÑO Project

Analysis of the El Niño Project has been completed. All of the data reports have been published and distributed. An atlas showing charts of various ocean features has been completed and will soon be published.

c) ACENTO

~~Data collected during four cruises in which Colombia and IATTC cooperated have been analyzed. A report dealing with certain aspects of the biology and climatology of the area of the Panama Bight has been completed and is in press. An additional report describing the physical oceanography of the area is near completion.~~

d) Northern boundary of the Peru Current

It was stated that the field work for this cooperative study between the Instituto Nacional de Pesca del Ecuador and IATTC, to study the oceanic area off the coast of Ecuador, was completed during 1968. Data describing the physical features of this area are currently under analysis.

e) EASTROPAC

Commission scientists are assisting in the tabulation and analysis of information collected during this international program designed to describe the oceanographic features of the eastern Pacific Ocean.

At the end of the review, the Chairman called for comments. Commissioner Zarur of Mexico stated that Mexico was very interested in the previous research conducted from Mazatlan and they would like this cooperative research between IATTC and the Dirección General de Pesca to be continued. He stated that Mexico had a new research vessel which could be used on this project. The Commission's Principal Scientist stated that the Commission's scientific staff was interested in further cooperative research and suggested that further discussions on this subject be held after the meeting.

Agenda Item (4) - The 1968 fishing year with yellowfin under regulation

The Chairman called upon the Director of Investigations to review this topic. Dr. Kask stated that this item was fully covered in Background Paper No. 1 but that he thought that there were a few points that merited repetition:

He pointed out that 1968 was the third year that the yellowfin tuna of the eastern tropical Pacific were under international regulation. Fishermen of 10 countries fished here during the year and together they caught approximately 114,000 short tons of yellowfin and 77,000 short tons of skipjack. Although the catch of yellowfin, when finally totalled up exceeded the prescribed quota by about 8 percent, the stocks appeared to be in a healthy condition. Since the demand for tuna was brisk and prices good, the fishing year for most participants proved highly profitable.

The principal recent development which continued to gain momentum during 1968 and which should again be emphatically pointed out was the substantial and regular increase in the number, size and efficiency of the fishing fleet. Although this tendency was noted in all participating countries it was most pronounced in the dominant U.S. fleet. In 1966, the first year that yellowfin were under regulation the carrying capacity of the U.S. fleet was approximately 40,700 short tons of tuna. During 1967 this capacity increased slightly to 41,400 short tons and by the end of 1968 more substantially to 46,000 tons. Recent

projections for new and converted vessels raise the anticipated tonnage to about 54,000 by the end of 1969; and more construction is being planned for 1970.

The above with one new Japanese seiner and 5 new Canadian seiners aggregating some 5300 short tons carrying capacity also fishing in the area in 1968, translated into the length of fishing season for yellowfin in the ETP under the quota system is somewhat as follows. In 1966 unrestricted fishing for yellowfin was closed in September after about 8-1/2 months of fishing. The year 1966, however, is not entirely representative as the recommended closure date was unavoidably a little delayed. In 1967 the closure date was June 24 or after nearly 6 months of unrestricted fishing. The closure date in 1968 was June 18 but, due to the late start in fishing by the U.S. fleet (mid-February) the actual open season was only about 4 months and this year 1969, the present emergency meeting to set a 1969 quota speaks for itself, as it appears the season will have to be closed before the regular scheduled (April 14 and 15) Annual Meeting. Even shorter seasons in future years seem quite likely.

The full impact of the short yellowfin season on the constantly growing fleet is somewhat lessened when availability for alternate species such as skipjack, bigeye and bluefin in the usual fishing area for these species is good. Their availability cannot, however be fully counted on as the last couple of years experience has shown, and our knowledge of the distribution of these alternate species in time and space, especially that of the skipjack which holds the greatest prospect for increased catches, is very fragmentary.

Some relief was also gained during 1968 by some of the larger and faster purse-seiners diverting their fishing activities for yellowfin and other species into the eastern Atlantic and outside the present regulatory area in the Pacific when unrestricted fishing for yellowfin was stopped. During 1968 these maneuvers proved successful and profitable, but long range prospects for such activity for a growing fleet are still uncertain. Also the relationship of yellowfin caught just outside the Commission's regulatory area and those just inside are not known. If they belong to the same stocks then the yellowfin conservation program as practiced at present could easily be nullified.

Thus the "economic Malthusian process" or the process of more and more boats chasing a fairly fixed amount of fish is placing some unusual strains on the Commission's conservation program and could have some rather serious economic consequences as well.

At this point, the Chairman suggested that he was ready to open Agenda Item No. 5 dealing with the adoption of a yellowfin quota, for discussion but that he thought it better that the decision on the quota be delayed until the next day as most of the delegates had not had time to study Background Paper No. 2.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 1153 hours and reconvened at 1355 hours.

On reconvening the meeting, the Chairman welcomed members of the Mexican delegation, Sr. Alejandro Cervantes and Sr. Juan Luis Cifuentes who had been unavoidably absent from the morning session. Commissioner María Emilia Téllez would arrive the following day.

Mr. Driscoll of the United States announced that the U.S. section was giving a reception at 1800 hours and all present were invited.

The Chairman then suggested that Agenda Items 5 and 9, both of which dealt with quotas and regulations, be discussed as one. This was unanimously agreed to.

Agenda Item (5) - Condition of yellowfin stock and quota for 1969

Agenda Item (9) - Consideration of alternate methods of regulation

The Chairman called upon Dr. Kask to introduce these subjects. Dr. Kask noted that these subjects were covered in Background Papers Nos. 2 and 6. He then asked Dr. Joseph to review the contents of these papers. The following is a brief summary of review presented:

Dr. Joseph introduced the general subjects covered by agenda Items 5 and 9 reviewing the theory upon which population dynamics is based. The theoretical models used were explained and the manner in which actual data had been applied to them was described.

The recent history of the fishery was reviewed and it was indicated that the apparent abundance of yellowfin during 1968 increased over 1967. This information was used to compute the levels of catch that the current size of the stock could support. Estimates of potential catch were given for both the purse-seine model and the baitboat model. Utilizing the baitboat model it was estimated that during 1969 the stock could support a yield of about 90,000 short tons but using the purse-seine model this yield would be about 100,000 short tons. It was the opinion of the scientific staff that the purse-seine model best described the fishery and therefore it was recommended by the staff that a quota of 100,000 short tons be set for 1969.

At the 1968 annual meeting of the Tuna Commission held in Panama, the Canadian Section requested that "The Commission ask its staff to report back at the 1969 Annual Meeting with specific proposals for a program of experimental fishing designed to ascertain empirically the maximum sustainable yield of yellowfin".

To comply with this proposal, the staff presented various alternative schemes of fishing. These are listed in Background Paper No. 6.

At the end of Dr. Joseph's presentation, Dr. Larkin of Canada asked if the estimates of yields based on baitboat catch and effort units were now inferior to those based on purse-seine catch and effort. Dr. Joseph stated that this appeared to be so. Dr. Larkin then asked since a relatively short series of years of purse-seine data were available, would it not be wise to check on the results of alternative

fishing schemes by some other method? Dr. Joseph agreed and stated that we need to verify such things as mortality rates by tagging experiments but that the financial resources to do this had not been available. Dr. Joseph also stated that if the proposal for a catch of 120,000 short tons of yellowfin for three years was adopted, that this experiment should be repeated at some later time to verify the results of the first experiment. This would tend to reveal the effects of any unusual oceanographic condition which might prevail during the first experiment.

At this point the Chairman suggested that he would leave this subject now as delegates would probably want some time over-night to consider the adoption of a quota as well as the proposal for experimental fishing contained in Background Paper No. 6. He further suggested that the meeting now move on to Agenda Item (6). All were in agreement with those suggestions.

Agenda Item (6) - Revision of research program 1969/70

The Chairman called upon the Director of Investigations to review this item. Dr. Kask pointed out that this item was completely covered in Background Paper No. 3. He added, however, that in 1969/70 the Commission would again be under-financed. Last year we submitted two budgets for 1969/70, the recommended budget for approximately one million dollars and an austerity budget of approximately one half million dollars. The Commission, it appears, now will not get either of these amounts. Informal advance information places next year's budget from the U.S. at \$426,000 or a total from all countries of \$447,930. This will again necessitate dropping all sea work. Most emphasis will again be placed on the studies that Dr. Joseph had just described and even some of these will of necessity have to be reduced or cut out altogether to meet the growing costs of operation.

The meeting agreed to the reduced program. The Chairman then proceeded with the consideration of Agenda Item (7).

Agenda Item (7) - Recommended research program for 1970/71

The Chairman again called on the Director of Investigations to elaborate on this item. Dr. Kask referred to Background Paper No. 4. He stated that the Commission staff had again submitted two budgets; the first budget was for a needed complete research program as seen by the Director and would cost 1.2 million dollars (See App. I). The second was an austerity budget of \$564,000 (see App. II) which would allow operations at the existing level. From advance information, it would appear that we would most probably have to be satisfied with about the same amount of money as we received last year. The Commission is operating now with very nearly the same amount of money as it did six years ago. Meanwhile, overhead has gone up and the purchasing power of the dollar has gone down, leaving us with about 1/2 the real money we had six years ago, with the necessary consequences with programs and staff.

Mr. Young, speaking for Canada, said that, as Canada's contribution to the Commission was still very small, he did not feel justified in making detailed comments however, he agreed that the Commission needed

more money to carry on an adequate program of scientific investigations.

Mr. Driscoll of the United States pointed out that all the U.S. section could do was to recommend the budget and then try and get support for it in Washington D.C. As yet no one has come up with a solution to these difficulties.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. D.L. McKernan of the U.S. Department of State for his views. Mr. McKernan stated that he sympathized with the Commission but pointed out that the budget of all fisheries commissions and indeed most U.S. domestic programs had been held down the past few years and he saw no change in the budget climate immediately ahead.

The U.S. delegation stated that they would be happy to recommend the complete research budget but that they did not wish to mislead anyone as to the chances of obtaining the full amount requested.

The Chairman suggested that the Commission recommend the full research budget but that the austerity budget be made part of the record. The United States so moved and Costa Rica seconded the motion. The matter received unanimous agreement.

Agenda Item (8) - Proportion of Contribution

The Chairman called on Dr. Kask to review this item. The Director referred the Commissioners to Background Paper No. 5. He stated that he was sure everyone was familiar with the manner in which contributions were calculated. The assessments for 1970/71 are based upon the 1968 figures for catch/utilization of yellowfin and skipjack which were as follows:

United States of America	337,079,000 pounds
Mexico	13,693,000 pounds
Costa Rica	3,682,000 pounds
Canada	3,070,000 pounds
Panama	None

In accordance with the above, the proportion of the contributions are as follows:

United States of America	100.000
Mexico	4.062
Costa Rica	1.092
Canada	0.911
Panama - Minimum contribution	\$500

With the recommended budget of \$1,198,835, the contributions of each government would be as follows:

United States of America	\$1,129,812
Mexico	45,893
Costa Rica	12,338
Canada	10,292
Panama	500
	<hr/>
	\$1,198,835

With the austerity budget of \$564,735, the contributions of each government would be as follows:

United States of America	\$ 531,971
Mexico	21,609
Costa Rica	5,809
Canada	4,846
Panama	500
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	\$ 564,735

The proportion of payments as submitted was adopted with unanimous approval.

The Chairman then suggested that agenda item No. 11 (approval of Annual Report) be considered next. The United States suggested that this item be considered tomorrow to give the Commissioners time to go over the Annual Report. This was agreed to. The Chairman then proposed that Items 12 and 13 also be held over. This was agreed to.

The Chairman then moved on to Agenda Item 10.

Agenda Item (10) - Administration

a) Definition of Unanimous Vote

The Chairman referred the delegations to page 14, agenda item 9 (b) of the summary minutes of last year's meeting. The Director of Investigations had requested clarification as to whether a unanimous vote implied unanimity of those members present when a vote is taken or unanimity of all High Contracting Parties. It was suggested that the Chairman for 1969 correspond with each of the High Contracting Parties and solicit their view points. The United States government was the only one to reply. It was the opinion of the legal advisor to the U.S. State Department that the lack of Ecuador's vote in 1968 because of their absence did not invalidate the actions taken at last year's Annual Meeting. The Chairman then stated that it is Canada's view that "unanimous vote" means the unanimous vote of all members present except when a member nation cannot send a representative but wishes to vote and makes this known. Then such member nation can vote by telephone or cable.

A general discussion followed after which all members present agreed that "unanimous vote" means unanimous vote by all nations present and all nations not present who request to vote.

The Chairman then referred the delegates to the resolution on page 17 of the English version of the summary minutes of last year's meeting which requested the contracting parties to vote on a proposal by the United States to start the fishing year on March 1 rather than January 1. Votes were to be submitted to the Chairman before September 1, 1968. The Chairman stated that no votes had been received. Could the matter then be considered closed?

The United States suggested that, since the fishery for 1969 had already opened on January 1, it was too late to do anything about this item.

Mexico stated that she was completely opposed to the present system of regulation and it was for this reason that Mexico did not vote on this proposal.

Costa Rica stated that she did not vote because she was opposed to the proposal and that the proposal required a unanimous vote to pass.

Agenda Item (10b) - Personnel matters

The Chairman stated that Dr. Kask had submitted his resignation as Director of Investigations. He was sure that all regretted this but Dr. Kask has given his reasons and we respect them. We now have to choose a successor and this must be done in an executive session.

The Chairman adjourned the open meeting at 1620 hours.

March 19, 1969

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 1020 hours. He then announced that the Executive Session had not completed its business the previous afternoon and that it would be necessary to adjourn the open meeting and resume the Executive Session.

A recess was called at 1021 hours and the open meeting was reconvened at 1115 hours.

The Chairman announced that Dr. Kask's resignation had been accepted and would be effective on June 30, 1969. Dr. Joseph had been appointed to succeed Dr. Kask as Director of Investigations effective July 1, 1969. The Chairman stated that he was sure he spoke for everyone in saying that we regret Dr. Kask's resignation and that we have great confidence in Dr. Joseph.

Agenda Item (11) - Approval of the annual report for 1968

The Chairman announced that the next item of business was the approval of the Annual Report for 1968. He asked for comments. The United States stated that after reviewing the report the U.S. delegation felt that one of the paragraphs of page 13 of the English version needed revision. They had discussed this with Dr. Kask who agreed to the revision. The changes are editorial and not substantive. The paragraph has to do with action of the United States Congress on Tuna Commission appropriations. The annual report was approved as amended by all delegations.

The Chairman stated that he felt the meeting would delay consideration of agenda items 12 and 13, election of officers and date and place of next meeting until the discussion of agenda items 5 and 9 had been completed.

This was agreed to.

Agenda Item (5) - Condition of yellowfin stock and quota for 1969 (Cont.)

Agenda Item (9) - Consideration of alternate method of regulation (Cont.)

The Chairman called for comments. Mr. Young, speaking for Canada, stated that the Canadian delegation was in favor of the experimental fishing program as described in Background Paper No. 6 as alternate No. 1 which provides for a quota of 120,000 short tons of yellowfin each year for three years.

Mexico stated that before they commented or voted on the quota they had some questions to ask Dr. Joseph. The first question was, what was the staff's estimate of the amount of yellowfin tuna dumped at sea because it exceeded the 15% incidental catch allowed during the closed season in 1968? Dr. Joseph answered that logbook records indicated that 3000 short tons of yellowfin were dumped during 1967 when yellowfin were under regulation. But there has always been some dumping at sea due to torn nets or insufficient hold space on the boat and in some years before regulations went into effect this amount approached 3000 tons. In 1968, fishing captains' logbook records indicated that 6000 short tons of yellowfin were dumped during the closed season. In addition to the logbook records, the staff has also made estimates of dumping based on the distribution of fishing effort during the closed season and the average species mix. These estimates for 1967 are 20,000 tons if no effort was made to avoid pure yellowfin schools and 10,000 tons if pure yellowfin schools were avoided. Dr. Joseph went on to state that he thought the amount of dumping for 1967 was between 3000 and 10,000 tons. The data for 1968 are not complete yet but it appears the amount dumped was greater than in 1967. If Commission's estimates are substantially lower than the true amount then it will soon be apparent in a decline in the catch-per-unit-of effort.

Mexico stated that they would have further questions later.

Dr. Larkin of Canada said that he was in favor of the proposal for 120,000 tons for 3 years. The proposal for a 9-month season ran too much risk of depleting the resource. The closed area proposal would be difficult to enforce and could result in adverse biological effects.

Costa Rica pointed out that even with a quota of 120,000 tons the 1969 season would be a short one. This would hurt the countries in which the fishing industry is underdeveloped.

The Chairman proposed that the Commission vote on whether to approve the 120,000 ton quota for these years in principle and then the administration of this quota could be taken up in the Inter-governmental Meeting. As the representative of Canada, the Chairman moved that the Commission approve the 120,000 ton proposal. This was seconded by the United States.

The Mexican delegation pointed out that the Mexican delegation to the working group on the economic effects of regulations had made six proposals for alternate schemes of regulations and they wanted to know why the scientific staff had not even considered those proposals.

Dr. Kask answered that the Mexican proposals had to do with methods of allocating the catch between the various countries and that this is outside of the function of the staff as set forth in the treaty and involves areas in which the staff has no expertise.

The Mexican delegation stated that, in their opinion, the evaluation of their proposals is a proper duty of the staff and that the staff is more qualified to do this than any other group. They also stated that they were very disappointed that the inter-governmental meeting proposed for January 1969 was not held.

At this point, Costa Rica asked for a short recess. The Chairman recessed the meeting at 1430 hours. The meeting reconvened at 1445 hours.

The Chairman called for a vote on the proposal for experimental fishing which had been introduced by Canada and seconded by the United States.

Mexico stated that she agrees in principle with the proposal as a means of limiting the catch but they reserved approval of the method of implementation.

Costa Rica stated that they agreed but with some reservations.

At this point the Chairman suggested that the Commission meeting go into recess in order to go into an inter-governmental meeting. All delegations agreed and the meeting was recessed at 1448 hours.

March 22, 1969

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 1437 hours in the Harbor Room of the Shelter Island Inn. The Chairman began by calling for a discussion of the Commission's draft resolution recommending a yellowfin quota for 1969, as well as a Resolution (App. III) from the Eighth Inter-governmental Meeting recommending that paragraphs 5 and 6 (App. IV) dealing with certain exemptions and modifications from the usual regulations, be incorporated into the Commission Resolution.

The Resolution including paragraphs 5 and 6 transmitted from the Inter-governmental meeting was read paragraph by paragraph and several modifications in wording were proposed and agreed to. The draft resolution as amended (see App. IV) was approved by all the delegations present. Dr. Kask stated that Panama* would be informed of the decisions made at the meeting by cable and would be asked to vote later by telephone.

* Panama was informed by cable on March 24 of all substantive actions taken by the Commission. Commissioner Obarrio confirmed Panama's agreement on March 25 by telephone and later by telegraph as well.

Agenda Item (13) - Place and date of next annual meeting

The Chairman, speaking for Canada, extended a cordial invitation to the Commission to hold its next annual meeting in Ottawa, Canada. This was agreed to with thanks by all delegations present.

The Chairman then asked for comments on a suitable date for the 1970 annual meeting. The United States suggested it would be necessary to meet in March because the yellowfin catch would probably accumulate as rapidly as it had this year. Dr. Kask pointed out that since a quota of 120,000 tons had already been agreed upon for 1970 and 1971, the meeting could be held later, and if any extraordinary earlier Commission action was required, a vote could be taken by cable or telephone.

The Chairman suggested that the meeting either be held before Easter or failing that it might be desirable to wait until May. The United States suggested the dates of May 12 and 13. All delegations present agreed.

Agenda Item (12) - Election of Officers

At the Chairman's request the Director of Investigations opened the discussion by saying it was the custom to rotate the offices of Chairman and Secretary among the member governments with the Chairman being from the host country, whenever possible. In 1970 the chairmanship would normally have fallen to Mexico. However, Mexico had indicated a desire to pass her turn. Dr. Kask, therefore, suggested that, since Canada would be the host country next year, that we retain the officers who had been elected for this year but who had been unable to serve at this meeting; that is, Dr. A.W.H. Needler of Canada as Chairman and Dr. J. L. McHugh of the United States as Secretary. This was agreed to unanimously.

Agenda Item (14) - Other business

The Chairman opened this agenda item by presenting, on behalf of the Commissioners, an engraved plaque to Dr. Kask in appreciation of his years of service to the Commission as Director of Investigations. Dr. Kask responded with thanks. This concluded matters of business.

Sr. Lopez of Costa Rica congratulated the Chairman on his conduct of the meeting. He also congratulated the scientific staff on their program of research and thanked the interpreters, Sr. Carlos Diez and his engineering assistant, Sr. Gerardo Lara and Mr. Anthony Sierra of the U.S. Department of State. The United States endorsed the remarks of Costa Rica. Mexico also endorsed the remarks of Costa Rica and further stated that the meeting had been a definite step forward in applying conservation measures.

With this, the Chairman declared the 21st Annual Meeting of the Commission closed.

APPENDIX III

RESOLUTION

The Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna, having taken cognizance of the Report of the Working Group on the Economic Effects of the Yellowfin Tuna Conservation Program, prepared at the request of the Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting; and

Taking into consideration certain conclusions in that Report and;

Noting that the fisheries of certain of the countries involved face special difficulties during the 1969 season;

Having concluded that it would be desirable to put into effect certain measures of a provisional and emergency nature, which are not to be construed as necessarily reflecting the views of any Government regarding long-term solutions to the problems dealt with in that Report.

RESOLVES

To request the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission to include among its recommendations for 1969 the following:

For 1969 only, permit each vessel over 300 short tons capacity (determined from tables prepared by the Commission on the basis of existing information and additional data provided by the various governments, which relate capacity to gross and/or net tonnage) fishing tuna in the regulatory area after the closure date for the yellowfin tuna fishery to land an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna taken in catches of other species in the regulatory area on each trip commenced during such closed season. The amount each vessel is permitted to land as an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna shall be determined by the Government which regulates the fishing activities of such vessel; provided, however, that the aggregate of the incidental catches of yellowfin tuna taken by all such vessels of a country so permitted shall not exceed 15 percent of the combined total catch taken by such vessels during the period these vessels are permitted to land incidental catches of yellowfin tuna.

For 1969 only, permit the flag vessels of each country of 300 short tons capacity and less fishing tuna in the regulatory area after the closure date for the yellowfin tuna fishery to fish freely until 4000 short tons of yellowfin tuna are taken by such vessels or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the catch of yellowfin tuna by such vessels to 4000 short tons; and thereafter to permit such vessels to land an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna taken in the catch of other species in the regulatory area on each trip commenced after 4000 tons have been caught. The amount each vessel is permitted to land as an incidental catch shall be determined by the Government which regulates the fishing activities of such vessel; provided, however, that the aggregate of the incidental catches of yellowfin tuna taken by such vessels of each country so permitted shall not exceed 15 percent of the total catch taken by such vessels during trips commenced after 4000 short tons of yellowfin tuna have been caught.

FURTHER RESOLVES

That the Secretariat of the Working Group, Messrs. Alejandro Cervantes D. (Mexico) and Gerald V. Howard (U.S.A.), be asked to continue their study and consider alternate methods of regulation that would provide for the conservation of the yellowfin tuna in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean and for the more rational utilization of this resource by all countries concerned, making use of such expert assistance as may be available from the interested Governments and from other sources in preparation for a meeting of the full working group at the earliest convenient time in 1969;

URGES

All interested Governments, and particularly those represented at this Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting, to take part in the deliberations of the Working Group;

REQUESTS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission to authorize its staff to lend their expertise to the study and to make available to the Working Group such data as may be appropriate.

PROPOSES

That a special Intergovernmental Meeting be convened before the end of the calendar year 1969 to consider the report of the Working Group, the precise time and place of such meeting to be determined through consultation among interested Governments.

RESOLUTION

APPENDIX IV

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Taking note that the reports of the scientific staff of the Commission indicate that although the 1968 catch of about 113,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna exceeded the estimated maximum equilibrium yield (using the purse-seine model of the fishery), it did not reduce the apparent abundance of yellowfin tuna to a level below which the yield could be maintained under average conditions at 100,000 short tons, and

Taking note that the present techniques of estimating maximum equilibrium yield in the circumstances of the present fishing do not provide complete assurance that greater yields are unattainable, and

Having considered the various alternative schemes of empirically testing for higher maximum equilibrium yields, prepared by the Commission staff,

Concludes that it is desirable to proceed with a program of experimental fishing for a period of three years beginning in 1969, which will be at a rate sufficient to create on the average a measurable reduction in abundance, if present assessments are correct, but not at a rate sufficient either to produce strongly adverse economic effects, or serious consequences to conservation of stocks,

Therefore recommends, subject to review in 1970 and 1971, to the High Contracting Parties, that they take joint action to:

1. Establish an annual catch limit (quota) on the total catch of yellowfin tuna for the calendar years 1969, 1970 and 1971, of 120,000 short tons from the regulatory area defined in the resolution adopted by the Commission on May 17, 1962; provided that if the annual catch rate falls below 3 short tons per standard day's fishing, measured in purse seine units, adjusted to levels of gear efficiency previous to 1962, as estimated by the Director of Investigations, the unrestricted fishing for yellowfin tuna in the regulatory area shall be curtailed so as not to exceed the then current estimate of equilibrium yield and shall be closed on a date to be fixed by the Director of Investigations.
2. Reserve a portion of the annual yellowfin tuna quotas for allowances for incidental catches of tuna fishing vessels when fishing in the regulatory area for species normally taken mingled with yellowfin tuna, after the closure of the unrestricted fishery for yellowfin tuna. The amount of this portion should be determined by the scientific staff of the Commission at such times in 1969, 1970 and 1971 as the catches of yellowfin tuna approach the recommended quota for the year.
3. Open the fishery for yellowfin tuna on 1st January 1969, 1970 and 1971; during the open season vessels should be permitted to enter the regulatory area with permission to fish for yellowfin tuna without restriction on the quantity until the return of the vessels to port.

tons

4. Except if the catch rate falls below 3 short tons per standard day's fishing, close the fishery for yellowfin tuna in 1969, in 1970 and in 1971 at such date as the quantity already caught plus the expected catch of yellowfin tuna by vessels which are at sea with permission to fish without restriction reaches 120,000 short tons less the portion reserved for incidental catches in Item 2 above, and for the year 1969 only the portion reserved for vessels of 300 tons and less provided for in Item 6 below, such date to be determined by the Director of Investigations.

In order not to curtail their fisheries, those countries whose Governments accept the Commission's recommendations but whose fisheries of yellowfin tuna are not of significance will be exempted of their obligations of compliance with the restrictive measures.

Under present conditions, and according to the information available, an annual capture of 1,000 tons of yellowfin tuna is the upper limit to enjoy said exemption.

5. For 1969 only, permit each vessel over 300 short tons capacity (determined from tables prepared by the Commission on the basis of existing information and additional data provided by the various governments, which relate capacity to gross and/or net tonnage) fishing tuna in the regulatory area after the closure date for the yellowfin tuna fishery to land an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna taken in catches of other species in the regulatory area on each trip commenced during such closed season. The amount each vessel is permitted to land as an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna shall be determined by the Government which regulates the fishing activities of such vessel; provided, however, that the aggregate of the incidental catches of yellowfin tuna taken by all such vessels of a country so permitted shall not exceed 15 percent of the combined total catch taken by such vessels during the period these vessels are permitted to land incidental catches of yellowfin tuna.

6. For 1969 only, permit the flag vessels of each country of 300 short tons capacity and less fishing tuna in the regulatory area after the closure date for the yellowfin tuna fishery to fish freely until 4000 short tons of yellowfin tuna are taken by such vessels or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the catch of yellowfin tuna by such vessels to 4000 short tons; and thereafter to permit such vessels to land an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna taken in the catch of other species in the regulatory area on each trip commenced after 4000 tons have been caught. The amount each vessel is permitted to land as an incidental catch shall be determined by the Government which regulates the fishing activities of such vessel; provided, however, that the aggregate of the incidental catches of yellowfin tuna taken by such vessels of each country so permitted shall not exceed 15 percent of the total catch taken by such vessels during trips commenced after 4000 short tons of yellowfin tuna have been caught.

7. The species referred to in Items 5 and 6 are: skipjack, bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna, albacore tuna, bonito, billfishes and sharks.

8. Obtain by appropriate measures the cooperation of those Governments whose vessels operate in the fishery, but which are not parties to the Convention for the establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, to put into effect these conservation measures.