

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

83RD MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

25-29 June 2012

PROPOSAL IATTC-83 F-1

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

IATTC RESOLUTION ON DATA CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Goal: this Resolution is intended to contribute to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, and in particular of highly migratory stocks, in the IATTC by improving the current regime for data on catches provided by IATTC CPCs which dates from 1951.

The current Resolution grants access to available data to the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee and other IATTC Working groups. It also establishes the procedure for access to data by individuals, the procedure for data disclosure and the role of the IATTC Director. The Resolution includes as well a system to ensure the safeguard of the existing records. Data regarding individual vessels will be disclosed at the aggregated level unless the eventual disclosure demand requires otherwise.

Rationale: data availability is essential for the management of the stocks in the area of competence of the IATTC, notably for the assessment of the stocks by the Scientific Advisory Committee. Although IATTC CPCs are obliged to report on catches and other measures, the confidentially rules in force drafted in 1951 establish stringent limits to the release of information of the data submitted to the IATTC to any parties other than the IATTC staff for research purposes. This could have a negative impact on the tasks assigned by the Antigua Convention to the Scientific Advisory Committee. In line with the situation in other RFMOs, observer data grouped by 1° longitude by 1° latitude for surface fisheries and by 5° longitude by 5° latitude for longline, will be considered to be in public domain.

EU DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR AN IATTC RESOLUTION ON DATA CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC),

RECOGNIZING the need for confidentiality at the commercial and organisational levels for data submitted to the IATTC;

CONSIDERING the provisions set forth in IATTC Resolution C-04-10 on *Catch Reporting*;

MINDFUL of the obligations of CPCs in IATTC Resolution C-11-07 on the *Process for Improved Compliance of Resolutions adopted by the Commission*;

CONSIDERING the provisions set forth in IATTC Resolution C-03-05 on *Data Provision*;

Agrees that:

1. The following policy and procedures on confidentiality of data will apply:

DATA SUBMITTED TO THE IATTC

2. The policy for releasing catch-and-effort, length-frequency and observer data will be as follows:

Standard stratification

- a) Catch-and-effort and length-frequency data grouped by 5° longitude by 5° latitude by month for longline and 1° longitude by 1° latitude by month for surface fisheries stratified by fishing nation are considered to be in the public domain, provided that the catch of no individual vessel can be identified within a time/area stratum.

Finer level stratification

- b) Catch-and-effort and length-frequency data grouped at a finer level of time-area stratification will only be released with written authorisation from the sources of the data. Each data release will require the specific permission of the Director.
 - c) Observer data grouped by 1° longitude by 1° latitude for surface fisheries and by 5° longitude by 5° latitude for longline, stratified by month and by fishing nation are considered to be in the public domain, provided that the catch of no individual vessel can be identified within a time/area stratum.
 - d) Working Groups will specify the reasons for which the data are required.
 - e) Individuals requesting the data are required to provide a description of the research project, including the objectives, methodology and intentions for publication. Prior to publication, the manuscript should be cleared by the Director. The data are released only for use in the specified research project and the data must be destroyed upon completion of the project. However, with authorisation from the sources of the data, catch-and-effort and length-frequency data may be released for long-term usage for research purposes, and in such cases the data need not be destroyed.
 - f) The identity of individual vessels will be hidden in fine-level data unless the individual requesting this information can justify its necessity.
 - g) Both Working Groups and individuals requesting data shall provide a report of the results of the research project to the IATTC for subsequent forwarding to the sources of the data.
3. The policy for releasing tagging data will be as follows:
- a) Detailed tagging and recovery data are considered to be in the public domain, with the exception of any vessel names or identifiers and detailed information about the person who recovered the tag (name and address). Tagging and recovery data will be available on the

IATTC website.

PROCEDURES FOR THE SAFEGUARD OF RECORDS

4. Procedures for safeguarding records and databases will be as follows:
 - a) Access to logbook-level information or detailed observer data will be restricted to IATTC staff requiring these records for their official duties. Each staff member having access to these records will be required to sign an attestation recognising the restrictions on the use and disclosure of the information.
 - b) Logbook and observer records will be kept locked, under the specific responsibility of the Head of the Data Collection and Database Program. These sheets will only be released to authorised IATTC personnel for the purpose of data input, editing or verification. Copies of these records will be authorised only for legitimate purposes and will be subjected to the same restrictions on access and storage as the originals.
 - c) Databases will be encrypted to preclude access by unauthorised persons. Full access to the database will be restricted to the Head of the Data Collection and Database Program and to senior IATTC staff requiring access to these data for official purposes, under the authority of the Director. Staff entrusted with data input, editing and verification will be provided with access to those functions and data sets required for their work.

DATA SUBMITTED TO WORKING GROUPS AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

5. The above rules of confidentiality will apply to all members of Working Groups and the Scientific Committee.
6. This Resolution replaces the IATTC Resolution on Confidentiality of 1 February 1951.