

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

100TH MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona, USA

1-5 August 2022

PROPOSAL IATTC-100 G-1

SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR

SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Phoenix, Arizona (USA), on the occasion of its 100th Meeting:

Recalling its responsibility, established in the Antigua Convention, for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area and for the formulation of recommendations in this regard to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs);

Observing that south Pacific albacore tuna supports diverse fisheries in areas under national jurisdiction, as well as in areas beyond national jurisdiction, across the breadth of the Pacific Ocean south of the equator, encompassing the convention areas of the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

Emphasizing the importance of regional and global cooperation to ensure the effective conservation and protection of living aquatic resources throughout their range of distribution, as encouraged in paragraph 12 of Article 6 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

Thus recognizing the importance of working with the WCPFC, as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage south Pacific albacore tuna fisheries throughout the migratory range of the stock in the Pacific Ocean south of the equator;

Recalling further paragraph 4 of Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Encouraged by recent collaborations in this regard between the scientific staff of the IATTC Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through which a Pacific-wide stock assessment of south Pacific albacore tuna was conducted;

Observing that fishing controls for south Pacific albacore tuna are currently in effect exclusively in the waters of the WCPFC Convention Area south of 20°S and that there are currently no controls in effect in the IATTC Convention Area outside the overlap area;

Considering the recommendation of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, at its 17th meeting, that longline catches of south Pacific albacore tuna be reduced in the WCPFC Convention Area to avoid further and prolonged depletion of vulnerable biomass by adult catches;

Recalling that longline fishing vessels greater than 24 meters length overall (LSTLFVs) are highly mobile and can easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, so they have a high potential to operate between IATTC and WCPFC convention areas;

Recalling Resolution C-03-07 on the establishment of a list of longline fishing vessels over 24 meters (LSTLFVs) authorized to operate in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Finally, taking into account Article IV of the Antigua Convention, which calls upon the Members of the

Commission to apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management, and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention.

The IATTC therefore resolves that:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members of the Commission (CPCs) shall not increase the number of their active LSTLFVs that catch south Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention area above the average level reported during the recent period (2015-2021 reference).
2. CPCs whose vessels catch south Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area shall cooperate to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishery in the IATTC Convention Area, including, inter alia, cooperation and collaboration on research to reduce uncertainty regarding the status of this stock.
3. Under the provisions established in Resolution C-03-05, CPCs shall annually report to the Commission all required data on their respective LSTLFVs that caught south Pacific albacore tuna during the previous calendar year. The data shall include, inter alia, the number of LSTLFVs that caught south Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area and their bycatch.
4. The IATTC scientific staff shall make available catch data forms by area and month for albacore tuna fisheries in the south Pacific Ocean with information from 2017 to 2022, as well as bycatch. These forms shall be required from CPCs and their LSTLFV fleets, thus facilitating the improvement of the stock assessment and addressing ecosystem impacts from fishing activities.
5. The IATTC Secretariat shall send the forms to the CPCs by 15 October 2022, and the CPCs shall submit them to the IATTC Secretariat by 15 February 2023. The IATTC scientific staff shall present a technical report at the 14th meeting of the SAC in 2023 based on the data submitted by the CPCs, which shall be considered for future recommendations.
6. The Commission shall seek to ensure compatibility between south Pacific albacore tuna conservation measures in the IATTC Convention Area and measures adopted or already in force in the WCPFC Convention Area.
7. The Director shall communicate this resolution to the WCPFC Secretariat.
8. This measure may be reviewed annually.