

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

100TH MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona USA

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DOCUMENT IATTC-100 INF-C

CHAIR'S TEXT

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING GROUP ON ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH

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

In accordance with the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 1 (u), of the Antigua Convention;

Agrees:

To establish a permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG), with the following terms of reference:

1. The EBWG shall be composed of one representative designated by each member of the Commission, with appropriate qualifications or relevant experience in the field of competence of the Group, and who may be accompanied by such experts or advisors as that member may deem appropriate. It may also include representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations recognized by the Commission. The EBWG may invite to participate in its work organizations or individuals with recognized scientific or practical fisheries experience in matters related to the work of the Commission. (Art XI Antigua §1-2)
2. The functions of the EBWG shall be the following:
 - (a) Identify and discuss the relationships between bycatch and target species in a given fishery;
 - (b) To promote and facilitate a better understanding of the relationship between species and the environment across different spatio-temporal scales;
 - (c) To evaluate and recommend, as appropriate, at the request of the Scientific Advisory Committee, the Commission, or at the initiative of the Group itself:
 - i. bycatch mitigation and reduction measures as well as resilience and adaptation plans for fisheries and target species in a dynamic environment, including, but not limited to, adaptive management and climate change impact and adaptation plans;
 - ii. conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are impacted by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by the Antigua Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring, as appropriate populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction and sustainability may become seriously threatened;
 - iii. measures and best practices, as appropriate, to avoid, reduce and minimize waste,

discards, catch by lost or discarded gear, catch and mortality of non-target species (both fish and non-fish species), effective methods for safe handling and release of non-target species, and the effects if fishing in the Convention Area on associated or dependent species and habitats, in particular endangered species and sensitive habitats;

- iv. programs and/or standards for monitoring and data collections to support the Commission's scientific investigations on ecosystem and bycatch topics;
- (d) To the extent practicable, assist with the technical development, evaluation and promotion of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques for bycatch reduction and minimization of ecosystem impacts, as well as making recommendations to the Commission regarding related activities such as education, training, technology transfer and capacity building.
3. The conclusions and recommendations adopted by the EBWG:
 - i. shall be submitted first of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), for its consideration and endorsement and later submission to the Commission, as endorsed;
 - ii. may be submitted to the Commission directly, whenever they could not be considered and/or endorsed by the SAC or upon the request of the Commission itself.
 4. The EBWG shall endeavor to adopt its reports and recommendations by consensus. If efforts to achieve consensus fail, the reports shall so indicate, and shall reflect the views of the majority and minority. At the request of any member of the Group, its views shall also be reflected in all or any part of the reports.
 5. In order to optimize its work, the EBWG:
 - i. shall ensure an appropriate coordination with all other relevant IATTC bodies and fora in addition to seek their inputs, in order to avoid duplication and ensure consistency within the IATTC
 - ii. may seek appropriate inputs from all relevant stakeholders, such as inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations or natural persons such as scientists, researchers, managers, fishers, etc.
 6. This resolution shall enter into force at the time of its adoption and the EBWG shall immediately replace the existing Working Group on Bycatch.