

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

**WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION AND
THE CONVENTION**

1st Meeting, 19 October, 1998

La Jolla, California, USA

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the 61st Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), held in June 1998, it was agreed that a working group should be convened to review the functions of the IATTC and its Convention and, if necessary, formulate possible amendments to the Convention. Representatives from Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union (EU), Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Spain, Taiwan, the United States, Vanuatu, and Venezuela met in La Jolla on October 19, 1998, to fulfill that mandate.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Ambassador Jean-François Pulvenis of Venezuela, at 9:45 a.m. on October 19. He welcomed the attendees (Appendix 1), and noted that various proposals had been presented, but that there had not been time to study them in detail, and therefore the meeting would limit itself to a general discussion and not deal with specific points. The provisional agenda (Appendix 2) was adopted.

The Chairman called on Dr. Robin Allen, Deputy Director of the IATTC, to explain the existing Convention and the background to and reasons for considering changing it. Dr. Allen summarized the contents of the background paper prepared by the staff for the meeting. The staff noted that the Convention did not prevent the Commission from extending its functions, as it had already done, and that the intergovernmental forum permitted all nations, and not just IATTC member nations, to participate in the work of the IATTC. The basis for the IATTC's involvement in activities and aspects of the tuna fishery not contemplated in the 1949 Convention was discussed.

The delegations stated their positions on the Convention. One opinion was that the 1949 Convention was sufficient as it was, and that the system of decisions by resolution had worked well.

Other delegations noted that the aim was to strengthen the IATTC, and that there was wide support for changing the Convention to incorporate ideas and objectives, such as the ecosystem approach to management, that would not have been thought of in 1949 but which were needed today. There were also many details that needed modifying and resolving, and there was considerable support for the need to update the Convention. Most of the delegations agreed with these remarks.

It was agreed that concrete proposals for amendments should be submitted, by e-mail or on diskette, to the IATTC staff as soon as possible, and preferably before the end of November. The Chairman, with the assistance of the staff, would incorporate all the proposals in a single document, which would be distributed to all the governments involved and would form the basis for the discussions at the meeting in June 1999.

The group agreed to take advantage of the IRP meeting in Ensenada (Mexico) in January 1999 to hold informal consultations, but would begin to review the proposals submitted at the IATTC meeting in June 1999.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. on October 19, 1998.

Appendix 1.

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL
WORKING GROUP ON THE IATTC CONVENTION**

**October 19, 1998 – 19 de octubre de 1998
La Jolla, California (USA)**

ATTENDEES – ASISTENTES

MEMBER COUNTRIES - PAISES MIEMBROS

COSTA RICA

GEORGE HEIGOLD

Cia. Enlatadora Nacional, S.A.

ECUADOR

LUIS TORRES NAVARRETE

Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Pesca

EL SALVADOR

RENE SALGADO

CENDEPESCA

RICARDO HERNANDEZ

Cámara Salvadoreña de la Pesca y la Acuicultura

JAPAN - JAPON

JUN-ICHIRO OKAMOTO

Commissioner

KENGO TANAKA

Fisheries Agency of Japan

NAOKO HAMAGUCHI

SHINGO OTA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SALLY CAMPEN

Fed. of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations

NICARAGUA

LESTER MEJIA SOLIS

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA

BRIAN HALLMAN

WILLIAM GIBBONS-FLY

VIOLANDA BOTET

U.S. Department of State

BILL HOGARTH

SVEIN FOUGNER

WANDA CAIN

GARY SAKAGAWA

National Marine Fisheries Service

JUDSON FEDER

NOAA Southwest Regional Counsel

VANUATU

ED WEISSMAN

M/V Pamela Ann

VENEZUELA

JEAN-FRANÇOIS PULVENIS

Comisionado

SANTOS VALERO

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

HUGO ALSINA LAGOS

Comisionado

JON CELAYA

AVATUN

NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES - PAISES NO MIEMBROS

ESPAÑA - SPAIN

IGNACIO YBAÑEZ RUBIO
CARLOS LARRAÑAGA CES
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima

LUIS ESTERUELAS
Embajada de España

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY- COMUNIDAD EUROPEA

MARGARIDA CARDOSO
XAVIER VAZQUEZ
European Commission

MEXICO

CARLOS CAMACHO GAOS
JERONIMO RAMOS PARDO
GUILLEMO COMPEAN JIMENEZ
RICARDO BELMONTES ACOSTA
MARIO AGUILAR
SANTIAGO GOMEZ AGUILAR
Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente

GUILLEMO PEREDO RIVERA
SECOFI

MARK ROBERTSON

ALFONSO ROSIÑOL LLITERAS
JOSÉ VELÁZQUEZ CARDENAS
CANAINPES

MARIA TERESA BANDALA MEDINA
Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

JUAN VELÁZQUEZ MACOSHAY
Supremos del Golfo y del Pacífico, S.A. de C.V.

PERU

JUAN ARRUS ROKOVICH
JORGE VERTIZ CALDERON
Ministerio de Pesquería

MATE BARAKA
Pesquera Hayduk, S.A.

TAIWAN

PAUL WEN-LIANG CHANG
KENNY HU
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CHUNG-HAI KWOH
Fisheries Administration, Council of Agriculture

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS - ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES

NINA YOUNG
Center for Marine Conservation

KITTY BLOCK
Humane Society of the United States

HÉCTOR LÓPEZ
Fundación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza (FUDENA)

IATTC - CIAT

JAMES JOSEPH, Director
ROBIN ALLEN, Assistant Director

Appendix 2.

WORKING GROUP ON THE IATTC CONVENTION

October 19, 1998

La Jolla, California, USA

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chairperson
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Description of the functions of the IATTC and its Convention
5. Review of the functions of the IATTC and its Convention
6. Other business
7. Time and place of next meeting
8. Adjournment