

IATTC REPORTING OBLIGATIONS ON RESOLUTIONS C-19-04/ C-11-02
ON TURTLES AND SEABIRDS
FOR LONGLINE AND PURSE SEINE VESSELS

1. SEA TURTLES

The objective of this report is to respond to Resolution C-19-04, aimed at mitigating the impacts on sea turtles, by presenting information on all recorded interactions with sea turtles during longline and purse seine fishing operations in the IATTC area during 2024. Report progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines and complementary measures to reduce the by-catch, injury, and mortality of sea turtles in fishing operations and to ensure the safe handling of all captured sea turtles, to improve their survival.

In the surface longline fishery, the Spanish baseline information comes from the Spanish Observer Program for Surface Longliners conducted in the the Regional Fisheries Organizations. The operators of vessels for pelagic longline fisheries permanently informed of all the measures adopted by IATTC including those taken to avoid by-catches of sea turtles.

Regarding the purse seine fishery, the analysed data come from the Spanish National Tuna Observer Program, implemented by the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO) and the IATTC. Together, both programs aim for 100% observer coverage, in accordance with the guidelines of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP).

1.1. Regulatory Framework for the Mitigation of Sea Turtle Bycatch:

- IATTC Resolution C-19-04: *Resolution to Mitigate Impacts on Sea Turtles*, adopted during the 94th Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in July 2019. This resolution mandates that CPCs (Members and Cooperating Non-Members) implement measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch and mortality, including the use of circle hooks, proper handling and release techniques, and increased observer coverage
- Council Regulation (EC) No 520/2007 of 7 May 2007: Establishes technical conservation measures for certain stocks of highly migratory species and repeals Regulation (EC) No 973/2001. Relevant provisions include:
 - Article 15: General provisions on the use of fishing gear.
 - Article 20: Specific measures to reduce the impact of fishing on sea turtles, including gear restrictions and handling protocols.
 - Article 27: Monitoring and reporting obligations related to bycatch, including sea turtles
- Regulation (EU) 2021/56 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 January 2021: Establishes management, conservation, and control measures

applicable in the area of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention (IATTC), and amends Council Regulation (EC) No 520/2007.

Article 16: Reinforces obligations concerning the protection of sea turtles, aligning EU practices with IATTC Resolution C-19-04

- FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations (2011). Although IATTC Resolution C-19-04 already incorporates the main elements of these FAO guidelines, specific compliance sections are included in national and regional regulations to ensure full alignment with best practices for reducing sea turtle bycatch and mortality.
- National regulations

1.2. Measures to Mitigate the Impact on Sea Turtles Implemented by the EU Flagged Fleet Operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

1.2.1. Longline Fishery:

- Large circle hooks were used (circle hooks are already being used at a rate of 50% in longline sets in Portuguese fleet).
- Fin fish for bait
- Adequate equipment for the disentanglement of turtles was available onboard.
- Release techniques are used with line cutters and de-hooker sticks, and rods to release turtles if accidentally cached, as described in guidelines.
- The operators are permanently informed of all time-and area closures eventually decided by IATTC;
- Manuals are regularly made available to the industry, containing instructions and information for a proper use of this equipment and for identification of the various species of marine turtles (see as example the guidelines developed in the project “FIP BLUES”) (Annex 1)
- Fishermen have information on handling methods to assess the condition of the turtles before releasing, identifying the species name, return to the sea, ensuring higher survival rates and reducing post-release mortality. The Interaction is recorded on logbook;
- At national level there is a policy to encourage all operators of vessels for pelagic longline fisheries to adopt measures to avoid bycatches of sea turtles, in different international areas and register of the interactions.

Table 1. Mitigation measures for sea turtles in Spanish LL vessels.

			MEDIDAS MITIGACION TORTUGAS MARINAS 2024 Resolución C- 19 - 04		
CÓDIGO DEL BUQUE	NOMBRE	ZONA PTP	Usar solamente anzuelos circulares grandes (de acuerdo a la definición de la C-19-04)	Usar solamente peces como cebos	Otras medidas aprobadas por la Comisión de la CIAT
27794	COSTA AZUL DOS	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
25500	COST AZUL UNO	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
25776	COYO CINCO	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
27045	COYO SEPTIMO	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
24809	ECCE HOMO DIVINO	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
26647	ECCE HOMO GLORIOS	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
25473	BONDAÑA	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
25536	BOUSO	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
27812	ECLIPSE CUATRO	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
26791	HESPER	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
25644	MAR ARAL	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
26761	MARIANE	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
26004	NUEVO PLEAMAR	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
25952	PEDRA DA GRELO	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
25809	PICO TREMARES	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	X
23666	RAYMI	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
24862	SALAIÑO	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
27797	SOCYO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	
26780	TALASA	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
10258	TEMIS PRIMERO	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
25564	YANQUE	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
25542	ILLA GAVEIRA	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	X
26485	GLACIAL	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
24610	O GALOPIN	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
23382	NOVO XEIXAL	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
21768	SUSO	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
21571	BALUEIRO SEGUNDO	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
25873	MARGUEL	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
24508	NUEVO JOSMARU	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
24186	OLEAJE	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
23302	PEDRO XIBANO	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
24441	SIEMPRE JUAN LUIS	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
25864	MAR DE CRETA	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
100053	MAR DE ESCOCIA	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
25556	PLAYA MUÑO VELLO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X
24967	PUNTAL DE AGUETE	PACIFICO - CIAT			X
23528	RAMSES DOUS	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	
15778	RIO LANDRO	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	

Table 2. Mitigation measures for sea turtles in Portuguese LL vessels.

Application of the IATTC Guidelines	Yes	No
Use only large circle hooks	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, BALUEIRO	AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA
Use only finfish for bait	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA	BALUEIRO
Another mitigation measure to reduce sea turtle bycatch that has been approved by the IATTC Commission		HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, BALUEIRO, MAR DE JAVA

1.2.2. Purse seine Fishery:

- National Plan for the Management of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), which includes the use of non-entangling FADs to avoid the ghost fishing and reduce bycatch of non-target species such as sea turtles. The plan is updated annually to incorporate new regulations adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).
- Code of Good Practices on Board Purse Seiners (BBPP Project). The code outlines a series of best practices aimed at improving onboard operations and the selectivity of tropical tuna purse seine fisheries, promoting responsible and sustainable fishing that minimizes impacts on the marine ecosystem. In particular, regarding to sea turtles the code integrates the recommendations of the four RFMOs, including the guidelines for handling and releasing entangled turtles in FADs, the specimens entangled in the purse seine net or if they come on-board in the brailing phase.

[\(https://www.azti.es/productos/guia-de-buenas-practicas-de-manejo-y-liberacion-de-especies-asociadas-en-atuneros-de-cerco-congeladores/\)](https://www.azti.es/productos/guia-de-buenas-practicas-de-manejo-y-liberacion-de-especies-asociadas-en-atuneros-de-cerco-congeladores/)

https://www.azti.es/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/AZTI_Guia_BBPP_low.pdf.

- Design and use of Roller “Hopper” with Ramp for the Release of Sharks and Other Bycatch Species: These are selective trays with evacuation ramps that prevent species such as sea turtles from falling into the fish hold. They allow safe return to the sea through zero-contact handling, improving crew safety and increasing the survival rate of vulnerable species.
- Development of Biodegradable FADs (2023–2024)
- Project to Assess Mortality of Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species (2023–2024). This project aims to determine fishing-related mortality of vulnerable species (e.g., sharks, turtles, rays) in the tropical tuna purse seine fishery operated by OPAGAC, through three main tasks:
 - o Study of entanglement rates by FAD type and ocean;
 - o Assessment of survival rates of sensitive species by ocean;
 - o Evaluation of mortality rates of vulnerable species in the fishery.
- Training Courses on Best Handling and Release Practices (2024): In 2024, six workshops were held in the IATTC area, distributed across Sukarrieta, Vigo, and Bermeo, with the participation of 15 crew members from four OPAGAC vessels operating in the region.

1.3. Interaction with Sea Turtles in 2024

1.3.1. Longline fishery:

In case of the Spanish Fleet, interactions between surface longline fisheries and sea turtles, along with their details, are reported by onboard observers and electronic monitoring systems within the framework of the Surface Longline Observer Program coordinated by the General Secretariat for Fisheries. The results of the observation activities related to sea turtles are detailed below.

In 2024, a total of 8 observation campaigns were conducted in the IATTC area under this program, using both human observers and electronic monitoring systems. A total of 494,179 hooks were monitored, during which 21 sea turtle interactions were recorded. Nine-teen were released alive, 1 dead and 1 in unknown condition.

Table 3. Interactions with sea turtles registered in Spanish LL vessels

Código AL3	Especie	Núm. ejemplares
TTL	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	2
DKK	<i>Dermochelys coriácea</i>	8
TTX	<i>Testudinata (genérico)</i>	11

In case of Portuguese fleet, two of 4 active vessels in the IATTC area, declared interactions with turtles in 2024. During 2024 three interactions were registered by the Portuguese vessels regarding marine turtles.

Table 4. Interactions with sea turtles register in Portuguese LL vessels.

DATE	POSITION	SCIENTIFIC NAME	FAO CODE	FATE	ACTIONS TAKEN
31/03/2024	20°38'S 099°00'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
20/12/2024	18°42'S 100°22'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
25/12/2024	17°34'S 101°17'W	Chelonia agassizii	KEZ	Alive	Released without hook

1.3.2. Purse seine fishery:

The results of sea turtle interactions involving the purse seine fleet operating in the IATTC area are based on observer data from both the IATTC Program and the Spanish National Tuna Observer Program (PNOT), managed by the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO).

In 2024, a total of 18 fishing trips with 319 sets were observed by the IEO, and 17 trips with 321 sets were observed by IATTC, amounting to 35 trips and 640 observed sets in total.

Only four interactions with sea turtles were recorded during fishing sets, and three turtles were found associated with floating objects. Additionally, three sightings of unidentified free-swimming sea turtles were reported.

Table 5. Interactions with sea turtles registered in Spanish PS vessels

Código AL3	Especie	Núm. ejemplares	Estado
TUG	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	2	2 Liberadas vivas sin daños
LKV	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	1	Liberada viva sin daños
TTL	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	3	3 Liberadas vivas sin daños
TTX	Testudinata	4	1 Liberada con una herida leve y 3 avistamientos

2. SEA BIRDS.

In this section the progress made on the implementation of the IATTC resolution to mitigate the impact on seabirds of fishing for species is included and the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries knowing that the extent of interactions between seabirds and fisheries, and the evaluation of how seabird bycatch mitigation measures can be most effectively applied.

2.1. Regulatory Framework for the Mitigation of Sea Birds:

- The incidental catches of seabirds, the data on seabird species, and all relevant information available through the observer program and other monitoring programs referred to in Article 25.3 of Regulation (EU) 2021/56 and IATTC Resolution C-11-02;
- The mitigation measures applied by the longline fleet as listed in the annex “Table 1: Mitigation Measures” and referred to in Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2021/56 and IATTC Resolution C-11-02.

2.2. Mitigation Measures Applied by the Longline Fleet in the IATTC Area to Limit Interactions and Incidental Catches of Seabirds.

2.2.1. Portugal

- Deep setting line shooter (The vessel uses hydraulic equipment to begin the fisheries operations with the main line less than 1 m from the stern so the hooks can sink rapidly).
- Use of Tori.



Figure 1. Tori Lines

- Side-setting with bird curtains and weighted branch lines.

Table 6. Mitigation measures for seabirds in LL Portuguese vessels.

Mitigation measures					
Specifications in Table I and Annex 2 of Resolution C-11-02					
Column A	Yes	No	Column B	Yes	No
Side-setting with bird curtains and weighted branch lines	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, BALUEIRO		Tori line	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, BALUEIRO, MAR DE JAVA	
Night setting with minimum deck lighting	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA		Weighted branch lines	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA	
Tori-line	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA		Blue-dyed bait		HEMISFÉRIO NORTE
Weighted branch lines	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA		Deep-setting line shooter		HEMISFÉRIO NORTE
			Underwater setting chute	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE	
			Management of offal discharge	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE	

2.2.2. Spain

Table 7. Mitigation measures for seabirds in Spanish LL vessels.

			MEDIDAS MITIGACION AVES 2024							
			Resolución C- 11-02							
CÓDIGO DEL BUQUE	NOMBRE	ZONA PTP	Largado nocturno, con un mínimo de iluminación en cubierta	Líneas espantapájaros (tori-lines)	Pesos en brazoladas	Lances laterales con cortinas de aves y pesos en las brazoladas	Canaleta de calado submarina	Cebo teñido de azul	Control de la eliminación de desechos	Disparador de línea de calado profundo
27794	COSTA AZUL DOS	PACIFICO - CIAT	X		X				X	
25500	COSTAZUL UNO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X		X				X	
25776	COYO CINCO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					X
27045	COYO SEPTIMO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					X
24899	ECCE HOMO DIVINO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X			X		X	
26647	ECCE HOMO GLORIOSO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X			X		X	
25473	BONDAÑA	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	X				X	
25536	BOUSO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					
27812	ECLIPSE CUATRO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					
26791	HESPER	PACIFICO - CIAT	X		X				X	
25644	MAR ARAL	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					
26761	MARIANE	PACIFICO - CIAT			X					
26004	NUEVO PLEAMAR	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	
25952	PEDRA DA GRELO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	
25899	PICO TREMARES	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X				X	X
23666	RAYMI	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	
24862	SALAÑO	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	X				X	
27797	SOCYO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	
26780	TALASA	PACIFICO - CIAT	X		X				X	
10258	TEMIS PRIMERO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X		X				X	
25564	YANQUE	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					
25542	ILLA GAVEIRA	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X				X	
26485	GLACIAL	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					
24610	O GALOPIN	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	
23382	NOVO YEXIAL	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	
21768	SUSO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					
21571	BALUEIRO SEGUNDO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	
25873	MARGUEL	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					
24508	NUEVO JOSMARU	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	
24186	OLEAJE	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	
23302	PEDRO XIBANO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	
24441	SIEMPRE JUAN LUIS	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	
25864	MAR DE CRETA	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					
100053	MAR DE ESCOCIA	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					
25556	PLAYA MUÑO VELLO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X		X			X		
24967	PUNTA DE AGUETE	PACIFICO - CIAT		X	X					X
23528	RAMSES DOUS	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X	X					
15778	RIO LANDRO	PACIFICO - CIAT	X	X					X	

2.3. Interaction with Sea Birds in 2024

In 2024, surface longline observer coverage in the IATTC area for Spanish vessels was 4.28%, with a total of 8 observed trips.

No interactions were registered by the EU fleet regarding to seabirds.

PROTOCOLO DE BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

MANIPULACIÓN Y LIBERACIÓN SEGURA
DE TORTUGAS MARINAS



SI UNA TORTUGA VIENE EN LA LÍNEA

1º

Virada

Detener el buque
o reducir la velocidad al máximo) si es seguro operativamente)
Cesar inmediatamente la operación de virada
Con la tortuga en el agua: determinar si es necesario izarla a cubierta

2º

¿SE PUEDE IZAR LA TORTUGA A BORDO?



3º

VALORAR EL ESTADO DE LA TORTUGA ANTES DE LIBERARLA



4º

Si está viva y con vigor suficiente, proceder a la manipulación y posterior devolución al mar

Si el animal está enredado, cortar cuidadosamente la línea para liberar el cuerpo



Valiéndose del desanzuelador, rotar el anzuelo poco a poco para ir quitándolo.

Si el anzuelo está inaccesible en esófago, cortar la línea lo más próximo al anzuelo



Una línea enredada puede causar heridas provocando gangrena y/o amputación; o puede ser tragado causando daños en aparato digestivo y muerte segura

5º



El capitán de pesca anotará en el DEA todas las interacciones

