

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama

2-6 September 2024

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 N-1

SUBMITTED BY VENEZUELA

**PROPOSAL ON THE REVIEW OF THE VOLUMES OF PURSE-SEINE
VESSELS FISHING IN THE IATTC CONVENTION AREA**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

There are indications that there are vessels whose landings are very close to the capacity reported in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. This contradicts the widely recognized and scientifically documented tuna stowage factors. It is important to recall that the stowage factor is the ratio of the occupied volume to the available space in the well (*capacity*). This factor varies based on several circumstances, including the size and shape of the tuna caught, the time and temperature used for freezing the fish, and the spatial arrangement once frozen (*aligned arrangements can optimize space utilization, whereas random arrangements can result in more wasted space*). This stowage factor may range between 0.65 kg/m³ and 0.75 kg/m³, depending on specific conditions; in other words, the well can only be filled to between 65% and 75% of its maximum recorded capacity. This factor should be reviewed by the IATTC staff and should not be calculated individually by the Members, as there may be significant variation between different CPCs.

Assuming that recorded landings is an indicator that is monitored on an ongoing basis, it is highly likely that it could indicate that the actual capacity is greater than the capacity recorded in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. This could result in a significant increase in operational capacity in the Convention Area and, more worryingly, some of this capacity may not be duly justified in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. This situation should be reviewed and the necessary corrective measures should be implemented as soon as possible.

Therefore, it is necessary to clarify whether one or both elements (*stowage factor or capacity registration issues*) are causing the discrepancies in important data for capacity management measures within the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

REVIEW OF THE VOLUMES OF PURSE-SEINE VESSELS FISHING IN THE IATTC CONVENTION AREA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Victoria, Canada, on the occasion of its 101st Meeting:

Taking into account that the Regional Vessel Register should accurately reflect the actual capacity in cubic meters of all vessels registered therein;

Acknowledging that there must be a stowage factor for the Commission that ensures the capacity recorded by the vessels in the Regional Register is consistent with the landings;

Recognizing that, in order to recommend the best measures for capacity management, in accordance with the determinations made by the scientific staff of the Commission based on the IATTC Regional Register, the actual capacity of the purse-seine vessels operating in the Commission Area must be as exact and precise as possible;

Resolves as follows:

1. That the Commission prepare a document outlining the stowage factor that will apply to all Members.
2. That the Commission review the three maximum landings for each vessel and, in cases where the catch exceeds 80% of the capacity recorded in cubic meters in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, promptly require a verification of the well volumes using one of the following methods:
 - 2.1. Through a certificate issued by an international classification society acknowledged by the flag government
 - 2.2. Through a certificate granted by a competent governmental authority, supported by a technical study.
 - 2.3. Through a certificate from duly qualified companies or individuals, endorsed by the flag government and indicating the absence of inconsistencies.
 - 2.4. Through a report prepared by the IATTC staff based on the vessel's plans, verifying that no inconsistencies were present.
3. That those vessels whose well capacities are found to be greater than reported, the excess cubic meters be sealed, or the country grant the necessary capacity from its reserve or another mechanism.
4. That those vessels whose capacity is found to exceed that of the IATTC Regional Vessel Register pay to the AIDCP the contribution for that difference in capacity that was due since their incorporation into the IATTC Regional Vessel Register and, if prior to the establishment of the AIDCP, since 1999.