

A G E N D A

29th COMMISSION MEETING
Washington D. C., U. S. A.

November 12, 13, 14 and 16, 1973

Chairman: Dr. Steven S. Schanes

Secretary: Dr. Kunio Yonezawa

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Welcome to New Members
3. Consideration and Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Current Research
5. The 1973 Fishing Year (Background Paper No. 1)
6. Condition of the Yellowfin Stock and the Quota for 1974
(Background Paper No. 2)
7. A Discussion of the Present System of Closing the Fishery
(Background Paper No. 3)
8. The Porpoise-Tuna Relationship and Associated Problems
(Background Paper No. 4)
9. Recommended Research Program and Budget for FY 1975/1976
(Background Paper No. 5)
10. Discussion of Annual Report
11. Renaming the Commission (Background Paper No. 6)
12. Place and Date of Next Meeting
13. Election of Officers
14. Other Business
15. Adjournment

The 29th meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission was convened in plenary session at the main Conference Center, Department of State, Washington D.C., at 1030 hours on November 12, 1973. The following persons were in attendance:

CANADA

Commissioners

E. Blyth Young
G. E. Waring
Robert L. Payne

Advisers

S. Noel Tibbo
Dr. G. F. M. Smith

COSTA RICA

Commissioner

Eduardo Bravo Perez

Advisers

Raul Canessa Murillo
Eduardo Salgado
Roy Mora Chavez

FRANCE

Commissioners

Robert Letaconnoux
Serge Garache

Advisers

Philippe Lecuona
Alain Thibaudeau

JAPAN

Commissioner

Kunio Yonezawa

Advisers

Susumu Matsuoka
Koji Imamura
Masao Miyoshi
Shojiro Shimura

MEXICO

Head of Delegation

Ambassador Fernando Castro y Castro

Commissioners

Arturo Díaz Rojo
Amin Zarur M.
Pedro Mercado S.
Joaquín Mercado

Advisers

Jorge Echániz R.
Luis Garcia Cacho
Jesus Nieto G.
Augusto Peña
Roberto Rodríguez Bustos
Mario A. Zubieta

NICARAGUA

Commissioners

Gilberto Bergman Padilla
Antonio Flores

PANAMA

Adviser

Miss Marina Mayo

UNITED STATES

Commissioners

John G. Driscoll
Donald P. Loker
Robert C. Macdonald
Steven E. Schanes

Advisers

Ambassador Donald L. McKernan
Carmen J. Blondin

UNITED STATES (cont.)

Advisers

William W. Fox
Brian S. Hallman
Edwin F. Lewis
John B. Lynn
George H. Rees
Gary Sakagawa
Wilvan G. VanCampen
Gerald V. Howard
Brian J. Rothschild
Gordon Broadhead
Peter Buchan
Charles R. Carry
Augusto Felando
Robert Insinger
Orra E. Kerns Jr.
Anthony Pisano
John J. Royal
Edward Ryan
Oliver A. Schulz
Ralph Spinello

Observers

Jack Tarantino
Jack C. Bowland
James S. de Silva
Lucien da Brito
Doyle Edward Gates
Harold Medina
Joseph Medina
Anthony Nizetich
Julius H. Zolezzi
Allan Weiss

CHILE

Observer

Benjamin Concha

REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Observers

Chien-Jen Chen
Dr. R. T. Yang

ECUADOR

Observers

Dr. Orlando Gabela
CPNV (r) Arroyo B. Wilson
Mario Cobo
Franklin Bahamonde
Orlando Navarrete
Ernesto Illanes Edwards

GUATEMALA

Observers

Ambassador Julio Asensio Wunderlich
Manuel S. Roldán

HONDURAS

Observer

Roberto Alonzo Cleaves

REP. OF KOREA

Observer

Kim Han Mo

NETHERLANDS

Observer

H. C. Girigorie

PERU

Observers

Oscar Maurtua
Branko Zunjic
Alejandro Bermejo

SPAIN

Observers

Vicente Bermejo
Florencio Villanueva
Juan Arencibia

INT. FINANCE CORP.

T. R. Wingate

FAO

Hiroshi Kasahara

IATTC

James Joseph, Director of Investigations
Bruce M. Chatwin
Walter Ritter O.

No other representatives of international organizations nor other observers identified themselves at this time when asked by the Chairman to do so.

AGENDA ITEM 1 - OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to order by James Joseph, Director of Investigations, acting as chairman pro tem. He explained that, because of the very unfortunate death of this year's chairman, Mr. William M. Terry of the U.S. section, he was opening the meeting under these sad circumstances. He then requested the attendees of the meeting to stand for a brief period of silence in tribute to the late Mr. Terry. Thereupon the delegate from Mexico the Honorable Ambassador Castro y Castro expressed profound sentiments of the loss of Mr. "Bill" M. Terry and proffered a resolution to serve as a tribute to the great loss of this friend and to his contributions to the work and success of many international organizations. It was further resolved that this resolution which is attached as Appendix I be forwarded to Mr. Terry's family and to the Administrator of the U. S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Chairman pro tem explained that the Chairmanship for the remainder of the year would fall to the host government and called for nominations. Thereupon Japan nominated Dr. Steven S. Schanes, a newly appointed IATTC Commissioner for the U.S.A., to fulfill these duties. This was seconded by Mexico, further agreed to by Costa Rica and carried by all delegations. The chairman pro tem then requested the new chairman to come forward to assume his duties.

Following an expression of confidence placed in him, the chairman introduced Dr. Robert M. White, Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as keynote speaker to the meeting. The complete text of his address is attached as Appendix II. He then introduced to the meeting the Honorable Ambassador from the USA, Mr. Donald L. McKernan. Thereupon he called for all heads of delegations to introduce themselves, their fellow Commissioners and Advisors. He next called attention to the fact that the Commission is now comprised of eight member countries, which reflects the importance of the Commission's work among the world's community of nations.

The chairman then acknowledged the presence of a good number of observers from other countries and respectfully requested that they identify themselves. The following countries, by their order of introduction, were represented by one or more observers: Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Spain, Rep. of China, Honduras, Rep. of Korea, Guatemala and the Netherlands Antilles. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations was also represented by an observer. Upon call of the Chairman, no others present at the meeting identified themselves.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Chairman Schanes noted with great pleasure the presence of two new members this year, France and Nicaragua, and welcomed them warmly to the meeting. It was also explained that another country, Spain, had requested membership in IATTC and that Spain had distinguished observers present.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman noted that the provisional agenda had been in the hands of the Commissioners for some time and asked for comments on it. There being no comments he asked for approval by a show of hands whereupon the Commissioners gave unanimous approval of the provisional agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH

The Chairman called upon the Director of Investigations to review the research of the Commission's staff during 1973. The Director stated that 1973 marked the 23rd year of research by the Commission's scientific staff. He stated that the most important and basic function of the staff is the collection, tabulation and analysis of records of total catch and logbook data and related information from the tuna fleets operating in the eastern Pacific Ocean. It was pointed out that the information must be collected in two forms because it is used for two purposes. When used for analyzing long-term trends it can be collected some months after the information is generated, but when it is to be used for management purposes it must be collected on a current basis. The Commission has personnel stationed in most of the major tuna ports in the eastern Pacific and in Puerto Rico for the purpose of collecting such data.

The Director explained that the next most important task of the Commission is the study of the dynamics of the stock of yellowfin inhabiting the eastern Pacific Ocean. He noted that because this subject is discussed thoroughly in Background Paper No. 2, it would not be reviewed at this point.

He then proceeded to touch briefly upon some of the highlights of the staff's research.

It was noted that the staff's work on skipjack tuna continued during the year and that emphasis was placed on attempts to predict skipjack catch. It was explained that the Commission staff is concerned with bigeye and bluefin tuna in addition to yellowfin and skipjack. A brief discussion of the fishery was given and a few comments expressed on the extent of the staff's investigations on these two species. This was followed by a brief discussion of the Commission's

studies of size composition of catch.

Very brief mention was made of the Commission's studies to determine the population structure of yellowfin tuna in the eastern Pacific. It was noted that three techniques were being employed in this respect, i.e., genetic, morphometric and tagging techniques.

It was next explained that during 1973 the staff commenced a study of the trends in yield and gross earnings per capacity ton for a sample of the purse-seine fishing fleet operating from 1960 through 1972. It was explained that this study was being pursued in an attempt to predict fleet growth over the long term. It was noted that the yield per capacity ton during recent years had declined by about 40%.

The Director next commented on a joint research program between the Commission staff and members of the Japanese Fishery Agency in which a Pacific-wide study of the yellowfin population is being conducted. At the present time a Commission scientist is in Japan, where he will remain for the next year, working on the project.

In closing his review the Director summarized the staff's activities with regard to oceanographic research, pointing out that the expenditure of Commission funds in this area has been reduced substantially.

Following this general review, the Director called upon Commission Scientist Walter Ritter Ortiz to review in some detail the staff's tuna tagging program. Mr. Ritter gave a lucid explanation of the purposes and extent of the Commission tagging program and indicated the future direction that it would take.

Following the general review of research presented by the staff, the chairman announced that he would entertain questions from the floor concerning what had been presented. A general discussion of these topics followed, lasting more than an hour. A synopsis of a few of the more pertinent points follows.

With regard to the study of catch and gross earnings per capacity ton, it was requested that an analysis be made on the basis of national fleets instead of for a subsample of the fleet as a whole.

A general discussion centering around the subject of stock structure of yellowfin tuna was engaged in by the delegates of Mexico and the United States and by the Director of Investigations. Particular emphasis was placed on the relative inshore-offshore distribution of small yellowfin tuna and of the relative effects of nutrient availability by upwelling and stream and river transport and their effect on tuna abundance.

The delegates from Mexico next questioned the Director concerning the effect of a shortened season on the abundance of the stock of yellowfin and they asked specifically if a very short season is more detrimental to the stock than a season which extends throughout the year. The Director explained that under the assumptions of a logistic population, a very short season would probably be less advantageous in terms of rational management than a season which lasts throughout the year.

The Mexican delegation next asked the Director if the studies of mercury contamination in tuna which had been reviewed and presented by the staff last year had been continued in 1973. Upon learning that they had not, the Mexican Delegation asked whether the Director would be able to update the review for 1973 and discuss it at next year's meeting. The Director replied affirmatively.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 - THE 1973 FISHING YEAR

Upon introducing this item, the chairman noted that Agenda Item 5, 6 and 7 were strongly interrelated and called upon the Director to review them jointly. The chairman explained that questioning on these items should be held until the Director completed his review of all three of them. Beginning his review of Agenda Item 5, the Director explained that Background Paper No. 1 dealt fully with this subject, and that he would review it only briefly. The 1973 fishery for yellowfin opened on January 1, 1973 and closed to unrestricted fishing on March 8, 1973 when about 48,000 tons of the 160,000 ton quota had been taken. To date about 160,296 tons of yellowfin and 42,458 tons of skipjack have been taken from the CYRA and it was noted that by the end of 1973 these figures should reach about 165,000 and 50,000 tons respectively. After closure to unrestricted yellowfin fishing the fleet fished in the area to the west of the CYRA where the yellowfin catch by the end of 1973 should be about 50,000 tons and that for skipjack about 2,000 tons. In addition to these tonnages, the fleet captured about 10,420 tons of bluefin, 6,149 tons of bonito, 1,669 tons of bigeye and 626 tons of black skipjack. The fleet which produced these catches consisted of vessels from 14 nations and had a capacity of about 131,000 tons. In addition to catches from the eastern Pacific, a portion of the fleet fished in the eastern Atlantic where they caught about 27,000 tons of yellowfin and skipjack (about 80-85% of this being the latter species). The Director concluded this part of the discussions by noting that the fleet in early 1974 should have a capacity of about 143,000 tons and by the end of 1974 should have from 150,000 to 160,000 tons of capacity.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - CONDITION OF THE YELLOWFIN STOCK AND THE QUOTA FOR 1974

Upon introducing this subject the Director called attention to Background Paper No. 2 which deals fully with it. After commenting briefly and simply on some of the theory of fishery dynamics the Director reviewed the research accomplished prior to 1960 on the dynamics of the yellowfin stock. He stated that early estimates of the average maximum sustainable yield from the stock of yellowfin than exploited in the eastern Pacific were about 90-95 thousand tons. He noted that the logistic model was used to predict the decline in catch and catch per unit of effort observed in the early 1960's as a result of increasing effort, and that such predictions were very accurate. He commented further that in the late 1960's rather significant changes in fishing strategy took place and the predictions from the model on the course of the fishery no longer reflected accurately events in the fishery. Both the catch and the catch per effort were increasing, whereas the model then in use lead to predictions that both would decrease. He next discussed the Commission's experimental program designed to purposefully overfish the stock so as to empirically ascertain its maximum yield on a sustained basis. He noted that on the average about 140,000 tons had been

removed annually from the stock during the last four years. During this period the index of abundance had remained high, with the exception of 1973 when it dropped by about 17%. The Director reviewed research which the staff had accomplished which indicated that the expansion of the fishery offshore could account for increased sustained yields. He indicated that the best current estimate of sustained maximum yield was in the vicinity of 150,000 tons.

On the basis of all of the evidence available to the staff, the Director recommended that during 1974, a quota of 130,000 tons should be established and allowances be made to increase it in increments to the 1973 level of catch (165,000 tons) if data collected during early 1974 indicated such action to be warranted.

The Director next discussed the fishery for yellowfin tuna which is prosecuted in the area to the west of the CYRA boundary, but east of 150°W. He noted that catch has continued to increase in that area as well as the geographic extent of the fishery. He further noted that the catch per effort, which is used as an index of the abundance of the stock, has remained constant. On the basis of these data he stated that there was no scientific basis for establishing controls on the harvest of yellowfin tuna in this area at the present time. He did indicate that the fishery in the offshore area is under constant review and at such time as the data indicate a need for control of the harvest he would so recommend.

AGENDA ITEM 7 - A DISCUSSION OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF CLOSING THE FISHERY

Upon introducing this subject the Director noted that Background Paper No. 3 dealt fully with this matter. He then proceeded to review the contents of the document, calling attention to the fact that if the same system of regulation which was used in 1973 is used in 1974, and if a quota of 130,000 tons is recommended for 1974, it may be very difficult, if not impossible, to close the fishery at such time during 1974 so that the catch for the year does not exceed the quota. He attributed this to the fact that the fleet during 1974 will be substantially greater than during 1973, and can potentially take a large share of the allowable catch for the year during the last open trip. He noted that it is possible that the last open trip and the special allocations could account for more than 130,000 tons of catch during 1974.

At the conclusion of the review of Agenda Item 5, 6, and 7, it being 1715 hours, the agreed time for recessing the meeting, the Chairman did so, noting that on the following morning he would entertain questions on the reviews given by the Director.

Tuesday, November 13, 1973

The chairman opened the meeting at 0930 hours by stating that he would entertain questions on the discussion of Agenda Items, 5, 6 and 7 given by the Director of Investigations.

The Delegation of Mexico questioned the Director on research which had been conducted on species other than yellowfin, and the Director reviewed the fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean for bluefin, albacore and bonito and the extent of current research on each species. Upon further questioning by the Mexican delegation concerning the yellowfin resource in the area to the west of the CYRA and whether or not it was time to recommend control on the harvest of these, the Director repeated his earlier comments indicating that the evidence available at the present time did not indicate the need to make such a recommendation.

The Mexican Delegation next questioned the Director as to the extent of the longline fishery in the eastern Pacific and the relationship of their activities to those of the surface fishing fleet. The Director replied that the total catch of yellowfin for the longline fleet is small relative to that of the surface fleet, but the statistics of catch from the longline fleet are included with those for the surface fleet. He further noted that yellowfin is not the primary species sought by longline vessels in the eastern Pacific, but rather bigeye and billfishes are the most important. The Director further referred to a joint Japanese-IATTC program currently underway which is designed to investigate further this relationship.

The delegation of Japan spoke to this question, emphasizing and repeating the remarks of the Director.

In response to a question from the Mexican Delegation concerning the relationship between yellowfin in the inshore region and those in the offshore region, the Director indicated that two hypotheses on stock structure have been formulated. In the first it is hypothesized that small fish and large fish occur in the inshore region whereas in the offshore region only large fish occur. As small fish in the inshore region grow there is a tendency for them to move offshore. In the second hypothesis, small fish and large fish occur both in the inshore and offshore region but small fish are unavailable to the fishing gear in the offshore region. The Director noted that it is impossible at this time to determine which hypothesis best represents the stock of yellowfin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Questioning on these three agenda items continued until 1230 at which time the chairman recessed the meeting for lunch.

Upon reconvening at 1430 the next item of business was introduced.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - THE PORPOISE-TUNA RELATIONSHIP AND ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS

The chairman, after noting that at last year's annual meeting the U.S. Delegation requested this item be placed on the Agenda, called upon the Director to review the contents of Background Paper No. 4 which had been prepared by the staff on this subject. After a brief review of the contents of the paper, a number of questions ensued which the Director answered.

The Director next discussed the contents of a letter (Appendix III) which he had received from U. S. Commissioner Dr. Steven S. Schanes, in which Dr. Schanes referred to a U.S. law entitled "The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972". In this law the U. S. Government is directed to request the "Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, to make recommendations to all member nations of the Commission as soon as it is practicable regarding the use of fishing methods and gear which the available research indicates is effective in reducing incidental marine mammal mortality and serious injury rate." The Director sought the instructions of the Commission concerning the staff's involvement in this matter. After some considerable discussion of this matter by the delegations, further action was deferred until a later date.

The U. S. Delegation after asking for the floor presented to the members of the Commission for their consideration copies of proposed rules for the incidental taking of porpoise in the course of tuna purse-seining operations which are to be implemented by the U.S.A. and which will apply to U.S. flag vessels. After some considerable discussion on the part of all delegations the delegate of the U.S. explained that the U. S. Government was seeking the cooperation of the member nations of the Commission in implementing similar legislation to reduce porpoise mortality which would apply to fishermen of their nations.

The delegate of Mexico after asking for the floor noted that at the present time the capture of porpoise by Mexican Nationals who are commercial fishermen is prohibited by law.

The delegate of Canada indicated that at the present time vessels of his nation were modifying their fishing gear to reduce porpoise mortality.

Japan commenting on the fact that the porpoise issue was non-controversial and therefore should be supported in principle, suggested that further discussion of this item be deferred until the Inter-Governmental Meeting.

All delegations agreed.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - RECOMMENDED RESEARCH PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR FY 1975-1976

The Chairman called upon the Director to discuss this item. The Director referred to Background Paper No. 5, noting that it had been in the hands of the Commissioners for some months. He explained that at its 23rd Meeting the Commission instructed the Director to prepare two budgets in the future. The first should be a recommended version indicating needed research regardless of the probability of obtaining such funding. The second should be an austerity version designed to maintain the research at current or slightly augmented levels. In keeping with these instructions two budgets were presented in Background Paper No. 5.

The recommended budget which provided for a substantial tagging program was in the amount of \$1,490,679. It was explained that nearly all of the increase of \$703,896 over the austerity budget for 1974-1975 would be for the purchase of vessel time to conduct tagging experiments at sea.

The austerity budget presented by the Director was in the amount of \$928,314, an increase of \$141,531 over the amount requested in the austerity budget for 1974-1975.

The Director noted that the increase of \$141,531 was to provide for upgrading the staff's retirement benefits so as to bring them on par with other international organizations, to meet government pay raises and to provide for meritorious in-grade salary increases. No funds were being asked to allow for additional research and/or new personnel.

The Delegate of the U.S. questioned the Director as to the amount requested for retirement benefits, asking if the purchase of the 3 years of past service credits could not be spread out over a number of years. The Director indicated that they could, but called attention to the fact that to remain current in the future such credits will have to be purchased each year and to delay the purchase of the past three years would keep the Commission in arrears for some time to come.

The Delegations of both Canada and Mexico expressed interest in the staff providing an evaluation of the possible benefits of the recommended budget vis a vis the austerity budget. The Director indicated that he would reply to this question via correspondence in the near future. The Delegation of Mexico also asked the Director to provide each delegation with an approximation of their country's contribution to the recommended version of the budget.

Mexico moved provisional approval of the austerity budget in the sum of \$928,314, contingent upon the approval of their government; Japan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

It being past the appointed hour for recess, the chairman did so at 1915.

Wednesday November 14, 1973

AGENDA ITEM 10 - DISCUSSION OF ANNUAL REPORT

After opening the meeting at 0930 the chairman asked the Director to review this item. The Director stated that since the current meeting was being held in November 1973, it was not possible to prepare the 1973 Annual Report for this meeting. He said that as in the past a draft Annual Report will be prepared and mailed to all Commissioners by April 1, 1974. The Director suggested to the Commissioners that because this has been the customary practice for the past three years, this item be deleted from future agendas and the annual report be mailed routinely in April to all national sections.

This was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - RENAMING THE COMMISSION

After being asked by the Chairman to review this item the Director noted that until 1970 the Commission's name accurately reflected the geographic composition of its members. However since membership now includes Japan and France, and since Spain has formally applied for membership, this is no longer the case.

As the subject of changing the name of the Commission has come up in the past several meeting, the Director commented on the procedure which would be required to effect such a change. This procedure is detailed in Background Paper No. 6 the contents of which were reviewed by the Director,

After some considerable discussion of this item, the Mexican delegation, commenting on the fact that the name reflected the location of the resource, expressed their opinion that the name should remain the same. They pointed out, however, that if the geographic extent of the fishery should change substantially then consideration should be given at that time to renaming the Commission.

All delegations agreed with this action.

The chairman recessed the meeting at 1100 hours.

Friday, November 16, 1973

The chairman reconvened the meeting at 2015 hours. He called attention to the fact that a quota had yet to be established for 1974. The delegation of Mexico moved that the establishment of such a quota be deferred until a later meeting of the Commission which tentatively might be held in mid-December. Costa Rica seconded this motion and all sections agreed.

It was also the general consensus of the group that action concerning the marine mammal question brought up under Agenda Item 8 be deferred until the mid-December meeting of the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 12 - PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

After introducing this subject the chairman asked the Director to review the procedure followed by the Commission in the past to establish the place and date of the next meeting. The Director noted that it is the custom to rotate the meeting among members, except that when a new member enters the Commission, the meeting would fall to that country. Because both France and Nicaragua had so recently entered the Commission, ample time to explain this procedure was not available, therefore they were not notified of Commission custom in this regard. The Director explained that the 1974 meeting should fall in this case to Canada. The delegate from Canada indicated that his government would be honored to serve as host for the next meeting. With respect to the dates for the meeting it was suggested by the Canadian Delegation that the last week of October or the first week of November would be most suitable. He indicated that after consulting with his government he would provide the Director with information on the exact location and dates for the meeting. The Director will in turn notify all national sections.

AGENDA ITEM 13 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The chairman opened this item of business by calling for nominations for chairman. The Mexican Delegation nominated Commissioner E. Blyth Young of Canada as chairman. The U.S.A. seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item of business being the election of secretary, the chairman called for nominations. Costa Rica nominated the delegate from Panama. This was seconded and carried unanimously. The Panamamian delegate in accepting this honor explained that she would be unable to serve personally but her government would designate someone to fill this position and notify the Director of this forthwith.

AGENDA ITEM 14 - OTHER BUSINESS

After introducing this subject, there being no other business the chairman moved on the next item.

AGENDA ITEM 15 - ADJOURNMENT

At this juncture in the meeting all delegations expressed their profound thanks to the U.S.A., host government for the meeting, and to the chairman for a job well done.

There being no further business, the chairman adjourned the 29th Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission at 2035 hours, November 16, 1973.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Mr. William ("Bill") M. Terry, Chairman of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and a U.S. Commissioner of the same since 1970, as well as Director of International Affairs, U. S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, died in a tragic accident on May 5, 1973; and

WHEREAS Bill Terry contributed immeasurably over the years to the success of the Commission; and

WHEREAS Bill Terry played an important role in international fishery affairs not only in this Commission but in other international organizations as well, in all of which he proved his worth as a thorough and equitable statesman admired alike by the scientific, political and industrial sectors of the international fishing community; and

WHEREAS Bill Terry's skillful negotiating abilities and his warm personal touch in dealing with complicated and delicate matters will be greatly missed;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED That the IATTC express its condolences to his wife and family by means of this Resolution;

RESOLVED further that the Chairman of the Commission transmit a copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the U. S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

APPENDIX II

The Government of the United States is honored that the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) has accepted its invitation to hold its 29th Meeting in Washington, D. C., and extends to the Commissioners and other participants a very warm welcome. I would like to offer a special welcome to the representatives of France and Nicaragua, the two new members. We are pleased to be the host for this year's meeting, particularly so since the Commission has not returned to Washington since its birth here 24 years ago.

As many of you know, the Commission lost one of its best friends last spring with the tragic death of William M. Terry. For those of us who knew and worked with Bill Terry, his passing was a tremendous personal loss and certainly left a void in the handling of many complex international fisheries problems. I am sure that his participation will be missed in the work of IATTC, a Commission in which he took an active and serious interest for over a decade.

In 1949, when the United States and Costa Rica signed a convention for the establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, an unprecedented experiment was launched. A mechanism was established to protect and manage the rich tuna resources of the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

The Commission, throughout its history, has demonstrated skill and dedication in its work. Since becoming involved in various international conservation arrangements for living resources of the ocean, I have been especially impressed with two aspects of this Commission's efforts. The availability of scientific information and estimates of the status of the resources from the Director of Investigations and his staff is a key factor in the continuation of effective conservation of the yellowfin stocks. Also, the Commission is to be commended for its action in 1966, unprecedented in the history of international fisheries, to implement an international regulatory program before there was evidence of a crisis in the resources. This preventive measure has been responsible for the continued high level of catch in the Regulatory Area. Too often the story in resource management shows little action for conservation until a serious crisis arises. Once this point is reached, the ability to stem the crisis is difficult to develop, and in some cases the resources are depleted to near extinction.

Although this Commission has been uniquely successful in effectively conserving tuna stocks, you are, again this year, faced with a number of complicated issues, three of which in particular must be resolved.

First, is the need to reverse the trend toward smaller and smaller percentage of open season yellowfin catch. As the years have passed, the nature and scope of the tuna fishery have changed dramatically. What began as a fishery composed exclusively of U.S. bait-fishing vessels has now developed into an international fishery by 14 nations, with more countries expected to be involved in the future. Further, the primary method of capturing tuna has shifted from bait-fishing to purse-seining, and the range of the fleet has increased from a few hundred miles offshore to thousands of miles away from the coastline. Throughout this period of

tremendous change, the conservation record of the IATTC has continued to be praiseworthy. The efforts of the Commission and cooperation of its members have resulted in the good health of the yellowfin tuna stocks of the eastern tropical Pacific and have allowed the tuna fisheries of all these members to develop and expand.

The growth in capacity of all fleets and the finite character of the resource make cooperation in establishment of quota arrangements more and more critical. The U. S. tuna fleet has, like those of other nations, benefited from the conservation success of IATTC. The United States has attempted to accommodate the interests and goals of Commission members, recognizing and understanding special problems relative to developing fisheries and problem vessels. Our willingness to recognize others' needs, however, in the form of special quotas and closed season allocations, has resulted in a continuing decline in the percentage of catch available during the open season. Understandably, our fishermen are concerned that there seems to be no end to the trend of reducing this percentage of catch available for free fishing by all nations. We in the United States feel that this trend must be arrested. We feel that it is time for all members to recognize others' needs and to be willing to make appropriate accommodations. We in the United States have had to regulate our fishermen far more strictly than others; many have not had to restrict at all the activities of their fishermen. While we have done this willingly, and while we have recognized special needs, we do not think it fair or just to have to regulate our fishermen even more severely solely so that others can operate without restriction.

It is implicit in any conservation program that fishing activities must be restricted in order to maintain the resources at a certain level, which, according to scientific information, will allow the maximum amount of tuna to be always available. Since all nations fishing the area share in the benefits of healthy resources, it seems only equitable that all likewise share in the sacrifices necessary to maintain them. The viability of an international regime responsible for maintaining a high level of catch, however, may depend upon the extent to which the fishermen of all nations bear the burden of curtailment. This is the hard task which all the nations of this Commission must handle at this session. Should the IATTC fail to continue its conservation efforts, the undeniably disastrous effects on the resource would affect the prosperity of all who now benefit from the Commission's conservation success and would result in a serious decrease in an important source of protein. It is clear that no single nation can unilaterally implement a meaningful conservation program to protect wide-ranging tuna stocks, which are available for capture off others' coasts and thousands of miles out to sea. All nations involved must work together, understanding each other's needs, to manage this highly migratory resource.

The second problem which the United States views with particular concern is the enforcement of the Commission's conservation recommendations by all nations participating in the fishery. It is our hope that the governments represented here will take positive action to establish an international enforcement program. During the past year or so, this problem has developed into a critical situation. This has come about mainly as a result of the increase in the number of vessels fishing the area belonging to countries not members of the IATTC, and of the increase in the number of large vessels able to operate outside the Regulatory Area.

The problem of effective enforcement was once a serious one for the United States in controlling the activities of its own vessels. In the late 1960's, the development of large purse-seining fishing vessels with long-range capability led to difficulties in enforcing the conservation program of the IATTC. Some U.S. vessels were landing yellowfin during the closed season in excess of the incidental catch allowed and claiming that the tuna were taken outside of the Regulatory Area. A system was instituted in 1969, which establishes reporting requirements for U.S. vessels operating outside the Regulatory Area, and uses electronic identification techniques to verify the positions of these vessels. This system has been refined over the years. As a result of this refinement and the vigorous enforcement effort of the U. S. Government, it is today very effective in detecting and preventing violations by U.S. vessels.

Now other countries are acquiring vessels capable of operating beyond the Regulatory Area, making it necessary to verify their locations and, in effect, to regulate their activities. Thus, the IATTC enforcement problem has become critical and international. The U. S. Government is eager to resolve this issue for two reasons. First, it is clear that action must be taken to ensure that all countries participating in the fishery adhere to the regulatory program. If IATTC conservation measures are not strictly observed through international regulation, participated in by all countries, they become worthless; the result would be failure of the Commission's management program.

Second, it is not equitable for the fishermen who are forced to abide by the regulations to suffer in the short-and long-term because of unregulated fishing by others. One standard of enforcement must apply equally to fishermen of all countries. If such a standard is to be a high enough one to be meaningful, it is the United States view that because of the nature of the fishery and of the technical requirements necessary for effective enforcement, it can only be achieved through international cooperation.

We understand the difficulties and complexities involved in executing a meaningful enforcement program, and are certainly willing to cooperate with and assist individual members so all can participate effectively.

The U. S. delegation will make specific proposals concerning this, but let me note that we will make available for the use of all, the technical elements of our system relative to reporting and electronic identification. We hope that others are equally willing, and if this is the case success can be achieved without great difficulty. We urge all involved to demonstrate their concern by taking steps this week to resolve this problem. This is a very serious issue. We are convinced that only positive action, taken very soon, can prevent the erosion of the conservation program of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

New countries fishing the eastern tropical Pacific for tuna in the last few years have added another threat to the conservation program of this Commission. Again it appears the problem is being solved. I am pleased to see that both France and Nicaragua are participating as members for the first time, and I understand that Spain is in the process of applying for membership.

Still another issue facing the Commission which calls for a high degree of cooperation is the need for conservation of the porpoises which assist the purse-seine fishermen in finding schools of yellowfin tuna. The United States first raised this at last year's Commission meeting and mentioned the new U.S. law designed to conserve all marine mammals. The people of the U.S. are deeply concerned about the protection of all marine mammals to insure their continued existence. It seems to me that the self interest of those interested in tuna must lead to a similar concern about porpoises. Tuna fishermen directly benefit from maintaining sufficient numbers of such species as spotted, spinner, and common dolphins which are useful in purse seining for yellowfin tuna in the eastern Pacific. Therefore, we are hopeful that all nations involved can cooperate in the use of fishing methods and gear designed to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate the incidental kill of porpoises.

The United States is more than willing to share with fishermen of all nations information on gear and fishing methods which research has indicated are effective in reducing the number of deaths. Since information on the status of the stocks of porpoises which assist fishermen is not known, one must admit the possibility that they may be declining. I strongly urge the Commission to take action now to conserve these animals. It may be too late if we have to wait for the development of adequate scientific data on the effect of purse seining on porpoise stocks. Let us not take chances. We can only benefit.

I have spoken frankly to you of the issues and problems facing the Commission because we believe that these issues are serious and, at the same time, that the nations represented here are capable of dealing successfully with them. The opportunity to do so is here, now. I shall await with interest the results of your deliberations.

We are happy to have you here in Washington again and offer you a most sincere welcome.

APPENDIX III

Dr. James Joseph
Director of Investigations
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
c/o Scripps Institution of Oceanography
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Dr. Joseph:

As you know, in October of 1972 the President of the United States signed into law the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. Included in the Act are provisions for dealing with the taking of marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing for tuna. You will recall that the late Mr. William Terry described these provisions at last year's Commission meeting in Panama.

It is the goal of the United States Government that the incidental kill or serious injury of marine mammals resulting from tuna fishing be reduced to insignificant levels approaching a zero mortality and serious injury rate. In order to meet this goal, the United States has been conducting research designed to develop fishing methods and gear which will reduce this incidental kill and injury rate.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act directs the United States Government to commence negotiations within the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in order to reduce to the maximum extent feasible the mortality and serious injury of marine mammals caused by vessels of all countries involved in the eastern tropical Pacific tuna fishery. We began these negotiations last year by bringing the requirements of the Act to the attention of the other countries, and we hope to have a thorough discussion of the problem at this year's Commission meeting.

Section 111(c) of the Act also directs the United States Government to request you, as the Director of Investigations of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, to make recommendations to all member nations of the Commission as soon as is practicable regarding the use of fishing methods and gear which the available research indicates is effective in reducing incidental marine mammal mortality and serious injury rate. We consider this letter to constitute such request, and we plan to speak to it again at the Commission meeting in November. We hope it will be possible for you to respond favorably to this request.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Schanes
U.S. Commissioner, Inter-American
Tropical Tuna Commission

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
c/o. Scripps Institution of Oceanography
La Jolla, California 92037

19 September 1973

Ref: 154-160a

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Commissioners

FROM: Director of Investigations

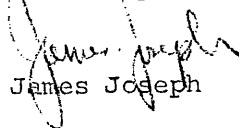
SUBJECT: Commission Meeting of November 1973.

This is to inform you that the next meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission will be held on 12, 13, and 14 of November 1973. The location of the meeting will be in Washington D.C., at the International Conference Suite, Department of State, First Floor, 21st. and C Street N.W. Access to the Conference Suite is through the Diplomatic Entrance at 2201 C Street N.W.

A Provisional Agenda for the meeting, is enclosed. A background document concerning the 1975-1976 Commission budget has already been mailed to you. Other background documents listed on the Provisional Agenda will be available at the opening of the Meeting.

The Government of the United States of America is reserving the same Conference Suite to accommodate the intergovernmental meeting which will be held on 15 and 16 November 1973.

Sincerely yours,


James Joseph

cc. Information copies
to Industry Advisors of all
National Sections.

29TH MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

November 12-14, 1973

Washington D. C., U.S.A.

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Welcome to New Members.
3. Consideration and Adoption of Agenda.
4. Review of Current Research
5. The 1973 Fishing Year. (Background Paper No. 1) - MAC
6. Condition of the Yellowfin stock and the Quota for 1974. DR JJ
(Background Paper No. 2)
7. A Discussion of the Present System of Closing the Fishery. MAL
(Background Paper No. 3)
8. The Porpoise-Tuna Relationship and Associated Problems. ~~MAC~~ CLP
(Background Paper No. 4)
9. Recommended Research Program and Budget for FY 1975/1976. PTT
(Background Paper No. 5)
10. Discussion of Annual Report
11. Renaming the Commission (Background Paper No. 6)
12. Place and Date of Next Meeting.
13. Election of Officers.
14. Other Business.
15. Adjournment.

American Tunaboat Association

Membership comprised exclusively of American Tunaboat Owners

1 Tuna Lane

San Diego, California 92101

November 5, 1973

TO: ✓ James Joseph, IATTC
Bill Fox, NMFS
Charles Carry, Tuna Research Foundation
Anthony Pisano, Fishermen's Cooperative Association
John Real, Star-Kist Foods, Inc.
Pete Buchan, Van Camp Sea Foods Company
Dick Hodgkins, Westgate Terminals, Inc.
Janous Marks, Westgate-California Foods, Inc.
Carl Marino, Cannery Workers & Fishermen's Union
John Royal, Fishermen's Union #33, I.L.W.U.
Ralph Spinello, Seine & Line Fishermen's Union

FROM: August Felando, General Manager

As I advised you last Friday, November 2, enclosed you find the A.T.A. proposal. I have omitted the customary and usual preamble clauses generally found in the IATTC Resolutions.

AF/mel

Enclosure

NOV 6 1973

American Tunaboat Association

Membership comprised exclusively of American Tunaboat Owners

1 Tuna Lane

San Diego, California 92101

RESOLUTION

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

(Preamble Clause omitted)

Therefore recommends to the High Contracting Parties that they take joint action to:

1. Establish during the experimental fishing season, which shall commence on January 1, 1974, unrestricted fishing for Yellowfin Tuna in the Commission's Yellowfin Regulatory Area (CYRA) as defined in Item ___, hereinafter, provided:

a. That if the annual catch rate of certain tuna vessels, representative of all vessel size classes engaged in the Yellowfin Tuna Fishery, within the CYRA as defined in Item ___, have sustained a decline in catch rate to the level of _____ short tons per standard day's fishing, and that further unrestricted fishing for Yellowfin Tuna would result in a determination by the Director of Investigation that the projected annual catch rate of such vessels for 1975 would fall below _____ short tons per standard day's fishing, the Director of Investigations shall call a Special Meeting of the Commission.

b. At such Special Meeting of the Commission, the Director of Investigations shall advise of the then current estimate of equilibrium yield and of a date when unrestricted fishing for Yellowfin Tuna should be closed.

2. Exclude for the experimental fishing season from the CYRA the area defined as follows: (same as 1973)

3. Obtain by appropriate measure the cooperation of those governments whose vessels operate in the fishery, but which are not parties to the Convention for the establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, to put into effect these conservation measures.

LIST OF ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE
INCEPTION OF IATTC

I ANNUAL MEETING

San Diego, California
July 18, 1950

Chairman: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper
Secretary: Mr. Milton James

II ANNUAL MEETING

San José, Costa Rica
Feb. 1, 1951

Chairman: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper
Secretary: Mr. M. C. James

III ANNUAL MEETING

San Diego, California
Sept. 1, 1951

Chairman: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper
Secretary: Mr. M. C. James

IV ANNUAL MEETING

San José, Costa Rica
August 13, 1952

Acting Chairman: Mr. Lee F. Payne
Secretary: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper

V ANNUAL MEETING

San Diego, Calif.
August 14, 1953

Chairman: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper
Secretary: Dr. J. L. Kask

VI ANNUAL MEETING

San José, Costa Rica
August 11, 1954

Chairman: Mr. Lee F. Payne
Secretary: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper

VII ANNUAL MEETING

Panama City, Panama
July 14, 1955

Acting Chairman: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper
Secretary: Col. John L. Farley

VIII ANNUAL MEETING

San Diego, California
July 30, 1956

Chairman: Mr. Miguel A. Corro
Secretary: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper

IX ANNUAL MEETING

San José, Costa Rica
March 12, 1957

Chairman: Mr. Lee F. Payne
Secretary: Mr. Miguel A. Corro

X ANNUAL MEETING

Panama City, Panama
February 11, 1958

Chairman: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper
Secretary: Mr. Gordon W. Sloan

XI ANNUAL MEETING

San Pedro, California
February 5, 1959

Acting Chairman: Mr. L. F. Payne
Secretary: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper

XII ANNUAL MEETING

San José, Costa Rica
February 23-24, 1960

Chairman: Mr. Robert L. Jones
Secretary: Mr. J. L. de Obarrio

XIII ANNUAL MEETING

Panama City, Panama
February 23-24, 1961

Chairman: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper
Secretary: Mr. Arnie J. Suomela

XIV ANNUAL MEETING (Special)

Long Beach, California
Sept. 14, 1961

Chairman: Mr. J. L. de Obarrio
Secretary: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper

XV ANNUAL MEETING

Quito, Ecuador
May 16-18, 1962

Chairman: Mr. J. L. de Obarrio
Secretary: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper

XVI ANNUAL MEETING

Panama City, Panama
April 16-17, 1963

Chairman: Mr. Eugene D. Bennett
Secretary: Lic. Cesar Raza

XVII ANNUAL MEETING
San Diego, California
18-19 March, 1964

Chairman: Dr. Enrique Ponce y Cargo
Acting Chairman: Capt. Hector Chiriboga
Secretary: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper

* XVIII ANNUAL MEETING
Mexico City, Mexico
23-24 March, 1965

Chairman: Mr. Mauro Cárdenas
Secretary: Mr. Carlos López-Guevara

XVIII ANNUAL MEETING
Guayaquil, Ecuador
19-20 April, 1966

Chairman: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper
Secretary: Dr. Rodolfo Ramírez Granados

XIX ANNUAL MEETING
San José, Costa Rica
4 April, 1967

Chairman: Mr. J. L. de Obarrio
Secretary: Dr. J. McHugh

XX ANNUAL MEETING
Panama City, Panama
2-4 April, 1968

Chairman: Mr. Eugene D. Bennett
Secretary: Mr. Wilson H. Vela

XXI ANNUAL MEETING
San Diego, California
18-22 March, 1969

Chairman: Dr. A. W. H. Needler
Acting Chairman: Mr. E. B. Young
Secretary: Dr. J. L. McHugh

XXII ANNUAL MEETING
Ottawa, Canada
22-23 April, 1970

Chairman: Dr. A. W. H. Needler
Secretary: Dr. J. L. McHugh

XXIII ANNUAL MEETING
San José, Costa Rica
5-6-7-20 January, 1971

Chairman: José L. Cardona-Cooper
Secretary: Mr. Joaquín Mercado, México

ANNUAL MEETING (SPECIAL)
Mexico City, Mexico
20 February, 1971

Chairman: Mr. Yuichi Hayashi, Japan
Secretary: Mr. Joaquín Mercado, México

XXIV ANNUAL MEETING
Tokyo, Japan
6-7 January, 1972

Chairman: Dr. Fumihiko Suzuki, Japan
Secretary: Mr. Joaquín Mercado, México

XXVII COMMISSION MEETING
Panama, Rep. de Panama
7, 8, and 9 November 1972

Chairman Mr. Juan L. De Obarrio
Secretary: Mr. J. L. Cardona-Cooper

XXVIII COMMISSION MEETING
San Diego, California
20 December 1972

Chairman: Mr. William Terry
Secretary: Mr. Shigemi-Ando

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Because II and III Annual Meetings were held the same year. III Annual Meeting was a special meeting not an Annual Meeting. (Changed by Dr. Kask, Director)

RESOLUCION

- CONSIDERANDO que el Sr. William ("Bill") M. Terry, Presidente de la Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical y delegado de los E.U., de la misma desde 1970, como también Director de Asuntos Internacionales, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, murió en un trágico accidente el 5 de mayo 1973; y
- CONSIDERANDO que Bill Terry contribuyó inmensamente durante todos estos años al éxito de la Comisión; y
- CONSIDERANDO que Bill Terry desempeñó una parte importante en los asuntos pesqueros internacionales, no solamente en esta Comisión, pero también en otras organizaciones internacionales, en las cuáles demostró su incomparable capacidad como estadista honorable e íntegro, admirado tanto por los sectores científicos, políticos e industriales de la comunidad pesquera internacional; y
- CONSIDERANDO la gran falta que nos hará la habilidad y la experiencia demostrada por Bill Terry en las negociaciones y su simpatía personal y entereza al tratar asuntos delicados y complicados;
- Por lo tanto se
- RESUELVE que la CIAT exprese su condolencia a su esposa y familia mediante esta Resolución;
- RESUELVE además, que el Presidente de la Comisión envíe una copia de esta resolución al Administrador del U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.