

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101ST MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada

7 -11 August 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. General presentation of proposals submitted by Members on resolutions and others	
4. a. The fishery in 2022 and status of the tuna and billfish stocks	IATTC-101-01
b. Review of the Commission staff's research	IATTC-101-02
c. Report and recommendations of the 14 th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee	IATTC-101-03
d. Conservation recommendations by the Commission staff	IATTC-101-04
5. Reports of subsidiary bodies and working groups:	
a. 5 th Workshop of an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO	
b. 1 st Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch	
c. 7 th Meeting of the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Group on FADs	
d. 10 th Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance	
e. 24 th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity	
f. 14 th Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission	
6. Discussion of resolutions or recommendations	
7. Election of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Commission	
8. Election of Chairs of subsidiary bodies and working groups	
9. Other business	
10. Place and date of next meeting	
11. Adjournment	

APPENDICES

1.	List of attendees	
2.	RESOLUTIONS	
2a	Amendment to Resolution C-21-01 on a long-term management framework for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean	C-23-01
2b	Amendment to harvest strategy for north Pacific albacore tuna	C-23-02
2c	Amendment to Resolution C-99-07 on fish-aggregating devices	C-23-03
2d	On the design and biodegradability of drifting fish-aggregating devices (dFADs) in the IATTC area of competence	C-23-04
2e	Amendment to Resolution C-19-01 on the collection and analyses of data on fish aggregating devices	C-23-05
2f	Amendment to Resolution C-16-02 on Harvest Control Rules for tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack)	C-23-06
2g	Conservation measures for the protection and sustainable management of sharks	C-23-07
2h	Conservation measures for shark species, with special emphasis on the silky shark	C-23-08

	(<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>), for the years 2024 and 2025	
2i	Research for the management of dolphinfish (dorado) (<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>)	C-23-09
2j	On climate change	C-23-10
2k	Amendment to Resolution C-14-02 on the establishment of a vessel monitoring system (VMS)	C-23-11
2l	Financing for fiscal year 2024	C-23-12
<hr/>		
3.	PROPOSALS (not adopted)	
3a	A-4 United States. Amendment to Resolution C-21-04 on FADs	
3b	B-1 European Union. Bluefin tuna	
3c	F-1 Ecuador. Observers on longliners	
3d	G-1 Ecuador. South Pacific albacore tuna	
<hr/>		
4	REPORTS	
4a	Report of the 5 th Workshop of an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO	
4b	Report of the 1 st Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch	
4c	Report of the 7 th Meeting of the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Group on FADs	
4d	Report of the 10 th Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance	
4e	Report of the 24 th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity	
4f	Report of the 14 th Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission	
<hr/>		
5	OTHER	
5a	Bolivia's statement on capacity	

The 101st meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was held in Victoria, B.C., Canada, on 7-11 August 2023. The attendees are listed in **Appendix 1**.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the IATTC, Mr. Alfonso Miranda, of Peru, who thanked Canada for the kind invitation to the beautiful city of Victoria, B.C. to hold the 101st meeting of the IATTC.

He recalled that the meeting was a face-to-face meeting, but that arrangements had been made to allow virtual participation by accredited delegates, adding that a representative present in the room could request that another member of their delegation participating remotely be given the floor. He noted with satisfaction the presence of representatives of 20 Members, with the sole exception of Kiribati, and the presence in person of two Cooperating non-Members—Chile and Liberia—as well as Bolivia participating remotely.

Pursuant to paragraph 10 of the IATTC Rules of Procedure, Mr. Julio Guevara, of Nicaragua, was appointed rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes. Bolivia announced that it would make a statement under item 9, "Other business", on the allocation of capacity to its country.

3. General presentation of proposals submitted by Members on resolutions and others

Following a well-established practice, Members who had submitted resolution proposals were given the opportunity to present them, which allowed for the process of consideration and discussion of these proposals to begin without delay, before reaching agenda item 6.

A total of 20 proposals were presented on the following topics: FADs (5), bluefin tuna (2), sharks (6), VMS satellite monitoring system, tuna harvest control rule, observers on longliners, north Pacific albacore tuna, dorado, climate change, and south Pacific albacore tuna.

4. a. The fishery in 2022 and status of the tuna and billfish stocks

Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva, IATTC Coordinator of Scientific Research, made a detailed presentation on the item under consideration, based on Document [IATTC-101-01](#), which provides an overview of the status of the fishery in 2022.

From the discussions that followed this presentation, it is worth recalling in particular the interventions made by several Members who, without wishing to prejudge the discussion on the proposed resolution on the subject, stressed their interest in the participation of the IATTC staff and its contribution to the assessment and management of the dorado (mahi mahi) stock, which is not only highly migratory but also of great importance to several EPO coastal States.

With regard to bluefin tuna, the presentation by the Coordinator of Scientific Research was followed by a presentation by Ms. Dorothy Lowman of the United States, Co-Chair of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna, to report on the results of its 8th meeting, which was held in Fukoka, Japan, in July 2023. Mexico and Japan thanked Ms. Lowman for her presentation and expressed their satisfaction with the status of Pacific bluefin tuna.

In addition, Mr. Brad Wiley, of the Secretariat, who had participated in the technical meeting of the JWG on Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) held in Fukuoka on 3 July 2023, reported that the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group was undertaking a process to develop budgetary and administrative considerations for an electronic Catch Documentation Scheme (e-CDS) for Pacific bluefin tuna, with the aim of implementing it in both RFMOs.

China commented that an e-CDS system should be streamlined to be useful in its markets and that the costs should be borne primarily by importers through a system of cost recovery related to catch and trade; and that prior notification would be required to implement a CDS for PBF because it would face domestic regulatory issues before being ready for implementation. The European Union raised a procedural issue stating that this matter should not be further developed by the Joint Working Group before it has been discussed in the context of the IATTC. It noted that the options that the JWG was seeking to advance could have implications for the Commission and that it was necessary to discuss these issues before moving forward. Japan noted that the JWG would be meeting in the coming months and that the next CDS Technical Working Group would meet in Japan in July or August 2024 and encouraged those interested in the issue to attend.

Mexico stated that the CDS discussions were still at a very early stage and that it was important for the IATTC Secretariat to participate in both the CDS Working Group meetings and the informal CDS Working Group, which was working virtually. The Secretariat stated that it was intended that IATTC staff would attend both meetings in the future.

The Commission indicated that these comments would be included in the comments and questions submitted to the Secretariat, which would be compiled and sent to the Co-Chairs of the Joint Working Group.

4b. Review of the Commission staff's research

The Coordinator of Scientific Research, Dr. Aires-da-Silva, presented [Document IATTC-101-02 - Staff Activities and Research Plan](#), detailing the staff work and research plans for 2019-2023 and beyond, within the framework of the Strategic Science Plan (SSP) that was approved by the Commission at its 93rd meeting (see Document [IATTC-93-06a](#)). He reminded the participants that the SSP comprises seven main areas of research, namely:

1. Data collection for scientific support of management
2. Life history studies for scientific support of management
3. Sustainable fisheries
4. Ecological impacts of fishing: assessment and mitigation

5. Interactions among the environment, ecosystem, and fisheries
6. Knowledge transfer and capacity building
7. Scientific excellence

The Commission expressed its appreciation for this presentation and its desire to see the work of these various projects and programmed activities, which had already been reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee, carried out in the most efficient manner possible. It also decided that this research plan should be extended for one year so that the ongoing projects could be fully implemented. Among these are benchmark stock assessments for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack, as well as a proposed harvest strategy for bigeye. All this work is planned for 2024 when the Commission will discuss and adopt new conservation measures for tropical tuna.

Considering that the ongoing 5-year cycle (2019-2023) of the current Strategic Science Plan (SSP) concludes in 2023, the staff had planned to propose the elements of the next SSP to the Commission in 2024. However, taking into account the staff's heavy assessment workload planned for tropical tuna in 2024, the Commission supported that a new SSP be presented and discussed in 2025. This discussion should consider both the achievements and shortcomings of the previous 2019-2023 SSP.

Delegations from Central America insisted on their desire to work on dorado (mahi mahi) with the active support of the scientific staff; and many delegations insisted, as in other years, on the need to improve data on the longline fleet, given that only 5% observer coverage is available.

4c. Report and recommendations of the 14th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee

The Director, Dr. Arnulfo L. Franco, , reported on the 14th SAC meeting held in May 2023, which he chaired. He drew the attention of the participants to the following points:

- The recommendations that have been adopted by the SAC for consideration and approval by the Commission. The text of these recommendations can be found in Document [IATTC-101-03 - Recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee \(SAC\) to the Commission](#).
- the recommendations of the Bycatch Working Group and the FAD Working Group, as discussed and approved by the SAC, the text of which can be found in the SAC recommendations document referred to in the previous paragraph.

These recommendations were generally endorsed by the Commission, and some were considered in the formulation and adoption of resolutions, specifically:

- **Dorado** (SAC recommendation 5). Undertake work to assess and manage the dorado stock. The Commission approved Resolution C-23-09 for this purpose.
- **Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP)** (SAC recommendation 7.4a). Continue the Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP) for bigeye catches through, among others, securing financing for the continuation of EMP operations in 2024 considering that the resolution on tuna conservation extends to 2024. The Commission decided to continue this work at least until 2024.
- **FADs** (SAC recommendation 8). That the Commission clarify if vessels other than authorized purse seiners could carry out this recovery and under what circumstances (...). The Commission approved Resolution C-23-03 considering this clarification.
- **Best handling and release practices for vulnerable species** (SAC recommendation 9d). Prohibit the removal of shark fins on board vessels, requiring fins be naturally attached to the shark carcass until the first point of landing for consistency and compatibility throughout the Pacific Ocean, taking into account the measures adopted by the WCPFC (CMM 2022-04); The Commission adopted Resolution C-23-07, one of the paragraphs of which defines the issue of shark finning.

- **Climate change** (SAC recommendation 11 and EBWG rec. 7). That climate change be included as a standing agenda item for SAC Annual Meetings going forward. The Commission approved Resolution C-23-10, which addresses this purpose.
- **Biodegradable FADs** (recommendations 1.1-1.7 of the FAD Working Group). The Commission approved Resolution C-23-04, which considers the gradual use of biodegradable FADs.
- **Non-entangling FADs** (recommendation 2.1 of the FAD Working Group). The Commission adopted an amendment to Resolution C-19-01 to require the use of non-entangling FADs beginning in 2025.
- **Tropical tuna management strategy evaluation (MSE).** The Commission agreed to continue support and secure funding for MSE for tropical tunas in 2024 and beyond, following the guidance provided in resolutions C-16-02 and C-19-07; the Commission recognized the need that permanent support to the MSE process be guaranteed through multiannual funding as well as through ensuring the necessary human resources. This would include also MSE work down on other species, as determined by the Commission. The Commission approved the appointment, on a permanent basis, of Dr. Juan Valero, in the position of Harvest Strategy Scientist.

4d. Conservation recommendations by the Commission staff

The Coordinator of Scientific Research, Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva, referred to [Document IATTC-101-04 - Staff Recommendations to the Commission](#) and made a summary presentation of these recommendations.

The European Union asked how it could assist in the process of refining the stock assessment for next year. In general terms, the Secretariat noted that periodic reviews of stock assessment schemes are carried out with the participation of world-class scientists, so it is necessary to continue to carry them out and to have the budgetary support of the IATTC.

Nicaragua referred to the Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP). It recalled that during the discussions in 2021, the program was presented in the context that there were about 20 vessels that had significant catches of bigeye tuna, so it wanted to know if that information had already been obtained through the program and why the regular port sampling program that has been in place for years could not be used to avoid costs.

The Secretariat informed them that there is a difference between the two programs. The regular program, which is decades old, was not designed to estimate catches at the trip level, but to provide information for fleet-wide estimates. The EMP responds to the requirements of the tuna conservation resolution to have bigeye catch estimates at the trip level and is executed in parallel.

Japan noted that the pilot phase of the program had been completed and that the EMP had been in place since March and expressed support for its continued implementation. However, Japan recalled that Resolution C-21-04 requires vessels exceeding the 1,200-ton threshold to observe additional days of closure and requested information on the number of vessels exceeding that threshold in 2022 and 2021. The Secretariat informed them that in 2021, 14 vessels (9 from Ecuador, 3 from Panama and 2 from El Salvador) exceeded the first threshold and had to observe an additional 8 days of closure, while in 2022, according to the official reports received from the CPCs, no vessel exceeded the bigeye thresholds. It was clarified that, while the EMP provides the information used by Commission staff to develop the catch estimates for consideration by the CPCs, it is the responsibility of each CPC to determine the source of information and methodology for the final estimates of bigeye catches by its flag vessels and to inform the Secretariat when the thresholds established in the resolution are exceeded.

5. Reports of subsidiary bodies and working groups

a. 5th Workshop of an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO

Mr. Brad Wiley, of the Secretariat, in his capacity as Chair of the workshops on an electronic monitoring system in the EPO, presented a general report on the workshops held over the past two years to discuss the issue at an informal level and to provide input for the work of the Working Group established by Resolution [C-22-07 Establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Electronic Monitoring](#).

He reported that the workshops were conducted in the context of the terms of reference adopted by the Commission in Resolution C-21-02 for a series of workshops aimed at exploring in depth the necessary aspects of an eventual EMS program to be approved by Members. The objectives of these workshops were not only to gather conclusions and recommendations on the topics discussed, but also to educate the participants and to foster communication and work towards a common understanding among stakeholders on EM issues. The full reports of these workshops are available on the IATTC website. He also noted that a sixth workshop would be held at a date to be determined.

The European Union requested that, in the future, this type of report be presented with the support of Power Point presentations, which would effectively illustrate the main points that should be the focus of attention of the participants in this process. Chile mentioned its extensive experience in EM and offered its support in this regard. PEW stressed the importance of continuing the ongoing work to develop an EMS in the EPO.

Finally, the Commission approved the appointment of Ms. Celia Barroso of the United States and Mr. Guillermo Morán of Ecuador as Co-Chairs of the Working Group, who were the only candidates nominated and in accordance with the acceptance of this appointment by both countries, as the CPCs had been informed prior to this meeting.

b. 1st Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG)

Mr. Manuel Correia, of Venezuela, as Co-Chair of the Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG), presented his report of the first meeting of the group held in La Jolla, California, on 11-12 May 2023.

He also informed that the recommendations of the EBWG were presented to the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, which took note of them and decided to present them for consideration by the IATTC. These recommendations are included in the working document of the 101st meeting of the IATTC entitled [IATTC-101-03 - Recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee \(SAC\) to the Commission](#).

There were no comments on this report and its presentation, and the recommendations were approved by the Commission.

c. 7th Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs

Dr. Josu Santiago, Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs, reported on its 7th meeting held in May 2023 and provided a detailed presentation of the recommendations adopted by the Working Group, which are contained in Document [IATTC-101-03 - Recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee \(SAC\) to the Commission](#), as subsequently approved by the SAC.

The Commission endorsed the recommendations presented in the report.

In response to a question from the delegate of Vanuatu about the life span of a biodegradable FAD, the representative of the ISC recalled that a roundtable on the subject would be held that same day.

d. 10th Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance

Mr. Ryan Wulff, in his capacity as alternate Chair of the 10th meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance, presented his report to the IATTC meeting noting that the meeting was held on 2 and 3 August 2023 in the city of Victoria, B.C. He commented that the Committee issued the following recommendations:

- 1) The Committee supported and thanked the request submitted by Panama, as set out in Document [CAF-10 INF-A](#), for the Commission to provide, by the end of this annual meeting, specific

documentation on Panama's outstanding debt in order to facilitate the establishment of a payment plan that would allow the payment of all outstanding contributions by 2027.

- 2) There were requests from Panama, El Salvador, Belize and Colombia to allow exemptions from the application of the contribution formula in C-15-05 regarding the GNI factor for 2024. There was no consensus in the Committee to support these requests, but there was support for a request, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Resolution C-15-05, that this resolution be reviewed at the next annual meeting of the Commission.
- 3) The Committee thanked the Secretariat for its report on the use of the Special Fund for Capacity Building and approved the recommended program for the coming year, as described in Section 4 of Document [CAF-10-02 - Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building](#).
- 4) The Committee thanked the Secretariat for its presentation on the transshipment program and approved the proposal to:
 - a. Adopt a budget of US\$ 1,100,000 for 2024, assuming that projections of expenditures to be incurred are accurate. In this case, only a contribution of US\$ 500,000 would be required from the participants, to be allocated according to the agreed formula and supplemented by funds from the accumulated surplus of the observer program to monitor transshipments at sea.
 - b. Maintain a contingency fund of approximately US\$ 300,000 with the contributions and use of the aforementioned surpluses.
- 5) The Committee took note of the 2022 audit and discussed at length the manner in which it was presented and how it reflected the Commission's financial policies and regulations, noting inaccuracies in the audit report, in addition to the fact that the same audit firm has been used for many years, which is not advisable. The Secretariat indicated that it had already initiated a process to review the financial regulations, including the audit process. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat continue to work with the Committee during this review and take into account the concerns raised in the discussion so that this can be considered at next year's meeting.
- 6) The Committee expressed its disagreement with the proposed budget for 2024 and, in particular, requested clarification on the underutilization of funds in 2022 and previous years. It requested the Secretariat to:
 - a. Report on the funds remaining from budget execution in 2022 and previous years, and on the current status of the General Fund.
 - b. Prepare a budget scenario for 2024 for the amount requested by the Secretariat but with contributions frozen at the same level as last year (instead of using the formula established in Resolution C-15-05) and estimate the amount of the general fund carryover that would be needed to finance the difference between this income and anticipated expenses.
 - c. Prepare another scenario, based on a thorough review of all budget areas where there has been repeated underutilization of approved funds, to suggest possible reductions in those items in 2024, while also calculating how much should be carried over from the general fund to finance any difference between income and expenses.

In the discussion that followed the presentation of the report, the Commission raised the issue of the cost of the Commission meetings, which had increased considerably, as Japan pointed out. The Secretariat reported that, in previous years, Members hosting these meetings had also voluntarily covered the travel and accommodation expenses of the IATTC staff, but that this practice had ceased about six years ago.

Nicaragua regretted that there was no general awareness of this cessation, since this type of expense had been one of the reasons why it had declined to host the annual meeting of the Commission; it asked that, in any case, rules be established on this matter that would be universally respected. The Commission expressed itself in the same sense and specifically stated that a maximum amount of expenses should be established at the time of selecting hotels or other facilities as venues for its meetings, in order to avoid excessive expenses.

Another topic addressed by the Commission, at its request, was the financial situation of the Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP). Its coordinator, Ms. Cristina De la Cadena, presented an oral report on the budget execution for 2022 and 2023 to date. She also presented the proposed budget for 2024 in the amount of US\$ 734,000. In general terms, she noted that the program completed its pilot phase in February 2023 and has been implementing the protocol developed to provide estimates of bigeye catches per trip since March.

During the discussion that followed the presentation, some delegations questioned the use of the program for compliance, noting that it should be focused on science. In this regard, the Secretariat recalled that the EMP allows the provision of independent estimates with a coefficient of variation, which is not possible with the other data sources. The Secretariat also recalled that, in any case, Resolution C-21-04 clearly states that it is the responsibility of each CPC to determine the amount of bigeye tuna catches corresponding to each vessel flying its flag. But the biggest question was the cost of the program, which several delegations considered to be very high. In particular, they questioned the high cost of paying samplers and asked the Secretariat to reduce this cost. Ecuador offered to provide government staff to assist with sampling as an alternative to reducing the number of staff in the program and therefore the costs. In conclusion, the Secretariat offered to prepare and present a document next year with a cost-benefit analysis of the program, and several delegations expressed their willingness to continue the program in 2024, as long as efficiencies in expenditures were sought to reduce costs.

With regard to the budget of the Commission, the Commission, after considering and discussing various scenarios for the use of unused funds from previous years, decided to approve the budget for 2024, freezing the contributions of Members at the 2023 level. It also approved compensation for the three Members (France, Japan and Peru) whose frozen contributions would be higher than the 2024 level that would result from the application of the formula established in Resolution C-15-05.

Thus, the Commission approved the budget for fiscal year 2024 in the total amount of US\$ 9,514,323 and also agreed that:

- The total amount of Member contributions in 2024 would be US\$ 8,133,837.
- A total amount of US\$ 1,380,486 would be taken from unspent resources from previous years:
 - US\$ 734,000 for the Enhanced Monitoring Program and
 - US\$ 646,485 to cover the difference between the contributions frozen at their 2023 level and the contributions that should have been made according to the formula established in Resolution C-15-05.
- All of the above amounts to a total to be executed in 2024.

It was also agreed that:

- It should not become common practice to use unused funds to cover special situations arising from the application of the formula established for calculating the annual contributions of Members.

- The Secretariat must report when the expenses incurred are greater than those approved in the annual budget in order to avoid deficits.
- Savings should be sought in the implementation of the Enhanced Monitoring Program.

e. 14th Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission

Mr. Luis Molledo, Chair of the Committee, reported on its 14th meeting. He emphasized that the Committee had adopted a new format for reviewing the performance of Members and Cooperating non-Members, which allowed it to significantly expedite this work and to adapt to the mandates of Resolution [C-22-02](#). He also provided a detailed presentation of the Committee's recommendations included in Appendix 4f, all of which were subsequently adopted by the Commission.

Recommendations to the staff

1. To ensure that the initial Report on Compliance prepared by the Secretariat is presented as 'Provisional Compliance Overview' and the Compliance Compendium as 'Draft Provisional Compliance Report', respectively, until they have been endorsed by the Committee.
2. To generalize in the Report on Compliance the inclusion of background information covering compliance over the previous five years and the use of color-coded tables, including on missing reporting obligations.
3. To replace any reference to 'verified infractions' with 'possible non-compliance issues' in the compliance documents prepared by the Secretariat.
4. (a) To circulate quarterly information to CPCs on changes to the IATTC Final IUU Vessel List related to the cross-listing procedure of Resolution C-19-02.
(b) Ensure CPCs are given 30 days to object or comment before including cross-listed vessels to be added to the IATTC List.
5. To ensure that the most recent titles of the IATTC Resolutions are referenced in the documents prepared by the Secretariat.
6. To include in the Provisional Compliance Overview and the Draft Provisional Compliance Report a review of compliance by CPCs with the Resolution on financing.
7. To ensure that the Draft Compliance Report includes for each resolution a list of those CPCs who did not provide the relevant reports or failed to meet the reporting obligations necessary to assess compliance.
8. To task the Secretariat to produce a document for discussion at the 47th Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP on the provisions applicable rules to transit waivers, specifically the possible elimination of the requirement for waivers for transits between neighboring ports of the same CPC.
9. To align the structure and order of the presentation of the Draft Compliance Overview with the Draft Provisional Compliance Report to facilitate cross references and consultations, including the introduction of numbered sections.
10. The data provided in the Compliance Report must be from the last 5 years.
11. To strengthen information provided to CPCs of the deadlines applicable to the reporting obligations including by posting on the IATTC webpage, and circulated to CPCs, a document listing all reporting deadlines for the upcoming year and with a system of notifications.
12. The Secretary shall distribute the written reports received from the CPCs related to unresolved cases before the next meeting of the Committee.

Recommendations to the Committee

13. To continue to include a permanent item on the agenda of the Committee on possible improvements to the compliance process, including on possible actions to reduce reporting burden for both CPCs and the Secretariat.
14. To ensure the timely drafting and distribution of the reports of the meetings of the Committee

15. To consider as possible very serious non-compliance cases, the following:
 - a. Harassment and safety of observers;
 - b. Fishing during a closure period;
 - c. Failure to provide catch and effort data;
 - d. Observer coverage and the related reporting obligations;
 - e. The systematic and repeated failure to provide the Compliance questionnaire.

The list is non-exhaustive nor indicative and it will continue to be developed by the Committee.

Recommendations to the CPCs

16. To further highlight the importance that the minimum percentage of observer coverage in longliners is met and recall the need to ensure data collection to promote the long-term sustainability of the stocks.
17. To ensure that observers on-board are provided with the same status as the crew as a standard practice.
18. To invite CPCs to provide more information in their replies regarding the circumstances surrounding possible lack of compliance (e.g., lack of time, capacity issues, lack of understanding of the obligations, etc.).
19. To invite CPCs to provide a list of the investigations undertaken to address possible non-compliance of the IATTC Resolutions, no matter the source of the information that initiated the investigation.
20. To recall CPCs of the importance to timely submit the compliance questionnaires and provide the necessary feedback to the possible compliance issues identified by the Secretariat to ensure the task of the Committee.

Recommendations to the Commission

21. To review Resolution C-22-03 to include the use of methodologies and equipment that could increase the accuracy of the estimated weight calculated by observers.
22. (a) To send a letter by the Director to Vanuatu, Kiribati and Honduras recalling the need to provide the compliance questionnaire, meet the reporting obligations and attend the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies pursuant to the Antigua Convention and the relevant IATTC resolutions.
(b) Task the Secretariat to contact those three CPCs directly to better understand the causes of this situation.
23. In the future, where CPCs are unable to meet the minimum percentage of observer coverage in longliners due to sanitary reasons, for example pandemics, they should at a minimum notify the other CPCs and the Secretariat beforehand of the specific circumstances applicable.
24. To establish a mechanism to address pending compliance issues during the annual meeting or intersessionally for those CPCs who did not participate in or fulfill their obligations to engage properly with the Committee and the Commission on compliance matters.
25. To adopt the IATTC IUU Vessel List as established in document COR 14-04.
26. a. To renew the Cooperating non-Member Status to Liberia, Chile and Bolivia
b. To defer the discussion on the renewal of Indonesia to the Commission noting that they meet all the necessary requirements, but requesting their virtual attendance at the annual meeting before a decision is taken.
c. To discuss the renewal of Honduras pending a possible request submitted by Honduras in time for its discussion at the 101st meeting of Commission, noting that no request was submitted to the 14th meeting of the Committee.

The Commission took note of these recommendations and approved them. With respect to Cooperating non-Members, the Commission decided to renew their status but to request Honduras and Indonesia to attend future meetings of the IATTC and its subsidiary bodies.

In addition, the Provisional Compliance Report (previously called " Compendium") was adopted as the Final Compliance Report.

Several delegations took the opportunity to emphasize that the Committee meeting demonstrated a continuing trend towards better compliance with the measures adopted by the Commission, as well as a better response by Members and Cooperating non-Members to cases of possible non-compliance.

f. 24th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Julio Guevara, of Nicaragua, presented the report of the 24th meeting (Appendix 4e).

- (i) He noted that the main focus of the meeting had been the presentation by the consultant, Dr. Dale Squires, on the progress made in the development of a proposal for an action plan on fleet capacity based on a scheme of transferable fishing days, the main components of which he presented again. In particular, he recalled that this proposal was for a three-year pilot project, the results of which would enable the Commission to decide whether it should be continued and, if so, what adjustments might be necessary. He reiterated that the main advantage of the scheme would be the elimination of the closure periods and the possibility for the purse-seine fleet to operate all year round, with the consequent advantage of a continuous supply to the processing plants.

The criticisms of the proposal made by several Members can be summarized as follows:

- The scheme favors companies that have several vessels among which they can transfer fishing days.
- The scheme disadvantages CPCs that do not have vessels and therefore could not be allocated a number of transferable fishing days.
- The concentration of fishing days on the most efficient vessels, together with the elimination of closure periods, indicates more intensive fishing and an increase in catches, which also requires analysis by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

With regard to the process for developing the plan, the importance of taking into account all practical aspects, as pointed out by several delegations, entailed the need for a consultation process with fishermen and vessel owners, as well as other interested parties. In this regard, Dr. Franco, Director of the Commission, noted that a workshop with representatives of the CPCs and the fishing sector would be held in Panama in January 2024, the cost of which would be covered by extra-budgetary funds provided by the United States.

- (ii) On the other hand, the Chair of the Working Group reported that Costa Rica, Colombia, Bolivia, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Mexico had taken the opportunity to recall their capacity requests.
- (iii) Finally, he noted that the Group decided to submit the following recommendations to the Commission:
- Request the IATTC scientific staff to analyze whether the reduction of more than 10,000 m³ of operative capacity in recent years could imply a reduction in the number of closure days, taking into account that this number was set on the basis of additional closure days for each 1,000 m³ of capacity added to the Regional Vessel Register.
 - Request the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), with the support of the scientific staff, to update the analysis to determine the maximum capacity limit as the optimal target for the operation of the purse-seine fleet fishing for tropical tunas in the EPO.
 - Request the consultant to update his proposal to include, among other things, an analysis based on the comments and concerns expressed by CPCs at this and previous meetings, consideration

of the impact of implementing the scheme, the issue of participation by CPCs that do not currently have a purse-seine fleet, the issue of transitioning from the current management of fleet capacity in the IATTC to a transferable fishing days scheme, the definition and implementation of a pilot program, in particular the component of the fleet that would implement it and the duration of such implementation.

- That the Secretariat review and update, as appropriate, Document CAP-17 INF-A REV describing pending capacity claims and requests.

The Commission approved these recommendations and took note of the workshop to be held in Panama in January 2024 as presented by the Director.

As in previous meetings of the Group, Ecuador intervened to remind the Commission of the specific case of the *Victoria A* and to reiterate its request that this vessel be included in the Regional Vessel Register on the list of inactive/sunk vessels. There was no consensus on the matter and several Members recalled their position that this type of request should not be acted upon in the absence of the adoption of a capacity management plan, as has been under development for several years.

6. Discussion of resolutions

a. Adopted resolutions

The following resolutions were adopted:

Subject	Resolution
Amendment to Resolution C-21-01 on a long-term management framework for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean	C-23-01
Amendment to harvest strategy for north Pacific albacore tuna	C-23-02
Amendment to Resolution C-99-07 on fish-aggregating devices	C-23-03
On the design and biodegradability of drifting fish-aggregating devices (dFADs) in the IATTC area of competence	C-23-04
Amendment to Resolution C-19-01 on the collection and analyses of data on fish aggregating devices	C-23-05
Amendment to Resolution C-16-02 on Harvest Control Rules for tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack)	C-23-06
Conservation measures for the protection and sustainable management of sharks*	C-23-07
Conservation measures for shark species, with special emphasis on the silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>), for the years 2024 and 2025	C-23-08
Research for the management of dolphinfish (dorado) (<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>)	C-23-09
On climate change	C-23-10
Amendment to Resolution C-14-02 on the establishment of a vessel monitoring system (VMS)	C-23-11
Financing for fiscal year 2024	C-23-12

* This resolution, which was adopted on the basis of the consolidation of several proposals (the text of which is available on the IATTC website), consolidates resolutions C-05-03, C-16-04 and C-16-05.

In addition, with regard to the south Pacific albacore fishery, and in view of the impossibility of reaching a consensus on this matter, the Commission nevertheless decided to adopt the following paragraph for inclusion in these minutes:

The Commission expressed its concern about the increasing trend in fishing effort and catches of south Pacific albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) and noted the commitment of its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) to ensure that the number of their active tuna longline vessels fishing for south Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area south of the equator does not exceed the highest level reported during the recent reporting period (2012-2021).

b. Proposals submitted but not approved*

The outcomes at the end of the presentation and discussion of these proposals, which could not garner the consensus needed for their approval, were as follows:

Prop.	Subject	
A-5	FADs	Withdrawn. This proposal sought to amend paragraph 28 of Resolution C-21-04 on tuna conservation to refer to the fact that FADs should comply with the specifications contained in Resolution C-19-01. It was withdrawn because this issue was addressed in another proposal.
B-1	Bluefin tuna EUR	No consensus. Its objective was to establish standards for the monitoring of Resolution C-21-05 through provisions for the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery, including a record of vessels, traps and farms; reporting of catches and transshipments; bycatch rules; identification of designated ports; reporting of catches; and the future establishment of an observer program. Japan, Mexico and the United States stressed that the stock assessments showed recovery and noted that possible changes should first be submitted to the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna. The EU underlined that while the coordination work of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna is important each of the two RFMOs is autonomous and in a position to take decisions independently from the work of the Group. It also stressed that any future increase to the level of allowed catches for PBT should be accompanied by enhanced control and monitoring measures.
F-1 REV 2	Observers on longliners ECU	No consensus. The proposal aimed to increase observer coverage on longline vessels, whether human or electronic, through a process of gradual increase.
G-1	South Pacific albacore. ECU	No consensus. However, the Commission adopted a compromise paragraph to regulate this fishery, as noted in the previous section.

* All original proposals can be found on the IATTC website.

7. Election of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Commission

The Commission decided to elect Mr. Andrés Arens, of Ecuador, as Chair of the Commission and Mr. Julio Guevara, of Nicaragua, as Deputy Chair. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the work carried out by Mr. Alfonso Miranda as Chair of the IATTC over the past four years and expressed their confidence that Mr. Miranda would continue to provide the Commission with advice and support on relevant matters.

8. Election of Chairs of subsidiary bodies and working groups

The Commission elected or re-elected the following persons:

Working Group or Committee	Chair(s)
Compliance Committee	Luis Molledo (European Union)
Committee on Administration and Finance	Rachael Wadsworth (United States)
Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity	Julio Guevara (Nicaragua)
Permanent Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs	Josu Santiago (European Union)
Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch	Yonat Swimmer (United States) / Manuel Correia (Venezuela)
Working Group on Electronic Monitoring	Celia Barroso (United States) / Guillermo Morán (Ecuador)

Under this item of the agenda, the Commission ratified the continuation of Ms. Dorothy Lowman, of the United States, as Co-Chair of the IATTC, and Mr. Masanori Miyahara, of Japan, of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna.

9. Other business

a. Statement by Bolivia

Bolivia read a written statement regarding its request for the replenishment of 5,830 m³ of well volume, the partial and provisional activation of 2,439 m³ of that volume, and the allocation of an additional 5,000 m³ of capacity, in line with the previous statements that it had submitted at the last meetings of the Commission, for its inclusion in the corresponding Minutes (see Appendix 5a).

10. Place and date of next meeting

The Commission agreed that the next annual meetings would be held in the first weeks of September 2024 and expressed its appreciation for Panama's invitation to host these meetings in the country's capital.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 18:00 hours, Victoria, B.C., Canada time, on 11 August 2023.

Appendix 1. List of attendees

ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES	
MIEMBROS - MEMBERS	
BELICE- BELIZE	
VALARIE LANZA* Ministry of Finance valerie.lanza@bhsfu.gov.bz	DELICE PINKARD Ministry of Finance delice.pinkard@bhsfu.gov.bz
CANADA-CANADA	
AMBER LINDSTEDT* Fisheries and Oceans Canada Amber.Lindstedt@dfo-mpo.gc.ca KEVIN ROMANIN Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship kevin.romanin@gov.bc.ca MIKE TURNER Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship michael.r.turner@gov.bc.ca FELICIA CULL Fisheries and Oceans Canada Felicia.Cull@dfo-mpo.gc.ca NADIA HAMOUI Fisheries and Oceans Canada nadia.hamoui@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	SARAH HAWKSHAW Fisheries and Oceans Canada sarah.hawkshaw@dfp-mpo.gc.ca ROSE LABRECHE Fisheries and Oceans Canada rose.labreche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca BRADLEY LANGMAN Fisheries and Oceans Canada bradley.langman@dfo-mpo.gc.ca ROBYNN LAPLANTE Fisheries and Oceans Canada robynn-bella.smith-laplante@dfo-mpo.gc.ca LORNE CLAYTON Canada Highly Migratory Species Foundation nadia.hamoui@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
CHINA	
JIANGFENG ZHU* Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs jfzhu@shou.edu.cn YURU HE Shanghai Ocean University yrhe@shou.edu.cn QINQIN LIN Shanghai Ocean University qqlin@shou.edu.cn LIUXIONG LIU Shanghai Ocean University lxxu@shou.edu.cn	XIAOBING LIU Shanghai Ocean University xiaobing.liu@hotmail.com FENG WU Shanghai Ocean University fwu@shou.edu.cn XIAOJUN CHEN Industry luckyeh@126.com LI YAN Industry livan@cofa.net.cn
COLOMBIA	

<p>LEONEL BOHÓRQUEZ* Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores lbohorquezr@cancilleria.gov.co</p> <p>JAVIER GARCÍA Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo jgarciap@mincit.gov.co</p> <p>GUSTAVO LARA Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible GLara@minambiente.gov.co</p> <p>CARMEN LÓPEZ Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible calopezanaya@minambiente.gov.co</p>	<p>SANDRA MUÑOZ Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural sandra.munoz@minagricultura.gov.co</p> <p>ANDRÉS ORTÍZ Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca andres.ortiz@aunap.gov.co</p> <p>ENRIQUE DE LA VEGA Programa Nacional de Observadores edelavega@pescalimpia.org</p>
COREA-KOREA	
<p>SOOBIN SHIM* Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries sbin8shim@korea.kr</p> <p>SANGJIN BAEK Korea Overseas Fisheries Association sjbaek@kosfa.org</p>	<p>JOUNGSU PARK Sajo Industries Co. Ltd. goodtime9@nate.com</p>
COSTA RICA	
<p>MIGUEL DURÁN* Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura mduran@incopesca.go.cr</p> <p>JOSÉ MIGUEL CARVAJAL Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura jcarvajal@incopesca.go.cr</p> <p>JOSÉ CENTENO Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura jcenteno@incopesca.go.cr</p>	<p>ADRIAN MORA Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura amora@incopesca.go.cr</p> <p>ASDRÚBAL VÁSQUEZ Catun catun@ice.co.cr</p>
ECUADOR	
<p>ANDRÉS ARENS* Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca aarens@produccion.gob.ec</p> <p>ISIDRO ANDRADE Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca jandrade@produccion.gob.ec</p> <p>LUCIANO DELGADO Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca ldelgados@produccion.gob.ec</p> <p>ALEJANDRO MOYA Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca amoyad@produccion.gob.ec</p> <p>JAVIER CARDOSO Apolo Abogados despachojc@apolo.ec</p> <p>LUIS GARCÍA Legalsa legarcia@legalsa.com.ec</p> <p>CARLOS GÓMEZ Legalsa cgomez@legalsa.com.ec</p> <p>MIGUEL MOLINA Grupo Jadran miguel.molina@grupojadran.com</p>	<p>GUILLERMO MORÁN Tunacons gamv6731@gmail.com</p> <p>GEORGE PINTO Asoaman pinto27-69@hotmail.com</p> <p>MARIANA QUIJJE Aso. Amigos del Mar sabri_online@yahoo.com</p> <p>MARIO TORRES Wildtuna mario@wildtuna.ec</p> <p>LUIS TORRES Probecuador probecuador@gve.satnet.net</p> <p>RAFAEL TRUJILLO Cámara Nacional de Pesquería rtrujillo@camaradepesqueria.ec</p> <p>JIMMY VILLAVICENCIO Villavicencio & Asociados jvillavicencio@v-a.com.ec</p> <p>JORGE VILLAVICENCIO Atunec abjorgevillavicenciomendoza@gmail.com</p>
EL SALVADOR	
<p>ANTONIO VÁSQUEZ*</p>	

Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería Antonio Carlos antonio.vasquez@mag.gob.sv	
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
RYAN WULFF* NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service ryan.wulff@noaa.gov COLIN BRINKMAN U.S. Department of State Brinkmance@state.gov MERNA SAAD U.S. Department of State saadmn@state.gov CELIA BARROSO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service celia.barroso@noaa.gov DEREK CAMPBELL NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service derek.campbell@noaa.gov RINI GHOSH NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service rini.ghosh@noaa.gov TYLER LAWSON NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service tyler.lawson@noaa.gov AMY LUBRANO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service amy.lubrano@noaa.gov AMANDA MUNRO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service amanda.munro@noaa.gov RACHAEL O'MALLEY NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service Rachel.omalley@noaa.gov PAUL ORTIZ NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service paul.ortiz@noaa.gov	STEVEN TEO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service steve.teo@noaa.gov RAYMOND CLARKE BumbleBee SeaFoods Ray.clarke@bumblebee.com SVEIN FOUGNER Hawaii Longline Association fougnernalytics@gmail.com WILLIAM GIBBONS-FLY American Tunaboat Association wgibbons-fly@atatuna.com CRAIG HEBERER The Nature Conservancy craig.heberer@tnc.org DOROTHY LOWMAN Lowman and Associates dmlowman01@comcast.net JOSH MADEIRA Monterey Bay Aquarium jmadeira@mbayaq.org MATTHEW OWENS Tri Marine mowens@trimarinegroup.com JIM SUOSA GS Fisheries Inc jim.sousa@marpacifico.net MICHAEL THOMPSON U.S. Commissioner mthompson041@cox.net JOHN ZUANICH U.S. Commissioner jztrading@aol.com
FRANCIA (TU)-FRANCE (OT)	
JULIETTE HAZIZA* French General directorate for maritime affairs, fisheries and aquaculture juliette.haziza@agriculture.gouv.fr	THIBAUT THELLIER French Polynesia Fishery Department thibaut.thellier@drm.gov.pf
GUATEMALA	
JULIO LEMUS* Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería juliolemusdipesca@gmail.com BERNAL CHAVARRÍA Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería bchavarria@lsg-cr.com	CARLOS MARTÍNEZ Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería carlosmartinez41331@gmail.com VASCO FRANCO Pesquera Reina de la Paz vascofrancoduran@yahoo.com
JAPÓN- JAPAN	
TAKUMI FUKUDA* Fisheries Agency of Japan takumi_fukuda720@maff.go.jp TOSHIHISA FUJIWARA Ministry of Foreign Affairs toshihisa.fujiwara@mofa.go.jp HIROMU FUKUDA Fisheries Agency of Japan fukuda_hiromu57@fra.go.jp	SHINJI HIRUMA Fisheries Agency of Japan shinji_hiruma150@maff.go.jp KATSUYA SATO Fisheries Agency of Japan katsuya_sato770@maff.go.jp REIKO OHASHI Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association ohashi@japantuna.or.jp
MÉXICO- MEXICO	
BERNARDINO MUÑOZ * Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca	LUIS FLEISCHER Fidemar

<p>Bernardino.munoz@conapesc.gob.mx GUSTAVO LÓPEZ Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca gustavo.lopez@conapesca.gob.mx ISABEL C. REYES Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca Isabel.reyes@conapesca.gob.mx BERTHA SOLER Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca berthaa.soler@gmail.com MARTHA BETANCOURT Fidemar martha.betancourt@uabc.edu.mx ARMANDO DÍAZ Fidemar adiaz@cicese.mx MICHEL DREYFUS Fidemar dreyfus@cicese.mx</p>	<p>lfeischer21@hotmail.com MARÍA ALVIDREZ Procesa/Pesca Chiapas cristina.alvidrez@procesa.mx GUILLERMO COMPEÁN Consultor gacompean@hotmail.com ERNESTO ESCOBAR Pesca Azteca eescobar@pescaazteca.com MARIANA RAMOS Alianza del Pacífico por el Atún Sustentable ramoss.mariana@gmail.com EVARISTO VILLA Pesca Azteca S.A DE C.V. evilla@pescaazteca.com</p>
NICARAGUA	
<p>ROBERTO CHACÓN * Instituto Nicaraguense de la Pesca y Acuicultura rchacon@inpesca.gob.ni RENALDI BARNUTTY Instituto Nicaraguense de la Pesca y Acuicultura rbarnutti@inpesca.gob.ni JULIO GUEVARA Comisionado juliocgq@hotmail.com</p>	<p>REYNA ARANA Atunes de Nicaragua, S. A. karina.marquez3@gmail.com ARMANDO SEGURA Nicaragua Tuna Sociedad Anónima segura@ibw.com.ni</p>
PANAMÁ - PANAMA	
<p>YARKELIA VERGARA* ARAP yvergara@arap.gob.pa VIVIAN QUIROS ARAP vquiros@arap.gob.pa MARIA SIERRA ARAP msierra@arap.gob.pa</p>	<p>MARÍA P. DÍAZ Fipesca mpdiaz@fipesca.com ENRIQUE ESPINOZA Pronaob pronaob@pronaob.org</p>
PERÚ -PERU	
<p>ÚRSULA LEÓN* Ministerio de la Producción sramirez@produce.gob.pe OMAR RÍOS Ministerio de la Producción orios@produce.gob.pe ANA ALEGRE Instituto del Mar del Perú palegre@imarpe.gob.pe MIGUEL LLELLISH Instituto del Mar del Perú mllellish@produce.gob.pe</p>	<p>MARÍA J. BOLUARTE Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería snpnet@snp.org.pe PABLO NIETO Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería snpnet@snp.org.pe JORGE RISI Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería snpnet@snp.org.pe</p>
TAIPEI CHINO- CHINESE TAIPEI	
<p>CHI-CHAO LIU* Fisheries Agency chichao@msl.f.gov.tw FRANCES CHOW Department of International Organizations fwchow@mofa.gov.tw</p>	<p>SHU-MAN PAI Fisheries Agency shuman0823@msl.f.gov.tw HSIANG YI YU Fisheries Agency hsiangyi@msl.f.gov.tw</p>
UNIÓN EUROPEA - EUROPEAN UNION	
MARCO VALLETA*	MIGUEL HERRERA

<p>European Commission marco.valletta@ec.europa.eu LUIS MOLLEDO European Commission luis.molledo@ec.europa.eu JOÃO NUNES DGRM jnunes@dgrm.mm.gov.pt RAQUEL RODRÍGUEZ Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación rrllanos@mapa.es ISAMEL YAGÜE Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación iyague@mapa.es AITOR AIRSPURUA Zunibal aitor.aizpurua@zunibal.com DANIEL CALVO Industry dcalvo@boltonfood.com</p>	<p>Opagac miguel.herrera@opagac.org JUAN MARTIN Opomar icmartin@opomar.com JULIO MORON Opagac julio.moron@opagac.org JOAQUIN CADILLA Orpagu direccion@orpagu.com JOSU SANTIAGO Azti jsantiago@azti.es PEDRO VIGIL Satlink pvd@satlink.es</p>
VANUATU	
<p>KEVIN LIN* Mng Dar Fishery (Vanuatu) Co., Ltd. kevin.mdfc@msa.hinet.net</p>	
VENEZUELA	
<p>ALVIN DELGADO* FUNDATUN adelgadopnov@gmail.com JEIRIS GALICIA Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura jgalicia.minpesca@gmail.com JOSÉ MANTILLA Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura minpescaven@gmail.com</p>	<p>ELENA QUINTERO Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura elenaquintero.t@gmail.com MARÍA NOVAS Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura oai.minpesca@gmail.com</p>
NO MIEMBROS COOPERANTES – COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS	
BOLIVIA	
<p>LIMBERT CORTEZ* Ministerio de Defensa limbert.cortez@mindef.gob.bo</p>	<p>HUGO ALSINA Unidad Boliviana de Pesca Marítima hugo@alsina-et-al.org</p>
CHILE	
<p>JULIO JORQUERA* Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura jjorquera@subpesca.cl</p>	
HONDURAS	
<p>ELOISA ESPINOZA* Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura eloisa_espinoza@hotmail.com</p>	
INDONESIA	
<p>PUTUH SUADELA * Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries putuhsuadela@gmail.com</p>	<p>MUMPUNI CYNTHIA PRATIWI Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries mumpuni.cpratiwi@gmail.com</p>
LIBERIA	
<p>RUPHENE SIDIFALL* Liberia Maritime Authority rsidifall@liscr.com</p>	
ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	
<p>RHEA MOSS-CHRISTIAN Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission rhea.moss-christian@wcpfc.int</p>	
ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES – NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	

<p>SHANNON ARNOLD Ecology Action Centre sarnold@ecologyaction.ca</p> <p>ADAME PETER Global Tuna Alliance petera@lusamerica.com</p> <p>ALBERT ARTHUR Global Tuna Alliance albert@globaltunaalliance.com</p> <p>KAMAL AZMI University of Wollongong kamala@uow.edu.au</p> <p>LUIGI BENINCASA Atunec info@atunec.com</p> <p>JOHN BOHORQUEZ The Ocean Foundation jbohorquez@oceanfdn.org</p> <p>ORION CRUZ Defenders of Wildlife OCruz@defenders.org</p> <p>CHRIS DORSETT Ocean Conservancy cdorsett@oceanconservancy.org</p> <p>LAURA EELES The Pew Charitable Trusts leeles@pewtrusts.org</p> <p>SONJA FORDHAM The Ocean Foundation sonja@sharkadvocates.org</p> <p>GRANTLY GALLAND The Pew Charitable Trusts ggalland@pewtrusts.org</p>	<p>MARIN HAWK Marine Stewardship Council marin.hawk@msc.org</p> <p>PABLO GUERRERO WWF pablo.guerrero@wwf.org.ec</p> <p>HOLLY KOEHLER ISSF hkoebler@iss-foundation.org</p> <p>CRISTIAN LABORDA The Pew Charitable Trusts cristian.laborda@celaborda.com</p> <p>VISHWANIE MAHARAJ WWF vishwanie.maharaj@wwfus.org</p> <p>DAMIÁN MARTÍNEZ Federación Costarricense de Pesca Turística y Deportiva damian.martinezcr@gmail.com</p> <p>GALA MORENO ISSF gmoreno@iss-foundation.org</p> <p>MOISÉS MUG Federación Costarricense de Pesca Turística y Deportiva mmug@fecop.org</p> <p>REBECCA REGNERY Humane Society International rregnery@hsi.org</p> <p>STACY SCHULTZ Global Tuna Alliance stacy@fortunefishco.net</p> <p>ESTHER WOZNIAK The Pew Charitable Trusts ewozniak@pewtrusts.org</p>
SECRETARÍA – SECRETARIAT	
<p>ARNULFO FRANCO, Director afranco@iattc.org</p> <p>MARISOL AGUILAR maguilar@iattc.org</p> <p>RICARDO BELMONTES rbelmontes@iattc.org</p> <p>MANUEL CORREIA manuelcorreia.a@gmail.com</p> <p>BARBARA CULLINGFORD bcullingford@iattc.org</p> <p>ALEXANDRE DA SILVA adasilva@iattc.org</p> <p>CRISTINA DE LA CADENA cdelacadena@iattc.org</p> <p>MONICA GALVÁN mgalvan@iattc.org</p> <p>SHANE GRIFFITHS sgriffiths@iattc.org</p> <p>MELANIE HUTCHINSON mhutchinson@iattc.org</p> <p>JON LOPEZ jlopez@iattc.org</p> <p>PAULINA LLANO pllano@iattc.org</p> <p>JOYDELEE MARROW jmarrow@iattc.org</p> <p>MARK MAUNDER mmaunder@iattc.org</p>	<p>ALFONSO MIRANDA amiranda@iattc.org</p> <p>JEFF MORGAN jmorgan@iattc.org</p> <p>TERESA MUSANO tmusano@iattc.org</p> <p>DAN OVANDO dovando@iattc.org</p> <p>CHRISTINE PATNODE cpatnode@iattc.org</p> <p>JEAN-FRANCOIS PULVENIS jpulvenis@iattc.org</p> <p>NORA ROA nroa@iattc.org</p> <p>MARLON ROMAN mroman@iattc.org</p> <p>ROBERT SARAZEN rsarazen@iattc.org</p> <p>ENRIQUE UREÑA eurena@iattc.org</p> <p>JUAN VALERO jvalero@iattc.org</p> <p>KATYANA VERT-PRE vertpre.katvana@gmail.com</p> <p>BRAD WILEY bwiley@iattc.org</p>

Appendix 2. Resolutions

2a. Amendment to Resolution C-21-01 on a long-term management framework for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada

7-11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-01

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-21-01 ON A LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

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

Taking into account that the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is caught in both the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Recalling the outcomes of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC Northern Committee (NC) Working Group meetings;

Recalling that Article VII, paragraph 1(c) of the Antigua Convention provides that the Commission shall “adopt measures that are based on the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention and to maintain or restore the populations of harvested species at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield...”;

Affirming that it is necessary to adopt compatible and effective management measures in both Commissions (IATTC and WCPFC), which have the responsibility and competence over this resource in order to reduce fishing mortality throughout the range of the Pacific bluefin tuna resource to contribute to the rebuilding of the stock;

Putting on record again that greater than 80% of the proportional fishery impact on the spawning stock biomass of Pacific bluefin tuna results from WCPO fisheries, and urging joint action with the WCPFC to progress toward an equitable distribution of catch between EPO and WCPO fisheries;

Highlighting concerns that measures adopted in the EPO alone will not fulfill the objective of this resolution if effective and substantial measures are not taken for all fisheries involved by both Commissions;

Recognizing the need for a basin-wide rebuilding plan for Pacific bluefin tuna and a precautionary long-term management framework for the stock and associated fisheries;

Urging all IATTC Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) involved in this fishery to participate in a fair and equitable manner, and without exceptions, in the discussion and adoption of a harvest strategy applicable to the stock throughout its entire range;

Mindful that these measures are intended as an interim step towards assuring sustainability of the Pacific bluefin tuna resource, consistent with the precautionary approach, and that future conservation measures should be based not only on these interim measures, but also on the development of future scientific information and advice of the ISC the IATTC scientific staff, and the Scientific Advisory Committee, which may include outcomes of a management strategy evaluation (MSE);

Noting that the WCPFC has adopted a harvest strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna, including: (1) rebuilding targets as recommended by the Joint IATTC-NC Working Group in 2017; (2) development of reference points through the MSE process, which includes a workplan to develop candidate reference points and harvest control rules; and (3) decision rules at the initial and second rebuilding periods;

Also noting that the initial rebuilding target adopted by WCPFC, the historical median of SSB calculated in the ISC's 2020 stock assessment, is equivalent to a depletion ratio of 6.4%, which is below the interim limit reference point adopted for other tunas in the EPO and below the interim limit reference point for Pacific bluefin tuna recommended by the IATTC scientific staff;

Further noting that WCPFC also adopted the second rebuilding target, which is $20\%SSB_{F=0}$, to be reached by 2034, or 10 years after reaching the initial rebuilding target, whichever is earlier, with at least 60% probability; and,

Considering the recommendations made by the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, which recommended strengthening scientific cooperation with the WCPFC and promotion of the adoption of harmonized conservation measures for bluefin and bigeye tunas in both organizations;

Resolves as follows:

Rebuilding targets

1. The Commission recognizes that the management objective of the IATTC is to maintain or restore fish stocks at levels capable of producing MSY, and shall implement a provisional rebuilding plan in part by adopting: (1) an initial (first) rebuilding target of $SSB_{med,1952-2014}$ (the median point estimate for 1952-2014) to be achieved by 2024 with at least 60% probability; and (2) a second rebuilding target of $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ ¹ to be achieved within 10 years of reaching the initial rebuilding target or by 2034, whichever is earlier, with at least 60% probability.²
2. The Commission shall do so by adopting catch limits and other necessary management measures that, based on information provided by the IATTC Scientific Staff, the SAC recommendations and the ISC, are expected to achieve the rebuilding target, while also recognizing the need for compatible and comparable measures and goals in both the IATTC and WCPFC.
3. The harvest control rules during the second rebuilding period below will be applied based on the results of stock assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by ISC. If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the second rebuilding target by 2034 or 10 years after

¹ 20% of the expected spawning stock biomass under average recruitment conditions without fishing. If $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ is considered inappropriate as the second rebuilding target, taking into account consideration from WCPFC, scientific advice from ISC, IATTC SAC or WCPFC SC, and the IATTC Scientific Staff, and socioeconomic factors, another objective may be established.

² However, if: (1) the SSB reaches the initial rebuilding target earlier than 2024; (2) ISC recommends a recruitment scenario lower than the average recruitment scenario; and (3) the SSB projections indicate that the second rebuilding target will not be achieved on this schedule, the deadline for rebuilding may be extended to 2034 at the latest.

reaching the initial rebuilding target, whichever is earlier, is less than 60%, management measures shall be modified to increase it to at least 60%. For this purpose, the ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide information on possible management measures to achieve 60% probability. If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the second rebuilding target by 2034, or 10 years after reaching the initial rebuilding target, whichever is earlier, is at 75% or larger, fishery controls may be changed, including adjustment of catch limits, as long as the probability is maintained at 70% or larger. For this purpose, ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide relevant information on potential fishery controls.

- a. Any adjustments to management measures shall be considered in cooperation between the two RFMOs considering historical and future projected proportional fishery impacts on SSB between fisheries in the EPO and fisheries in the WCPO. For this purpose, ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide relevant information, including projected proportional fishery impact of potential management measures changes.
 - b. This harvest control rule will be reviewed and modified, as necessary, if depletion estimates across the time-series have been adjusted due to changes in assumptions and/or settings of the stock assessment model³.
4. The following harvest control rules shall be applied based on the results of stock assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by the ISC during the period from the year in which the stock has achieved the second rebuilding target of 20%SSB₀ to the year a long-term harvest strategy based on an MSE process is implemented.
- a. If the SSB projection indicates that SSB will be below 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%, management measures shall be modified to increase the SSB to at least 20%SSB₀ with 60% probability. For this purpose, the IATTC scientific staff is requested to collaborate with the ISC to provide information on possible management measures to achieve 60% that the stock is above 20%SSB₀ after 10 years of the latest stock assessment.
 - b. If the SSB projection indicates that SSB will be greater than 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%, management measures should be adjusted so long as any changes maintain SSB greater than 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%. For this purpose, the IATTC scientific staff is requested to collaborate with the ISC to provide information on possible management under which the stock is maintained above 20%SSB₀ with a probability of 60%.
 - c. Any adjustments to management measures shall be considered in cooperation between the IATTC and WCPFC taking into account historical and future projected proportional fishery impacts on SSB between fisheries in the EPO and fisheries in the WCPO. For this

³ Recruitment scenario used in Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) projection: (i) The low recruitment scenario (resampling from the relatively low recruitment period (1980-1989)) or the recent recruitment scenario (resampling from the last 10 years), whichever is lower, should be used for the ISC's SSB projections until 2024 or the SSB reaches the historical median (the median point estimate for 1952-2014 as specified by ISC), whichever is earlier. (ii) The recruitment scenario to be used for the SSB projections after 2024 or the SSB has reached the historical median should be tentatively the average recruitment scenario (resampling from the entire recruitment period). (iii) ISC will be requested to periodically evaluate whether the scenarios in paragraphs (i) and (ii) are reasonable given current conditions and make recommendation on whether a different scenario should be used. If ISC recommends a different scenario, this should be considered.

purpose, the IATTC scientific staff is requested to collaborate with the ISC to provide relevant information, including projected proportional fishery impact of potential management measures changes.

- d. This harvest control rule will be reviewed and modified, as necessary, if depletion estimates across the time-series have been adjusted due to changes in assumptions and/or settings of the stock assessment model.
5. Over-harvest of catch limits established in Resolutions on conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna shall be deducted from the applicable catch limits for the following management period [or biennium]. In years when a resolution establishing catch limits expires, the over-harvest shall be deducted from catch limits established in the next resolution.
6. An under-harvest of catch limits established in Resolutions on conservation and management of Pacific Bluefin tuna may be added to the applicable catch limit in the following management period [or biennium] and shall not exceed 5% of the initial catch limit.
7. Implementation and progress of this plan shall be reviewed based, in part, on updates of stock assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by ISC and IATTC Scientific Staff advice; management measures shall be modified, if necessary, based on the review.
8. The Commission should collaborate with the WCPFC NC through the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group to develop candidate reference points and harvest control rules for Pacific bluefin tuna conservation and management.
9. The decisions made in respect to Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 shall be designed so as to conserve and recover the Pacific bluefin tuna stock and be comparable or preferably the same to those made by the WCPFC. This cooperative process should be informed by the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group. Additionally, the effectiveness of the decisions made with respect to Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 shall be evaluated by the ISC, IATTC Scientific Staff, and SAC when new stock assessment or management strategy evaluation results become available.
10. To enhance the effectiveness of this resolution and Pacific-wide progress towards rebuilding the Pacific bluefin tuna stock, CPCs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned WCPFC members bilaterally, including through the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group.
11. CPCs shall, wherever possible and to the extent practicable, work bilaterally and/or multilaterally towards ensuring the objectives and timelines in this resolution are successfully achieved.
12. CPCs shall continue to cooperate to develop monitoring and control measures, which may include a catch documentation scheme (CDS) for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the EPO compatible with other CDSs for Pacific bluefin tuna. The IATTC discussions related to monitoring and control measures should be informed, in part, by the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group that was established by Resolution C-16-03 including for reviewing management measures of Pacific bluefin tuna.
13. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures adopted by the Commission shall review the implementation of this Resolution and when appropriate provide recommendations to reinforce the control and monitoring of this fishery.

2b. Amendment to harvest strategy for north Pacific albacore tuna

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada

7-11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-02

**AMENDMENT TO HARVEST STRATEGY FOR NORTH PACIFIC
ALBACORE IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

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

Recalling Resolutions C-05-02, C-13-03, and C-18-03 on North Pacific albacore tuna;

Recalling further its responsibility for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area, and for the formulation of recommendations to its Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) with regard to the conservation and management of these resources;

Observing that the 2020 stock assessment of North Pacific albacore from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) indicates that North Pacific albacore tuna is neither being overfished nor is it in an overfished state;

Further Observing that the spawning stock biomass of North Pacific albacore tuna has remained stable at relatively high levels during the recent historical period, such that no management action has been required;

Recognizing that fishing effort limits continue to be an effective management tool for troll and pole-and-line fisheries targeting this stock in the convention area of the IATTC;

Recognizing that changes in oceanographic conditions are likely to influence ecosystem characteristics throughout the North Pacific Ocean, thereby resulting in potential changes to the population dynamics and distribution of this specie;

Recognizing the importance of working with the WCPFC, as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage North Pacific albacore tuna throughout its entire migratory range spanning/across the Pacific Ocean north of the equator;

Recalling further Article 22(4) of the WCPFC Convention that provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Taking into account Article IV of the Antigua Convention calling upon members of the Commission to apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, as well as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by

the Convention;

Bearing in mind that Article 7.5.3 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing indicates that regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) should determine stock-specific target and limit reference points, the action to be taken if reference points are approached or exceeded, and measures to be taken to ensure that limit reference points will not be exceeded,

Considering the ISC has determined that its management strategy evaluation (MSE) work is complete and ready to form the basis for adoption of a harvest strategy for North Pacific albacore;

Recalling that, as directed in Resolution C-18-03, the IATTC Scientific Staff has made recommendations in respect of the ISC's MSE framework for consideration by the Commission; and,

Further recalling the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), at its 13th meeting, as well the IATTC Scientific Staff, recommended that the Commission use the results of the concluded MSE process to establish reference points and a harvest control rule (HCR) for North Pacific albacore tuna.

Agrees:

1. A harvest strategy, which includes the elements described in this Resolution, shall be adopted for all fisheries which harvest North Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- a. Considering the overarching objective of ensuring the sustainability of North Pacific albacore tuna and current fisheries supported by the stock in the eastern Pacific Ocean, the following management objectives are established:
 - i. Maintain Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) above the Limit Reference Point, with a probability of at least 80% over the next 10 years.
 - ii. Maintain depletion of total biomass around historical (2006-2015) average depletion over the next 10 years.
 - iii. Maintain fishing intensity (F) at or below the target reference point with a probability of at least 50% over the next 10 years.
 - iv. To the extent practicable, management changes (e.g., catch and/or effort) should be relatively gradual between years.

REFERENCE POINTS

- b. For the purpose of the North Pacific albacore harvest strategy, the following reference

points are established:

- i. Target reference point (TRP) = $F_{45\%}$, which is the fishing intensity (F) level that results in the stock producing 45% of spawning potential ratio (SPR).
- ii. Threshold reference point ($SSB_{\text{threshold}}$) = $30\%SSB_{\text{current},F=0}$, which is 30% of the dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass.
- iii. Limit reference point (LRP) = $14\%SSB_{\text{current},F=0}$, which is 14% of the dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass.

ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF RISK

- c. The risk of breaching the Limit Reference Point based on the most current estimate of SSB shall be no greater than 20%.

MONITORING

- d. The IATTC staff shall collaborate with the ISC to conduct regular stock assessments of North Pacific albacore tuna every three years, at which time status relative to reference point in paragraph 1.b. will be evaluated.
- e. When performing a stock assessment, IATTC staff shall collaborate with the ISC to consider the criteria for identification of exceptional circumstances developed by the ISC, and notify the IATTC if these exceptional circumstances have occurred.

HARVEST CONTROL RULES

- f. The harvest control rules apply to all fisheries harvesting albacore in the Convention Area north of the equator.
- g. The harvest control rule parameters produce a relationship between stock status and fishing intensity, as shown in Figure 1, and are as follows with the minimum allowed fishing intensity (F_{min}) equal to $F_{87\%}$, which is the fishing intensity (F) level that results in the stock producing 87% of spawning potential ratio (SPR). SSB_{current} refers to spawning stock biomass in the terminal year of the assessment and $SSB_{\text{current}, F=0}$ to the terminal year dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass.
 - i. If $SSB_{\text{current}}/SSB_{\text{current}, F=0}$ is above or equal to $SSB_{\text{threshold}}$ with a probability of at least 50%, fishing intensity shall be maintained at or below the TRP on average over 10 years.
 - ii. If $SSB_{\text{current}}/SSB_{\text{current}, F=0}$ is below $SSB_{\text{threshold}}$ with a probability greater than 50%, and is above the LRP with a probability of at least 50%, fishing intensity shall be

reduced⁴ to a level in accordance with following formula:

$$F = \frac{TRP - F_{min}}{SSB_{threshold} - LRP} * (SSB_{current} / SSB_{current, F=0} - LRP) + F_{min}$$

- iii. If $SSB_{current} / SSB_{current, F=0}$ is at or below the LRP with a probability greater than 50%, the IATTC shall, in collaboration with the ISC and in coordination with the WCPFC, adopt rebuilding measures that will rebuild SSB to levels of at least the $SSB_{threshold}$ with a probability of at least 65 % within 10 years of $SSB_{current} / SSB_{current, F=0}$ having been identified to be at or below the LRP with a probability greater than 50%. In the absence of such rebuilding measures, fishing intensity shall be set at F_{min} .⁵
- h. If $SSB_{current} / SSB_{current, F=0}$ is above the LRP and below $SSB_{threshold}$, the maximum increase or decrease in catch or effort between the three-year management periods shall be 20% relative to the catch and effort levels specified for the previous year.
- i. In the year following the relevant ISC stock assessment, the IATTC will recommend adjustment to the existing Resolution for North Pacific Albacore to ensure fishing intensity is at or below the level set forth by this HCR using the latest ISC stock assessment. Changes to fishing intensity in accordance with the harvest control parameters (paragraph 1.g) shall apply between assessments starting the year after the stock assessment was completed, until the year following the next stock assessment that provides an estimate of unfished SSB.
- j. The IATTC scientific staff in 2024 shall collaborate with the ISC to advise how fishing intensity should be interpreted to actual management under this harvest strategy.

OTHER PROVISIONS

2. The Commission shall promote compatibility between the harvest strategy adopted through this Resolution and the harvest strategy adopted by the WCPFC with respect to North Pacific albacore tuna.
3. A review of the performance of the harvest strategy by the IATTC and IATTC scientific staff, in collaboration with the ISC, shall be completed by 2030 and 2033. The aim of the review is to ensure that the harvest strategy is performing as expected and to determine whether there are conditions that justify its continuation, or that warrant: reconditioning the MSE operating models; retuning the existing harvest strategy; including new indices into a new harvest strategy; and/or considering alternate candidate management procedures or development of a new MSE framework. Based on those reviews and subsequent advice from the IATTC scientific staff, the IATTC in 2030 and 2033 shall decide on the future of the harvest strategy.
4. The Director shall communicate this Resolution to the WCPFC Secretariat.

⁴ When adopting proposed revisions to the conservation and management measures proposed, which may include *inter alia* reductions in fishing effort, CPCs will take into account historical fishing activity and the source of increased fishing mortality in reference to the average effort referenced in Resolution C-05-02.

⁵ Ibid.

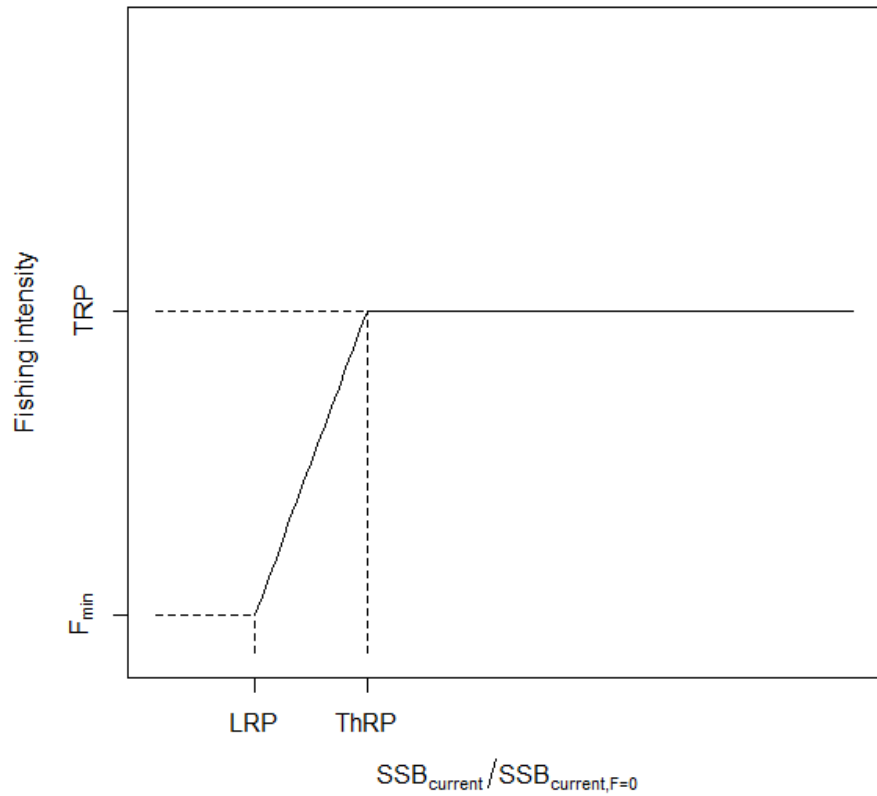


FIGURE. 1. Illustration of the harvest control rules with target reference point (TRP), threshold reference point (ThRP), limit reference point (LRP), and the minimum allowed fishing intensity (F_{min}). The harvest control rules include the triggering of a rebuilding measure if the $SSB_{current} / SSB_{current,F=0}$ falls below the LRP.

2c. Amendment to Resolution C-99-07 on fish-aggregating devices

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101ST MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada

7 - 11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-03

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-99-07 ON FISH- AGGREGATING DEVICES

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

Considering that Document SAC-14-16 on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to the Commission states the following with respect to fish-aggregating devices (FADs): “Taking into account the importance of FAD recovery, the SAC requests that the Commission clarify if vessels other than authorized purse seiners could carry out this recovery and under what circumstances, and considers, should it be necessary, an update of Resolution C-99-07 on FADs”;

Noting that the fishery on FADs has grown in the last years, in catches of juvenile tunas, in particular yellowfin, in the purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Noting that the activity on FADs is one of the main fishing strategies in recent years, making it important to devise solutions for FADs recovery in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Concerned about the reduction in the average size of bigeye tuna caught by the purse-seine fishery in the EPO;

Concerned about the use of non-biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs that might be found abandoned and drifting in the EPO;

Reiterating the need to seek a viable solution to reduce incidental catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the purse-seine fishery in the EPO;

Reaffirming its commitment to the application of the precautionary approach, which establishes that “[t]he absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures” (Antigua Convention, Article IV, par. 2);

Recalling that under Resolution C- 22-03 (not applicable “to troll vessels, pole-and-line vessels or vessels engaged in the transshipment of fresh fish at sea” par. 3), except under the transshipment monitoring program established by the Resolution, “all transshipment operations in the Antigua Convention Area of tuna and tuna species and sharks (...) must take place in port.” (par. 2);

Recalling that Resolutions adopted by the IATTC at its 61st and 62nd Meetings contained recommendations that the Parties prohibit the use of tender vessels whose role it is to deploy, repair, pick up, or maintain FADs at sea,

1. *Recommends* to the Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) under whose jurisdiction vessels operate in the EPO that they:
 - (a) Prohibit the use of tender vessels operating in support of vessels fishing on FADs in the EPO, without prejudice to similar activities in other parts of the world.
 - (b) Continue with the scientific working group established in accordance with Resolution C- 99-07 to carry out comprehensive research, in conjunction with the IATTC staff, to include, but not be limited to:
 - i. The relationship between catches of bigeye and yellowfin tuna and the maximum depth of FADs.
 - ii. The effect of the use of baited FADs on catch rates and size composition of the catch of tunas.
 - iii. Estimates of the natural mortality of the various populations of tunas.
 - iv. The establishment of a maximum number of sets on floating objects which the tuna fishery in the EPO can support.
 - v. The catches of tunas and associated and dependent species in the fishery on floating objects between 130°W and 150°W.
 - vi. The impact of permanent or temporary closure of areas to the use of FADs, especially in combination with other regulatory measures being considered by the Commission.
 - vii. The feasibility of a program to place observers on purse-seine vessels smaller than Class 6 (≤ 363 metric tons carrying capacity) and the appropriate level of observer coverage necessary to obtain reliable scientific information.
2. *Requests* that the Director continue research into the use of fishing gear and/or techniques to reduce the catch of small tunas and the bycatch of non-target species and continue to report to the Commission on the results of this research.
3. To prevent drifting loss or stranding, CPCs are encouraged to initiate recovery programs of drifting FADs through cooperative initiatives among fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area or vessels implementing projects for the recovery of such FADs. Without restricting regular fishing operations of purse seine vessels fishing with FADs, such recovery activities shall be limited to the collection of drifting FADs for final disposal and not to perform any type of maintenance or adjustment. Except for authorized tuna purse seine vessels, these vessels shall not deploy FADs. Drifting FADs collected under the voluntary recovery program shall be taken on board and brought to port for recycling or disposal. The provisions of this paragraph shall be in effect until 31 December 2028, while the initial results are analyzed. This paragraph shall be applied without prejudice to the existing obligations of fishing vessels including those in other IATTC Resolutions.
4. CPCs that decide to initiate these programs shall report all associated information on FAD recovery activities to the IATTC Secretariat, so that the scientific staff can analyze the data on a year- by-year basis and report these results to the *Ad Hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs and the SAC.

2d. On the design and biodegradability of drifting fish-aggregating devices (dFADs) in the IATTC area of competence

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

**Victoria, B.C., Canada
7-11 August 2023**

RESOLUTION C-23-04

ON THE DESIGN AND BIODEGRADABILITY OF DRIFTING FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (DFADS) IN THE IATTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

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

Bearing in mind that the Agreement for the implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) was adopted in conscience of the need to avoid adverse impacts on the marine environment, preserve biodiversity, maintain the integrity of marine ecosystems and minimise the risk of long-term or irreversible effects of fishing operations;

Recalling that Article 5 of the UNFSA requires States to assess the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon the target stocks and to adopt, where necessary, conservation and management measures for species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon the target stocks, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened;

Recalling that Articles 192 and 194 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) require States to protect and preserve the marine environment and to take, individually or jointly as appropriate, all measures consistent with UNCLOS that are necessary to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from any source, and that these measures shall include those necessary to protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems as well as the habitat of depleted, threatened or endangered species and other forms of marine life;

Concerned of the impact of Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) and plastic residues in the ocean greatly affecting marine life and the need to facilitate the identification and recovery of such gear;

Noting that releasing fishing devices into the water, such as FADs, does not contravene to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex V or the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) and the Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Protocol) as long as such device is deployed with the intention of later retrieval;

Underlining in particular the specific recommendations adopted by the IATTC Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs, endorsed by Scientific Advisory Committee at its 2023 meeting, and the recommendations of the IATTC staff: to consider a gradual/stepwise process, including a timeline for the implementation of fully biodegradable FADs based on the current state of material availability; to reduce, to the extent possible and

within the gradual process of biodegradable FAD implementation, the amount of material and the non-biodegradable components of design and construction, provided that fishing efficiency is not compromised.

Stressing the need to promote the use of no netting materials for FAD construction and eliminating potential entanglement risks, in consideration of the overlap of FADs with oceanic and coastal habitats of sea turtles and other impacts, as indicated by the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs and the scientific staff.

Agrees as follows:

1. For the purpose of this Resolution:
 - a) “biodegradable” means non-synthetic materials¹ and/or bio- based alternatives that are consistent with international standards² for materials that are biodegradable in marine environments. The components resulting from the degradation of these materials should not be damaging to the marine and coastal ecosystems or include heavy metals or plastics in their composition.
 - b) non- entangling FAD” means: a FAD that does not include any netting materials for any part of the FAD including both the surface structure (e.g., raft) and subsurface structure (e.g., tail).
2. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, CPCs shall ensure that, as of the 1st of January 2025, the design and construction of any FADs to be deployed or redeployed (i.e., will be placed in the water) in the IATTC area of competence shall comply with the following specifications in accordance with Annex I:
 - a) the use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD;
 - b) only non-entangling FAD materials and designs shall be used.
3. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris:
 - a) as of 1 January 2026, CPCs shall only allow vessels to deploy or redeploy drifting FADs of biodegradability categories I, II, III or IV, as defined in Annex I;
 - b) as of 1 January 2029, CPCs shall only allow vessels to deploy or redeploy drifting FADs of categories I or II, as defined in Annex I;
 - c) At the annual meeting in 2030, the Commission shall decide whether to require by 2031 CPCs to only allow vessels to deploy or redeploy drifting FADs of Category I, as defined in Annex I.
4. Notwithstanding paragraph 3, the use of non-biodegradable materials, in particular nylon ropes, can be used exclusively to strengthen the structure of the floating or underwater component of the FAD categories I & II, as a temporary solution and only provided no biodegradable alternative is available.
5. CPCs are encouraged to share their experiences and scientific knowledge on the use of biodegradable materials in drifting FADs.
6. IATTC shall ensure that observers deployed on class 6 purse seine vessels collect detailed information on the drifting FAD design used including its conformity with the requirements set out in Annex I prior to the deployment of each drifting FAD. CPCs shall ensure that this information is also collected on their Class 1-5 purse seine vessels.

¹ For example, plant-based materials such as cotton, jute, manila hemp (abaca), bamboo, natural rubber, or animal-based such as leather, wool, lard.

² International standards such as ASTM D6691, D7881, TUV Austria, European or any such standards approved by the Members of the IATTC.

7. CPCs shall submit information concerning the status of implementation of paragraphs 2 and 3 in a format consistent with the IATTC standards for the provision of catch and effort data, and this information shall be made available for analysis to the IATTC Scientific staff and the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs.
8. CPCs are encouraged to continue trialing bioFAD designs in a continued effort of design improvement and to share the results in the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs.
9. The IATTC Scientific staff and the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs shall annually review the information reported by CPCs and will, as necessary, provide recommendations on additional drifting FAD management options for consideration by the Commission, including recommendations on improved drifting FAD designs.
10. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the full implementation of paragraph 2 and 3 of this resolution.

Annex I

Principles for non-entangling and biodegradable designs of DFADs

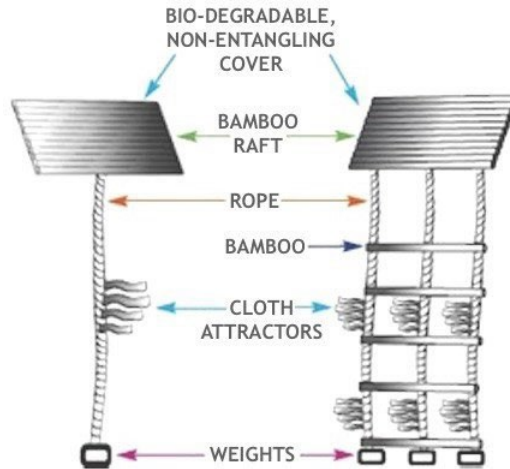


Figure: Example of a non-entangling, biodegradable FAD

1. Fish aggregating devices shall be constructed with no netting or entangling material in both the surface structure (raft) and the submerged structure.
2. For the purposes of this Resolution, the following FAD categories are identified, on the basis of their degree of biodegradability (from non- biodegradable to 100% biodegradable), with the understanding that the respective definitions do not apply the electronic buoys that are attached to FADs in order to track them:

Category I. The FAD is made of fully biodegradable materials.

Category II. The FAD is made of fully biodegradable materials except for plastic-based flotation components (e.g., plastic buoys, foam, purse-seine corks).

Category III. The subsurface part of the FAD is made of fully biodegradable materials, whereas the surface part and any flotation components contain non-biodegradable materials (e.g., synthetic raffia, metallic frame, plastic floats, nylon ropes).

Category IV. The subsurface part of the FAD contains non-biodegradable materials, whereas the surface part is made of fully biodegradable materials, except for, possibly, flotation components.

Category V. The surface and subsurface parts of the FAD contain non-biodegradable materials.

2e. Amendment to Resolution C-19-01 on the collection and analyses of data on fish aggregating devices.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

**Victoria, Canada
7-11 August 2023**

RESOLUTION C-23-05

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-19-01 ON THE
COLLECTION AND ANALYSES OF DATA ON FISH-
AGGREGATING DEVICES**

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

Agrees:

....

SECTION 3. NON-ENTANGLING FADS

10. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, as of 1 January 2019, CPCs shall ensure that the design and deployment of FAD are based on the principles set out in Annex II.
11. Annex II and Paragraph 10 shall be replaced by Resolution C-23-04 on 1 January 2025
19. This Resolution amends Resolution C-19-01.

...

Annex II

Principles for design and deployment of FADs

1. The floating or raft part (flat or rolled structure) of the FAD can be covered or not. If it is covered with mesh net, it must have a stretched mesh size less than 7 cm and the mesh net must be well wrapped around the whole raft so that there is no loose netting hanging below the FAD when it is deployed.
2. The design of the underwater or hanging part (tail) of the FAD should avoid the use of mesh net. If mesh net is used, it must be tied as tightly as practicable in the form of sausages or have a stretched mesh size less than 7 cm in a panel with weight at the end.
3. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, the use of natural or biodegradable materials (such as hessian canvas, hemp ropes, etc.) for drifting FADs should be promoted.

2f. Amendment to Resolution C-16-02 on Harvest Control Rules for tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack)

INTERAMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101ST MEETING

**Victoria, B.C., Canada
7-11 August 2023**

RESOLUTION C-23-06

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-16-02 ON HARVEST CONTROL RULES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS (YELLOWFIN, BIGEYE, AND SKIPJACK)

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

Aware of its responsibility regarding the scientific study of tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area, and for adopting conservation and management measures for those resources, and

Recognizing that the sustainability of the resource can be reduced if the increase in fishing effort is considerable, and

Aware that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase, and

Bearing in mind that Article 7.5.3a of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing indicates that regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) should determine stock-specific target reference points, and, at the same time, the action to be taken if they are exceeded, and

Bearing in mind also that Article 7.5.3b of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing indicates that RFMOs should determine stock-specific limit reference points, and, at the same time, the action to be taken if they are exceeded; when a limit reference point is approached, measures should be taken to ensure that it will not be exceeded, and

Taking note of the variety of opinions that exist regarding the appropriate target reference points relating to the level of fishing mortality or the level of biomass that allow the long-term sustainable exploitation of the fish stocks, with the best possible catches; and on appropriate limit reference points related to the maximum values of fishing mortality or the minimum values of biomass, which should not be exceeded, and

Recognizing that, for the fishery for tropical tunas in the Convention Area, decision rules based on the precautionary principle will have to be developed to ensure that management objectives are achieved, including those deriving from the limit and target reference points adopted, and

Bearing in mind that, on the basis of the best available scientific information and the precautionary approach, the IATTC has used as an operational harvest control rule (HCR) limiting fishing mortality (F) at levels that do not exceed the level corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and

Considering that the Commission, during its 87th annual meeting, adopted interim limit and target reference points for tropical tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), including yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna, and

Aware that no interim limit or target reference points for skipjack tuna have been adopted, and

Bearing in mind that the IATTC scientific staff indicates in Document SAC-07-07, that the appropriateness of the operational HCR currently used with regard to the limit reference points has not been investigated in depth; therefore a more comprehensive management strategy evaluation (MSE) is necessary to evaluate the HCR; and alternative HCRs should be considered that include hard and soft limit reference points, that use reference points based on biomass, and that establish well-defined scientific management recommendations in the case that the reference points are exceeded,

Resolves as follows:

1. For the purposes of this Resolution, the following definitions apply¹:
 - a. A limit reference point is a conservation reference point based on level of spawning biomass (S_{LIMIT}) or a maximum level of fishing mortality (F_{LIMIT}) that should be avoided because going beyond it could endanger the sustainability of the stock. The following quantities:
 - $S_{0.5R0}$ and $F_{0.5R0}$ respectively², assuming steepness $h = 0.75$, shall be used as an interim limit reference points for tropical tunas in the EPO, as adopted by the 87th meeting of the IATTC.
 - b. A target reference point is a management objective based on a level of spawning biomass (S_{TARGET}) or a fishing mortality rate (F_{TARGET}) that should be achieved and maintained. The following quantities:
 - S_{MSY} and F_{MSY} respectively³ when they can be reliably estimated (or otherwise specified) from parameters estimated within the assessment model, shall be used as interim target reference points for tropical tunas in the EPO⁴.
 - Sproxy-MSY and Fproxy-MSY respectively, when SMSY and FMSY cannot be reliably estimated (or otherwise specified) from parameters estimated within the assessment model, shall be used as interim target proxies reference points for tropical tunas in the EPO3, until a reliable estimate shall be obtained from the assessment model.
 - c. The IATTC scientific staff shall develop methods for obtaining estimates of the limit reference points S_{LIMIT} and F_{LIMIT} , and target reference points S_{MSY} and F_{MSY} , or their proxies.
 - d. Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) are decision rules that aim to achieve the target reference point and avoid the limit reference point by specifying pre-agreed management actions.

¹ Other definitions:

FMSY: fishing mortality rate corresponding to the MSY;

Fproxy-MSY: a proxy fishing mortality rate corresponding to the MSY;

SMSY: spawning biomass corresponding to the MSY;

Sproxy-MSY: a proxy spawning biomass corresponding to the MSY;

$S_{0.5r0}$: spawning biomass corresponding to that which produces a 50% reduction in recruitment as calculated in a Beverton-Holt spawner-recruit model with steepness of 0.75; $F_{0.5R0}$:

Fishing mortality that causes spawning biomass to be reduced to $S_{0.5r0}$.

² S_{MSY} and F_{MSY} were adopted by the 87th meeting of the IATTC as provisional target reference points.

³ $S_{\text{proxy-MSY}}$ and $F_{\text{proxy-MSY}}$ were adopted by the 101st meeting of the IATTC as provisional proxies target reference points.

2. The recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff on conservation measures for the stocks of tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack), shall take as their technical basis the provisional limit and target reference points adopted by the 87th and 101st meetings of the IATTC.
3. The harvest control rule (HCR) recommended by the scientific staff for the purse-seine fishery for tropical tunas shall be adopted, in accordance with the following principles:
 - a. The scientific recommendations for establishing management measures in the fisheries for tropical tunas, such as closures, which can be established for multiple years, shall attempt to prevent the fishing mortality rate (F) from exceeding the best estimate of the rate corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (F_{MSY} or $F_{proxy-MSY}$) for the species that requires the strictest management.
 - b. If the probability that F will exceed the limit reference point (F_{LIMIT}) is greater than 10%, as soon as is practical management measures shall be established that have a probability of at least 50% of reducing F to the target level (F_{MSY} or $F_{proxy-MSY}$) or less, and a probability of less than 10% that F will exceed F_{LIMIT} .
 - c. If the probability that the spawning biomass (S) is below the limit reference point (S_{LIMIT}) is greater than 10%, as soon as is practical management measures shall be established that have a probability of at least 50% of restoring S to the target level (dynamic S_{MSY} or $S_{proxy-MSY}$) or greater, and a probability of less than 10% that S will descend to below S_{LIMIT} in a period of two generations of the stock or five years, whichever is greater.
 - d. For fisheries that use gears other than purse-seine nets, the recommendations by the IATTC scientific staff on additional management measures shall be as consistent as possible with those adopted for the purse-seine fishery, while taking account of the impact of those fisheries on the species compared with that of purse-seine fishery.
4. The scientific staff of the Commission shall carry out additional assessments of these HCRs and alternatives, which shall be presented to the Scientific Advisory Committee for examination in order to allow the Commission to adopt a permanent HCR.
5. The IATTC shall continue to promote, encourage, and insist on compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in their objectives and efficacy regarding the tropical tuna stocks.
6. The Director shall communicate this Resolution to the Secretariat of the WCPFC.

2g. Conservation measures for the protection and sustainable management of sharks

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada

7-11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-07¹

**CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Victoria, B.C, Canada, at the occasion of its 101st meeting:

Recalling that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks calls on States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt a National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

Recognizing further that some shark species are highly migratory, and that harmonized conservation and management, where appropriate, may help to ensure sustainable management at the regional level.

Noting that sharks are part of pelagic ecosystems and are caught by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

Recalling that under the Antigua Convention, “fish stocks covered by this Convention” means “stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area”, and that under Article VIII, paragraph 1 (c), the Commission shall “adopt measures...to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention”;

Considering that that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f) of the Antigua Convention establishes that the Commission shall “adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by this Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened”;

Recognizing the need to collect data on catches, effort, discards, and utilization, as well as information on biological parameters of the species managed by the IATTC, particularly sharks;

Noting that in its Consolidated Resolution on Bycatch (C-04-05), the IATTC requires that purse-seine vessels release unharmed non-target species, to the extent practicable, including sharks, and urges governments with vessels targeting species covered by the Antigua Convention to provide any required bycatch information as soon as possible.

¹ Consolidates and replaces resolutions C- 05-03, C- 16-04 and C-16-05

Further noting the IATTC staff's 2016 conservation recommendations for the release of sharks caught by purse-seine vessels and for prohibiting the use of shark lines by longline vessels targeting tuna and swordfish;

Aware that specific measures to be respected by vessels of all fishing gears are necessary for the conservation of sharks in the Convention Area;

Desiring to consolidate IATTC Resolutions C-05-03, C-16-04, C-16-05, and to strengthen shark conservation and management measures in the eastern Pacific Ocean;

Further considering the recommendations of the first meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG), which were endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its 14th meeting, regarding the need to address best handling and release guidelines and to explore new bycatch release devices and collect more post-release survival data for non-target shark species impacted by fisheries under the purview of the IATTC, as well as the recommendation from the SAC the adoption of a conservation and management measure requiring sharks with fins naturally attached to the body until the point of the first landing;

Considering also the need to improve the identification process of the shark species caught by fishing vessels targeting species under the purview of IATTC, with a view to their management and the integral utilization of the catches;

Recalling that the EBWG recommends that a fishery conservation and management measure be adopted that requires sharks to keep their fins attached to the body until the first point of landing;

Addressing the need to consolidate and update the management regime for sharks associated with fisheries developed under the Antigua Convention;

Agrees as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. For the purpose of this Resolution:

Shark finning means the practice of removing any fin from a shark's body and discarding its body prior to landing.

Fin means any shark fin (including the tail) or a portion thereof.

Full utilization means retention by a vessel of all parts of the shark, except head and guts, as appropriate until the first point of landing.

Naturally attached means that all fins of the shark are fully or partially connected to the carcass of the shark by connective tissue or cartilage.

Buoy lines means individual lines or leaders that are attached to the float line or to the floats directly, and that are constructed of steel, metal, wire trace, or other materials². Schematic diagram available at Annex 1.

² These are also commonly known as "shark lines."

Wire leaders means individual lines or leaders that are constructed of steel, metal, or wire trace, adjacent to the hooks and that are attached to the main line or a branch line. Schematic diagram available at Annex 1.

APPLICATION

2. This Resolution shall apply to all vessels operating pursuant to the IATTC Convention in the Convention Area.

NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION

3. Members and Cooperating non-Members (“CPCs”) should establish and implement a national plan of action for conservation and management of sharks, in accordance with the *FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks*.

RETENTION AND UTILIZATION

4. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishers fully utilize all retained catches of sharks, with the exception of those species for which a retention ban has been adopted by the IATTC.
5. CPCs shall prohibit shark finning.
6. CPCs shall ensure that all sharks are landed with all fins naturally attached to the body. In order to facilitate on-board storage, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the shark carcass as appropriate but shall remain naturally attached to the carcass until the first point of landing (see Annex 2).
7. Until the end of 2026, notwithstanding paragraphs 6, and other provisions in this Resolution, CPCs may take alternative measures to ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified on board the vessel at any time, using one of the following methods:
 - (i) each individual shark carcass and its corresponding fins are stored in the same bag, preferably a biodegradable one
 - (ii) each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding shark fins using rope or wire; or,
 - (iii) the shark fins and the corresponding shark are identically, uniquely, and numerically tagged in a manner that an authorized inspector can readily identify the matching of the shark fins to the corresponding shark.
8. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, landing or trading of any fins harvested or that have been removed on board in contravention of this Resolution.
9. Paragraphs 4 to 8 shall be reviewed, in consultation with IATTC scientific staff, and amendments shall be adopted by the Commission in 2026, as necessary. If no agreement is reached in 2026 on paragraph 7, paragraph 7 shall be replaced with the following text: Notwithstanding paragraphs 6, and other

provisions in this Resolution, CPCs may take alternative measures to require their vessels to have onboard fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.

BYCATCH AND RELEASE

10. CPCs shall prohibit vessels targeting tuna and/or swordfish from using buoy lines.
11. All sharks (alive or dead) that are not retained must be promptly released unharmed, to the extent practicable, as soon as they are seen on the line, entangled in the net or brailed on the deck, taking due consideration of the safety of any persons using the following procedures:

For purse seine vessels:

- a. when seen entangled in the net, disentangle the sharks and release them into the ocean as soon as possible.
- b. sharks brailed on deck must be returned to the water as soon as possible, either utilizing a ramp from the deck connecting to an opening on the side of the vessel, or through escape hatches. If ramps or escape hatches are not available, the sharks must be lowered with a sling or cargo net, using a crane or similar equipment, or as indicated in Annex 3 or any future revisions, as identified pursuant to paragraph 12.
- c. prohibit the use of gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments for the handling of sharks.
- d. prohibit the lifting of sharks by the head, tail, gill slits, or spiracles, or by using bind wire against or inserted through the body. Prohibit the punching of holes through the bodies of sharks (e.g., to pass a cable through for lifting the shark).
- e. prohibit the lifting of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) onboard the vessel and prohibit the towing of whale sharks out of a purse-seine net, e.g., using towing ropes.

For longline vessels:

- f. leave the shark in the water, where possible.
 - g. use a line cutter to cut the branchline as close to the hook as possible, and so that less than 1 meter remains on the animal, to the extent practicable.
12. The IATTC scientific staff, in collaboration with the IATTC SAC and EBWG, shall develop and recommend to the Commission a set of best handling guidelines for the safe release of sharks for inclusion in this measure in 2024. In the meantime, CPCs may elect to, as appropriate, use the safe handling and release guidelines for purse seine vessels described in Annex 3.

RESEARCH

13. In 2024, the IATTC scientific staff, in consultation with the IATTC SAC and EBWG, shall develop a draft list of shark species under the purview of the Commission in the Convention Area for its consideration.
14. In 2024, the IATTC scientific staff, in consultation with the IATTC SAC and EBWG shall implement a data collection program for sharks associated with fisheries managed by the Commission, making use of existing research and data collection mechanisms and programs where possible. The program will include the monitoring of shark catches by small scale fisheries in coastal countries and the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of standardized data management databases, considering appropriate assistance to those CPCs.
15. In 2025, the IATTC, in cooperation with scientists of CPCs and, if possible, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), for Pacific-wide stocks, will assess the status of impacted shark species with a view to informing a research plan to conduct comprehensive assessments, and associated financial implications, for key species as determined by the scientific staff and the SAC. Key shark species include, but are not limited to: *Carcharhinus longimanus* and *C. falciformis*, *Sphyrna lewini*, *S. zygaena* and *S. mokarran*. This non-exhaustive list will be reviewed and revised, as necessary, with the advice of the scientific staff and the SAC.
16. In 2026, the scientific staff, in cooperation with the SAC, shall provide advice on the status of shark species, where possible, and recommend the development of any additional management measures, or amendments to existing measures to the Commission, as appropriate.
17. The SAC shall review the information reported by CPCs annually and will, as necessary, provide recommendations to the Commission on ways to strengthen the conservation and management of sharks within IATTC fisheries, including consideration of the use of wire leaders by vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species.
18. By 2027, CPCs will undertake, where possible, in cooperation with the IATTC scientific staff, actions to:
 - a. identify ways to make fishing gears more selective, where appropriate, including research into alternative measures to wire leaders;
 - b. improve knowledge of key biological and ecological parameters, life-history and behavioral traits, and migration patterns of key shark species;
 - c. identify key shark mating, pupping, and nursery areas; and
 - d. improve handling practices for live sharks to maximize their post-release survival.

REPORTING AND DATA COLLECTION

19. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the identification of shark species/groups and the collection of data on their shark catches.

20. Each CPC shall annually report data for catches, effort by gear type landing and trade of sharks, by species where possible, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data, of the fisheries under the purview of the Commission.
21. CPCs are encouraged to provide aggregated information on trade, as available.
22. CPCs shall also provide to the IATTC, through observer programs, electronic monitoring programs or other means, the species identification, the number and status (dead/alive) of all sharks caught, in accordance with applicable monitoring requirements, including those caught incidentally and/or released by purse seine vessels of all capacity classes and longline vessels.
23. The IATTC Secretariat will develop a template for CPCs to report on the implementation of this Resolution for adoption by the Commission in 2024. In 2025, CPCs shall send to the IATTC Secretariat, by June 30 at the latest, a comprehensive annual report of the implementation of this Resolution during the previous year.

REPEAL AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

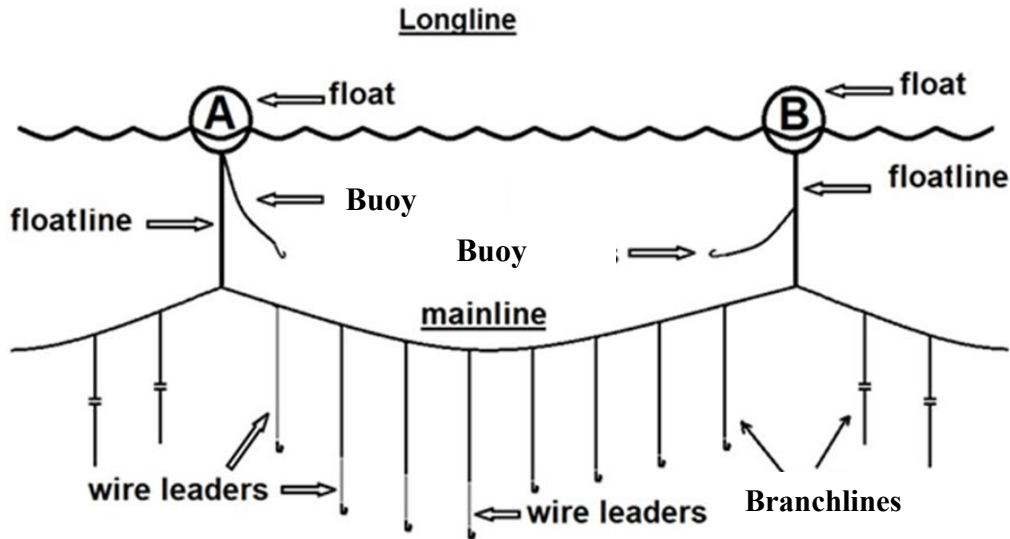
24. This Resolution shall enter into force on July 1, 2024.
25. Upon the date this Resolution enters into force, the following Resolutions are repealed and replaced: C-05-03, C-16-04, and C-16-05.

Annex 1

Schematic diagram of shark lines and wire leaders

Buoy lines: individual lines or leaders that are attached to the float line or to the floats directly, and that are constructed of steel, metal, wire trace, or other materials, and are deployed in the water column at depths shallower than the mainline³.

Wire leaders: individual lines or leaders that are constructed of steel, metal, or wire trace, and that are attached to the main line or a branch line.

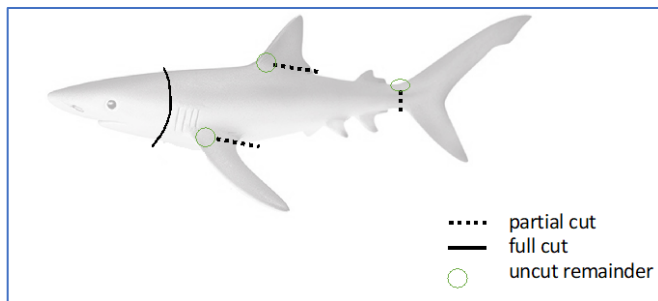


³ These are also commonly known as “shark lines.”

Annex 2

Naturally attached means that all fins of the shark must be fully and/or partially connected to the body of the shark by connective tissue or cartilage, while at sea. In order to facilitate on-board storage, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the shark carcass, but shall not be removed from the carcass until the first point of landing. Below is a schematic to guide fishers.

1. Only head and guts, as appropriate, may be removed at sea.
2. A partial cut at the level of the base of the dorsal fin and the base of the pectoral fins is permitted.
3. A partial cut at the level of the caudal peduncle of the base, allowing the caudal fin to be folded over the posterior area of the shark's trunk is permitted.
4. A full cut along the abdominal section is permitted in the case of the Blue Shark (*P. glauca*) in the process of gutting, provided the fins remain naturally attached.



Annex 3

Voluntary Guidelines on live sharks Safe handling and release practices specific to purse-seine fisheries:

When enforcing the provisions of this measure in the purse seine fisheries:

1. Bear in mind that the primary aim of release processes is to ensure the highest level of survival of sharks.
2. Whenever possible, prompt and effective action will be taken to return the shark to the sea, provided there is no risk to crew safety.
3. If, for any reason, one or more shark individuals are unintentionally or unavoidably retained and it has not been possible to identify them previously or remove them from the wells, make a note of this incident in the records of interaction with non-target species, stating when the individual or individuals were identified, and surrender them to the port authority. Keep in mind that any attempt to trade these species constitutes a serious violation.
4. Endeavor to release them in the shortest possible time. Recommended practice is to remove the shark from the brailer, hopper or chute by taking it by the caudal peduncle to place it on deck. This should be done manually whenever possible.
5. When seen entangled in the net, disentangle sharks and release them into the ocean as soon as possible.
6. Sharks brailled on deck must be returned to the water as soon as possible, either utilizing a ramp from the deck connecting to an opening on the side of the vessel, or through escape hatches. If ramps or escape hatches are not available, the sharks must be lowered with a sling or cargo net, using a crane or similar equipment, or as indicated in Annex 3 or any future revisions as identified pursuant to paragraph 12.
7. It is prohibited to hold the shark by its head, tail, gill slits or spiracles.
8. It is prohibited to use bind wire against or inserted through the body, and no holes may be punched through the bodies of sharks (e.g., to pass a cable through for lifting the shark).
9. Avoid lifting them up in the net toward the power block.
10. Do not cut the tail or any other body part.
11. Do not cut or punch holes in the shark.
12. Do not hit or kick a shark.
13. Do not insert hands into the gill slits.
14. Do not expose the shark to the sun for extended periods.
15. Prohibitions contained in 5), 8), 9), 10) and 11), are allowed as appropriate, exclusively under urgent circumstances due to force majeure when safety of the crew is compromised. Crew members shall endeavor to avoid hazards in the safe handling and release operations for sharks. Any such events shall be recorded and reported to the corresponding flag state.

2h. Conservation measures for shark species, with special emphasis on the silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), for the years 2024 and 2025

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

**Victoria, B.C., Canada
7-11 August 2023**

RESOLUTION C-23-08

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-21-06

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR SHARK SPECIES, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE SILKY SHARK (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), FOR THE YEARS 2024 AND 2025

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

Considering that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f), of the Antigua Convention indicates that the Commission shall “adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by [the] Convention”;

Recalling Article IV, paragraph 3, of the Antigua Convention, which states that “where the status of target stocks or non-target or associated or dependent species is of concern, the members of the Commission shall subject such stocks and species to enhanced monitoring in order to review their status and the efficacy of conservation and management measures, revising those measures regularly in the light of new scientific information available”;

*Recognizing that silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) are the shark species most commonly caught as bycatch by purse-seine vessels in the Convention Area;*

Recognizing that measures should be implemented to allow silky shark populations to rebuild in the Convention Area;

Aware of the need to establish conservation measures for the protection of sharks, especially the silky shark;

Recalling that Resolution C-19-05 requires the IATTC scientific staff to develop complete assessments of the silky shark stocks, but that due to a lack of data it has not been possible to conduct these and thus have indicators of the status of these species; and

Emphasizing the necessity of obtaining better data to achieve management measures in accordance with the variability of the fisheries, as well as to improve the understanding of fishing and pupping areas, catches and fishing effort that affect the fishing mortality of sharks by multi-species longline fleets, both artisanal and industrial, in the coastal countries.

Agrees as follows:

1. To continue the long-term sampling program (Project C.4.a), to the extent possible, in those shark fisheries related to tunas and tuna-like species in Central America with the goal of improving data collection for assessing indicators of silky shark stocks.
2. Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) shall prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, landing, or storing, in part or whole, carcasses of silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) caught by

purse-seine vessels in the IATTC Convention Area. CPCs shall require that their purse-seine vessels release live silky sharks whenever possible. However, if silky sharks are unintentionally caught and frozen as part of purse-seine vessel's operations, if the flag CPC's governmental authorities are present at the point of landing, the whole silky shark must be surrendered to them. If the flag CPC's governmental authorities are unavailable, the whole silky shark surrendered may not be sold or bartered but may be donated for purposes of domestic human consumption. Silky sharks surrendered in this manner shall be reported to the Secretariat.

CPCs shall require all longline vessels whose fishing licenses do not include sharks as a fishing target but catch sharks incidentally, to limit bycatch of silky sharks to a maximum of 20% of the total catch by fishing trip in weight. The 20% limit is set as an interim limit in the absence of data and scientific analysis on which to base conservation and management measures, and will be revised, based on recommendations by the scientific staff, once improved species-level catch and composition data are available.

CPCs shall require their multi-species fisheries using surface longlines¹ to limit the catch of silky sharks of less than 100 cm total length to 20% of the total number of silky sharks caught during the trip.

CPCs that allow retention of silky sharks by their longline vessels, shall ensure compliance with the measures established in paragraphs 3 and 4 by means of control and inspection mechanisms, for Port CPCs and Flag CPCs, as applicable. At a minimum, such mechanisms shall require effective inspections at the time of first unloading in port or the submission of catch logbooks that will allow for species identification, verification of size when caught, and enforcement of applicable sanctions such as prevention of entry into markets of product caught in violation of this measure. Where applicable, internationally recognized certification and reporting procedures for the conservation of silky sharks may be used for fulfilling the obligations of this paragraph. CPCs shall inform the IATTC Secretariat of the use of said certification procedures. Data derived from these control and inspection measures shall be communicated to the Secretariat, in accordance with IATTC data submission requirements.

The IATTC scientific staff shall indicate to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) the geographical location of the silky shark pupping areas in the Convention Area. CPCs shall require vessels to not fish in silky shark pupping areas, as may be adopted by the Commission, in accordance with the recommendation of the IATTC scientific staff, in coordination with the SAC.

For those multi-species fisheries using surface longlines that have captured more than 20% of silky sharks in weight on average in a year, CPCs shall prohibit the use of steel leaders during a period of three consecutive months each year. The average proportion of silky sharks in the catch will be calculated from data of the previous calendar year. New vessels entering the multi-species fisheries affected by this Resolution and those for which no data are available from the period immediately prior shall be subject to the provisions of this paragraph.

At the SAC meeting in the year 2025 and at the subsequent meeting of the IATTC in 2025, the IATTC scientific staff shall present to the SAC an analysis of the unloading, observer, and long-term sampling program data on the catches of sharks in the fisheries in central America with which they shall also recommend any improvement of the resolution including an adjustment on the period of prohibition (paragraph 7).

CPC shall ensure that the closure period for not using steel leaders by their vessels subject to paragraph 7 coincide with the periods recommended on the basis of the analyses indicated in paragraph 8.

¹ For the purposes of this resolution, surface longlines are those in which the majority of hooks fish at depths shallower than 100 meters and target species other than swordfish.

Vessels of less than 12 m length overall using manually operated fishing gear (*i.e.* without mechanical or hydraulic winches) and that do not deliver to motherships at any time during the fishing trip are excluded from the application of this resolution. For this excluded fleet, CPCs shall continue working with the Commission's scientific staff on the strengthening of data-collection programs, whose progress shall be presented at the meeting of the SAC in 2024 and in full in 2025.

CPCs shall notify the Director, before 1 October of each year, the single period of restricted use of steel leaders referred to in paragraph 7 which will be observed for the calendar year.

CPCs shall keep a record of the vessels and the period to which each vessel operator or owner has committed for the enforcement of this resolution.

CPCs shall require the collection and submission of catch data for silky sharks, in accordance with IATTC data reporting requirements. CPCs shall also record, through observer programs and other means, for purse-seine vessels of all capacity classes, the number and status (dead/alive) of silky sharks caught and released and report it to the IATTC.

The Commission shall prioritize research by the scientific staff in the following areas:

- a. Identification of the pupping areas of the silky shark.
- b. Mitigation of bycatch of sharks, especially in longline fisheries, and survival of sharks caught by all types of gears, giving priority to gears with significant catches. Survival experiments should include studies of the effects on survival of shorter sets and the use of circle hooks.
- c. Improve handling practices for live sharks to maximize post-release survival.
- d. Establish the appropriateness of the percentage limit on silky sharks catch established in paragraphs 3 and 4.

This Resolution shall be reviewed by the scientific staff and at the meeting of the SAC in 2025, in order to evaluate the adequacy of the measures of this Resolution.

This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2024 and shall be reviewed at the IATTC annual meeting in 2025.

2i. Research for the management of dolphinfish (dorado) (*Coryphaena hippurus*)

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada

7-11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-09

**RESEARCH FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF DOLPHINFISH
(DORADO)**

(Coryphaena hippurus)

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

Recognizing that the fish stocks covered by the Convention are understood to be the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

Bearing in mind that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f) of the Antigua Convention establishes that the Commission shall “adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by this Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened”;

Reaffirming the obligations contained in the Antigua Convention, Article VII 1 (a) and (i), the Commission shall adopt, “standards for collection, verification, and timely exchange and reporting of data concerning the fisheries for fish stocks covered by this Convention” and shall establish “a comprehensive program for data collection”;

*Recognizing that Dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) is a specie targeted by artisanal and industrial longline fisheries by several CPCs amounting to 98% of the catches in the EPO; and incidentally caught by vessels using purse-seine gear operating in the Convention Area estimated at 2% of total catches of this species; and is within the fish stocks of interest to the Commission;*

Recalling that collaborative research with the IATTC in 2014-2016 showed that the data available for the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) south were sufficient to conduct an exploratory assessment of the core Dolphinfish stock and management strategies, however, information from the EPO north was found to be limited;

*Recalling that the IATTC has provided the opportunity for collaborative research, including three technical meetings on the *Coryphaena hippurus* resource between 2014 and 2016; the development of an exploratory assessment of the *C. hippurus* stock in the "core" region; an exploratory management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the EPO south; and an evaluation of potential reference points and harvest control rules for *C. hippurus* in the EPO;*

*Taking into account that, in its 10th meeting, the Scientific Advisory Committee recommended that the IATTC staff continue working with CPCs on research in relation to the stock status of Dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the Convention Area;*

Further noting that, at the 12th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, the SAC recommended that the Commission encourage Members participating directly or indirectly, as flag States or coastal States, in the Dolphinfinch fishery to consider assessing and managing the Dolphinfinch stock.

Recalling that, in document IATTC-100-02b *Staff Activities and Research Plan*, the IATTC scientific staff presented the need for future research to improve the analysis of the stock assessment of *C. hippurus* (Dolphinfinch) in the Convention Area;

Emphasizing that the objective of the Convention is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks in the Convention Area, and that both collaborative studies and exploratory research conducted by the Scientific Advisory Committee show a need for better data to assess the stock of *Coryphaena hippurus* in the Convention Area and research to improve the analysis and assessment of this fish stock.

Resolves as follows:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs)

CPCs shall collect and submit to the IATTC biological, catch and interaction data, as well as fishing effort data relating to Dolphinfinch from their fishing fleets whose catch of this species constitutes more than 5% of their entire annual catch. CPCs are encouraged to collect and submit data from other fleets, where available. This information shall be submitted by 30 June (beginning in 2024) as part of annual catch reporting in accordance with Resolution C-03-05. Artisanal and recreational fleet data may be reported as total annual catches without data on fishing effort in accordance with Resolution C-03-05.

2. IATTC scientific staff

- a) The IATTC scientific staff will develop a proposal to standardize the format for data reporting and present it at the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2024. This format will be used by the CPCs to submit the information according to paragraph 1.
- b) Based on the data received from the CPCs and considering the human and financial resources available, the IATTC scientific staff will:
 - i. Update, to the extent possible, the stock assessment for Dolphinfinch that was conducted by IATTC staff between 2012 and 2016 and present it to the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2026.
 - ii. As appropriate, update the recommendations for CPCs on harvest control rules for the Dolphinfinch longline fishery, during the 2026 Scientific Advisory Committee.

3. Review

In 2024, SAC should consider and recommend the Commission as appropriate, the creation of a voluntary group to identify the information available on the Dolphinfinch (*Coryphaena hippurus*) resource in the various fisheries of interest to the IATTC. It should also identify information gaps that must be solved to know the status of this resource, either as target or bycatch, and possibly recommend management measures.

This Resolution shall be reviewed by the scientific staff and at the meeting of the SAC in 2026, to evaluate the adequacy of the measures of this Resolution and provide a recommendation to the Commission.

2j. On climate change

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada

7-11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-10

ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Committed to the objective of the Antigua Convention to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by the Convention;

Recognizing international initiatives to address climate change and its effects, including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, and the Glasgow Climate Pact;

Acknowledging the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with specific reference to the Sixth Assessment Report (2022);

Aware that, in September 2022 the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) highlighted the need for developing guidance on climate resilient fisheries management including a process to facilitate coordination and cooperation among RFMO/RFBs;

Mindful that climate change is leading to shifts in the distribution and abundance of fisheries, altering ecosystems, affecting livelihoods, and increasing uncertainty in food and economic security worldwide;

Noting the importance of addressing the impacts of climate change on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem as the target stocks in the Convention Area;

Acknowledging that several regional fisheries management organizations, including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the South Pacific Regional Fishery Management Organization (SPRFMO), the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) have taken action to prepare for the impacts of climate change on the fisheries under their jurisdiction;

Further acknowledging that both the 1st Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch and the 14th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee recommended adding climate change as standing agenda items going forward;

Resolves as follows:

1. The Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG) in 2024 and annually thereafter shall include climate change as an agenda item at their annual meeting. Within this agenda item, the EBWG will evaluate any issue related to climate change and may provide advice to the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Commission regarding amendments to existing resolutions or proposed new resolutions that may be necessary because of climate change impacts on fisheries in the Convention Area.

2. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in 2024 and annually thereafter shall include climate change as an agenda item at their annual meeting. Within this agenda item, the SAC will highlight and consider the best scientific information available on the relationships between climate change, target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with the target stocks. To the extent

feasible, the IATTC scientific staff will endeavor to take into consideration climate change in stock assessments and management strategy evaluations. As a result of these discussions, the SAC should make

recommendations to the Commission on how existing resolutions and proposed new resolutions can best promote resilience to climate change impacts on fisheries in the Convention Area.

3. The Commission in 2024 and annually thereafter shall include climate change as an agenda item at the ordinary annual meeting of the IATTC, considering climate-related SAC and EBWG Recommendations in its deliberations, as well as any other considerations regarding climate change impacts on species under the purview of the Antigua Convention and any related impacts on the economies of CPCs.

4. At the SAC meeting in 2024 and annually thereafter, the Director and Commission shall consider and present options to reduce the environmental and climate impacts of the activities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, such as by providing hybrid options for meetings.

5. The scientific staff shall incorporate in the next edition of the science strategic plan the issue of climate change and its impact on target species, non-target species, and the EPO ecosystem in general.

6. This Resolution shall be effective January 1, 2024.

2k. Amendment to Resolution C-14-02 on the establishment of a vessel monitoring system (VMS)

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

**Victoria, B.C., Canada
7-11 August 2023**

RESOLUTION C-23-11

TO AMEND RESOLUTION C-14-02

**ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM
(VMS)**

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

Recognizing the value of satellite-based Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) for the Commission's conservation and management programs, including compliance;

Recalling that Resolution C-14-02 agreed that Members and Cooperating Non-Members ensure that all their commercial fishing vessels 24 meters or more in length operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and harvesting tuna or tuna-like species be equipped, by 1 January 2016, with a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS);

Mindful that in the event of a failure of the VMS it is necessary to ensure the transmission of manual reports to CPCs to support the proper management and control of their vessels;

Taking into account recent developments in other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) operating in the Pacific Ocean;

Agrees that:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members of the Commission (CPCs) shall continue to ensure that all their commercial fishing vessels 24 meters or more in length operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and harvesting tuna or tuna-like species shall be equipped with a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS).
2. While specific operational details of CPCs' VMS requirements may vary, CPCs shall ensure that:
 - a) The information collected by the VMS for each vessel shall include:
 - i) the vessel's identification;
 - ii) the vessel's geographical position (latitude and longitude), with an error of less than 100 meters at a confidence level of 98%;
 - iii) the date and time (UTC) of the fixing of the vessel's position, and;
 - iv) the vessel's speed and course.
 - b) The information in paragraph 2.a) above shall be collected at least every four hours for longliners and two hours for other vessels by the land-based Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the flag CPC.

- c) VMS equipment installed on vessels will, at a minimum, be tamper evident¹, fully automatic for regular position data reporting, operational always regardless of environmental conditions, and capable of manual transmission of reports and messages.
3. In the event of identifying a technical failure or non-functioning of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessel that prevents the reception of two consecutive transmissions, the vessel master shall commence manual transmission in accordance with paragraph 4 and the device shall be repaired or replaced within 30 days. This shall be applicable where the competent authorities have exhausted all reasonable steps to ensure transmissions and there is no second functioning satellite tracking device on board. A fishing vessel shall not be authorized to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. When a device stops functioning or has a technical failure during a fishing trip lasting more than 30 days, the repair or the replacement must take place as soon as the vessel enters a port.
 4. Each CPC shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate to the FMC or relevant competent authority at a minimum every 6 hours, reports containing the information in paragraph 2.a i) to iii) by appropriate telecommunication means (e.g., radio, web-based reporting, electronic mail, telefax or telex)..
 5. If practicable, the VMS equipment should be usable to transmit to the Director the data required in the relevant IATTC Resolutions, including C-03-04 and C-03-05.
 6. The Commission strongly encourages non-Members whose flag vessels fish in the EPO to participate in the VMS program established on implementation of this Resolution. To this end, the Director will make the appropriate contacts with those parties and notify CPCs of actions taken and any response received. The Commission shall consider at each Annual Meeting appropriate action concerning those non-Members to encourage cooperation with IATTC.
 7. Each CPC shall provide to the Director, by 31 May 2025, a progress report on its VMS consistent with this resolution. The Commission will discuss how best to proceed with future consideration of VMS to support its conservation and management program at its annual meeting in 2025, including the possible development of a stand-alone IATTC VMS scheme.
 8. The Director shall ensure that any information provided to the Director or the Commission pursuant to this resolution is maintained in strict accordance with the Commission's rules and procedures on confidentiality.
 9. Nothing in this Resolution shall preclude the rights of CPCs to apply additional or more stringent measures, including regarding the conditions, periods and time limits set out paragraphs 3 and 4.
 10. This Resolution replaces Resolution C-14-02 on 1 January 2024.

¹ Namely any tampering shall be evident upon inspection, it shall be protected against input or output of false positions and the system cannot be over-ridden.

2I. Financing for fiscal year 2024

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101ST MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada
7-11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-12

FINANCING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

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

Understanding the importance of ensuring sufficient funding for the Commission in a timely manner, so that it may continue to effectively develop and implement the agreed conservation and management program for the living marine resources of the IATTC Convention Area, and conduct the associated data collection and research;

Noting that non-payment of the agreed contributions may impair the Commission's ability to continue its operations;

Aware that the allocation of the costs of supporting the Commission among Members should be transparent, fair and equitable, stable, and predictable, but also should allow for redistribution of costs as new Members join;

Taking into account Resolution C-15-05, whereby the Commission, at its 89th Meeting, agreed on a formula for calculating the contributions of the Members to the Commission's budget for the years 2013-2017 and beyond,

Agreeing on the need to use on an exceptional basis the same reference elements as in 2023 when applying that formula for the fiscal year 2024;

Considering the relevant provisions of the Antigua Convention.

Noting that several non-Members derive benefits from catching or utilizing fish covered by the Convention, but do not make contributions to the Commission's budget;

Taking note of the Commission staff's proposals regarding the budget presented in Document CAF-10-01; and

Recognizing the need to seek economies in the operation of the Commission, in order to reduce costs;

Agrees:

1. To adopt a budget of US\$ 9,481,519, which includes funding for the Enhanced Monitoring Program of US\$ 734,000 for fiscal year (FY) 2024, for which the members will pay the sum of US\$ 8,101,033 with the remaining balance of US\$ 1,380,486 funded by the cumulative carryover.
2. That the Members shall contribute to the Commission's budget for FY 2024 in accordance with the following schedule:

	FY 2024 (US\$)
Belize	44,655
Canada	129,124
China	276,735

	FY 2024 (US\$)
Colombia	282,309
Korea	237,194
Costa Rica	147,371
Ecuador	1,679,744
El Salvador	99,606
United States	1,746,553
France	150,692
Guatemala	68,150
Japan	259,783
Kiribati	44,452
Mexico	1,117,990
Nicaragua	84,718
Panama	746,227
Peru	168,497
Chinese Taipei	228,512
European Union	347,444
Vanuatu	50,884
Venezuela	190,393
Total	8,101,033

Appendix 3. Proposals (not adopted)

3a. A-4 United States. Amendment to Resolution C-21-04 on FADs

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

**Victoria, Canada
7-11 August 2023**

PROPOSAL IATTC-101 A-4

SUBMITTED BY UNITED STATES

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-19-01 ON THE
COLLECTION AND ANALYSES OF DATA ON FISH-
AGGREGATING DEVICES**

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

Agrees:

....

SECTION 3. NON-ENTANGLING FADS

10. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, as of 1 January 2024, CPCs shall ensure that the design and construction of any FAD to be deployed or redeployed (i.e., will be placed in the water) in the IATTC Convention Area shall comply with the specifications in Annex II.

11. Annex II is consistent with the 2023 FAD Working Group Recommendations and the 2023 Recommendations of the scientific staff of the IATTC. The scientific staff of the IATTC, in coordination with the SAC and the FAD Working Group, shall continue to review research results on the use of biodegradable material on FADs, and shall provide specific recommendations no later than the 2024 IATTC annual meeting, consistent with Paragraph 5.

....

Annex II

Principles for design and construction of non-entangling FADs

1. The use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD.
 - a. If the raft is covered, only non-entangling material and designs shall be used.
 - b. The subsurface structure shall only be made using non-entangling materials.
2. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, the use of natural or biodegradable materials (such as hessian canvas, hemp ropes, etc.) for drifting FADs should be promoted.

3b. B-1 European Union. Bluefin tuna

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, Canada

7-11 August 2023

PROPOSAL IATTC-101 B-1

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

EU PROPOSAL ON A RESOLUTION ON MONITORING AND CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY IN THE EPO

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this proposal is to establish the minimum standards for the monitoring and control of Resolution C-21-05. To support the management objectives set out by Resolution C-21-05, further measures are needed to monitor the situation of the stock despite slight recent improvements and in view of increasing catch levels.

As to date, there are no monitoring and control measures applicable to the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery in the EPO, in sharp contrast with the substantial number of provisions applicable to the tropical tunas stocks, which overall are in much better shape than the Pacific bluefin tuna.

The current proposal is based on the ICCAT large expertise on bluefin tuna. It establishes a number of minimum provisions to monitor and control the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery including a record of vessels, traps and farms; catch and transshipment reports; general rules on by-catches; identification of designated ports; reporting of catches; and the future creation of an observer programme.

Objectives

1. The purpose of this Resolution is to establish a regime of the monitoring and control of the bluefin tuna fishery in the EPO for the implementation of Resolution C-21-05.

IATTC Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna

2. CPCs shall establish and maintain an IATTC record of all fishing vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the EPO. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity the list of its catching vessels. Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format to be developed by the IATTC Director.
3. Fishing vessels not entered into the IATTC record of vessels referred to in paragraph 1 are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna.

IATTC record of tuna traps authorised to fish for bluefin tuna

4. The Commission shall establish and maintain an IATTC Record of all tuna traps authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the EPO and a Record of farms authorised for fattening or farming. For the purposes of this Recommendation, tuna traps and farms not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized

to be used to fish for, retain, and participate in any operation to catch, transfer, harvest or land bluefin tuna.

5. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the IATTC Secretariat by 1 June every year, the list of its authorized tuna traps (including the name of the traps, register number) and farms.

Catch and transshipment reports

6. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna and trap operators communicate to their authorities, during the whole period in which they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna by electronic or any other effective means, daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught in the EPO. This communication shall include operations where the catch was zero as well as releases and discards of dead fish.
7. The masters of fishing vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements of Annex 1.

General rules on by-catches

8. All by-catches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of the flag CPC and reported to IATTC.
9. If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the catching vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the IATTC Secretariat who shall make it available to the Scientific Staff.

Use of aerial means

10. The use of any aerial means, including aircraft, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles to search for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited.

Designated ports

11. Each CPC who has been allocated a bluefin tuna quota shall designate ports where landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna are authorized. This list shall be communicated to the IATTC Secretariat by 31 December 2023. Any amendment shall be immediately communicated to the IATTC Secretariat.
12. Prior to entry into any port, masters of fishing vessels or their representatives shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following: a) estimated time of arrival; b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board; c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken. If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port of arrival, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

Reporting of catches from CPCs to the Secretariat

13. CPCs shall send weekly catch reports to the IATTC Secretariat. CPCs shall report to the IATTC Secretariat the dates when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilised. The Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

Regional Observer Programme

14. The IATTC shall develop by 2025 a regional observer programme to ensure proper coverage by observers of the bluefin tuna fishery including vessels and traps for transmission to the Scientific Staff.
15. The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, inter alia, the amount of catch including by-catch, and species disposition such as retained on board or discarded dead or alive; area of catch by latitude and longitude; date of catch; observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook.
16. Where CPCs have national observers programs in place, data and information collected under the national programmes referred to in Article 19 shall be provided to the Scientific Staff in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by IATTC Director taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

Monitoring a transfer and caging

17. IATTC shall establish by 2025 rules, standards and procedures to monitor the transfer and caging activities.

Annex 1

Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks

1. Master name and address
 2. Dates and ports of departure, dates and ports of arrival
 3. Vessel name, register number, IATTC number, international radio call sign and IMO number (if available)
 4. Fishing gear:
 - a) Type by FAO code
 - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
 5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - a) Activity (fishing, steaming)
 - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
 - c) Record of catches including:
 - i) FAO code
 - ii) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
 - iibis) Presentation (whole, gutted)
 - iibis) Processed weight (where applicable)
 - iii) number of pieces per day
- For purse seine vessels this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns.
6. Master signature
 7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
 8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.
 9. The logbook must be filled in every day (by midnight) or before port arrival.
 10. The logbook must be numbered by sheets. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

3c. F-1 Ecuador. Observers on longliners

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, Canada

7-11 August 2023

PROPOSAL IATTC-101 F-1 REV 2

SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-19-08 ON
SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS FOR LONGLINE VESSELS**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

IATTC Resolution C-19-08 requires a 5% observer coverage of the fishing effort made by the fleet of longline fishing vessels greater than 20 meters length overall of every CPC.

Taking into account that the 2023 staff recommendation in Document SAC-14-16, item 7.5, “Longline vessels observer program”, states the following:

“(a) That the countries with longline fleets update, in the IATTC Regional Vessel Registry, the list of vessels over 20 meters that operate in the EPO, as well as report the number of trips made by the different vessels during the previous year in order to calculate the percentage of observer coverage on longliners and assess compliance with Resolution C-19-08; (b) That CPCs submit all operational longline observer data collected from 1 January 2013 to present, consistent with the minimum data standards contained in Annex B of C-19-08 or provide a clear and complete explanation as to why the missing datasets have not been submitted; (c) That the Commission examine once again the percentage for observer coverage on LL vessels;”

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Working Group on Bycatch to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its 9th meeting in May 2019, particularly item 1: *“Revise Resolution C-11-08 to increase longline observer coverage on vessels >20 m LOA to 20% and consider ways to supplement observer requirements with electronic monitoring.”*

Furthermore, the recommendations of the tenth meeting of the SAC, Document IATTC-94-02, Section 3. “Data”, item 3.1.a. “Electronic Monitoring”, recommends the following:

*“The SAC recommends that the Electronic Monitoring (EM) initiatives implemented on purse seiners, both Classes 1-5 and Class 6, which will improve data collection for the purse-seine fleet, **are also tested in the longline fleet.**”*

Noting that large purse-seine vessels that fish in the Convention Area are required to carry 100% scientific observers aboard, in accordance with the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program. In addition, some CPCs’ shipowners of purse-seine vessels smaller than Class 6 make economic efforts to provide information on their activities and carry observers aboard in support of scientific research.

In this context, it is considered essential that the current resolution be modified to accommodate a complete observer coverage, whether by humans or by electronic means, which is an important action to measure effort in fishing days of the longline tuna fishery.

RESOLUTION C-23-XX
AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-19-08 ON OBSERVERS FOR
LONGLINE VESSELS

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

Recognizing the need to collect better scientific information on target species as well as comprehensive data on interactions with non-target species, in particular, sea turtles, sharks and seabirds;

Noting the considerations of Parties with extensive longline fisheries and the need to ensure and promote uniform and equitable treatment of all tuna-fishing vessels operating in the Antigua Convention Area;

Noting that large purse-seine vessels operating in the Convention Area are required to carry 100% scientific observers aboard, in accordance with the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program;

Acknowledging that some CPCs' shipowners of purse-seine vessels smaller than Class 6 make economic efforts to provide information on their activities, carrying observers aboard, in support of scientific research; and

Taking into account all recommendations of the staff, the SAC, for 2023 in Document SAC-14-16, and the Working Group on Bycatch at their meetings in 2019 and the considerations of the CPCs;

Agrees that:

Each Member and Cooperating non-Member (CPC) shall ensure that active longline vessels greater than 24 meters length overall carry human observers or electronic monitoring systems, in accordance with the following timeline:

1 January 2026	10%

Fishing effort shall be determined by the number of days of fishing.

The main task of the scientific observers or the remote electronic monitoring systems shall be to record any available biological information, the catches of targeted fish species, species composition, and any available biological information, as well as any interactions with non-target species such as sea turtles, seabirds and sharks; and, when appropriate, to apply the mitigation measures agreed by the Commission in a timely and accurate manner.

Each CPC shall update the list of its vessels by specifically indicating which vessels are active and the percentage of observers aboard and/or remote monitoring systems, in addition to inactive and/or sunk vessels.

The Director, in cooperation with the scientific staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall review the reporting format detailing the required data to be collected directly by scientific observers or by electronic methods of remote monitoring and video cameras on longline vessels, and shall communicate it to the Commission.

Scientific observers shall submit to their flag CPC authorities a report on these observations at the latest 30 days after the end of each fishing trip.

Every year, CPCs shall submit to the Scientific Advisory Committee, through the Director, by 31 March,

the scientific observers' information on the previous year's fishery in a format established by the Committee.

3d. G-1 Ecuador. South Pacific albacore tuna

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, Canada

7-11 August 2023

PROPOSAL IATTC-101 G-1

SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR

SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA

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

Recalling its responsibility, established in the Antigua Convention, for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area and for the formulation of recommendations in this regard to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs);

Observing that south Pacific albacore tuna supports diverse fisheries in areas under national jurisdiction, as well as in areas beyond national jurisdiction, across the breadth of the Pacific Ocean south of the equator, encompassing the convention areas of the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

Emphasizing the importance of regional and global cooperation to ensure the effective conservation and protection of living aquatic resources throughout their range of distribution, as encouraged in paragraph 12 of Article 6 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

Thus recognizing the importance of working with the WCPFC, as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage south Pacific albacore tuna fisheries throughout the migratory range of the stock in the Pacific Ocean south of the equator;

Recalling further paragraph 4 of Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Encouraged by recent collaborations in this regard between the scientific staff of the IATTC Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through which a Pacific-wide stock assessment of south Pacific albacore tuna was conducted;

Observing that fishing controls for south Pacific albacore tuna are in effect exclusively in the waters of the WCPFC Convention Area south of 20°S and that there are currently no controls in effect in the IATTC Convention Area outside the overlap area;

Considering the recommendation of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, at its 17th meeting, that longline catches of south Pacific albacore tuna be reduced in the WCPFC Convention Area to avoid further and prolonged depletion of vulnerable biomass by adult catches;

Recalling that longline fishing vessels greater than 24 meters length overall (LSTLFVs) are highly mobile and can easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, so they have a high potential to operate

between IATTC and WCPFC convention areas;

Recalling Resolution C-11-05 on the establishment of a list of longline fishing vessels over 24 meters (LSTLFVs) authorized to operate in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Finally, taking into account Article IV of the Antigua Convention, which calls upon the Members of the Commission to apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management, and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention.

The IATTC therefore resolves that:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members of the Commission (CPCs) shall not increase the number of their active tuna longline vessels fishing for south Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area south of 10°S above the highest level reported during the recent reference period (2012-2021).
2. The Commission shall consider requests from CPCs that do not have active LSTLFVs that have caught south Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area during the reference period to enter the fishery and review this resolution, as appropriate.
3. CPCs whose vessels fish for albacore tuna shall cooperate to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishery in the IATTC Convention Area, including, inter alia, cooperation and collaboration to improve research with respect to the status of this stock.
4. Under the provisions established in Resolution C-03-05, CPCs shall report annually to the Commission all required data on their respective fleets that caught south Pacific albacore tuna during the previous calendar year. The required data shall be reviewed annually by the SAC following the recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff.
5. The IATTC scientific staff, taking into account feedback from the CPCs, should develop and make available data forms as part of the ongoing process to improve data provision under Resolution C-03-05. The forms should be presented and reviewed at SAC-14 and distributed to the CPCs.
6. The IATTC scientific staff shall present the data forms developed by the staff and the CPCs in 2022 at the 14th meeting of the SAC. The SAC should review and adopt appropriate data forms, taking into account their importance and scope.
7. The Commission shall seek to ensure compatibility between south Pacific albacore tuna conservation measures in the IATTC Convention Area and measures adopted or already in force in the WCPFC Convention Area.
8. The Director shall communicate this resolution to the WCPFC Secretariat within 90 days of its adoption.
9. This measure shall enter into force on 1 January 2024 and may be reviewed annually by the IATTC scientific staff and the SAC.

Appendix 4. Reports

4a. Report of the 5th Workshop of an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

5TH WORKSHOP ON AN ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM (EMS) IN THE EPO: FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

24-26 April 2023

(by videoconference)

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The 5th Workshop on an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO: Financial considerations, was held by videoconference from 24 to 26 April 2023. A list of participants is provided in Annex 1.

Opening of the meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Brad Wiley of the IATTC Policy and Compliance Division.

There were no comments on the draft agenda. It was recalled that the 5th EMS workshop was convened in the context of the terms of reference adopted by the Commission in [Resolution C-21-02](#) for a series of workshops to elaborate on the necessary aspects of an eventual EMS program to be approved by the Members. The goals of these workshops are not only to garner any conclusions and recommendations on the covered topics, but also to educate participants and foster communication and work towards a common understanding among stakeholders on EM matters. Participants were asked to consider and comment broadly on discussion topics related to the economic implications of an EMS for the tuna fisheries in the EPO, the procedures and responsibilities for EMS and its components for the establishment of financing and cost-allocation mechanisms, and the financial and administrative aspects of the EMS program within a suitable IATTC institutional framework.

The Chair indicated that IATTC staff would give one presentation corresponding to document [EMS-05-01, over the course of the meeting, pausing after each section for comments and discussion](#). Discussions took place consistent with the Chatham House Rule, meaning that comments would not be attributed to any individual, government or other affiliation, unless attribution was explicitly requested by the speaker.

Discussion of EMS-05-01, EMS Financial considerations of an EMS in the EPO

Mr. Marlon Roman, of the IATTC staff, presented document EMS-05-01 as indicated above, after stressing that this document contains a number of draft/strawman recommendations prepared by the staff with the goal of stimulating focused discussion on a number of topics.

4.1. Assessing the economic implications of an EMS for the tuna fisheries in the EPO

Staff Recommendation: *Consider the results of the cost-benefit analysis for longline fisheries, as reported in Rogers et al. (2021), and conduct a similar analysis for purse seine fisheries to facilitate a more efficient implementation of an EMS in the EPO.*

The staff explained the rationale for conducting a cost-benefit analysis to assess the economic implications and value of the EPO-EMS. The document presents two examples of fisheries, other than the EPO tuna purse-seine, that reported high levels of economic benefits relative to costs. While highlighting these studies, the staff emphasizes that conducting a cost-benefit analysis for the purse-seine fishery in the EPO is necessary to fully understand the economic value of EM and to consider its use for all EPO tuna fisheries. Additionally, Rogers *et al.* (2021) suggest that the economic variables considered as significant sources of value may differ between fisheries and RFMOs. Therefore, lessons learned from one fishery may not be

fully applicable to others, including the purse-seine fishery in the EPO.

- There were not comments on this recommendation.

4.2. Establishing financing, cost-allocation procedures and responsibilities for EMS and its components

Staff Recommendation: *Establish cost-allocation procedures and financing options for all expenses related to implementing and maintaining an EMS and its components (e.g., EM equipment, installation, technical assistance both at sea and at EM review centers, and EM analysis, including training, hardware and software).*

The staff stressed the need to identify all the associated costs and establish procedures, mechanisms and responsibilities for financing an EMS that would be effectively implemented and maintained in the long term. Towards this end, some approaches were presented, with emphasis on ‘cost recovery’, including some of its types, some key to optimize these costs aiming to add weight to EM economic benefits, and the need to explore options and design guidelines for the recovery of costs of an EPO-EMS.

- One participant asked which program the recommendations were aimed at, and a staff member suggested a hybrid system where centralized EM programs would be used for purse-seine fisheries, and national-based EM programs for longliners. They also noted that costs would need to be considered at the Commission level for data derived from national programs.
- Some participants agreed that, given the nature of the EM workshops, they should not try to limit options but should instead provide options for discussion in policy meetings. They suggested removing the word "procedures" from this recommendation. The staff, mindful of the editing proposed, agreed with its elimination. The staff was also noted that it is difficult to discuss specific details on cost-allocation procedures and financing options until the institutional structure of the EMS has been adopted.
- A group of participants expressed support for focusing on longliners first, as robust observer programs are already in place for purse-seine vessels. They suggested that cost-benefit analyses for purse seiners should focus more on EM in addition to observers, particularly for smaller purse-seine vessels that do not have observer coverage.

Staff Recommendation: *Conduct cost-recovery studies to explore options, and develop guidelines, for the recovery of costs of an EPO-EMS.*

- One participant expressed concern about how to explain cost recovery to fishers, suggesting that the term "cost-justification" might be more appropriate. The IATTC staff responded that it is difficult to provide many details regarding what a cost-recovery plan would entail or recommend a specific financial approach, but that they were informing participants of existing alternatives provided by other studies, including EM programs that have been implemented with designed cost-recovery plans. On this basis, the staff advocates the need to consider including a cost-recovery plan as part of the EMS implementation and supports cost-recovery studies to identify all the associated costs and establish mechanisms for cost-sharing arrangements and other relevant financing aspects. It was also remarked that cost recovery did not necessarily have to be implemented at the IATTC program level but could be coordinated through the IATTC at the national level following the AIDCP model.

4.3. Committee reviewing and monitoring the EPO-EMS

Staff Recommendation: *The Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) should review and monitor the financial and administrative aspects of the EMS, and subsequently submit relevant recommendations to the Commission.*

The IATTC staff expressed the need for EMS to be monitored and reviewed by a suitable body. In the case of the IATTC, the staff considers reasonable that the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) could be required to undertake this task, as it is responsible for advising and recommending on all the matters related to the financial administration of the Commission.

- There were no substantive comments on this recommendation.

Annex 1.

ASISTENTES - ATTEENDEES	
MIEMBROS - MEMBERS	
BELICE-BELIZE	
IAN CONSTANTINO Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit ian.constantino@bhsfu.gov.bz	
CANADA- CANADA	
JOSÉ BENCHETRIT Fisheries and Oceans Canada jose.benchetrit@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	
CHINA	
QINQIN LIN Shangai Ocean University qqlin@shou.edu.cn XIAOBING LIU Shangai Ocean University xiobing.liu@hotmail.com MENG XIA Shangai Ocean University mengxia.ocean@gmail.com	YAN LI China Overseas Fisheries Association liyan@cofa.net.cn KAIRUI ZHANG China Overseas Fisheries Association zhangkairui@cofa.net.cn
COLOMBIA	
ANDRES ORTÍZ Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca andres.ortiz@aunap.gov.co LEONEL BOHORQUEZ Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores leonel.bohorquez@cancilleria.gov.co JAVIER GARCÍA Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo jgarcia@mincit.gov.co	SANDRA MUÑOZ Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural sandra.munoz@minagricultura.gov.co ENRIQUE DE LA VEGA Programa Nacional de Observadores edelavega@pescalimpia.org GERMÁN FONSECA Programa Nacional de Observadores observadores@pescalimpia.org
COREA-KOREA	
ILKANG NA Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries ikna@korea.kr JOOYOUN LEE Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries sporyoun@korea.kr JUNGHYUN LIM National Institute of Fisheries Science jhlml@korea.kr YOUJUNG KWON National Institute of Fisheries Science kwonuj@korea.kr SANGGYU SHIN National Institute of Fisheries Science gyuyades82@gmail.com SOOJEONG LEE Korea Fisheries Resources Agency sjlee@fira.or.kr	SANGJIN BAEK Korea Overseas Fisheries Association sjbaek@kosfa.org YOONKYUNG JEONG Korea Overseas Fisheries Association dbsrud1106@kosfa.org SOOMIN KIM Korea Overseas Fisheries Association soominkim@kofci.org SEUNGHYUN CHOO Sajo Industries Co., Ltd. shc1980@sajo.co.kr JONGHYUN CHOI Sajo Industries Co., Ltd. cjh@sajo.co.kr JINSEOK PARK Sajo Industries Co., Ltd. goodtime9@nate.com
COSTA RICA	
JOSÉ MIGUEL CARVAJAL INCOPECA/ Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura jcarvajal@incopesca.go.cr	NIXON LARA INCOPECA/ Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura nixon.lara.21@gmail.com
ECUADOR	

<p>ALEJANDRO MOYA Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca amoyad@produccion.gob.ec</p> <p>ISIDRO ANDRADE Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca jandrade@produccion.gob.ec</p> <p>LUCIANO DELGADO Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca ldelgados@produccion.gob.ec</p> <p>HENRY MERO Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca hmero@produccion.gob.ec</p>	<p>JOSÉ VÉLEZ Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca jvelezt@produccion.gob.ec</p> <p>LEONARDO CAICEDO Tunacons data.observadores@tunacons.org</p> <p>GUILLERMO MORÁN Tunacons gammv6731@gmail.com</p> <p>PEDRO SANTISTEVAN Tunacons psantistevan@tunacons.org</p> <p>LUIS TORRES Probecuador probecuador@gye.satnet.net</p>
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA – UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
<p>RACHAEL WADSWORTH NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service rachael.wadsworth@noaa.gov</p> <p>MERNA SAAD U.S. Department of State saadmn@state.gov</p> <p>CELIA BARROSO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service celia.barroso@noaa.gov</p> <p>HEATHER CRONIN NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service heather.a.cronin@noaa.gov</p> <p>ANNETTE HENRY NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service annette.henry@noaa.gov</p> <p>VALERIE POST NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service valerie.post@noaa.gov</p>	<p>AMANDA MUNRO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service amanda.munro@noaa.gov</p> <p>RYAN WULFF NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service ryan.wulff@noaa.gov</p> <p>ELIZABETH HELLMERS California Department of Fish and Wildlife elizabeth.hellmers@wildlife.ca.gov</p> <p>WILLIAM FOX U.S. Commissioner billx@mac.com</p> <p>DAVID ITANO Tnc daveitano@gmail.com</p> <p>MATTHEW OWENS Tri Marine mowens@trimarinegroup.com</p>
GUATEMALA	
<p>CARLOS MARTÍNEZ* Dipesca carlosmartinez41331@gmail.com</p> <p>RACHEL RODAS Dipesca ashadud@yahoo.es</p>	<p>WESLEY AGUILAR Dipesca alexaguilardipesca@gmail.com</p> <p>VASCO FRANCO Pesquera Reina de la Paz vascofrancoduran@yahoo.com</p>
JAPÓN - JAPAN	

<p>SHINJI HIRUMA Fisheries Agency of Japan shinji_hiruma150@maff.go.jp</p> <p>MASAHIDE KANNO Fisheries Agency of Japan masahide_kanno210@maff.go.jp</p> <p>JUN DAITO Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association daito@japantuna.or.jp</p> <p>AKIHITO FUKUYAMA Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing Association fukuyama@kaimaki.or.jp</p> <p>FUJUKI HAYASHI Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association fhayashi@japantuna.or.jp</p> <p>NOZOMU MIURA Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association miura@japantuna.or.jp</p>	<p>DAISAKU NAGAI Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association nagai@japantuna.or.jp</p> <p>REIKO OHASHI Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association ohashi@japantuna.or.jp</p> <p>YUJI UOZUMI Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association uozumi@japantuna.or.jp</p> <p>HIROYUKI YOSHIDA Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association yoshida@japantuna.or.jp</p> <p>SACHIKO TSUJI Fisheries Research and Education Agency sachiko27tsuji@gmail.com</p>
MÉXICO – MEXICO	
<p>BERNARDINO MUÑOZ* Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca bernardino.munoz@conapesca.gob.mx</p> <p>ISABEL REYES Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca isabel.reyes@conapesca.gob.mx</p> <p>MICHEL DREYFUS Fidemar dreyfus@cicese.mx</p>	<p>GUSTAVO LÓPEZ Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca gustavo.lopez@conapesca.gob.mx</p> <p>BERTHA SOLER Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca berthaa.soler@gmail.com</p>
PANAMÁ- PANAMA	
<p>YARKELIA VERGARA Arap yvergara@arap.gob.pa</p>	
PERÚ - PERU	
<p>JOSÉ SALCEDO Instituto del Mar del Perú jsalcedo@imarpe.gob.pe</p>	
TAIPEI CHINO – CHINESE TAIPEI	
<p>TSU KANG WEN Fisheries Agency tsukang1008@msl.f.a.gov.tw</p> <p>HSIANG-YI YU Fisheries Agency hsiangyi@msl.f.a.gov.tw</p>	<p>HUI SHAN MA Overseas Fisheries Development Council sandrama7@gmail.com</p>
UNIÓN EUROPEA – EUROPEAN UNION	
<p>MIGUEL HERRERA Opagac miguel.herrera@opagac.org</p>	
VENEZUELA	
<p>ALVIN DELGADO Fundatun fundatunpnov@gmail.com</p>	
NO MIEMBROS COOPERANTES – COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS	
BOLIVIA	
<p>LIMBERT CORTÉZ Ministerio de Defensa limbert.cortez@mindef.gob.bo</p>	<p>HUGO ALSINA Unidad Boliviana de Pesca Marítima hugo@alsina-et-al.org</p>
CHILE	

CAMILA BUSTOS Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura lbustos@subpesca.cl	LUIS COCAS Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura lcocas@subpesca.cl
ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES – INTERNACIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	
VERÓNICA CÁCERES IAC secretario@iacseaturtle.org	VICTORIA GONZÁLEZ-CARMAN IAC vgcarman@gmail.com
ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES – NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	
LUIGI BENINCASA Atunec luigibenincasa@gmail.com DIMAS GIANUCA BirdLife International dimas.gianuca@savebrasil.org.br PABLO GUERRERO WWF pablo.guerrero@wwf.org.ec MARIN HAWK Marine Stewardship Council marin.hawk@msc.org	CRAIG HEBERER The Nature Conservancy craig.heberer@tnc.org ALEXIA MORGAN Sustainable Fisheries Partnership alexia.morgan@sustainablefish.org HILARIO MURUA International Seafood Sustainability Foundation hmurua@iss-foundation.org ESTHER WOZNAK The Pew Charitable Trusts ewozniak@pewtrusts.org
OBSERVADORES – OBSERVER	
JOHANNA PIERRE JPEC johanna@jpec.co.nz	
SECRETARÍA – SECRETARIAT	
ARNULFO FRANCO afranco@iattc.org MARISOL AGUILAR maguilar@iattc.org RICARDO BELMONTES rbelmontes@iattc.org MANUEL CORREIA manuelcorreia.a@gmail.com BARBARA CULLINGFORD bcullingford@iattc.org ALEXANDRE DA SILVA adasilva@iattc.org MONICA GALVÁN mgalvan@iattc.org MELANIE HUTCHINSON mhutchinson@iattc.org CLERIDY LENNERT clennert@iattc.org JON LOPEZ jlopez@iattc.org	PAULINA LLANO pllano@iattc.org JEFF MORGAN jmorgan@iattc.org DAN OVANDO dovando@iattc.org JEAN FRANCOIS PULVENIS jpulvenis@iattc.org MARLON ROMAN mroman@iattc.org ROBERT SARAZEN rsarazen@iattc.org SALVADOR SIU ssiu@iattc.org ENRIQUE UREÑA eurena@iattc.org KATYANA VERT-PRE vertpre.katyana@gmail.com BRAD WILEY bwiley@iattc.org

4b. Report of the 1st Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH
(EBWG)**

FIRST MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

11-12 May 2023

REPORT OF THE CO-CHAIRS

The 1st meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG) was held in La Jolla, California (USA) on 11-12 May 2023. The Co-Chairs stressed the importance of the Working Group assuming ecosystem-related functions, thereby complying with Resolution [C-22-06](#) on Terms of Reference for a Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch.

The agenda of the meeting is attached as Appendix 1.

The list of documents presented and discussed during the meeting is attached as Appendix 2. The documents can be found on the [website](#) of the 1st meeting of the Working Group, as well as the corresponding presentations.

As a result of the group's work, several recommendations were agreed upon and forwarded to the Scientific Advisory Committee for review. They are published on the IATTC website as part of the [recommendations of the SAC to the IATTC](#) and as an appendix to this report.

Appendix 1.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Review of recommendations from the 11th meeting of the Bycatch Working Group
 - a. Brief update regarding outcome of 2022 circle hook workshop, with goal to resolve C-19-04 (Co-Chairs)
4. Member country updates on Ecosystem and Bycatch Activities
5. Presentations
 - Ecosystem*
 1. Deep Sea Mining: update on developments and relevance to the IATTC (Ocean Foundation)
 - Elasmobranchs*
 1. Shark post release survival rates and management implications in longline fisheries (Hutchinson, IATTC Staff)
 2. Improving conservation and management of sharks in the EPO and ensuring compatibility with other regional fisheries management organizations in the Pacific (Shaw, Canada)
 3. Assessing reported shark and ray catch in industrial fisheries: A global review to inform assessment and conservation (Cronin, Univ. of California Santa Cruz)
 4. Progress in addressing key research to inform Mobulid ray conservation in the Pacific Ocean (Moreno, ISSF)
 5. Exploring helicopter vessel communication for Mobulid bycatch avoidance (Waldo, UC Santa Cruz)
 - Sea Turtles*
 1. Drifting fish aggregating devices (dFAD) & sea turtle interactions in the open ocean (Escalle, ISSF/SPC).
 - Seabirds*
 1. A proposal to develop an IATTC seabird work plan (Gianuca, Birdlife International).
 - Best Practices*
 1. Overview of knowledge and data gaps of best practices for vulnerable species in IATTC fisheries: recommendations for future research (Hutchinson, IATTC Staff)
 2. Role of EM in improving the collection of bycatch data and verifying best practices for safe handling and release (Heberer & Fletcher, TNC)
 3. Testing bycatch release devices for vulnerable elasmobranchs in tropical tuna purse seiners of the Eastern Pacific Ocean, (Murua, AZTI/ISSF/IATTC)
 4. Sea Turtle handling and best practices in Central America (Andraka/Parga, SUBMON, ECOPacific +)
6. Relevant information papers (No presentation)
 - Purse-seine indicators for silky sharks in the EPO (IATTC staff)
 - Ecosystem considerations (IATTC staff)
 - Vulnerability status for silky and hammerheads in the EPO: EASI-fish assessment (IATTC staff)
 - Adjusting time-of-day and depth of fishing provides an economically viable solution to seabird bycatch in an albacore tuna longline fishery (Gilman et al 2023)
7. Recommendations to the Scientific Advisory Committee
8. Other business

9. Adjournment

|

Appendix 2.

Meeting documents:

- [Knowledge and research gaps](#)
- [Recommendations of the 1st meeting of the Ecosystem and Bycatch WG](#)

Informational documents:

- [INF-A. FADs and Sea Turtle Simulations](#)
- [INF-B. Testing Bycatch Release Devices Elasmobranchs in the EPO](#)
- [INF-C. Helicopter communication for Mobulids Bycatch](#)

Presentations:

- [Entangled catch - Estimating shark and ray capture in tuna fisheries](#)
- [Exploring Helicopter-Vessel Communication for Mobulid Bycatch Avoidance in Tropical Tuna Fisheries](#)
- [Gianuca et al. - Seabird work plan](#)
- [Improving Conservation and Management of Sharks in the EPO](#)
- [Knowledge and data gaps to the implementation of best handling and release practices for vulnerable species](#)
- [Sea turtles handling and release practices](#)
- [Moreno et al. - Mobulus conservation](#)
- [The Role of EM in improving the collection of bycatch data](#)

Appendix 3. Recommendations to the SAC and endorsed by the SAC to the IATTC

1. Deep Sea Mining. The Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group (EBWG) recommends to the Commission:

- Be attentive to, and monitor the development of mining in the international seabed area in terms of its potential effects on the ocean ecosystem and populations of tuna and tuna-like species;
- Participate, as appropriate, in the process of discussions on the subject within the framework of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), as an observer and/or through appropriate collaborative mechanisms;
- Collaborate, in a manner consistent with its mandate, work program, and the financial, human, and material resources at its disposal, in research on the potential effects of mining in the international seabed area among others on the ocean ecosystem and populations of tuna and tuna-like species.

2. Elasmobranchs

- The EBWG recommends the adoption of new measures for best handling and release practices for elasmobranchs that are caught by longline gear and not retained, i.e. cutting the line as close to the hook as possible and such that the gear left is less than 1 meter in length, taking as a reference measures in CMM 2022-04 adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).
- The EBWG recommends that the IATTC scientific staff continues to develop improved data collection and reporting standards on elasmobranchs for Class 1-5 purse seine vessels (work already planned under project A.3.a), considering the work already done regarding longline vessels (document SAC-14-INF-Q) to obtain reliable catch, size composition, and other biological information for assessments of vulnerability and stock status.
- Noting shark conservation and management measures recently adopted by WCPFC and considering that scientific studies conclude that the percentage of the fin to body weight ratio varies, including differences in ratios among shark species, the types and the number of fins included in the calculations, the type of body weight used (whole or processed), the processing method used to separate the fins from the body (finning technique) and wet versus dry weight of fins; and at the same time, considering the need to improve the identification of shark species, knowing the need to improve the collection of data by species, and seeking the full utilization of the catches, the EBWG recommends the adoption of a conservation and management measure requiring sharks with fins naturally attached to the body at the point of the first landing.
- Consider adopting similar measures to ensure shark conservation is, to the extent practical, compatible throughout the Pacific Ocean.

3. Sea Turtles

- Based on the 1st Circle Hook Workshop outcomes, which identified variable results regarding circle hook sizes, and balancing interests in advancing sea turtle bycatch mitigation efforts with socioeconomic needs, the EBWG recommends that the IATTC staff co-host a follow-up workshop with the goal of exploring/expanding on topics of interest/data-knowledge gaps identified by the Bycatch Working Group to mitigate bycatch of sea turtles and to complete the outstanding requirements of Resolution C-19-04. The EBWG seeks to strike a balance between the objective

of protecting vulnerable species such as sea turtles, seabirds, and sharks while maintaining the socioeconomic needs of fishing communities.

- Noting the potential connectivity between known areas of drifting FAD deployment and sea turtle habitat, the EBWG encourages additional research on at-sea interactions between active or abandoned drifting FADs and sea turtles and deems it appropriate to have these topics be considered by the FAD Working Group.

4. Seabirds. The EBWG recommends the development of an action plan for seabird bycatch, including an update of Resolution C-11-02 within the next two years that reflect the best available science on seabird bycatch mitigation techniques with consideration of progress in other TRFMOs (particularly CCSBT and WCPFC).

5. Best Handling and Release Practices. The EBWG recommends the SAC and Commission consider the recommendations of paper EB-01-01, recognizing the need to address best handling and release guidelines, test new bycatch release devices, and collect more post-release survival data for various non-target taxa impacted by fisheries under the purview of the IATTC.

6. Monitoring. The EBWG recommends increasing monitoring of longline fishing and class 1-5 purse-seine activities, as this will facilitate understanding of and measures to address the impact of fishing activities on target species, non-target species, and the ecosystem. This may be achieved through increased observer coverage recommended by IATTC staff, which could be achieved by the use of electronic monitoring.

7. Climate Change. The EBWG recommends including the climate change topic as a permanent item on the agenda of this working group to ensure that the IATTC is prepared to address the possible effects of these changes on the target and non-target populations under its purview.

4c. Report of the 7th Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

AD-HOC PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FADS

7TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

12-13 May 2023

DOCUMENT FAD-07

CHAIR'S REPORT

The 7th meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs of the IATTC was held in La Jolla, California, USA, on 12-13 May 2023.

The agenda of the meeting is attached as Appendix 1.

The list of documents presented and discussed during the meeting is attached as Appendix 2. The documents can be found in on the FADs Working Group 7th meeting website as well as the corresponding presentations.

As a result of the work of the group, several recommendations were agreed and are posted on the FADs Working Group meeting website as document FAD-07-05.

The Group also discussed the mandate it received from the Commission to “*consider, and possibly recommend, clarifications or revisions to Resolution C-19-01 to facilitate the monitoring of mesh size obligations, underwater part design or responsibilities of vessels that have opportunistic interactions with non-compliant FADs.*”

The IATTC staff explained that part of the problem may be attributable to the criteria described in Annex II of the described in Annex II of the resolution, arguably subjective, which indicate that «*the design and deployment of FADs ... are based in the following principles:*

1. *In the floating component ... if covered with netting ... have a stretched mesh spacing of less than 7 cm. mesh stretched of less than 7cm...*
2. *The design of the underwater component ... should avoid the use of netting... If netting is used... it should be tied as tightly as practicable in the form of a sausage ... of less than 7cm.*”

In addition, the staff indicated that, following discussions with the CPCs, the instructions to observers were updated in mid-2022 to provide information that would more accurately enable the analysis provided.

The Group concluded that this significantly improved the accuracy of the data. For this reason, the Group did not consider that clarifications to the current wording of Annex II of Resolution C-19-01 were necessary. On the other hand, it did consider it necessary for the Commission to revise Annex II to require the design and deployment of non-entangling FADs.

ANNEX 1

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
AD HOC PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FADs
7TH MEETING
La Jolla, California (USA)
12-13 May 2023

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Review of recommendations from the 6th meeting of the FAD Working Group	
4. Advances on biodegradable FADs in the EPO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodegradable FADs: analysis of prototype performance from buoy data • The performance on the JellyFAD in the EPO [Moreno et al.] • Clarification on the monitoring of obligations regarding the size of the mesh used in FADs 	FAD-07-02
5. FAD data reporting established in Resolution C-21-04	
6. FAD fishery indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fishery on FADs in the EPO • Updated biomass indicators from echosounder buoys • The Poseidon model [Vertpre et al.] 	FAD-07-01 FAD-07-03
7. Initiatives to reduce impacts of FADs fishing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines to reduce the impact of FADs on sea turtles. [Moreno et al.] • Predicted origins of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (dFADs) as a source of plastic marine debris into environmentally sensitive habitats of Hawaii. [Royer et al.] • Preliminary analyses of the regional database of stranded drifting FADs in the Pacific Ocean [Escalle et al.] • A novel FAD tracking device tested in the Pacific Ocean. [Moreno et al.] • Acoustic discrimination of juvenile yellowfin tuna in an offshore cage [Sobradillo et al.] • ISSF Workshop on different approaches to limit the number of FADs in the oceans [Restrepo et al.] 	FAD-07-04
8. Latest scientific information on FADs and developments in other tRFMO	
9. Conclusions and recommendations	
10. Other business	
11. Adjournment	

ANNEX 2

Meeting documents

[FAD-07-01 - Floating object fishery indicators a 2022 report](#)

[FAD-07-02 - Biodegradable FADs project report](#)

[FAD-07-03 - Updated biomass index from echo-sounder buoys](#)

[FAD-07-04 - Guidelines to reduce FAD impacts on sea turtles](#)

[FAD-07-05 - Recommendations of the FADs WG](#)

Informational documents

[INF-A. Analyses of the regional database of stranded \(dFAD\) in the EPO](#)

[INF-B. Origin of FADs arriving in Hawaii](#)

Presentations

[A novel FAD tracking device tested in EPO](#)

[Biodegradable FADs project report](#)

[Biomass indicators from echosounder buoys in EPO 2023](#)

[Database on Stranded drifting fish Aggregating Devices \(dFADs\) in EPO Escalle et al.](#)

[FAD data reporting established in Resolution C-21-04](#)

[FAD Limits](#)

[Floating object fishery indicators - 2022 report](#)

[Guidelines to reduce impact of FADs on Sea turtles-Moreno et al.](#)

[IATTC 7th FAD WG meeting](#)

[IATTC JellyFAD-2023](#)

[POSEIDON](#)

[Predicted origins of drifting FADs](#)

[TS measurements of juvenile YFT - Sobradillo et al](#)

Related documents

[Acoustic discrimination of juvenile yellowfin tuna in an offshore cage](#)

[ISSF-Workshop Different Approaches Limit Number FADs Oceans](#)

[Moreno et al - The Jelly-FAD - New results on it's performance](#)

[Moreno et al - FAD marking system](#)

Background documents

[SAC-14-INF-G Poseidon](#)

4d. Report of the 10th Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

10TH MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada

2 August 2023

CHAIR'S REPORT

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Current status of the financial contributions of Members	
4. Financial contributions of Members:	
a) Regular budget (Resolution C-15-05)	
b) Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building (Resolution C-14-03)	CAF-10-02 CAF-10-03
c) Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution C-22-03)	
5. Review of the financial audit report	
6. Review of proposed budgets for 2024 and 2025	CAF-10-01
7. Other business	
8. Recommendations to the Commission	
9. Adjournment	

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees

The tenth meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance was held in Victoria, B.C., Canada, on 2 August 2023.

Opening of the meeting

In the absence of the Chair of the meeting, Ms. Rachael Wadsworth of the United States, Mr. Ryan Wulff of the United States was elected Chair for this meeting and was thanked for graciously accepting this appointment.

Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted with the introduction of item 3, at Panama's request, regarding the presentation of a statement on its contributions to the IATTC.

Current status of the financial contributions of Members

Ms. Nora Roa, of the IATTC staff, reported that, as of 30 June 2023, there were outstanding contributions totaling US\$ 6,598,378, as described in Table 5 of Document [CAF-10-01](#). Two Members, Panama and Venezuela, are in arrears in the payment of their contributions for an amount equal to or greater than the total contributions that would have been due during the previous twenty-four (24) months.

Panama referred to the document published on the IATTC website, [INF-A. Statement from Panama](#). This document shows the payments Panama has made since 2020 to date in the amount of US\$ 3,182,488.29,

with US\$ 2,627,688.71 outstanding, which it expects to pay in full by 2027. The Committee noted with satisfaction Panama's commitment and El Salvador, in its capacity as President *pro tempore* of OSPESCA, asked the Commission to exempt Panama from the application of Article XV, paragraph 4, of the Antigua Convention and that Panama continue to have the right to participate in the Commission's decision-making, which was supported by several delegations.

Korea, Mexico and Colombia, in addition to explaining the reasons for their delays, formally committed to settling their respective debts in the near future.

Financial contributions of Members

a) Regular budget (Resolution [C-15-05](#))

Ms. Nora Roa, of the IATTC staff, recalled that Resolution C-15-05 establishes that 90% of the budget "is shared among the Members, weighted by Gross National Income (GNI) category", which is defined by the World Bank. Over the past year, the Bank adjusted the GNI category of several countries, including some that are Members of the IATTC and should therefore see a change in the amount of their contribution.

Three Members, Panama, Colombia and Belize, acknowledged that they had been subject to a category change by the World Bank, but requested that they remain in their previous category for purposes of their contributions to the IATTC budget.

At the request of one delegation, the Secretariat reported that there was only one precedent for maintaining a Member in a category other than that issued by the World Bank, due to truly exceptional circumstances.

It was requested that this precedent be brought to the attention of the Commission as a valuable background for its decision on the request of Panama, Colombia and Belize. The Secretariat was asked to recalculate the contributions in order to assess what they would look like if the requests of these three Members were approved. Several delegations mentioned that, in view of this type of request, it would be advisable to consider the possibility of revising the formula established in Resolution C-15-05.

b) Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building (Resolution [C-14-03](#))

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, from the Commission staff, presented Document [CAF-10-02 Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building for developing Members](#), established by Resolution C-14-03. He reported that the balance of the fund is US\$ 470,204 as of 31 May 2023.

Activities planned and approved to be carried out with Fund resources for 2021 and 2022 were not carried out due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The work to be carried out with the Fund's resources for the remainder of 2023 and for 2024 are as follows:

- Development of data collection and scientific infrastructure for fisheries management. In particular, work on shark fisheries. (Amount to be determined based on specific activities to be planned in consultation with interested CPCs, within the limits of available funds).
- Training seminar/workshop on sea turtle mitigation techniques pursuant to Resolution C-19-04.
- Training seminars for port inspections pursuant to Resolution C-21-07.
- Annual IATTC scholarship for scientific capacity in developing CPCs.
- Participation of representatives of developing Members in the annual meeting of the IATTC and its subsidiary bodies.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission the approval of these activities.

c) Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution [C-22-03](#))

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, from the Commission staff, presented Document [CAF-10-03 - Regional program of observers for transshipments at sea](#). He focused his presentation on the financial component of the program; the operational component had already been presented at the Scientific Advisory Committee meeting and the compliance component would be reviewed by the Compliance Committee.

He reported that a budget of US\$ 1,100,000 was requested for 2024, to be divided as follows: a contribution of US\$ 500,000 to be paid by the participants in the program and distributed among them in accordance with the agreed formula; the remainder to be completed with the accumulated surplus, thus maintaining a contingency fund of approximately US\$ 300,000.

The Committee agreed to recommend that the IATTC approve the requested budget with the distribution of contributions and use of the existing surplus as described.

Review of the financial audit report

The Secretariat recalled that the financial audit report for fiscal year 2022 had been circulated on 12 July 2023 and a hard copy of it had already been provided to the Commissioners and Heads of Delegation attending the meeting. In response to a question from one delegation, it was also clarified that this report covered not only the execution of the IATTC budget, but also that of the AIDCP.

One delegation stressed the need to improve the report in the future, particularly in light of several worrying inaccuracies in its wording (e.g., the reference to *High Contracting Parties* rather than IATTC Members, or to *financial policies* prescribed by these Parties, which do not exist, but there are financial regulations dating from 1982 that were revised in 2003). This delegation emphasized the need to have a clear methodology for the preparation of the financial statements and a mechanism that complies with international standards. Finally, it requested that the consulting firm be asked to review the translation of the document from English to Spanish.

Review of proposed budgets for 2024 and 2025

Ms. Nora G. Roa, from the IATTC staff, presented Document [CAF-10-01 - Review of proposed budgets for 2024 and 2025](#). After reviewing the Commission's financial activity in 2022 and 2023 to date, she described in detail the budget requested for 2024 and also referred to the projected budget for 2025.

She stated that, in order to continue to operate as it has in accordance with its mandate and in response to the requests of its Members, the Commission needs a budget of US\$8,727,629 for 2024, which is very similar to the 2023 budget of US\$8,519,111. The increase would be only 2.4%, well below the rate of inflation in the United States. The US\$734,000 corresponding to the Enhanced Monitoring Program should be added to this amount, as was done in the previous budget.

From the discussion that began with this presentation, three main themes emerged:

- The need, highlighted by several delegations, to review and update the IATTC's financial regulations in order to have very clear rules, in line with best contemporary practices, for the management and use of the organization's financial resources.
- The question of the use of budgetary resources that have not yet been used, to which the outstanding payments of contributions in arrears should be added. Likewise, a couple of delegations noted the existence of unused resources in 2021 and 2022, amounting to approximately 7% per year, a situation that will most likely be repeated in 2023: it may be asked why, under these conditions, the possibility of increasing the budget for 2024 should be considered. In the same vein, Ecuador referred to the use of these unused resources and stated that it could not accept an increase in annual contributions, taking into account its own economic situation and that of other Members. For this reason, it requested that the same budget be maintained for 2024 as for 2023. The United States pointed out that the amount not used in 2022 could be used to finance part of the expenses in 2024,

which Ecuador supported.

- The budget of the Enhanced Monitoring Program: In response to a question from the European Union about the costs of the program, particularly with regard to salaries, the Program Coordinator, Ms. Cristina De La Cadena, reported that these costs included salaries and insurance payments for 28 samplers. After the first five months of the program in its pilot phase, now that it had entered the main phase of the program, a better idea of how to reduce costs could be obtained after one year of operation, in addition to addressing the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee to prepare and present a cost-benefit evaluation of the program at its meeting in 2024. Guatemala requested more and more detailed information on the program and reserved the right to approve or not approve its continuation in the future. Ecuador requested that the program's budget be reduced by half, i.e., US\$ 385,000.

Other business

No other business was discussed.

Recommendations to the Commission

The Committee agreed to submit the following recommendations to the Commission:

- 1) The Committee supported and thanked the request submitted by Panama, as set out in Document [CAF-10 INF-A](#), for the Commission to provide, by the end of this annual meeting, specific documentation on Panama's outstanding debt in order to facilitate the establishment of a payment plan that would allow the payment of all outstanding contributions by 2027.
- 2) There were requests from Panama, El Salvador, Belize and Colombia to allow exemptions from the application of the contribution formula in C-15-05 regarding the GNI factor for 2024. There was no consensus in the Committee to support these requests, but there was support for a request, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Resolution C-15-05, that this resolution be reviewed at the next annual meeting of the Commission.
- 3) The Committee thanked the Secretariat for its report on the use of the Special Fund for Capacity Building and approved the recommended program for the coming year, as described in Section 4 of Document [CAF-10-02 - Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building](#).
- 4) The Committee thanked the Secretariat for its presentation on the transshipment program and approved the proposal to:
 - a. Adopt a budget of US\$ 1,100,000 for 2024, assuming that projections of expenditures to be incurred are accurate. In this case, only a contribution of US\$ 500,000 would be required from the participants, to be allocated according to the agreed formula and supplemented by funds from the accumulated surplus of the observer program to monitor transshipments at sea.
 - b. Maintain a contingency fund of approximately US\$ 300,000 with the contributions and use of the aforementioned surpluses.
- 5) The Committee took note of the 2022 audit and discussed at length the manner in which it was presented and how it reflected the Commission's financial policies and regulations, noting inaccuracies in the audit report, in addition to the fact that the same audit firm has been used for many years, which is not advisable. The Secretariat indicated that it had already initiated a process to review the financial regulations, including the audit process. The Committee recommended that

the Secretariat continue to work with the Committee during this review and take into account the concerns raised in the discussion so that this can be considered at next year's meeting.

- 6) The Committee expressed its disagreement with the proposed budget for 2024 and, in particular, requested clarification on the underutilization of funds in 2022 and previous years. It requested the Secretariat to:
 - a. Report on the funds remaining from budget execution in 2022 and previous years, and on the current status of the General Fund.
 - b. Prepare a budget scenario for 2024 for the amount requested by the Secretariat but with contributions frozen at the same level as last year (instead of using the formula established in Resolution C-15-05) and estimate the amount of the general fund carryover that would be needed to finance the difference between this income and anticipated expenses.
 - c. Prepare another scenario, based on a thorough review of all budget areas where there has been repeated underutilization of approved funds, to suggest possible reductions in those items in 2024, while also calculating how much should be carried over from the general fund to finance any difference between income and expenses.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. on 2 August in Victoria, B.C., Canada.

Annex 1. List of attendees

ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES	
MIEMBROS - MEMBERS	
BELICE-BELIZE	
VALARIE LANZA* Ministry of Finance valerie.lanza@bhsfu.gov.bz	DELICE PINKARD Ministry of Finance delice.pinkard@bhsfu.gov.bz
CANADA-CANADA	
AMBER LINDSTEDT* Fisheries and Oceans Canada Amber.Lindstedt@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	NADIA HAMOUI Fisheries and Oceans Canada nadia.hamoui@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
FELICIA CULL Fisheries and Oceans Canada Felicia.Cull@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	
CHINA	
JIANGFENG ZHU* Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs jfzhu@shou.edu.cn	QINQIN LIN Shanghai Ocean University qqlin@shou.edu.cn
YURU HE Shanghai Ocean University yrhe@shou.edu.cn	FENG WU Shanghai Ocean University fwu@shou.edu.cn
COLOMBIA	
LEONEL BOHÓRQUEZ* Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores lbohorquezr@cancilleria.gov.co	SANDRA MUÑOZ Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural sandra.munoz@minagricultura.gov.co
JAVIER GARCÍA Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo jgarcia@mincit.gov.co	ANDRÉS ORTÍZ Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca andres.ortiz@aunap.gov.co
GUSTAVO LARA Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible GLara@minambiente.gov.co	ENRIQUE DE LA VEGA Programa Nacional de Observadores edelavega@pescalimpia.org
CARMEN LÓPEZ Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible calopezanava@minambiente.gov.co	
COREA-KOREA	
SOOBIN SHIM Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries sbin8shim@korea.kr	
COSTA RICA	
JOSÉ MIGUEL CARVAJAL* INCOPECA jcarvajal@incopesca.go.cr	
ECUADOR	
ISIDRO ANDRADE * Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca jandrade@produccion.gob.ec	PEDRO SANTISTEVAN Tunacons psantistevan@tunacons.org
LUCIANO DELGADO Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca ldelgados@produccion.gob.ec	LUIS TORRES Probecuador probecuador@gve.satnet.net
JAVIER CARDOSO Apolo Abogados despachojc@apolo.ec	RAFAEL TRÚJILLO Cámara Nacional de Pesquería rtrujillo@camaradepesqueria.ec
GUILLERMO MORÁN Tunacons gamv6731@gmail.com	JORGE VILLAVICENCIO Atunec abjorgevillavicenciomendoza@gmail.com
EL SALVADOR	
ANTONIO VÁSQUEZ*	

Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería Antonio Carlos antonio.vasquez@mag.gob.sv	
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
COLIN BRINKMAN* U.S. Department of State Brinkmancc@state.gov MERNA SAAD U.S. Department of State saadmn@state.gov DEREK CAMPBELL NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service derek.campbell@noaa.gov AMY LUBRANO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service amy.lubrano@noaa.gov	AMANDA MUNRO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service amanda.munro@noaa.gov RACHAEL O'MALLEY NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service Rachel.omalley@noaa.gov PAUL ORTIZ NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service paul.ortiz@noaa.gov RYAN WULFF NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service ryan.wulff@noaa.gov
FRANCIA (TU)-FRANCE (OT)	
JULIETTE HAZIZA* French General directorate for maritime affairs, fisheries and aquaculture juliette.haziza@agriculture.gouv.fr	
GUATEMALA	
JULIO LEMUS* Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería juliolemusdipesca@gmail.com BERNAL CHAVARRÍA Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería bchavarria@lsg-cr.com	CARLOS MARTÍNEZ Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería carlosmartinez41331@gmail.com VASCO FRANCO Pesquera Reina de la Paz vascofrancoduran@yahoo.com
JAPÓN-JAPAN	
SHINJI HIRUMA* Fisheries Agency of Japan shinji_hiruma150@maff.go.jp	
MÉXICO- MEXICO	
BERNARDINO MUÑOZ * Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca Bernardino.munoz@conapesc.gob.mx GUSTAVO LÓPEZ Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca gustavo.lopez@conapesc.gob.mx ISABEL C. REYES Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca Isabel.reyes@conapesc.gob.mx BERTHA SOLER Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca berthaa.soler@gmail.com MARTHA BETANCOURT Fidemar martha.betancourt@uabc.edu.mx ARMANDO DÍAZ Fidemar adiaz@cicese.mx	MICHEL DREYFUS Fidemar dreyfus@cicese.mx LUIS FLEISCHER Fidemar lfleischer21@hotmail.com MARÍA ALVIDREZ Procesa/Pesca Chiapas cristina.alvidrez@procesa.mx GUILLERMO COMPEÁN Consultor gacompean@hotmail.com ERNESTO ESCOBAR Pesca Azteca eescobar@pescaazteca.com MARIANA RAMOS Alianza del Pacífico por el Atún Sustentable ramoss.mariana@gmail.com
NICARAGUA	
ROBERTO CHACÓN * Instituto Nicaraguense de la Pesca y Acuicultura rchacon@inpesca.gob.ni RENALDI BARNUTTY Instituto Nicaraguense de la Pesca y Acuicultura rbarnutti@inpesca.gob.ni JULIO GUEVARA Comisionado juliocgq@hotmail.com	REYNA ARANA Atunes de Nicaragua, S. A. karina.marquez3@gmail.com ARMANDO SEGURA Nicaragua Tuna Sociedad Anónima segura@ibw.com.ni
PANAMÁ - PANAMA	

YARKELIA VERGARA* ARAP yvergara@arap.gob.pa VIVIAN QUIROS ARAP vquiros@arap.gob.pa Maria sierra ARAP msierra@arap.gob.pa	MARÍA p. díaz Fipesca mpdiaz@fipesca.com ENRIQUE ESPINOZA Pronaob pronaob@pronaob.org
TAIPEI CHINO-CHINESE TAIPEI	
CHI-CHAO LIU* Fisheries Agency chichao@msl.f.a.gov.tw SHU-MAN PAI Fisheries Agency shuman0823@msl.f.a.gov.tw	HSIANG-YI YU Fisheries Agency hsiangyi@msl.f.a.gov.tw
UNIÓN EUROPEA-EUROPEAN UNION	
MARCO VALLETTA* European Commission marco.valletta@ec.europa.eu	
VANUATU	
KEVIN LIN* Mng Dar Fishery (Vanuatu) Co., Ltd. kevin.mdfc@msa.hinet.net	
VENEZUELA	
ALVIN DELGADO* FUNDATUN adelgadopnov@gmail.com JEIRIS GALICIA Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura jgalicia.minpesca@gmail.com JOSÉ MANTILLA Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura minpescaven@gmail.com	ELENA QUINTERO Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura elenaquintero.t@gmail.com MARÍA NOVAS Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura oai.minpesca@gmail.com
NO MIEMBROS COOPERANTES – COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS	
BOLIVIA	
LIMBERT CORTÉZ* Ministerio de Defensa limbert.cortez@mindef.gob.bo	HUGO ALSINA Unidad Boliviana de Pesca Marítima hugo@alsina-et-al.org
ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES – NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	
REBECCA REGNERY HSI regnery@hsi.org	LUIGI BENINCASA Atunec info@atunec.com.ec
SECRETARÍA – SECRETARIAT	

<p>ARNULFO FRANCO, Director afranco@iattc.org MARISOL AGUILAR maguilar@iattc.org RICARDO BELMONTES rbelmontes@iattc.org BARBARA CULLINGFORD bcullingford@iattc.org ALEXANDRE DA SILVA adasilva@iattc.org CRISTINA DE LA CADENA cdelacadena@iattc.org MONICA GALVÁN mgalvan@iattc.org PAULINA LLANO pllano@iattc.org JEFF MORGAN jmorgan@iattc.org</p>	<p>TERESA MUSANO tmusano@iattc.org JEAN-FRANCOIS PULVENIS jpulvenis@iattc.org NORA ROA nroa@iattc.org MARLON ROMAN mroman@iattc.org ROBERT SARAZEN rsarazen@iattc.org ENRIQUE UREÑA eurena@iattc.org BRAD WILEY bwiley@iattc.org</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

4e. Report of the 24th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FLEET CAPACITY

24th MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada

3 August 2023

CHAIR'S REPORT

AGENDA

	Documents
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening of the meeting2. Adoption of the agenda3. Review of changes in the utilization of fleet capacity in the EPO4. Consultant's report on the proposal to address the management of fishing capacity in the EPO5. Review of pending capacity claims, disputes, adjustments, and requests according to the list presented at the 89th meeting of the IATTC and referred to in document CAP-17 INF-A REV (14 May 2016)6. Recommendations to the Commission7. Other business8. Adjournment	CAP-24-01

The 24th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity was held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, on 3 August 2023. The list of attendees is included as Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Julio César Guevara, of the Nicaraguan delegation, opened the meeting.

It was agreed that the delegations of Vanuatu (IATTC Member) and Bolivia (Cooperating non-Member), which did not have a delegate present in the room, could take the floor by requesting it through the Chair of the meeting, as could other delegations with representatives in the room by requesting the floor for their delegates participating virtually.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group adopted the provisional agenda without comments or suggestions.

3. Review of changes in the utilization of fleet capacity in the EPO

The Director of the IATTC, Dr. Arnulfo Franco, briefly presented the situation of the capacity of the purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO, as described in Document [CAP-24-01](#), "Review of changes in the utilization of fleet capacity in the EPO". After summarizing its evolution and the stages of its regulation by the resolutions adopted successively by the Commission since 1999, Dr. Franco pointed out that, as of 30 June 2023, the capacity of the active purse-seine fleet reached 272,315 m³, to which should be added the capacity of the purse-seine vessels on the list of inactive and sunk vessels (13,741 m³) and the remainder

recorded in the Regional Vessel Register as available capacity (16,807 m³). This results in a total authorized capacity of 302,863 m³, as shown in Figure 1 of Document CAP-24-01. He pointed out that the potential capacity was much higher since, in addition to this authorized capacity, it was necessary to take into account the capacity claimed by several CPCs, which would be considered under item 5 of the agenda; this potential capacity reached a total of 355,530 m³.

Several delegations requested that, in future presentations, as well as in the document on capacity utilization, a representation of the target capacity (158,000 m³) be shown in the graph in the figure, without prejudice to the need to eventually analyze and update this target capacity, since the existing one dates back to 2002.

Ecuador recalled that operative capacity—i.e., the capacity of vessels that effectively fish during a year—is well below active capacity and has also decreased over the last three years by more than 10,000 m³ since 2019. He asked whether, under these conditions, the number of closure days should also be reduced. The Secretariat commented that the entire authorized capacity can be activated at any time, and therefore it is not only the operative capacity that is used as a reference to determine the duration of the closure. One participant added that this reduction in operative capacity did not necessarily imply a reduction in fishing mortality.

4. Consultant's report on the proposal to address the management of fishing capacity in the EPO

Dr. Dale Squires began by recalling the broad outlines of the scheme that he had previously presented and was continuing to develop, highlighting in particular what he saw as the benefits and advantages that this scheme could bring to tropical tuna fisheries in the EPO, with better management of fleet capacity. As the next steps in the process, he recommended that one or more pilot trials be conducted and noted that a workshop would be held in Panama City in January 2024 with the participation of representatives of all interested parties, including the fishing sector.

Several participants considered this proposal for a pilot scheme to be opportune, as it would make it possible to determine whether the scheme worked, as noted by the European Union. Ecuador and Vanuatu indicated their willingness to implement this pilot scheme. The IATTC Coordinator of Scientific Research, Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva, stated that the Commission's scientific staff would be ready to ensure the follow-up of the implementation of the pilot plan and to collect and analyze the data produced. Guatemala pointed out that this implementation would lead to the coexistence of two completely different fisheries management systems operating in parallel. In its view, this situation should be further analyzed by the Commission. Mexico also stressed that any pilot scheme should first be approved by the Commission as a whole before being implemented.

With regard to the further development of the scheme, including the holding of a workshop with representatives of interested parties, Guatemala recalled that it had already stressed on several occasions the importance of not only holding these joint consultations with all CPCs, but also holding individual consultations with CPCs with purse-seine capacity in the Regional Vessel Register, without neglecting those CPCs that are not yet in this situation but have the right to engage in this fishing activity.

The discussion also made it possible to highlight some of the substantive aspects of the scheme, about which several participants expressed concern or interest in giving them greater consideration. Likewise, Guatemala stressed that the proposed model would mainly benefit companies that own several vessels, but would not be equitable for companies with one vessel, nor would it be equitable for CPCs without a purse-seine fleet. Venezuela also referred to this imbalance, but in terms of fishing effort, pointing out that the scheme would result in favoring the operation of the most efficient vessels, which could lead to an increase in catches, i.e., the opposite effect of what is sought through capacity reduction.

During the discussion, it was also pointed out that this issue should not be approached solely from a purely economic point of view, but that the analysis should also take into account aspects related to the

management and sustainable use of the resource, the social aspects of fishing and also the situation of the right of coastal States in the region that do not have a fishing fleet to develop it, including to fully exercise their sovereign rights over the use of fishery resources in areas under their national jurisdiction.

Some participants also stressed the need to take into account the relationship between capacity and flag States, since for several CPCs, as highlighted by Mexico and Guatemala, capacity belongs to States and not to the owners or operators of the vessels, and it is the competent authorities of those States that manage the capacity and its allocation, unlike what would happen in the scheme proposed by the consultant through the management of transferable fishing days.

In conclusion, the discussion showed that there were still several elements in the consultant's proposal that needed further analysis and improvement. It was agreed that the immediate step to be taken would be to hold a workshop in Panama in January 2024 to review the scheme in a more detailed and systematic manner and, in particular, to review the pilot project and its implementation, with the understanding that, in preparation for this workshop, the Consultant would take into account the comments, suggestions and expressions of concern expressed at this and previous meetings.

5. Review of pending capacity claims, disputes, adjustments, and requests according to the list presented at the 89th meeting of the IATTC and referred to in Document CAP-17 INF-A REV (14 May 2016) and Document CAP-24-01

The Chair introduced this agenda item by stating that it would be considered in the order of the cases listed in Document CAP-24-01.

a. Requests based on the footnote to Resolution C-02-03

- i **Peru** (not present at the meeting): sent a note with the request that it be reproduced as an appendix to the minutes of the 101st meeting of the Commission, in which it reiterates its aspiration to be recognized as having the right to effectively use the remaining capacity noted in the footnote of Resolution C-02-03.
- ii **Costa Rica**: the Minister of Fisheries and Executive Chair of INCOPECSA made a remote presentation in which he reiterated Costa Rica's aspiration to be recognized as having the right to effectively use the remaining capacity noted in the footnote of Resolution C-02-03 (7,058 m³).
- iii **Colombia** reiterated its aspiration to be recognized as having the right to effectively use the remaining capacity noted in the footnote of the resolution (4,772 m³).

b. Claims arising from disputes

- i **Bolivia** reiterated its request to be allocated 5,830 m³ of capacity that it claims to have been transferred to other CPCs without the corresponding approval. It requested that 2,439 m³ be allocated immediately and the remainder when resource conditions permit.
- ii **Vanuatu** reiterated its request for recognition of 1358 m³ of capacity that it claims to have been transferred to other CPCs without the corresponding approval.
- iii **Venezuela** reiterated its request for recognition of the capacity it claims to have been transferred to other CPCs without the corresponding approval. It requested that it be allocated 3,805 m³ immediately and 1,268 m³ when resource conditions permit.

The Working Group agreed that, in the future, these requests would not be considered in the context of dispute settlement, as it has no competence in this area, but rather in the context of addressing the issue of the capacity of the purse-seine fleet in general.

c. New requests

Requesting recognition of their special requirements and needs as developing coastal States, **El Salvador, Nicaragua, Colombia and Mexico** reiterated their requests for 2,105 m³, 4,200 m³,

9,000 m³ and 2,000 m³, respectively. Bolivia reiterated its request for 5,000 m³, which, unlike the previous requests, was not included in the list presented at the 89th IATTC meeting.

d. Other cases

Ecuador, which has 5 individual cases on the list, only presented the case of the vessel *Victoria A* (ex. *Cabrillo*). It noted that the vessel had sunk in 1995 and had been in operation prior to the adoption of Resolution C-02-03 and that, due to an omission by the Ecuadorian authorities, it had not been included in the Regional Vessel Register when it was established in 2002. Ecuador recalled that it had subsequently requested its inclusion on several occasions, including before the Commission itself in plenary.

The European Union and the United States reiterated their opposition to granting these requests, whatever their nature or basis, in the absence of the capacity management plan for the purse-seine fleet, which has been in the works for several years, as it would be unacceptable to increase capacity under these circumstances.

In light of the foregoing, none of the claims or requests presented achieved the consensus necessary for the Group to recommend their approval to the Commission.

6. Recommendations to the Commission

The Working Group adopted the following recommendations:

- a) Request the IATTC scientific staff to analyze whether the reduction of more than 10,000 m³ of operative capacity in recent years could imply a reduction in the number of closure days, taking into account that this number was set on the basis of additional closure days for each 1,000 m³ of capacity added to the Regional Vessel Register.
- b) Request the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), with the support of the scientific staff, to update the analysis to determine the maximum capacity limit as the optimal target for the operation of the purse-seine fleet fishing for tropical tunas in the EPO.
- c) Request the consultant to update his proposal to include, among other things, an analysis based on the comments and concerns expressed by CPCs at this and previous meetings, consideration of the impact of implementing the scheme, the issue of participation by CPCs that do not currently have a purse-seine fleet, the issue of transitioning from the current management of fleet capacity in the IATTC to a transferable fishing days scheme, the definition and implementation of a pilot program, in particular the component of the fleet that would implement it and the duration of such implementation.
- d) That the Secretariat review and update, as appropriate, Document CAP-17 INF-A REV describing pending capacity claims and requests.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. on 3 August 2023.

Appendix 1. List of attendees.

ASISTENTES - ATTEENDEES	
MIEMBROS - MEMBERS	
COLOMBIA	
LEONEL BOHÓRQUEZ* Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores lbohorquezz@cancilleria.gov.co JAVIER GARCÍA Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo jgarciap@mincit.gov.co GUSTAVO LARA Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible GLara@minambiente.gov.co CARMEN LÓPEZ Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible calopezanaya@minambiente.gov.co	SANDRA MUÑOZ Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural sandra.munoz@minagricultura.gov.co ANDRÉS ORTÍZ Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca andres.ortiz@aunap.gov.co ENRIQUE DE LA VEGA Programa Nacional de Observadores edelavega@pescalimpia.org
COSTA RICA	
HEINER MÉNDEZ* INCOPECA hmendez@incopesca.go.cr	JOSÉ MIGUEL CARVAJAL INCOPECA jcarvajal@incopesca.go.cr
ECUADOR	
ISIDRO ANDRADE * Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca jandrade@produccion.gob.ec LUCIANO DELGADO Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca ldelgados@produccion.gob.ec JAVIER CARDOSO Apolo Abogados despachojc@apolo.ec GUILLERMO MORÁN Tunacons gamv6731@gmail.com	PEDRO SANTISTEVAN Tunacons psantistevan@tunacons.org LUIS TORRES Probecuador probecuador@gye.satnet.net RAFAEL TRUJILLO Cámara Nacional de Pesquería rtrujillo@camaradepesqueria.ec JORGE VILLAVICENCIO Atunec abjorgevillavicenciomendoza@gmail.com
EL SALVADOR	
ANTONIO VÁSQUEZ* Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería Antonio Carlos antonio.vasquez@mag.gob.sv	
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
COLIN BRINKMAN* U.S. Department of State Brinkmancc@state.gov MERNA SAAD U.S. Department of State saadmn@state.gov CELIA BARROSO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service celia.barroso@noaa.gov DEREK CAMPBELL NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service derek.campbell@noaa.gov TYLER LAWSON NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service tyler.lawson@noaa.gov AMY LUBRANO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service amy.lubrano@noaa.gov	AMANDA MUNRO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service amanda.munro@noaa.gov RACHAEL O'MALLEY NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service Rachel.omalley@noaa.gov PAUL ORTIZ NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service paul.ortiz@noaa.gov DALE SQUIRES NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service dale.squires@noaa.gov RYAN WULFF NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service ryan.wulff@noaa.gov
FRANCIA (TU)-FRANCE (OT)	
JULIETTE HAZIZA*	

French General directorate for maritime affairs, fisheries and aquaculture juliette.haziza@agriculture.gouv.fr	
GUATEMALA	
JULIO LEMUS* Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería juliolemusdipesca@gmail.com BERNAL CHAVARRÍA Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería bchavarria@lsg-cr.com	CARLOS MARTÍNEZ Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería carlosmartinez41331@gmail.com VASCO FRANCO Pesquera Reina de la Paz vascofrancoduran@yahoo.com
JAPÓN-JAPAN	
SHINJI HIRUMA* Fisheries Agency of Japan shinji_hiruma150@maff.go.jp	
MÉXICO- MEXICO	
BERNARDINO MUÑOZ * Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca Bernardino.munoz@conapesc.gob.mx GUSTAVO LÓPEZ Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca gustavo.lopez@conapesc.gob.mx ISABEL C. REYES Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca Isabel.reyes@conapesc.gob.mx BERTHA SOLER Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca berthaa.soler@gmail.com MARTHA BETANCOURT Fidemar martha.betancourt@uabc.edu.mx ARMANDO DÍAZ Fidemar adiaz@cicese.mx	MICHEL DREYFUS Fidemar dreyfus@cicese.mx LUIS FLEISCHER Fidemar lfleischer21@hotmail.com MARÍA ALVIDREZ Procesa/Pesca Chiapas crystina.alvidrez@procesa.mx GUILLERMO COMPEÁN Consultor gacompean@hotmail.com ERNESTO ESCOBAR Pesca Azteca eescobar@pescaazteca.com MARIANA RAMOS Alianza del Pacífico por el Atún Sustentable ramoss.mariana@gmail.com
NICARAGUA	
ROBERTO CHACÓN * Instituto Nicaraguense de la Pesca y Acuicultura rchacon@inpesca.gob.ni RENALDI BARNUTTY Instituto Nicaraguense de la Pesca y Acuicultura rbarnutti@inpesca.gob.ni JULIO GUEVARA Comisionado juliocgq@hotmail.com	REYNA ARANA Atunes de Nicaragua, S. A. karina.marquez3@gmail.com ARMANDO SEGURA Nicaragua Tuna Sociedad Anónima segura@ibw.com.ni
PANAMÁ - PANAMA	
YARKELIA VERGARA* ARAP yvergara@arap.gob.pa VIVIAN QUIROS ARAP vquiros@arap.gob.pa MARIA SIERRA ARAP msierra@arap.gob.pa	MARÍA P. DÍAZ Fipesca mpdiaz@fipesca.com ENRIQUE ESPINOZA Pronaob pronaob@pronaob.org
TAIPEI CHINO-CHINESE TAIPEI	
CHI-CHAO LIU* Fisheries Agency chichao@msl.f.a.gov.tw SHU-MAN PAI Fisheries Agency shuman0823@msl.f.a.gov.tw	HSIANG-YI YU Fisheries Agency hsiangyi@msl.f.a.gov.tw
UNIÓN EUROPEA-EUROPEAN UNION	

MARCO VALLETTA* European Commission marco.valletta@ec.europa.eu	LUIS MOLLEDO European Commission luis.molledo@ec.europa.eu
VANUATU	
FERNANDO NAVIA* República de Vanuatu jose.fernando.navia@gmail.com	KEVIN LIN Mng Dar Fishery (Vanuatu) Co., Ltd. kevin.mdfc@msa.hinet.net
VENEZUELA	
ALVIN DELGADO* FUNDATUN adelgadopnov@gmail.com RONY LEIVA Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura dipi.minpesca@gmail.com JEIRIS GALICIA Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura jgalicia.minpesca@gmail.com JOSÉ MANTILLA Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura minpescaven@gmail.com	ELENA QUINTERO Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura elenaquintero.t@gmail.com MARÍA NOVAS Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura oai.minpesca@gmail.com
NO MIEMBROS COOPERANTES – COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS	
BOLIVIA	
LIMBERT CORTÉZ* Ministerio de Defensa limbert.cortez@mindef.gob.bo	HUGO ALSINA Unidad Boliviana de Pesca Marítima hugo@alsina-et-al.org
LIBERIA	
RUPHENE SIDIFALL* Liberian Registry RSidifall@liscr.com	
ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES – NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	
LUIGI BENINCASA Atunec info@atunec.com.ec	PABLO GUERRERO WWF pablo.guerrero@wwf.org.ec
SECRETARÍA – SECRETARIAT	
ARNULFO FRANCO, Director afranco@iattc.org MARISOL AGUILAR maguilar@iattc.org RICARDO BELMONTES rbelmontes@iattc.org BARBARA CULLINGFORD bcullingford@iattc.org ALEXANDRE DA SILVA adasilva@iattc.org CRISTINA DE LA CADENA cdelacadena@iattc.org MONICA GALVÁN mgalvan@iattc.org PAULINA LLANO pllano@iattc.org JOYDELEE MARROW jmarrow@iattc.org	JEFF MORGAN jmorgan@iattc.org TERESA MUSANO tmusano@iattc.org JEAN-FRANCOIS PULVENIS jpulvenis@iattc.org NORA ROA nroa@iattc.org MARLON ROMAN mroman@iattc.org ROBERT SARAZEN rsarazen@iattc.org ENRIQUE UREÑA eurena@iattc.org BRAD WILEY bwiley@iattc.org

4f. Report of the 14th Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
14th MEETING
Victoria, B.C., Canada
4-5 August 2023

DRAFT MEETING REPORT

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Recommendations of the 13 th meeting of the Committee: progress report	
4. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2022:	
4a. Report by the staff on compliance	
4b. Review of the questionnaires and additional information submitted by CPCs in compliance with Resolution C-22-02	COR-14-01
5. Review of the provisional IUU vessels list	
6. Cooperating non-Members	
7. Other business	
8. Recommendations for the Commission	
9. Adjournment	

The 14th meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (Review Committee) was held on 4 and 5 August 2023 in Victoria, B.C., Canada. The list of attendees is included as **Appendix 1**.

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Luis Molledo of the European Union, opened the meeting. He noted that this was the first time that the Committee was meeting following the improvements agreed in the resolution and that it was a joint task to develop new dynamics. He also noted the new methodology that the Committee would follow, including the fact that the review would be conducted resolution by resolution, rather than CPC by CPC as in the past. The Chair emphasized the scope and importance of the work ahead of the session and invited members to participate actively in the discussions.

He also clarified that two documents would emerge from the meeting after approval by the Committee. The first, with the recommendations made for the Commission's consideration; the second, the preliminary Compliance Report, which would be considered the final report once endorsed by the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes. The U.S. delegation noted that under item 7, "Other business", it would present a proposal on "*pursuing continuous improvement in compliance*".

3. Recommendations of the 13th meeting of the Committee: progress report

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, of the IATTC staff, presented Document [COR-14-01](#), which summarizes the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 13th meeting of the Committee, as approved by the Commission. He noted that, in general, the level of compliance with these recommendations was high, as virtually all of them had been implemented, as shown in the document.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the report, noting the quality of the document and the improvements made in its presentation in recent years, and expressed its satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of its recommendations.

4. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2022:

4a. Report by the staff on compliance

Mr. Belmontes presented Document COR-13-02 (published on the website with restricted access), which provides a report on compliance with IATTC measures in 2022, in particular with regard to the performance of the tuna fleet operating in the EPO, as well as with regard to the various data submission and reporting obligations established by the various resolutions adopted by the Commission.

He noted that, year after year, it has been possible to observe both improved compliance and a higher level of response by CPCs to reported possible infractions, as illustrated in the Compliance Report, which shows the trends over the last five years, as well as the increasing number of areas where no possible infractions are recorded.

Following this presentation, in addition to expressing satisfaction with the progress made in terms of compliance and also in the work of the Committee, several interventions were made with a view to further developing this process. They emphasized certain specific aspects of compliance by CPCs, but also procedural and operational aspects of the Committee, including the preparatory phase of the Compliance Report by the Secretariat and its subsequent submission.

Also with regard to the report, Japan requested that everything related to compliance with the resolution on financing be included, since this is an important issue on which the Commission should take action to ensure that all Members of the IATTC comply with their financial obligations and thus do not interrupt or hinder the work of the Commission and the Secretariat. Ecuador, referring to the trends in the report, asked that the reference period be homogenized, since in most cases it is five years, as Mr. Belmontes mentioned in his presentation, but in some cases it is longer.

Guatemala highlighted the fact that there is information on 95% of the purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO thanks to the on-board observer program, while in the longline fishery there is only a maximum of 5% of on-board observers from national programs. This clearly shows that there is a large proportion of the longline fleet for which the level of compliance is not known. It suggested that the CPCs be asked, on a voluntary basis, to submit to the Committee the cases of possible non-compliance by their longline vessels that they could identify, so that the Committee could review them and have a better idea of the compliance of the longline fleet. Guatemala also emphasized that the main purpose of this entire review process was not to judge the compliance actions of the CPCs, but rather to identify and encourage the adoption of corrective measures.

As a result of the discussions, the Committee approved a set of recommendations that are included in item 8 of this report.

4b. Review of the questionnaires and additional information submitted by CPCs in compliance with Resolution C-22-02

In accordance with the new methodology explained by the Chair of the Committee in his opening remarks, this review was conducted resolution by resolution, for the 2022 fishing year, based on the document prepared by the Secretariat, referred to as the "Compendium" and henceforth called the "Provisional Compliance Report". Each CPC identified in the document with a possible non-compliance with a given resolution had the opportunity to comment and clarify what actions it had or had not taken in this regard.

The Committee noted the advantages of this method in terms of both time and substance, particularly in terms of greater participation by its members and greater formulation of concrete proposals to promote compliance, which is undoubtedly the primary objective of this subsidiary body of the IATTC.

As a result of the Committee's work under this agenda item, the Compliance Report to be submitted to the IATTC for its eventual adoption as the final Compliance Report was reviewed and approved. This revised version, as approved by the Committee, is reproduced on the IATTC website. Please note that the first part of the document contains the cases that could not be resolved at this meeting of the Committee and will be reconsidered at the 15th meeting of the Committee in 2024. The second part of the report contains all the cases that were reviewed and resolved at this meeting.

Additionally, as a result of the discussions, the Committee approved a set of recommendations to clarify and improve the process, which are included in item 8 of this report.

5. Review of the provisional IUU Vessels List

The IATTC staff presented Document [COR-14-04](#), "IUU Vessel List 2023-2024", which contains information on the provisional IUU Vessel List that the Committee was asked to analyze and make a recommendation to the IATTC. It was reported that there were no substantive changes to the provisional IUU Vessel List other than the change of name of the vessel *Chia Hao No. 66*, which has been on the list for several years and is currently known as *Sage* without a known flag State. It was also reported that, since 2021, the IUU list has been published cross-referenced with information from other RFMOs identified in Resolution C-19-02, in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraphs 19 to 24 of said resolution.

The European Union requested additional information on the status of the vessel *Haleluya*, which is listed in the ICCAT under the consideration of having operated in ICCAT waters without being included in the register of authorized vessels of this RFMO. The vessel could not be included in the IATTC IUU Vessel List due to an objection raised by Colombia. Colombia based its decision on an analysis of the applicable international law and the Colombian legal system. Colombia indicated that neither the vessel in question nor the company to which it belongs have committed any administrative infraction related to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and that since the vessel's inclusion in the ICCAT list, it has not received any license or permit to carry out fishing activities in Colombia. The Committee will follow up on this matter at its next meeting in 2024, pending the ICCAT's consideration of the case.

As requested by the United States delegation, the Committee asked the Secretariat to comply with the 30-day period so that the CPCs could review the possible changes to the list and reach a consensus. In fact, the Secretariat acknowledged that it had consulted the CPCs on this occasion, but without strictly respecting this period, which would not be repeated in the future. It also stated that it would send a quarterly report to all CPCs on the updated status and possible changes to the IUU list.

6. Cooperating non-Members

The Secretariat staff presented Document [COR-14-03](#), “Cooperating non-Members”, and reported that four of the current Cooperating non-Members—Bolivia, Chile, Indonesia and Liberia—had submitted their respective requests for renewal of this status, and that all of them had met the requirements set out in Resolution [C-07-02](#), as shown in the table in the document.

The Chair apologized for not being able to adequately address Bolivia's request to take the floor to express gratitude once its request for renewal had been accepted by the Committee, as it was participating in the meeting virtually and not in person. Guatemala disagreed with the Chair's decision, stressing the need to ensure the participation of those who had been invited to the meeting, including the delegation of Bolivia, and therefore, as had happened in the Capacity Group, access to the meeting should take precedence, recognizing the technological availability and current presence of the aforementioned delegation through the Zoom platform, and requested that this be reflected in the minutes.

The Committee decided to recommend the renewal of the status of Cooperating non-Member for Liberia, Bolivia and Chile, who participated in the meeting in person or remotely. It decided to defer the cases of Indonesia and Honduras for consideration and decision by the plenary of the Commission and requested the Secretariat to communicate with those two countries to give them the opportunity to intervene, even remotely, to confirm (in the case of Indonesia) or express (in the case of Honduras) their interest in renewing their Cooperating non-Member status.

7. Other business

At the initiative of the United States, and as suggested, the Committee agreed on the need to encourage continuous improvement in the level of compliance and to seek the most effective way to do so. To conclude the discussion on this topic, the Committee agreed that a specific agenda item would be introduced in the future to address this issue.

8. Recommendations for the Commission

The Committee adopted the following recommendations:

Recommendations to the staff

1. To ensure that the initial Report on Compliance prepared by the Secretariat is presented as ‘Provisional Compliance Overview’ and the Compliance Compendium as ‘Draft Provisional Compliance Report’, respectively, until they have been endorsed by the Committee.
2. To generalize in the Report on Compliance the inclusion of background information covering compliance over the previous five years and the use of color-coded tables, including on missing reporting obligations.
3. To replace any reference to ‘verified infractions’ with ‘possible non-compliance issues’ in the compliance documents prepared by the Secretariat.
4. (a) To circulate quarterly information to CPCs on changes to the IATTC Final IUU Vessel List related to the cross-listing procedure of Resolution C-19-02.
(b) Ensure CPCs are given 30 days to object or comment before including cross-listed vessels to be added to the IATTC List.
5. To ensure that the most recent titles of the IATTC Resolutions are referenced in the documents prepared by the Secretariat.
6. To include in the Provisional Compliance Overview and the Draft Provisional Compliance Report a review of compliance by CPCs with the Resolution on financing.

7. To ensure that the Draft Compliance Report includes for each resolution a list of those CPCs who did not provide the relevant reports or failed to meet the reporting obligations necessary to assess compliance.
8. To task the Secretariat to produce a document for discussion at the 47th Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP on the provisions applicable rules to transit waivers, specifically the possible elimination of the requirement for waivers for transits between neighboring ports of the same CPC.
9. To align the structure and order of the presentation of the Draft Compliance Overview with the Draft Provisional Compliance Report to facilitate cross references and consultations, including the introduction of numbered sections.
10. The data provided in the Compliance Report must be from the last 5 years.
11. To strengthen information provided to CPCs of the deadlines applicable to the reporting obligations including by posting on the IATTC webpage, and circulated to CPCs, a document listing all reporting deadlines for the upcoming year and with a system of notifications.
12. The Secretary shall distribute the written reports received from the CPCs related to unresolved cases before the next meeting of the Committee.

Recommendations to the Committee

13. To continue to include a permanent item on the agenda of the Committee on possible improvements to the compliance process, including on possible actions to reduce reporting burden for both CPCs and the Secretariat.
14. To ensure the timely drafting and distribution of the reports of the meetings of the Committee
15. To consider as possible very serious non-compliance cases, the following:
 - a. Harassment and safety of observers;
 - b. Fishing during a closure period;
 - c. Failure to provide catch and effort data;
 - d. Observer coverage and the related reporting obligations;
 - e. The systematic and repeated failure to provide the Compliance questionnaire.

The list is non-exhaustive nor indicative and it will continue to be developed by the Committee.

Recommendations to the CPCs

16. To further highlight the importance that the minimum percentage of observer coverage in longliners is met and recall the need to ensure data collection to promote the long-term sustainability of the stocks.
17. To ensure that observers on-board are provided with the same status as the crew as a standard practice.
18. To invite CPCs to provide more information in their replies regarding the circumstances surrounding possible lack of compliance (e.g., lack of time, capacity issues, lack of understanding of the obligations, etc.).

19. To invite CPCs to provide a list of the investigations undertaken to address possible non-compliance of the IATTC Resolutions, no matter the source of the information that initiated the investigation.
20. To recall CPCs of the importance to timely submit the compliance questionnaires and provide the necessary feedback to the possible compliance issues identified by the Secretariat to ensure the task of the Committee.

Recommendations to the Commission

21. To review Resolution C-22-03 to include the use of methodologies and equipment that could increase the accuracy of the estimated weight calculated by observers.
22. (a) To send a letter by the Director to Vanuatu, Kiribati and Honduras recalling the need to provide the compliance questionnaire, meet the reporting obligations and attend the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies pursuant to the Antigua Convention and the relevant IATTC resolutions.

(b) Task the Secretariat to contact those three CPCs directly to better understand the causes of this situation.
23. In the future, where CPCs are unable to meet the minimum percentage of observer coverage in longliners due to sanitary reasons, for example pandemics, they should at a minimum notify the other CPCs and the Secretariat beforehand of the specific circumstances applicable.
24. To establish a mechanism to address pending compliance issues during the annual meeting or intersessionally for those CPCs who did not participate in or fulfill their obligations to engage properly with the Committee and the Commission on compliance matters.
25. To adopt the IATTC IUU Vessel List as established in document COR 14-04.
26. a. To renew the Cooperating non-Member Status to Liberia, Chile and Bolivia

b. To defer the discussion on the renewal of Indonesia to the Commission noting that they meet all the necessary requirements, but requesting their virtual attendance at the annual meeting before a decision is taken.

c. To discuss the renewal of Honduras pending a possible request submitted by Honduras in time for its discussion at the 101st meeting of Commission, noting that no request was submitted to the 14th meeting of the Committee.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on 5 August 2023.

Appendix 1. List of attendees

ASISTENTES - ATTEENDEES	
MIEMBROS - MEMBERS	
BELICE-BELIZE	
VALARIE LANZA* Ministry of Finance valerie.lanza@bhsfu.gov.bz	DELICE PINKARD Ministry of Finance delice.pinkard@bhsfu.gov.bz
CANADA-CANADA	
AMBER LINDSTEDT* Fisheries and Oceans Canada Amber.Lindstedt@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	NADIA HAMOUI Fisheries and Oceans Canada nadia.hamoui@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
FELICIA CULL Fisheries and Oceans Canada Felicia.Cull@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	
CHINA	
JIANGFENG ZHU* Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs jfzhu@shou.edu.cn	XIAOBING LIU Shanghai Ocean University xiaobing.liu@hotmail.com
YURU HE Shanghai Ocean University yrhe@shou.edu.cn	FENG WU Shanghai Ocean University fwu@shou.edu.cn
QINQIN LIN Shanghai Ocean University qqlin@shou.edu.cn	LI YAN Industry liyana@cofa.net.cn
COLOMBIA	
LEONEL BOHÓRQUEZ* Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores lbohorquezr@cancilleria.gov.co	SANDRA MUÑOZ Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural sandra.munoz@minagricultura.gov.co
JAVIER GARCÍA Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo jgarciap@mincit.gov.co	ANDRÉS ORTÍZ Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca andres.ortiz@aunap.gov.co
GUSTAVO LARA Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible GLara@minambiente.gov.co	ENRIQUE DE LA VEGA Programa Nacional de Observadores edelavega@pescalimpia.org
CARMEN LÓPEZ Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible calopezanaya@minambiente.gov.co	
COREA-KOREA	
SOOBIN SHIM* Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries sbin8shim@korea.kr	
COSTA RICA	
JOSÉ MIGUEL CARVAJAL* INCOPECA jcarvajal@inco pesca.go.cr	
ECUADOR	
ISIDRO ANDRADE * Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca jandrade@produccion.gob.ec	PEDRO SANTISTEVAN Tunacons psantistevan@tunacons.org
LUCIANO DELGADO Ministerio de Producción, Comercio Exterior, Inversiones y Pesca ldelgados@produccion.gob.ec	LUIS TORRES Probecuador probecuador@gve.satnet.net
JAVIER CARDOSO Apolo Abogados despachojc@apolo.ec	RAFAEL TRUJILLO Cámara Nacional de Pesquería rtrujillo@camaradepesqueria.ec
GUILLERMO MORÁN Tunacons gamv6731@gmail.com	JORGE VILLAVICENCIO Atunec abjorgevillavicenciomendoza@gmail.com
EL SALVADOR	

ANTONIO VÁSQUEZ* Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería Antonio Carlos antonio.vasquez@mag.gob.sv	
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
RYAN WULFF* NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service ryan.wulff@noaa.gov COLIN BRINKMAN U.S. Department of State Brinkmancc@state.gov MERNA SAAD U.S. Department of State saadmn@state.gov CELIA BARROSO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service celia.barroso@noaa.gov DEREK CAMPBELL NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service derek.campbell@noaa.gov	TYLER LAWSON NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service tyler.lawson@noaa.gov AMY LUBRANO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service amy.lubrano@noaa.gov AMANDA MUNRO NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service amanda.munro@noaa.gov RACHAEL O'MALLEY NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service Rachel.omalley@noaa.gov PAUL ORTIZ NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service paul.ortiz@noaa.gov
FRANCIA (TU)-FRANCE (OT)	
JULIETTE HAZIZA* French General directorate for maritime affairs, fisheries and aquaculture juliette.haziza@agriculture.gouv.fr	
GUATEMALA	
JULIO LEMUS* Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería juliolemusdipesca@gmail.com BERNAL CHAVARRÍA Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería bchavarria@lsg-cr.com	CARLOS MARTÍNEZ Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería carlosmartinez41331@gmail.com VASCO FRANCO Pesquera Reina de la Paz vascofrancoduran@yahoo.com
JAPÓN-JAPAN	
SHINJI HIRUMA* Fisheries Agency of Japan shinji_hiruma150@maff.go.jp	KATSUYA SATO Fisheries Agency of Japan katsuya_sato770@maff.go.jp
MÉXICO- MEXICO	
BERNARDINO MUÑOZ * Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca Bernardino.munoz@conapesc.gob.mx GUSTAVO LÓPEZ Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca gustavo.lopez@conapesca.gob.mx ISABEL C. REYES Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca Isabel.reyes@conapesca.gob.mx BERTHA SOLER Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca berthaa.soler@gmail.com MARTHA BETANCOURT Fidemar martha.betancourt@uabc.edu.mx ARMANDO DÍAZ Fidemar adiaz@cicese.mx	MICHEL DREYFUS Fidemar dreyfus@cicese.mx LUIS FLEISCHER Fidemar lfleischer21@hotmail.com MARÍA ALVIDREZ Procesa/Pesca Chiapas cristina.alvidrez@procesa.mx GUILLERMO COMPEÁN Consultor gacompean@hotmail.com ERNESTO ESCOBAR Pesca Azteca eescobar@pescaazteca.com MARIANA RAMOS Alianza del Pacífico por el Atún Sustentable ramoss.mariana@gmail.com
NICARAGUA	
ROBERTO CHACÓN * Instituto Nicaraguense de la Pesca y Acuicultura rchacon@inpesca.gob.ni RENALDI BARNUTTY Instituto Nicaraguense de la Pesca y Acuicultura rbarnutti@inpesca.gob.ni	REYNA ARANA Atunes de Nicaragua, S. A. karina.marquez3@gmail.com ARMANDO SEGURA Nicaragua Tuna Sociedad Anónima segura@jbw.com.ni

JULIO GUEVARA Comisionado juliocgq@hotmail.com	
PANAMÁ - PANAMA	
YARKELIA VERGARA* ARAP yvergara@arap.gob.pa VIVIAN QUIROS ARAP vquiros@arap.gob.pa MARÍA SIERRA ARAP msierra@arap.gob.pa	MARÍA P. DÍAZ Fipesca mpdiaz@fipesca.com ENRIQUE ESPINOZA Pronaob pronaob@pronaob.org
TAIPEI CHINO-CHINESE TAIPEI	
CHI-CHAO LIU* Fisheries Agency chichao@msl.f.a.gov.tw SHU-MAN PAI Fisheries Agency shuman0823@msl.f.a.gov.tw	HSIANG-YI YU Fisheries Agency hsiangyi@msl.f.a.gov.tw
UNIÓN EUROPEA-EUROPEAN UNION	
MARCO VALLETTA* European Commission marco.valletta@ec.europa.eu	LUIS MOLLEDO European Commission luis.molledo@ec.europa.eu
VANUATU	
KEVIN LIN* Mng Dar Fishery (Vanuatu) Co., Ltd. kevin.mdfc@msa.hinet.net	
VENEZUELA	
Alvin Delgado* FUNDATUN adelgadopnov@gmail.com JEIRIS GALICIA Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura jgalicia.minpesca@gmail.com JOSÉ MANTILLA Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura minpescaven@gmail.com	ELENA QUINTERO Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura elenaquintero.t@gmail.com MARÍA NOVAS Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura oai.minpesca@gmail.com
NO MIEMBROS COOPERANTES – COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS	
BOLIVIA	
LIMBERT CORTÉZ* Ministerio de Defensa limbert.cortez@mindef.gob.bo	HUGO ALSINA Unidad Boliviana de Pesca Marítima hugo@alsina-et-al.org
LIBERIA	
RUPHENE SIDIFALL* Liberian Registry RSidifall@liscr.com	
ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES – NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	
LUIGI BENINCASA Atunec info@atunec.com.ec ORION CRUZ Defenders of Wildlife OCruz@defenders.org PABLO GUERRERO WWF pablo.guerrero@wwf.org.ec	HOLLY KOEHLER ISSF hkoehler@iss-foundation.org GALA MORENO ISSF gmoreno@iss-foundation.org REBECCA REGNERY HSI rregnery@hsi.org
SECRETARÍA – SECRETARIAT	

ARNULFO FRANCO, Director
afranco@iattc.org
MARISOL AGUILAR
maguilar@iattc.org
RICARDO BELMONTES
rbelmontes@iattc.org
BARBARA CULLINGFORD
bcullingford@iattc.org
ALEXANDRE DA SILVA
adasilva@iattc.org
CRISTINA DE LA CADENA
cdelacadena@iattc.org
MONICA GALVÁN
mgalvan@iattc.org
PAULINA LLANO
pllano@iattc.org
JOYDELEE MARROW
jmarrow@iattc.org

ALFONSO MIRANDA
amiranda@iattc.org
JEFF MORGAN
jmorgan@iattc.org
TERESA MUSANO
tmusano@iattc.org
JEAN-FRANCOIS PULVENIS
jpulvenis@iattc.org
NORA ROA
nroa@iattc.org
MARLON ROMAN
mroman@iattc.org
ROBERT SARAZEN
rsarazen@iattc.org
ENRIQUE UREÑA
eurena@iattc.org
BRAD WILEY
bwiley@iattc.org

Appendix 5. Other

5a. Bolivia's statement on capacity



[INFORMAL TRANSLATION]

Statement by the Plurinational State of Bolivia at the 101st Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), held in the city of Victoria, province of British Columbia, Canada, August 7-11, 2023

The Plurinational State of Bolivia, participating as an observer delegation in the 101st Meeting of the Commission and acting in its capacity as a Cooperating Non-Member, submits to the Plenary the following statement:

First: To reaffirm before the distinguished Members of the Commission, in the most respectful and firm manner, its claim for the amount of five thousand eight hundred and thirty cubic meters (5,830 m³) of well volume, a controversy sustained in a constant, permanent and uninterrupted manner since 2004, and in which it requests that such capacity be replaced with a new well volume, to be activated as indicated below.

Second: To reiterate its willingness to agree to a provisional, compromise solution, which consists in the immediate activation of a portion of the claimed capacity, in the amount of two thousand four hundred and thirty-nine cubic meters (2,439 m³), authorizing a new well volume, while the remainder of what is claimed is left pending for a period of time indicated in the following paragraph.

Third: Renew its 2019 claim to be allocated five thousand cubic meters (5,000 m³) of well volume, as one of the "new requests" for capacity, which it asks to be kept alongside the requests made by other CPCs, and to be kept in mind for when the condition of the fishery and management measures allow its activation.

These requests are driven by the prevailing desire for fairness, for the establishment of outcomes that are intrinsically just, and which do not constitute an intolerable burden on Members or their respective fleets. They are based on previous experiences of the IATTC for similar cases and find their rationale in International Law, which calls for taking into account, in particular, the special interests and needs of developing countries, without distinguishing whether they are coastal or landlocked States, which is precisely the case of Bolivia. These requests are responsible, because Bolivia will use this new capacity with vessels that will be flying its flag. Finally, they correspond to Bolivia's significant and long-standing interest in the purse-seine fishery for tropical tunas, where it once had a fleet in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and thereafter has remained, continuously, a Cooperating Non-Member of the Commission from June 29, 2012 to the present.

This declaration is made for the purposes recognized by international law, for the minutes of the 101st Meeting.

Done in the city of Nuestra Señora de La Paz, Department of La Paz, Plurinational State of Bolivia, and read by videoconference in the city of Victoria, Province of British Columbia, Canada, on the eleventh day of the month of August of the year two thousand and twenty-three.