INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

82ND MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
4-8 JULY 2011

DOCUMENT IATTC-82-05c

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission staff recommends that the following conservation measures currently in force in the IATTC Convention Area be extended:

1. **C-10-01 CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION (Appendix 1)**
2. **C-10-02 SEABIRD RECOMMENDATION (Appendix 2)**
3. **PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA (PROPOSAL):**

Each member with flag vessels that catch Pacific bluefin tuna shall take the measures necessary to:

a. Control the fishing mortality of Pacific bluefin tuna by commercial tuna vessels fishing under its jurisdiction during each of the years 2011-2012 to ensure that the annual catches in the Convention Area by the commercial vessels under its jurisdiction do not exceed the average annual level of such catches during 1994-2007.

   Each member shall take the measures necessary to control the fishing mortality of Pacific bluefin tuna and inform the Director of any such measures.

b. Ensure that the total annual effort in the Convention Area for Pacific bluefin tuna by sportfishing vessels under its jurisdiction does not exceed the maximum annual level of such fishing effort during 2006-2010.

   All members shall provide monthly reports of sportfishing catches and fishing effort to the Director.

4. **SHARKS (PROPOSAL)**

The staff also recommends that the following measures and procedures be introduced for the study and conservation of sharks, particularly silky (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) and oceanic whitetip (*C. longimanus*) sharks

a. **To improve chances of survival**: emphasize the importance of rapid live release of sharks in non-target fisheries.

b. **To improve fishery statistics**: CPCs shall provide to the IATTC, in a timely manner, all available data on:

   i. **Target fisheries:** catches (both retained and discarded) of sharks, by species.

   ii. **Non-target fisheries:** catches (both retained and discarded) of sharks, by species.

c. **To minimize shark bycatch and bycatch mortality**: development of research programs to investigate the causes of shark bycatch, develop mitigation measures, and improve survival of sharks brought on board.

d. **To improve information on shark catches in pelagic longline fisheries:** initiate an observer program for the longline fleet, with up to 5% coverage.

e. **To support shark mitigation research and data collection projects:** establish a Shark Research Fund.

f. **To standardize data collection, database structures, and to facilitate capacity building**, use data collection forms which have been developed in the region to collect:

   i. Landing records for longline, gillnet, and trawl fisheries;

   ii. Observer data for longline artisanal fisheries (already in use in the region);

   iii. Gear description forms for longlines, purse seines, gillnets, and trammel nets; and

   iv. Logbook forms to be filled by fishers willing to cooperate.

g. Development of statistically-designed sampling programs to record standardized data on catch and effort, and biological samples from shark landings.

5. C-10-03 FISHING ON DATA BUOYS (APPENDIX 3)

Appendix 1.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

81ST MEETING

ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)
27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2010

RECOMMENDATION C-10-01

RECOMMENDATION ON A MULTIANNUAL PROGRAM FOR THE CONSERVATION OF TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN IN 2011-2013

The governments of Belize, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union, France, Guatemala, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Chinese Taipei, the United States of America, Vanuatu, and Venezuela ("the governments"), all members of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Aware that the IATTC is responsible for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and for formulating recommendations to its members and cooperating non-members with regard to these resources;

Recognizing that the potential production from the resource can be reduced if fishing effort is excessive;

Aware that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) continues to increase,

Taking into account the best scientific information available, reflected in the IATTC staff's recommendations, and the precautionary approach;

Recognizing the importance of conservation measures taken by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) for the tuna stocks in that region and the stocks of highly migratory tunas in the Pacific Ocean;

Agree to apply in the EPO the conservation and management measures for yellowfin and bigeye tuna set out below, and request that the staff of the IATTC monitor the fishing activities of their respective flag vessels relative to this commitment, and report on such activities at the next meeting of the IATTC;

1. These measures are applicable in the years 2011-2013 to all their purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 4 to 6 (more than 182 metric tons carrying capacity), and to all their longline vessels over 24 meters length overall, that fish for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).
2. Pole-and-line, troll, and sportfishing vessels, and purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 1-3 (less than 182 metric tons carrying capacity) are not subject to these measures.
3. All purse-seine vessels covered by these measures must stop fishing in the EPO for a period of 62 days in 2011, 62 days in 2012, and 62 days in 2013. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods in each year as follows:

   2011 – 29 July to 28 September, or from 18 November to 18 January 2012.

   2012 – 29 July to 28 September, or from 18 November to 18 January 2013.

   2013 – 29 July to 28 September, or from 18 November to 18 January 2014.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3, purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity class 4 (between 182 and 272 metric tons carrying capacity) will be able to make only one single fishing trip of up to 30 days duration during the specified closure periods, provided that any such vessel carries an observer of the On-Board Observer Program of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP).

5. The fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna by purse-seine vessels within the area of 96º and 110ºW and between 4°N and 3°S illustrated in Figure 1 shall be closed from 0000 hours on 29 September to 2400 hours on 29 October.

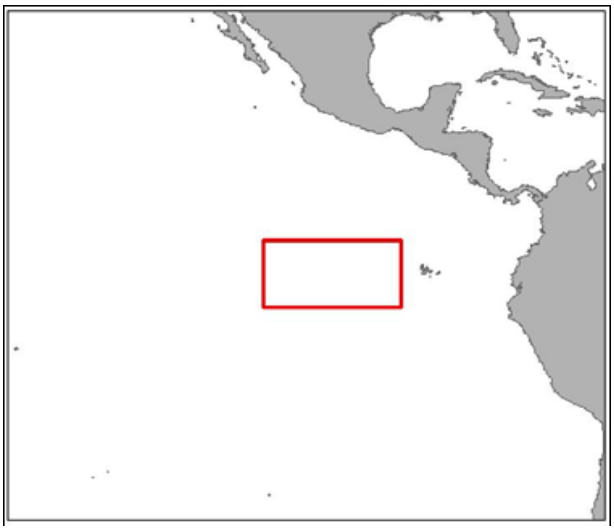


Figure 1. Closure area

6. a. In each one of the years in which these measures are applicable, and for each one of the two closure periods, each government shall notify the Director, by 15 July, the names of all the purse-seine vessels that will observe each closure period;

   b. Every vessel that fishes during 2011-2013, regardless of the flag under which it operates or whether it changes flag or the jurisdiction of the government under which it fishes during the year, must observe the closure period to which it was committed.

7. Each government shall, for purse-seine fisheries:

   a. Before the date of entry into force of the closure, take the legal and administrative measures necessary to implement the closure;

   b. Inform all interested parties in its national tuna industry of the closure;

   c. Inform the Director that these steps have been taken;

   d. Ensure that at the time a closure period begins, and for the entire duration of that period, all the purse-seine vessels fishing for yellowfin, bigeye, or skipjack tunas that are committed to observing that closure period and that fly its flag, or operate under its jurisdiction, in the EPO are in port, except that vessels carrying an observer from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program may remain at sea, provided they do not fish in the EPO. The only other exception to this provision shall be that vessels carrying an observer from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish in the EPO.

8. China, Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the EPO during 2011-2013 do not exceed the following levels:

Metric tons	2011-2013
China	2,507
Japan	32,372
Korea	11,947
Chinese Taipei	7,555

9. For 2012 and 2013, the total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the EPO shall be adjusted appropriately based on any conservation measures that may be adopted for purse-seine vessels in those years, as ratified or adjusted in accordance with paragraph 18.

10. All other governments undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the EPO during 2011-2013 do not exceed the greater of 500 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001[1,2]. Governments whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director. For 2012 and 2013, the limits in this paragraph shall remain in effect if the conservation measures for purse-seine vessels are maintained, as ratified or adjusted in accordance with paragraph 18.

11. Landings and transshipments of tuna or tuna products that have been positively identified as originating from fishing activities that contravene these measures are prohibited. The Director is requested to provide relevant information to IATTC members to assist them in this regard.

12. Each government shall notify the Director, by 15 July of each year, of national actions taken to implement these measures, including any controls it has imposed on its fleets and any monitoring, control, and compliance measures it has established to ensure compliance with such controls.

13. In order to evaluate progress towards the objectives of these measures, in 2012 and 2013 the IATTC scientific staff will analyze the effects on the stocks of the implementation of these measures, and previous conservation and management measures, and will propose, if necessary, appropriate measures to be applied in future years.

14. The Director is requested to develop, in consultation with interested governments, a pilot program for research into, and gathering information on, the FADs used to aggregate tunas in the EPO. The program shall include, *inter alia*, provisions for the marking of FADs, maintaining a record of the numbers of FADs on board each vessel at the beginning and end of each fishing trip, and recording the date, time, and position of deployment of each FAD. The Director is requested to report on the status of this effort at the next annual meeting of the IATTC. The information collected shall be held by the IATTC staff.

15. Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the Director is requested to continue the experiments with sorting grids for juvenile tunas and other species of non-target fish in the purse-seine nets of vessels that fish on FADs and on unassociated schools, by developing an experimental protocol, including parameters for the materials to be used for the sorting grids, and the methods for their construction, installation, and deployment. The Director shall also specify the methods and format for the collection of scientific data to be used for analysis of the performance of the sorting grids. The foregoing is without prejudice to each government carrying out its own experimental programs with sorting grids and presenting its results to the Director.

16. For 2011, renew the program to require all purse-seine vessels to first retain on board and then land all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna caught, except fish considered unfit for human consumption

[1] The governments acknowledge that France, as a coastal State, is developing a tuna longline fleet on behalf of its overseas territories situated in the EPO.

[2] The governments acknowledge that Peru, as a coastal State, will develop a tuna longline fleet, which will operate in strict compliance with the rules and provisions of the IATTC and in accordance with the resolutions of the Commission.

for reasons other than size. A single exception shall be the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set. At its annual meeting in 2011, the IATTC will review the results of the program, including compliance, and decide whether to continue it.

17. The IATTC should continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by IATTC and WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness, especially in the overlap area, including by frequent consultations with the WCPFC, in order to maintain, and inform their respective members of, a thorough understanding of conservation and management measures directed at bigeye, yellowfin, and other tunas, and the scientific bases and effectiveness of those measures.

18. a. In 2011 the results of these measures shall be evaluated in the context of the results of the stock assessments and, depending on the conclusions reached by the scientific staff of the IATTC, the duration of the closure for 2012 shall be ratified or adjusted;

    b. In 2012 the results of these measures shall be evaluated in the context of the results of the stock assessments and, depending on the conclusions reached by the scientific staff of the IATTC, the duration of the closure for 2013 shall be ratified or adjusted.

Appendix 2.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

81ST MEETING

ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)
27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2010

RECOMMENDATION C-10-02

RECOMMENDATION TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT ON SEABIRDS OF FISHING FOR SPECIES COVERED BY THE IATTC

The governments of Belize, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union, France, Guatemala, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Chinese Taipei, the United States of America, Vanuatu, and Venezuela ("the governments"), all members of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Recognizing that some threatened and endangered seabird populations are found in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Understanding that bycatches of seabirds are known to occur in the longline fisheries operating in some areas of the EPO;

Noting that the Antigua Convention calls for the adoption of conservation and management measures and for the recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for the fish stocks;

Reaffirming the importance of implementing the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries ("IPOA-Seabirds");

Recalling that tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations responsible for other ocean areas have adopted measures to mitigate the accidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries;

Believing that fisheries observer programs can greatly increase the understanding of the extent of interactions between seabirds and fisheries, and the evaluation of how seabird bycatch mitigation measures can be most effectively applied;

Taking account of the work of the IATTC, including the IATTC Technical Meeting on Seabirds held on 11 May 2009, that has showed that combining different mitigation measures is more effective than using a single measure in reducing bycatch of seabirds;

Noting that scientific research into mitigation of seabird bycatch in longline fisheries has shown that the effectiveness of measures depends on the type of vessel, the season, and the species of seabirds present; and

Noting that effective mitigation measures can reduce the loss of bait and therefore increase catches;

Agree to apply in the EPO the following measures to mitigate the impact on seabirds of fishing for species covered by the IATTC;

1. The governments shall report to the IATTC on their implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries.

2. The governments shall require their longline vessels[1] that fish for species covered by the IATTC in the EPO north of 23°N (except in Mexican jurisdictional waters) and south of 30°S, plus the area bounded by the coastline at 2°N, west to 2°N-95°W, south to 15°S-95°W, east to 15°S-85°W, and south to 30°S (see Annex 1) to use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1, including at least one from Column A. Vessels shall not use the same measure from Column A and Column B.

Table 1: Mitigation measures

Column A	Column B
Side-setting with bird curtains and weighted branch lines	*Tori* line
Night setting with minimum deck lighting	Weighted branch lines
Tori line	Blue-dyed bait
Weighted branch lines	Deep-setting line shooter
	Underwater setting chute
	Management of offal discharge

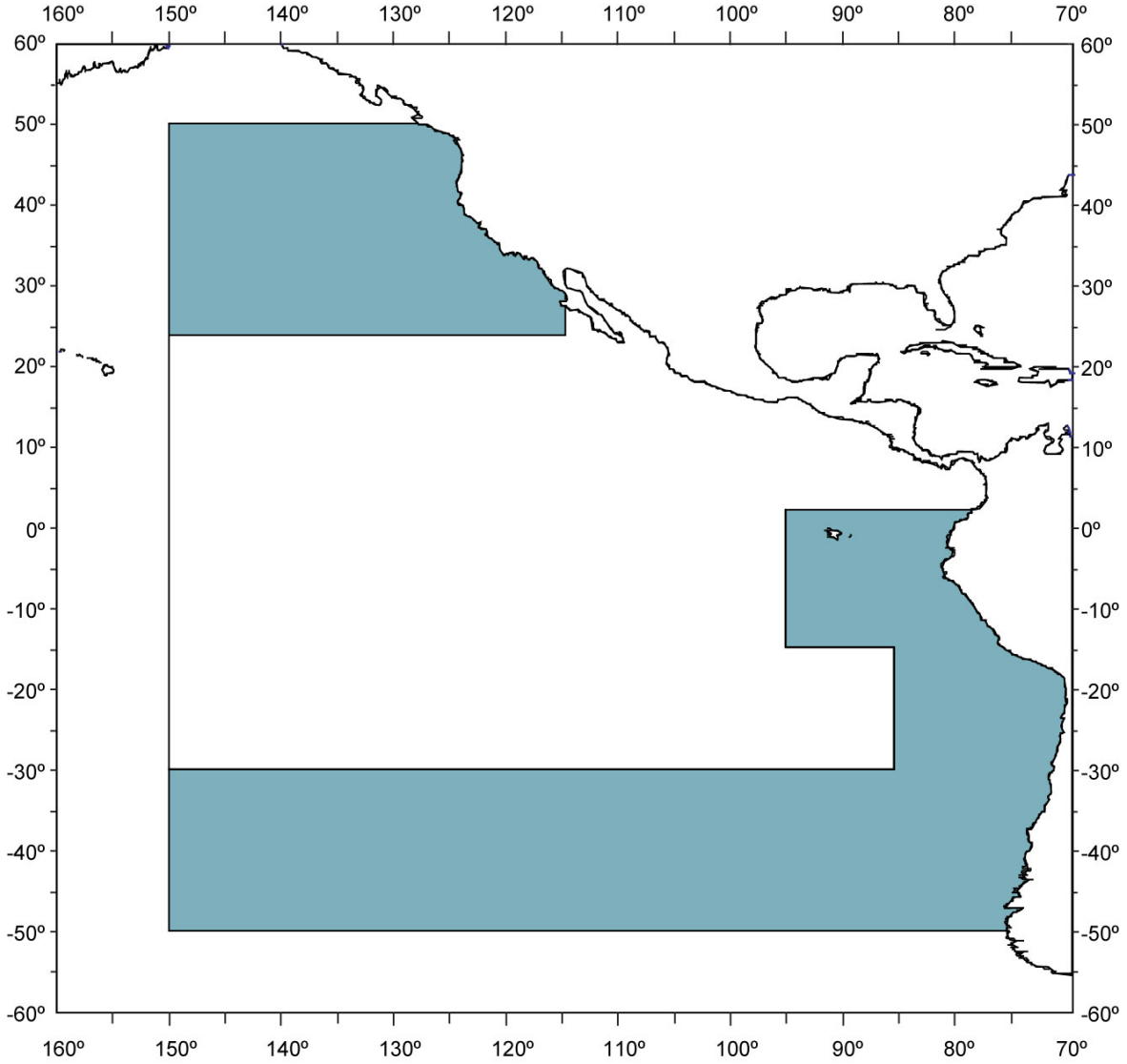
3. Members and cooperating non-members of the IATTC with longline vessels fishing in the EPO other than the area mentioned in paragraph 2 above, are encouraged to voluntarily employ at least one of the mitigation measures included in Table 1.
4. Minimum technical standards for measures are shown in Annex 2, subject to possible modifications based on research and evaluations mentioned in paragraphs 6 and 11.
5. The governments shall inform the IATTC, by 1 September 2011, and annually thereafter, of the mitigation measures that their flag vessels plan to employ in the implementation of this recommendation.
6. Members and cooperating non-members of the IATTC are encouraged to work, jointly and individually, to undertake research, especially on specifications for weighted branch lines, to further develop and refine methods for mitigating seabird bycatch, including measures for use during the process of hauling in longlines, and shall submit to the IATTC any information derived from such efforts. Preferably, research should be undertaken in the fisheries and areas in which the measures will be used.
7. The governments shall provide annually to the IATTC any available information regarding interactions with seabirds involving their flag vessels in the fishery, including bycatches of seabirds and details of seabird species and all relevant information available from observer or other monitoring programs.
8. Members and cooperating non-members of the IATTC are encouraged to establish national programs to place observers aboard longline vessels flying their flags or fishing in their waters, for the purpose of, inter alia, gathering information on the interactions of seabirds with the longline fisheries.
9. Members and cooperating non-members of the IATTC are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that seabirds captured alive during longline fishing operations are released alive and in the best condition possible, and that, whenever possible, hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird.
10. The governments shall begin implementation of this recommendation no later than 1 September 2011 for their longline vessels equal to or greater than 24 meters in length overall, and no later than 1 September 2012 for their longline vessels less than 24 meters in length overall. The technical specifications for measures most suitable for use by vessels less than 24 meters in length overall shall be considered by the Working Group on Bycatch, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), and the

[1] Vessels propelled by outboard motors are not subject to this recommendation

IATTC scientific staff.

11. The effectiveness of this recommendation to reduce seabird bycatch in the EPO, including the mitigation measures in Table 1, the area of application, and the minimum technical specifications adopted pursuant to this recommendation, shall be subject to review and possible modification, taking into account the scientific advice from the Working Group on Bycatch, the SAC, and the IATTC scientific staff..
12. The Working Group on Bycatch, and the SAC will also consider the need to extend this recommendation to other fleets operating in the EPO.
13. This recommendation replaces IATTC Resolution C-05-01.

Annex 1



Areas (shaded) within the EPO in which the use of at least two mitigation measures for reducing seabird bycatch is required: north of 23°N (except in Mexican jurisdictional waters) and south of 30°S, plus the area bounded by the coastline at 2°N, west to 20°N-95°W, south to 15°S-95°W, east to 15°S-85°W, and south to 30°S.

Annex 2

Specifications for Column A mitigation measures

1.a. Tori lines

i. Minimum length: 100 m
ii. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5 m above the water at the stern on the windward side of the point where the hookline enters the water.
iii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
iv. Streamers must be less than 5m apart, be using swivels and long enough so that they are as close to the water as possible.
v. If the tori line is less than 150 m in length, must have a towed object attached to the end so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
vi. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

1.b. Tori line (light streamer)

i. Minimum length of tori line: 100 m or three times the total length of the vessel.
ii. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5 m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.
iii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
iv. Streamers must be less than 1m apart and be 30 cm in minimum length.
v. If two (*i.e.* paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2. Side setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines

i. Mainline deployed from port or starboard side as far from stern as practicable (at least 1 m), and if mainline shooter is used, must be mounted at least 1m forward of the stern.
ii. When seabirds are present the gear must ensure mainline is deployed slack so that baited hooks remain submerged.
iii. Bird curtain must be employed:
- Pole aft of line shooter at least 3 m long;
- Minimum of 3 main streamers attached to upper 2 m of pole;
- Main streamer diameter minimum 20 mm;
- Branch streamers attached to end of each main streamer long enough to drag on water (no wind) – minimum diameter 10 mm.

3. Night setting

i. No setting between local sunrise and one hour after local sunset.
ii. Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum, noting requirements for safety and navigation.

4. Weighted branch lines

i. Following minimum weight specifications are required:
ii. Minimum weights attached to all branch lines is 45 g, with the following options:
- less than 60 g weight attached to within 1 m of the hook; or
- greater than 60 g and less than 98 g weight attached to within 3.5 ms of the hook; or
- greater than 98 g weight attached to within 4 m of the hook.

Specifications for Column B mitigation measures

1. Weighted branch lines

i. Following minimum weight specifications are required:
ii. Minimum weights attached to all branch lines is 45 g, with the following options:

- less than 60 g weight attached to within 1 m of the hook; or
- greater than 60 g and less than 98 g weight attached to within 3.5 m of the hook; or
- greater than 98 g weight attached to within 4 m of the hook.

2. Blue dyed bait
   i. The IATTC Secretariat shall distribute a standardized color placard.
   ii. All bait must be dyed to the shade shown in the placard.

3. Management of offal discharge
   i. Either:
      - No offal discharge during setting or hauling; or
      - Strategic offal discharge from the opposite side of the boat to setting/hauling to actively encourage birds away from baited hooks.

Appendix 3.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

81ST MEETING

ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)
27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2010

RECOMMENDATION C-10-03

RECOMMENDATION PROHIBITING FISHING ON DATA BUOYS

The governments of Belize, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union, France, Guatemala, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Chinese Taipei, the United States of America, Vanuatu, and Venezuela ("the governments"), all members of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Aware that many nations, including Members of the IATTC, operate and deploy data buoys throughout the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and oceans worldwide to gather information used to improve weather and marine forecasts, provide assistance to fisheries by collecting data on sea surface and subsurface temperatures, provide assistance to search and rescue efforts at sea, and collect critical data used to conduct research on meteorological and oceanographic topics and climate prediction;

Knowing that highly migratory species, in particular tunas, aggregate in the vicinity of data buoys;

Recognizing that the World Meteorological Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission have determined that vandalism and damage to data buoys by fishing vessels are a significant problem in the Pacific Ocean and worldwide;

Concerned that vandalism or damage to data buoys results in significant loss of data critical to weather forecasting, to the study of marine conditions, to tsunami warnings, to support search and rescue efforts at sea, and that Members of the IATTC expend considerable time and resources to locate, replace, and repair data buoys damaged or lost due to fishing activities or vandalism;

Alarmed that the loss of data critical to the study of marine conditions from vandalism or damage to data buoys undermines analyses by IATTC scientists seeking better understanding of tuna habitat use and relationships between climate and tuna recruitment, and research by environmental scientists in general;

Mindful that several data buoy programs publish information on the internet describing the type and location of such buoys;

Noting that it is a function of the IATTC to promote, to the extent practicable, the development and use of environmentally safe fishing techniques and such other related activities, and to promote the application of the relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing; and

Further noting that it is also a function of the IATTC to adopt measures as may be necessary to achieve its objective, including non-discriminatory and transparent measures to prevent, deter and eliminate activities that undermine the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC;

Agree to apply in the EPO the following measures regarding fishing on data buoys:

For the purpose of this Recommendation, data buoys are defined as floating devices, either drifting or anchored, that are deployed by governmental or recognized scientific organizations or entities for the purpose of electronically collecting environmental data, and not in support of fishing activities.

1. The governments shall:

a. Prohibit their fishing vessels from fishing within one nautical mile of, or interacting with, a data buoy in the EPO, which includes, but is not limited to, encircling the buoy with fishing gear, tying up to or attaching the vessel, or any fishing gear, part or portion of the vessel, to a data buoy, and, if the buoy is anchored, cutting its anchor line.

b. Prohibit their fishing vessels from taking on board a data buoy, unless specifically authorized or requested to do so by a member or cooperating non-member of the IATTC or owner responsible for that buoy.

c. Encourage their fishing vessels operating in the EPO to keep watch for data buoys at sea and to take all reasonable measures to avoid fishing gear entanglement or directly interacting in any way with those data buoys.

d. Require their fishing vessels that become entangled with a data buoy to remove the entangled fishing gear with as little damage to the data buoy as possible.

2. Members and cooperating non-members of the IATTC are encouraged to require their fishing vessels to report to them all entanglements and provide the date, location, and nature of the entanglement, along with any identifying information on the data buoy. The governments shall notify the IATTC of all such reports.

3. Fishing activities inconsistent with paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall be deemed to undermine the effectiveness of the resolutions adopted by the IATTC in accordance with Article XVIII of the Antigua Convention, and shall, for purposes of paragraph (1)(e) of IATTC Resolution C-05-07, be considered the use of prohibited fishing gear.

4. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, scientific research programs notified to the IATTC may operate fishing vessels within one nautical mile of a data buoy, provided they do not interact with the data buoy, as described in paragraph 1.