

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING

October 28, 29, and 31, 1974

Chairman: Mr. E. Blyth Young, Canada

Secretary: Mr. Juan L. de Obarrio, Panama

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2. Consideration and Adoption of the Agenda
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AGENDA ITEM 1 - OPENING OF THE MEETING

The 30th meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission was convened in plenary session at the Canadian Government Conference Center, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on October 28, 1974. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by the Chairman, Mr. E. Blyth Young of Canada. He introduced Mr. Ken Lucas, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Fisheries of Canada, keynote speaker of the meeting. The complete text of Mr. Lucas' address is attached as Appendix 1. The Chairman thanked Mr. Lucas, and added his own statement of welcome to that of Mr. Lucas.

The Chairman then called for introduction of the delegations. The heads of the delegations of Costa Rica, France, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the United States, and Canada introduced themselves and their advisors and observers. This was followed by introductions of the observers from Ecuador, El Salvador, Korea, the Netherlands Antilles, Peru, and the International Commission for the Conservation Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The attendees are listed in Appendix 2.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

After the Chairman called for comments on the proposed agenda Ambassador Castro y Castro of Mexico expressed his pleasure regarding the attendance of Dr. Rodriguez Martin of the ICCAT at the meeting, and stated that he thought it would be highly useful if time could be found for Dr. Rodriguez Martin to comment briefly on the work of the ICCAT. The other delegates were in agreement, so the Chairman suggested that this item be inserted between Items 3 and 4. Thus the discussion of the ICCAT would become Agenda Item 4, and all the other items would be renumbered accordingly. This was agreed, and there were no other suggestions for revision of the agenda, so it was adopted with the item concerning the ICCAT inserted.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH

The Chairman asked Dr. Joseph to review the current research of the IATTC, which he did.

He stated that the most important function of the staff is the collection and analysis of statistics of catch and of catch per unit of effort for the tuna fisheries of the eastern Pacific Ocean. The catch statistics are obtained from various government and industry sources, and the catch-per-unit-of-effort data mostly from logbook records made available by the fishermen. The data are used for long-term scientific studies of population dynamics and for the present system of management of the fisheries. For long-term studies the data can be obtained several months after the fish are caught, but for management

the statistics must be collected, tabulated, and analyzed on a current basis. In either case it is necessary that the staff have intimate knowledge of the fishery and an extensive and sophisticated system for collecting and processing the data. During 1974 considerable effort has been devoted to further modernization of the system through re-examination and modification of the procedures and further efforts to make the best possible use of computers.

In accordance with the increasing interest in skipjack during recent years the staff has devoted as much attention as possible to that species. A close positive statistical relationship between sea-surface temperatures in the central Pacific and skipjack catches in the eastern Pacific 1 1/2 years later has been detected, and it was thought that this might provide a means of forecasting the abundance of skipjack in the eastern Pacific. In 1974, however, when according to the model skipjack should have been abundant in the eastern Pacific, the catch was less than expected. The catches of skipjack off Ecuador and Peru have been poor for about seven years, but they have been better than average off Central America in 1973 and 1974. Possibly this reflects a shift in the center of abundance of a subpopulation from Ecuador-Peru to Central America.

The staff has also taken renewed interest in the "secondary tunas," including bonito, black skipjack, and frigate mackerel or "bullets." It is obvious that if the demand were sufficiently high somewhat greater catches of bonito and much greater catches of black skipjack and frigate mackerel could be made.

Another important aspect of the staff's research is population identification, as the assumption that the yellowfin in the eastern Pacific belong to a subpopulation distinct from those of the central and western Pacific is implicit in the general production and yield-per-recruitment models used for investigation of population dynamics. This is studied by comparison of morphometric and biochemical characteristics of fish of different areas and analysis of tagging data. Tagging data are also used to estimate rates of growth and mortality, necessary as input for the yield-per-recruitment model mentioned above.

The purse-seine fleet has grown extremely rapidly since the mid-1960's. The staff has kept detailed records of the physical characteristics of the entire fleet, as this is necessary for standardization of the effort data. In addition, the catch and catch-per-unit-of-effort data are being examined in new ways, including catch per ton of carrying capacity and gross earnings per ton of carrying capacity.

Special attention has recently been directed toward analysis of length-frequency data due to the unusually high catches of small yellowfin off Central America in 1973 and 1974. In addition, considerable effort has been devoted toward formulation of a storage system for length-frequency data which is compatible with that for the catch and catch-per-unit-of-effort data.

The Commission has reduced its expenditures for oceanography considerably in recent years, but through contracts and grants the staff has been able to remain active in this field. The analysis of the extensive data collected in the Gulf of Guayaquil during the 1960's is complete, and a publication on that subject will be issued in 1975. Studies of upwelling off Baja California, Peru, Oregon, and West Africa are in progress. This is pertinent to tuna research, as upwelling greatly increases productivity wherever it occurs.

The Chairman then announced that questions could be directed toward Dr. Joseph concerning the staff's research. Ambassador Castro y Castro asked a number of questions on this subject. Dr. Joseph answered most of them, but asked that Ambassador Castro y Castro permit him to defer answering a few of them, as the subject matter would be covered under future agenda items; Ambassador Castro y Castro agreed. A summary of the more important points follows.

Sattelite information on oceanographic and meteorological conditions which is currently relayed electronically to many United States vessels at sea can be made available to Mexican vessels, and arrangements to do so will be completed in the near future.

In 1973 about 4,000 to 5,000 short tons of yellowfin were caught in Area El, the experimental fishing area southwest of the Galapagos Islands, but most of this was taken during the early part of the year when the vessels were unregulated. The fish caught there were sampled when they were landed for size and sexual maturity. In 1974 little or no fishing took place in that area due to unfavorable conditions there. It is believed that the experimental program in that area should be continued at least one more year.

There are two species of bluefin tuna, the southern bluefin which has a circumpolar distribution in the southern Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, and the northern bluefin which occurs in the north Atlantic and north Pacific Oceans. The bulk of the southern bluefin catch is made by Japanese longline vessels. The Japanese government has recently unilaterally restricted the fishery by its vessels for this species to prevent overfishing. There is no regulation of the fishery for northern bluefin in the north Pacific, as there has not been enough research to know whether such action is necessary. It has been determined by tagging that this species migrates from the eastern to the western Pacific and vice versa, so the problem of regulation will be complex. The staff has recently begun to investigate bluefin on a modest scale.

Smaller fish make up a much larger portion of the yellowfin catch near the coast than further offshore. Two coastal areas of high incidence of small fish are the area off the west coast of Baja California and in the vicinity of the Revillagigedo Islands and the area off Central America. The staff has the following hypotheses regarding small fish: (1) small yellowfin occur mostly near the coast, and gradually move offshore as they grow older, contributing to the offshore fisheries for larger fish; (2) small yellowfin occur in

considerable numbers offshore as well as near the coast, but for some unknown reason they are nearly invulnerable to the fishery offshore until they are older. The tagging data obtained to date tend to favor the latter hypothesis but, due to the relative paucity of the data, the matter needs further investigation.

A detailed discussion of the distribution of areas of high biological productivity in the eastern Pacific Ocean and the physical mechanisms contributing to it was given by Dr. Joseph.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - REVIEW OF THE ICCAT

The Chairman called upon Dr. Rodriguez Martin to speak on this subject. The latter gave an extremely informative talk on the ICCAT, including its history, membership, species of concern, and areas of responsibility. He explained that the ICCAT does not have a technical staff, but rather coordinates the research of its member nations. The members of the ICCAT have agreed to a 3.2- kilogram minimum size limit for yellowfin, and regulations for bluefin are currently under consideration. The forms which future regulations might take were briefly mentioned. He concluded by thanking the Chairman for the opportunity to speak and inviting all the persons present who might be able to do so to attend the future meetings of the ICCAT.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Rodriguez Martin for this highly interesting talk, and opened the meeting for questions on that subject. Ambassador Castro y Castro asked a series of question about the ICCAT, including the workability of the minimum size limit for yellowfin, whether there was danger that future regulations in the Atlantic Ocean would be enacted too late to prevent disastrous overfishing, the relations of the ICCAT to the International Commission for the North Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), and the degree of interest of the Soviet Union in tuna fishing and the ICCAT. He was especially interested in data on the catches and fleet sizes by countries.

Dr. Rodriguez Martin replied that sampling had showed that the yellowfin size limit was highly effective, and he expressed the opinion that future regulation would not be too late to prevent disastrous overfishing. The functions of the ICCAT and the ICNAF do not overlap, as the latter organization is concerned chiefly with trawl fisheries and with areas outside the range of most of the tuna fisheries. Representatives of the Soviet Union attend the ICCAT meetings as observers, and show keen interest in the proceedings. Approximately 70 percent of the total catch of Atlantic tunas is made by members of the ICCAT; of the remainder, about one third is made by vessels to Taiwan, which is ineligible for membership in the ICCAT. Statistics of catch by countries are listed in the Commission's reports to the extent that this does not violate the confidential nature of the data in cases where there are only one or two fishing enterprises in a country. The ICCAT has devoted less attention to compilation of statistics of fleet size by country due to the diversity of gear types employed to catch tunas in the Atlantic Ocean.

AGENDA ITEMS 5, 6, AND 7 - THE 1974 FISHING YEAR, CONDITION OF THE YELLOWFIN STOCK AND THE QUOTA FOR 1975, AND DISCUSSION OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF CLOSING THE FISHERY.

The Chairman stated that it was Dr. Joseph's opinion that the material for Agenda Items 5, 6, and 7 could best be presented together, and asked if any of the delegates objected to this. None objected, so Dr. Joseph proceeded to make his presentation in this format. In summary, he explained that the 1974 catch of yellowfin in the Commission's Yellowfin Regulatory Area (CYRA) should amount to about 175,000 short tons. The catch per unit of effort, used as an index of abundance, dropped once again during 1974, suggesting a further decline in the stock size. The most recent analyses of the general production model indicate maximum yields of 148,000 to 178,000 tons on the average. If the staff had only the catch and catch-per-unit-of-effort information and the resultant general production modelling as a basis for its recommendation it would recommend that the quota for 1974 be repeated in 1975. However, the average size of fish in the catch in 1974 was only 15.6 pounds, as compared to about 31 pounds for the 1968-1973 period. In 1973 and 1974 the catches of age-1 fish were about 46 and 63 thousand tons, respectively whereas previous to that the average catch of these small fish was only about 9 to 22 thousand tons. If the age-1 fish caught in 1973 and 1974 belong to average year classes, as appears to be the case at least for the former group, then the catches of age-2 and age-3 fish in 1975 would be substantially reduced, resulting in a lower total catch. Because of this circumstance it was the staff's recommendation that a minimum quota of 130,000 tons be set, but that options to increase it by increments to 195,000 tons if the apparent condition of the stock warrants it be provided. The above material is covered more fully in Background Papers 1 and 2 of this meeting and Background Paper 3 of the 29th meeting of the IATTC.

At 6:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned until the following day.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:10 a.m. on October 29. At the Chairman's request Dr. Joseph spoke about a special report of the past intergovernmental meeting which he had prepared for the Commissioners at their request. He explained that his responsibility is to the Commission, rather than to the attendees of the intergovernmental meetings, so he was submitting his report to the Commission. Mr. Tibbo requested that copies of the report be distributed to the other attendees of the meeting, and Dr. Joseph agreed to do this.

Next there was a lengthy question and answer period concerning Dr. Joseph's presentation on Agenda Items 5, 6, and 7. Several aspects of the fishery, the condition of the stocks, and the regulation program which of necessity had been covered only briefly during Dr. Joseph's presentation were subjected to more intensive scrutiny during the question and answer period. The following paragraphs summarize the more important of these discussions.

Mr. Van Campen of the U.S.A. requested further clarification of the consequences of the three alternatives presented on page 13 of Background Paper 2. Dr. Joseph explained that although the first alternative, no regulation at all, would give a considerably higher yield in 1975, and perhaps a somewhat higher yield for 1975 and 1976 combined, over a longer period of perhaps 5 years the data indicate that the total yield would be substantially lower. In reply to Mr. Van Campen's query regarding the possibility that unusual oceanographic conditions had caused unusually high recruitment in 1973 and 1974, Dr. Joseph replied that there was no evidence that this was so, and that the low catch of 2-year-olds in 1974 indicated that the recruitment in 1973 was only average. He also elaborated on his statements concerning the high proportions of young fish in the catches of 1973 and 1974 and the great likelihood that these fish would not contribute much as 2- and 3-year-olds to the catches of 1975 and subsequent years. Mr. Van Campen also asked how the IATTC would be able to make a decision early in the season regarding whether or not to allow the proposed increments to be implemented, and Dr. Joseph replied that this decision would be made on the basis of data for catch per days absence and catch per capacity ton for vessels at sea, information on locations where these vessels were fishing, and size composition data for fish caught by vessels returning to port early in the season.

Ambassador Castro y Castro expressed concern regarding the catch of small yellowfin in Area A1. He mentioned that these fish might be protected by stricter regulations in Area A1, and asked about the possibility of mesh-size regulations to protect small fish. He also said that it appeared to him to be desirable to regulate the fishery in Area A3, and asked for further discussion of this matter. Dr. Joseph said that the small fish caught near the coast of Central America during the second quarter of the year might be protected by (1) opening the season about two or three months earlier than the customary opening date of January 1, (2) closure to fishing of areas where small fish are found, or (3) a minimum size limit. The last alternative does not appear promising, as it is not possible for purse seiners to avoid encircling considerable numbers of small fish in the nets when fishing primarily for large fish, and these small fish do not escape through the net even when the meshes are large enough for them to do so. Substitution of other types of gear presently available for purse seines is clearly not feasible. The decision not to recommend regulation of the fishery in Area A3 is based primarily upon data for catch and catch per unit of effort, neither of which has shown a decline. The decision as to where to place the western boundary of the CYRA was based upon the distribution of fishing effort during the early 1960's plus morphometric data which indicated that there was probably little interchange of fish east and west of the line. Subsequently tagging data have indicated that the rate of interchange of fish between the areas inside and outside the CYRA is low. Ambassador Castro y Castro thanked Dr. Joseph for his remarks, but said he was not convinced that there should not be regulation of the fishery in Area A3, and that he thought that such regulation should be seriously considered. He also said that the countries adjacent to the resource, such as Mexico, are especially concerned about protection of the

resource. Commissioner Obarrio of Panama concurred with these remarks.

Mr. Van Campen said that closure of an area to fishing to protect small fish would seem to be a radical measure, since the heavy catch of such fish off Central America appears to be an unusual occurrence. Also, such a regulation would be a hardship for developing countries with small vessels, as such vessels can fish only close to shore. He added that the United States was as concerned with conservation as any of the countries adjacent to the resource, as evidenced by its long record of support for such measures.

There was further discussion regarding mesh sizes, and Dr. Joseph pointed out that if the staff were requested to perform gear research a substantial amount of additional money would be required for that purpose.

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

The Chairman called upon Dr. Joseph to discuss the staff's data concerning capture of tuna associated with porpoises. This information is available as Background Paper 4 for the 29th meeting of the IATTC. Mr. Van Campen called attention to the regulations of the United States regarding protection of marine mammals, and made some remarks supplemental to those of Dr. Joseph regarding methods devised by United States fishermen to avoid damage to porpoises. Messrs. Mercado and Tibbo stated that Mexico and Canada also have strict regulations for the protection of marine mammals.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - RECOMMENDED RESEARCH PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1976-1977

At the Chairman's request Dr. Joseph reviewed the proposed IATTC budget for the 1976-1977 fiscal year, described in Background Paper 3. The Chairman and Mr. Van Campen both spoke highly of the staff's pension plan, and of the desirability of bringing up to date past service credits. Mr. Van Campen moved that the proposed budget be adopted, and this motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

After the intergovernmental meeting the IATTC meeting was reconvened at 4:50 p.m. on October 31.

A great deal of discussion concerning the quota recommendation of the staff was held during the intergovernmental meeting. These discussions, which carried over into the Commission meeting, are summarized here.

The United States delegation indicated that the intent of the experimental overfishing program, which was initiated in 1969, was overfish purposefully the resource of yellowfin in order to determine how well the results would correspond to those predicted by the general production model. It noted that overfishing had not yet been clearly demonstrated, even though changes in size

distribution of the fish in the catch are evident. It therefore recommended an initial quota of 175,000 tons, with two optional increments of 10,000 tons each. Various delegations questioned Dr. Joseph as to the risks of such action. He replied that it was his opinion that the risk of doing irreparable biological damage to the stock was low, but that the risks of severe economic dislocation were much higher. On the basis of this the U. S. proposal for a quota of 175,000 tons, with optional increments to 195,000 tons, was approved.

Because of concern expressed over alteration of the size composition of the fish in the catch the Mexican delegation proposed that an extraordinary meeting of the Commission be held on March 1, 1975, to enable the staff to review the current situation in the fishery. At that time action could be taken on recommendations that the staff might make concerning the condition of the stock. All the delegations supported this proposal.

The Chairman suggested that Dr. Joseph use the draft resolution prepared at the intergovernmental meeting (Appendix 3) as a guide in the preparation of an IATTC resolution (Appendix 4) which would be sent to the Commissioners for their approval. As there were no objections, it was agreed to follow this procedure.

AGENDA ITEM 10 - PLACE AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Mr. Letaconnoux graciously invited the Commissioners to hold the next meeting in France. This kind offer met with approval, so it was agreed that the meeting would be held in Paris on October 13-17, 1975.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Amador from Costa Rica nominated Mr. Letaconnoux as Chairman, and the latter was elected by acclamation. He stated that he realized the great responsibility of the position, and would do his best to fulfill the responsibilities. Mr. Tibbo of Canada nominated Mr. Bergman of Nicaragua as secretary, and the latter was also elected by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 12 - OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman called upon Dr. Joseph, who stated that Background Paper 4, Organization, Functions, and Achievements of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, was prepared at the request of the Commissioners. It could serve merely as a background paper for the 30th meeting of the IATTC, or it could be given worldwide distribution. The Chairman suggested that since a previous paper on the same subject prepared by FAO, but now largely outdated, was widely distributed, the same should be done with the present paper. Ambassador Castro y Castro concurred, and this course of action was agreed upon.

AGENDA ITEM 13 - ADJOURNMENT

After short speeches by several Commissioners expressing thanks for the gracious hospitality offered by Canada, the host nation, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

November 4, 1974
La Jolla, California, U.S.A.

APPENDIX 1

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

by

K. C. Lucas,
Senior Assistant Deputy Minister,
Fisheries and Marine Service,
Department of the Environment,

at the opening of

THE 30TH MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

Ottawa, October 28, 1974.

Mr. Chairman, Members of Delegation and Observers:

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am very pleased to welcome you to Ottawa for this 30th Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

I understand that this Commission has an attitude best expressed by saying, "Let's get the formalities over with and get down to business." In fact, the last time IATTC met in Ottawa, in the spring of 1970, your Chairman Dr. A.W.H. Needler opened the meeting with one sentence - perhaps two. I will take my cue from him.

Those of you who were here for the 1970 meeting will be interested to know that Dr. Needler has since retired as Deputy Minister of Fisheries but has by no means withdrawn from active fisheries work. He is director of an important marine laboratory and still advises the Canadian Government on international fisheries matters.

It is some years now since the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission first won the recognition of fisheries interests. Indeed it won world-wide respect by taking effective action toward achieving optimum sustainable yield before stocks of yellowfin tuna in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean have reached a danger point. This was in sharp and happy contrast to international conservation measures with regard to many other species in many parts of the world. For the most part, a severe crisis has had to occur before countries have reached agreement to work out and implement a conservation regime of a remedial nature.

The early quotas established less than ten years ago may have caused a little anguish and inconvenience. By and large the first quota in 1966 was designed to maintain the fishery at levels close to the average of immediately preceding years. A viable fishery was maintained for all with the requisite equipment and skills.

1967 proved to be one of the exceptional skipjack years. The abundance of skipjack offset the limited fishery for yellowfin tuna.

By 1968 the pressure was on. Fleet expansion continued without let-up.

Your Commission sent out feelers to see what could be done in the way of a possible increase in the quota for yellowfin tuna. In time, a program of overfishing, followed by a period of underfishing if necessary, was recommended by your Commission and accepted by Governments. The purpose was not only to take a larger quota, but to test the models on which the quota figures were first established. Thus the program was defined: to fish a larger quantity for three years, after which a return to a very low quota would likely be needed to allow the stocks to rebuild. Safeguards were built in, if the catch rate declined in any alarming way.

The program has been a good one for the fishery. It has been carried through and beyond the three year phase. Now, however, we may be close to reaching the crossroads.

Perhaps the one disadvantage in the program was the incentive it gave to further expansion of the fleet. The fleet seems to have reached a size where its carrying capacity is perhaps greater than the entire allowable catch of yellowfin tuna.

I would expect that you will be doubly interested in the review by the Director of Investigations this year, since it would seem that the closure to unrestricted fishing for yellowfin came almost dangerously late in 1974. I need not go into the details concerning the difficulties which led to late agreement - you are all quite aware of them.

Beginning with the San Diego meeting in March 1969 and continuing at the Ottawa meeting in 1970 up to the present time, the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna has experienced ever-increasing problems in reaching agreement on the methods of implementation of conservation measures recommended by the Commission. At times it has appeared to some that the very existence of the Commission was at stake.

Ladies and gentlemen, conservation interests throughout the world are looking to you for leadership. Here is a Commission which is succeeding in dealing with the thorny problem of maintaining optimum sustainable yield from an important resource. It must not founder. There has to be a route to success whereby the resource can be conserved for the future, used wisely, and at the same time provide for satisfactory returns for all who participate in it.

I offer my best wishes for the success of these 1974 deliberations, both to the Commission and to the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna. I look forward to meeting you at less formal gatherings arranged for tomorrow and Thursday evenings.

APPENDIX 2

LIST OF ATTENDEES AT THE 30TH MEETING OF THE IATTC

CANADA

Commissioners-

E. B. Young
S. W. Tibbo
G. E. Waring

B. Applebaum
J. S. Beckett
D. A. Maclean
J. F. McAvoy
G. F. M. Smith

COSTA RICA

Commissioner-

Francisco Teran Valls

Diógenes Amador Meza
Raul H. Canessa M.
Stewart A. Heigold
Carlos Luis Monge Sanabria
Rubén Murillo Adams
Herbert Nanne

FRANCE

Commissioners-

Robert Letacomoux
Serge Garache

Michel Dion
A. Thibaudeau

JAPAN

Commissioner-

Kunio Yonezawa
Koji Imamura
Mikio Inamori
Seiichiro Otsuka

MEXICO

Ambassador Fernando Castro y Castro

Commissioners-

Arturo Díaz Rojo
Joaquín Mercádo
Pedro Mercado Sanchez
Amin Zarur M.

Jorge Echaniz
Luis Garcia Cacho
Jesus Nieto
Roberto Rodriguez B.

NICARAGUA

Commissioners-

Gilberto Bergman P.
Antonio Flores Arana

PANAMA

Commissioner-

Juan L. de Obarrio

U.S.A.

Commissioners-

John Gerald Driscoll, Jr.
Donald P. Loker
Robert C. Macdonald
Wilvan G. Van Campen - Alternate
Commissioner

Manuel S. Andrade
Gordon C. Broadhead
Peter Buchan
Charles R. Carry
Thomas A. Clingan
Cosmo L. Cutri

August Felando
William W. Fox, Jr.
Brian S. Hallman
Gerald V. Howard
Daniel Huppert
F. Robert Insinger
Barbara Keith
O. E. Kerns, Jr.
Carl C. Marino
John Martin
Harold Medina
Anthony V. Nizetich
Anthony Pisano
George H. Rees
O. A. Schulz
Ralph Spinello
D. Wallace
Mary Beth West

CURACAO, N.A.

Hendrik Clemente Girigorie

ECUADOR

Rafael García Velasco
Francisco Yoong Basurto

EL SALVADOR

Fernando Aguilar Fiallos
Ernesto Trigueros Alcaina

KOREA

Han Mo Kim

PERU

Eduardo Cornejo P.
Eduardo Pastor
Renato Puch
Branko Zunjic

ICCAT

Olegario Rodriguez Martín

IATTC

James Joseph
William H. Bayliff
Joseph Greenough
Regina Newman

SECRETARIAT

W. J. Clark
B. Lefebvre
G. Parent

APPENDIX 3

16th INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING
ON THE CONSERVATION OF YELLOWFIN TUNA

Ottawa, October 30-31, 1974

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Conservation of
Yellowfin Tuna

Resolves:

- A. To support the suggestions and premises for the conservation and protection of the species that have been presented at this meeting by the Director of Investigations, Dr. James Joseph, subject to the provisions contained in this resolution;
- B. To congratulate Dr. James Joseph and give him a vote of confidence for the investigation and work that he has so carefully and responsibly undertaken;

Resolves also:

- C. To recommend to IATTC that it recommend to its member Governments that they continue in 1975 the same measures that were in effect for the conservation of yellowfin tuna in 1974, with the following modifications:

1. Permit, during the closed season for 1975, the newly constructed vessels of those members of the Commission which are developing countries and whose fisheries are in an early stage of development (that is, whose tuna catch in the Convention Area in 1970 did not exceed 12,000 short tons and whose total fish catch in 1969 did not exceed 400,000 metric tons) and which entered the fishery for yellowfin tuna in the Convention Area for the first time under the flag of such country during the closed season in 1971 or during 1972 and which, because of characteristics such as size, gear or fishing techniques, present special problems, to fish unrestricted for yellowfin tuna until such vessels have taken in the aggregate 10,000 short tons of yellowfin, or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the aggregate catch of such vessels to 10,000 tons of yellowfin tuna; provided that, if the aggregate catch of yellowfin tuna as determined by the Director of Investigations during the open season (including the last unrestricted trip) of the tuna fishing vessels of any such developing country should exceed 6,000 short tons, the allocation of 10,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna available to the above described vessels of such country during the closed season shall be reduced by the amount that the open season catch of yellowfin tuna exceeds 6,000 short tons.

(a) Those vessels that shall enjoy the above special allocation are defined in addition to the above as:

1) those vessels which had an individual catch per capacity ton for 1974 of less than 75 percent of the average catch per capacity ton of all vessels in the comparable IATTC size classes engaged in the Convention Area in 1973 as determined by IATTC statistics, and

2) which are designated by name in an official memorandum from the flag Government to the Director of Investigations of the IATTC.

(b) During the 1975 season, if a vessel of a qualified country which is not included in the provision of paragraph 1, experiences problems of the nature above described or of a similar nature, that country may substitute such vessel for any other vessel which was so qualified and designated for the purpose of exercising the benefit of the above described provision and immediately notify the Director of Investigations of the IATTC of the substitution and the nature of the special problem which made the new vessel eligible.

2. Further resolves to permit those member governments of IATTC which are developing nations whose fisheries are in an early stage of development and which, owing to the development of that industry, as they announced during this meeting have the possibility during 1975 of acquiring one or more fishing vessels that present special problems because of the size, gear, and fishing techniques, to request through IATTC a study of the specific problem and to recommend a solution. Unless all member governments express agreement with the proposed solution, such governments shall, jointly or individually, by the same agency, request a meeting of a special working group of all members of the Commission with the purpose of finding a satisfactory solution. Both consultations may be transmitted telegraphically to all member countries and their reply shall be transmitted within ten days.

3. For 1975 only, in order to avoid congestion of unloading and processing facilities around the date of the season closure and the danger that vessels may put to sea without adequate preparations, any vessel which completes its trip before the closure or which is in port at the closure and completed a trip in the CYRA during 1974 may sail to fish freely for yellowfin tuna within the CYRA on any trip which is commenced within 30 days after the closure.

4. Although it is recognized that the present regulatory system has served to conserve the yellowfin tuna resource, it is also resolved:

- (a) Because of the practical difficulties which have arisen from the present regulatory system, which was established under circumstances unlike those of the current situation in tuna exploitation, to urge all member countries to continue to make exhaustive studies and investigations in order to establish a new regulatory system beginning in 1976, or as soon as possible which would satisfy the needs and interests of all the participants in the yellowfin tuna fishery of the eastern Tropical Pacific.
- (b) To convoke the existing working groups of the Inter-Governmental meeting so that they may continue their work with this purpose in mind.

5. Agree to call a special meeting of the Commission to begin on the first Monday of March, 1975, in La Jolla, California, for the purpose of receiving a report from the Director of Investigations with regard to the age composition of the catch and any other related matters he believes appropriate, in order to determine whether the stocks will be seriously damaged by fishing at the level of the quota agreed at the 1974 annual meeting. If the Director of Investigations finds evidence that the stocks may be seriously damaged, he may suggest emergency measures he believes necessary to reduce the catch. Any recommendations adopted at this special meeting, which the Commission agrees need to take effect on an emergency basis, shall take effect on a date specified by the Commission as necessary for the conservation of the stocks, but in no event less than 10 days from the date on the communication from the Director of Investigations of such measures to the Contracting Governments, unless prior to the date on which the measure is to take effect any Contracting Government communicates its disapproval.

APPENDIX 4

THE IATTC RESOLUTION FOR REGULATION OF YELLOWFIN TUNA IN 1975

RESOLUTION

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Taking note that the catch of yellowfin tuna within the Commission's Yellowfin Regulatory Area (CYRA) during 1974 will be very close to that of 1973, which was the highest ever removed from the yellowfin stock in that area, and

Noting further that the very high catches in 1973 and 1974 did not reduce sharply the apparent abundance of yellowfin tuna, and

Recognizing that the Commission does not yet have all the necessary information to establish precisely the maximum level of production which the stock is capable of sustaining, and

Considering also that the program of experimental fishing is designed to ascertain empirically the maximum sustained yield from the yellowfin stock by permitting catches substantially larger than the theoretical maximum predicted by present knowledge, and

Recognizing that the experimental fishing program has not clearly demonstrated levels of catch beyond this theoretical maximum, but that changes in the size structure of the catch suggest the possibility of reduced catches during 1975, and

Being advised that the effects of overfishing during 1975 would involve economic risks for the industry but not risks of irreparable biological damage to the stock of yellowfin,

Concludes that it is desirable to continue during 1975 the experimental fishing program of yellowfin tuna, and

Taking note of the resolution from the 16th Inter-Governmental Meeting on the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna, which recommends certain management measures to the Commission,

Therefore recommends to the high contracting parties that they take joint action to:

- 1) Establish the annual catch limit (quota) on the total catch of yellowfin tuna for the calendar year of 1975 at 175,000 short tons from the CYRA defined in the resolution adopted by the Commission on May 17, 1962, provided:
 - a) that if the annual catch rate is projected to fall below 3 short tons per standard day's fishing, measured in purse-seine units adjusted to limits of gear efficiency previous to 1962, as estimated by the Director of Investigations, the unrestricted

fishing for yellowfin tuna in the CYRA shall be curtailed so as not to exceed the then current estimate of equilibrium yield and shall be closed on a date to be fixed by the Director of Investigations;

- b) that the Director of Investigations may increase this limit by no more than two successive increments of 10,000 short tons each if he concludes from re-examination of available data that such increase will offer no substantial danger to the stock.
- 2) Reserve a portion of the annual yellowfin tuna quota for an allowance for incidental catches of tuna fishing vessels when fishing in the CYRA for species normally taken mingled with yellowfin tuna after the closure of the unrestricted fishing for yellowfin tuna. The amount of this portion should be determined by the scientific staff of the Commission at such time as the catch of yellowfin tuna approaches the recommended quota for the year.
- 3) Allow vessels to enter the CYRA during the open season, which begins January 1, 1975, with permission to fish for yellowfin tuna without restriction on the quantity until the return of the vessels to port.
- 4) Close the fishery for yellowfin tuna in 1975 at such date as the quantity already caught, plus the expected catch of yellowfin tuna by vessels which are at sea with permission to fish without restriction, reaches 175,000, 185,000 or 195,000 short tons, if the Director of Investigations so determines that such amounts should be taken, less the portion reserved for incidental catches in Item 2 above and for the special allowances provided for in Items 6 and 8 below, such date to be determined by the Director of Investigations.
- 5) Permit each vessel not provided with a special allowance under Items 6 and 8 below, fishing for tuna in the CYRA after the closure date for the yellowfin tuna fishery to land an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna taken in catches of other species in the CYRA on each trip commenced during such closed season. The amount each vessel is permitted to land as an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna shall be determined by the government which regulates the fishing activities of such vessels provided, however, that the aggregate of the incidental catches of yellowfin tuna taken by all such vessels of a country so permitted shall not exceed 15 percent of the combined total catch taken by such vessels during the period these vessels are permitted to land incidental catches of yellowfin tuna.

- 6) Permit the flag vessels of each country of 400 short tons capacity and less fishing tuna in the CYRA after the closure date for the yellowfin tuna fishery to fish freely until 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna are taken by such vessels or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the catch of yellowfin tuna by such vessels to 6,000 short tons; and thereafter to permit such vessels to land an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna taken in the catch of other species in the CYRA on each trip commenced after 6,000 tons have been caught. The amount each vessel is permitted to land as an incidental catch shall be determined by the government which regulates the fishing activities of such vessels provided, however, that the aggregate of the incidental catches of yellowfin tuna taken by such vessels of each country so permitted shall not exceed 15 percent of the total catch taken by such vessels during trips commenced after 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna have been caught.
- 7) The species referred to in Items 2, 5 and 6 are skipjack tuna, bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna, albacore tuna, black skipjack, bonito, billfishes and sharks.
- 8) Permit, during the closed season for 1975, the newly-constructed vessels of those members of the Commission which are developing countries and whose fisheries are in the early stage of development (that is, whose tuna catch in the Convention Area in 1970 did not exceed 12,000 short tons and whose total fish catch in 1969 did not exceed 400,000 metric tons) and which entered the fishery for yellowfin tuna in the Convention Area for the first time under the flag of such country during the closed season in 1971 or during 1972 and which, because of characteristics such as size, gear or fishing techniques, present special problems, to fish unrestricted for yellowfin tuna until such vessels have taken in the aggregate 10,000 short tons of yellowfin, or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the aggregate catch of such vessels to 10,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna provided that, if the aggregate catch of yellowfin tuna, as determined by the Director of Investigations, during the open season (including the last unrestricted trip) of the tuna fishing vessels of any such developing countries should exceed 6,000 short tons, the allocation of 10,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna available to the above described vessels of such country during the closed season shall be reduced by the amount that the open-season catch of yellowfin tuna exceeds 6,000 short tons.
 - A) Those vessels that shall enjoy the above special allocation are defined in addition to the above as:
 - 1) those vessels which had an individual catch per capacity ton for 1974 of less than 75% of the average catch per capacity ton of all vessels in comparable Commission size classes engaged in the fishery in the Convention Area in 1973, as determined

by Commission statistics of catch per capacity ton and gross earnings as published in Commission documents; and

- 2) which are designated by name in an official memorandum from the flag government to the Director of Investigations.
- B) During the 1975 season, if a vessel of a qualified country which is not included in the provision of paragraph A (sub-paragraph 1) experiences problems of the nature above-described or a similar nature, that country may substitute such vessel for any other vessel which was so qualified and designated for the purpose of exercising the benefit of the above-described provision and immediately notify the Director of Investigations of the substitution and the nature of the special problem which made the new vessel eligible.
- 9) a) In order not to curtail their fisheries, those countries whose governments accept the Commission's recommendations, but whose fisheries of yellowfin tuna are not of significance, will be exempted of their obligations of compliance with the restrictive measures.
 - b) Under present conditions, and according to the information available, an annual capture of 1,000 tons of yellowfin tuna is the upper limit to enjoy said exemption.
 - c) After the closure of the yellowfin tuna fishery, the governments of the contracting parties and cooperating countries may permit their vessels to land yellowfin tuna without restriction in any country described in paragraph a) and b) above which has canning facilities until such time as the total amount of yellowfin tuna landed in such country during 1975 reaches 1,000 short tons.
- 10) For 1975 only, in order to avoid congestion of unloading and processing facilities around the date of the season closure and the danger that vessels may put to sea without adequate preparations, any vessel which completes its trip before the closure or which is in port at the closure and completed a trip in the CYRA during 1974 may sail to fish freely for yellowfin tuna within the CYRA on any trip which is commenced within 30 days after the closure.
 - 11) For 1975 only, exclude from the CYRA on an experimental basis the area defined as follows: the area encompassed by a line drawn commencing at 110°W longitude and 3°N latitude extending east along 3°N latitude to 95°W longitude; thence south along 95°W longitude to 3°S latitude; thence east along 3°S latitude to 90°W longitude; thence south along 90°W longitude to 10°S latitude; thence west along 10°S latitude

to 110°W longitude; thence north along 110°W longitude to 3°N latitude.

- 12) Call a special meeting of the Commission to begin on the first Monday of March, 1975, in La Jolla, California, for the purpose of receiving a report from the Director of Investigations with regard to the age composition of the catch and any other related matters he believes appropriate, in order to determine whether the stocks would be seriously damaged by fishing at the level of the quota agreed at the 1974 annual meeting. If the Director of Investigations finds evidence that the stocks may be seriously damaged he may suggest emergency measures he believes necessary to reduce the catch. Any recommendations adopted at this special meeting which the Commission agrees should be taken on an emergency basis shall take effect on a date specified by the Commission as necessary for the conservation of the stock, but in no event less than 10 days from the date on the communication from the Director of Investigations of such measures to the contracting governments, unless prior to the date on which the measure is to take effect any contracting government communicates its disapproval.
- 13) Obtain by appropriate measures the cooperation of those governments whose vessels operate in the fishery, but which are not parties to the Convention for the establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, to put into effect these conservation measures.

October 31, 1974
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada