

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

**Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024**

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 D-1

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

**EU PROPOSAL ON A RESOLUTION ON MONITORING AND
CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE PACIFIC 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 Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with paragraph 12 of Resolution C-23-01 on the long-term management framework for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the EPO. 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, which has proved very successful in adopting and implementing stringent monitoring and control measures to rebuild bluefin tuna stocks. The proposal establishes a number of minimum provisions to monitor and control the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery including a record of vessels and farms; catch and transshipment reports; general rules on by-catches; identification of designated ports; reporting of catches; and the future establishment of an observer programme and a catch documentation scheme.

In view of the distribution of Pacific bluefin tuna, and to promote consistency in the management of the stock and the applicable and control measures, it would be advisable the adoption of consistent measures across the area of the distribution of the stock. Therefore, similar provisions could also be considered by WCPFC.

Objectives

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

IATTC Vessel Register

2. CPCs shall include in the IATTC Vessel Register their fishing vessels authorised to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery in the EPO. Each flag CPC shall submit each year to the Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity the list of its catching vessels.
3. Fishing vessels not entered into the IATTC Vessel Register are deemed not to be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna.

4. CPCs shall provide each year an Annual report with the list of their flagged fishing vessels that have fished for, or taken as bycatch, pacific bluefin tuna during the previous fishing year.

IATTC record of bluefin tuna farms

5. The Commission shall establish an IATTC Record of farms authorised for the fattening or farming of bluefin tuna. For the purposes of this Recommendation, farms not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorised to be used to fish for, retain, and participate in any operation to catch, transfer, harvest or land bluefin tuna.
6. Each CPC shall submit to the IATTC Secretariat by 1 June every year:
 - a. The list of its authorised tuna farms, and
 - b. The total number of its 'holding pens' or 'cages'.

Catch reports

7. CPCs shall provide to the IATTC Secretariat the catch information required in Resolution C-03-05. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate to their authorities, during the whole period in which they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna, 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.

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 Secretariat.
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 authorised. This list shall be communicated to the IATTC Secretariat by 31 December 2024. Any amendment shall be immediately communicated to the IATTC Secretariat.
12. For a port to be determined as a designated port, the port State shall ensure that there is enough inspection means to control all Pacific bluefin tuna landings.

Prior Notification of Landings

13. 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; and

- 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.
14. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.
15. All landings shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a minimum of [5%] shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort.

Reporting of catches from CPCs to the Secretariat

16. 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.
17. CPCs shall provide in the Annual report indicated in paragraph 4 the following information on Pacific bluefin tuna catches in the IATTC CA for the preceding year:
- a. the total catches of each catching vessel (two weight categories: </> 30kg);
 - b. total amount of Pacific bluefin tuna (number and weight) that was caged in pen nets for fattening purposes.
 - c. total amount of Pacific bluefin tuna (number and weight) that was harvested from pen nets for fattening purposes.

Transshipments

18. Transshipment at sea of Pacific bluefin tuna shall be prohibited.
19. Transshipment operations of bluefin tuna in the EPO shall be allowed only at designated ports defined in paragraph 10.
20. All transshipments in ports shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the designated port CPC authorities.

Regional Observer Programme

21. The IATTC shall develop by 2026 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.
22. Where CPCs have national observer programs in place, data and information collected under the national programmes referred to in paragraph 13 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

23. IATTC shall establish by 31 December 2026 rules, standards and procedures to monitor the transfer and caging activities.

Catch Documentation Scheme CDS

24. IATTC shall establish by 31 December 2026 a catch documentation scheme (CDS) for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the EPO compatible with other CDSs for Pacific bluefin tuna by 2026. This CDS should build on the outcomes of the Joint IATTC/WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group established by Resolution C-16-03.