

16TH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE CONSERVATION OF YELLOWFIN TUNA

OTTAWA, CANADA, OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1, 1974

Proposed Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting by the Provisional Chairman
2. Appointment of Committee on Credentials
3. Election of Officers
4. Consideration and Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
5. Evaluation of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the IATTC for 1974.
6. Sub-Group I of Working Group
- ⑧ 7. Consideration of Measures for Minimizing Harm to Marine Mammals in the Course of Tuna Fishing
9. 8. Other Business and 1975 Meeting Place
9. Adjournment
- 10.

16th INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING

ON THE CONSERVATION OF YELLOWFIN TUNA

Ottawa, October 30-Nov. 1, 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 1974 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:

(1) 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 <sup>continue to</sup> 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.

(17)  
2) 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.

#### MEXICO'S PROPOSAL

- 1) The Mexican Government accepts the recommendation made by the Director of Investigations of the IATTC on the total catch for the 1975 fishing year.
- 2) Since the total quota of yellowfin catch for the Mexican fleet does not affect any conservationist criteria proposed by the IATTC, the Mexican Government could accept any increase to either the minimum or the maximum quota for yellowfin catches, provided those increases are satisfactory to the Director of Investigations of the IATTC.
- 3) That boats with special problems, as mentioned in point 8 of the XV Intergovernmental Meeting for the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna, be allowed to increase their catch of yellowfin tuna ~~by~~ 2,000 american tons.

THE COSTA RICAN DELEGATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS UPON WHICH  
THE CONVENTION FOR THE FOUNING OF THE IATTC WAS BASED,

PROPOSES:

1. To support all the suggestions and premises that for the conservation and protection of the species have been presented at this meeting by the Director of Investigations, Dr. James Joseph.
2. 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.
3. Set the annual quota at 130,000 short tons for the catch yellowfin tuna for the year 1975, with possibility of gradual increases upon the recommendations of the scientific staff of IATTC. This amount includes the special allocations for the member countries of IATTC.
4. To open the season beginning on November 15, 1974 in accordance with one of the possible measures to protect young tunas.
5. The Costa Rican Government reserves the right to accept and dictate the terms, legislation and regulations which would be necessary to contribute to the protection of the yellowfin and to the development of the national fishing industry.