

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

**81<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA  
27 SEPTEMBER-1 OCTOBER 2010

**DOCUMENT IATTC-81 INF-A**

This text emerged from the 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IATTC in June 2009 (Proposal C1-G).

**RESOLUTION TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT ON SEABIRDS OF FISHING  
FOR SPECIES COVERED BY THE COMMISSION**

*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; and

*Reaffirming* the importance of implementing the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch 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; and

*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 the use of a single measure in reducing bycatch of seabirds; and

*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;

*Resolves as follows:*

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non Parties, fishing entities and regional economic integration organizations (collectively "CPCs") shall report to the Commission 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. CPCs shall require their longline vessels<sup>1</sup> that fish for species covered by the Commission in the EPO north of 23°N (except the Gulf of California and the area east of a line drawn from the intersection of the 28°N parallel and the coast of Baja California down to 23°N) 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.

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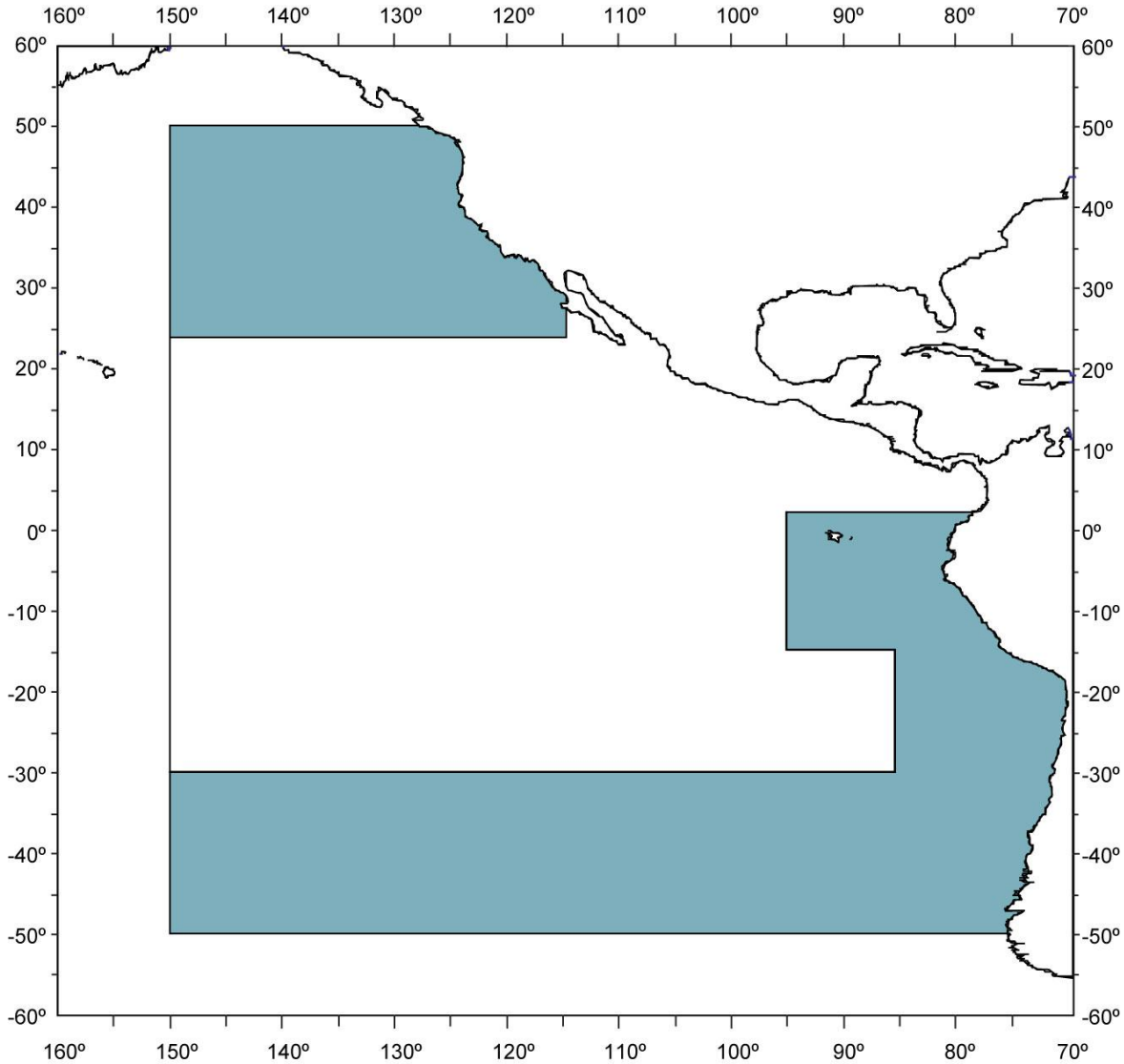
<sup>1</sup> Vessels propelled by outboard motors are not subject to this resolution

**Table 1: Mitigation measures**

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

3. CPCs with longline vessels fishing in other areas of the EPO are encouraged to voluntarily employ at least one of the mitigation measures in Table 1.
4. The Commission shall, by its 2010 annual meeting, adopt minimum technical specifications for the mitigation measures in Table 1. Specifications shall be based on the advice of the IATTC staff, the Working Group on Bycatch, the Scientific Committee, or any other relevant information that the IATTC wishes to use for this purpose, and shall take into account the results of research envisaged in paragraph 8 below, along with the minimum technical specifications adopted by other relevant organizations, such as those included in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Conservation and Management Measure 2007-04.
5. CPCs shall inform the Commission, by 1 May 2011, and annually thereafter, of the mitigation measures, including the relevant technical specifications that their flag vessels plan to employ in the implementation of this resolution.
6. CPCs are encouraged to work, jointly and individually, to undertake research 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 Commission any information derived from such efforts. Preferably, research should be undertaken in the fisheries and areas in which the measures will be used.
7. CPCs shall provide annually to the Commission 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. CPCs 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. CPCs 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. CPCs shall begin implementation of this resolution no later than 1 May 2011.
11. The effectiveness of this resolution 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 resolution, shall be evaluated at least biennially by the IATTC staff, the Working Group on Bycatch, the Scientific Committee, or any other relevant information that the IATTC wishes to use for this purpose.
12. This resolution replaces Resolution C-05-01.

## Annex 1



Areas (shaded) within the IATTC Area in which the use of at least two mitigation measures for reducing seabird bycatch is required: north of 23°N (except the Gulf of California and the area east of a line drawn from the intersection of the 28°N parallel and the coast of Baja California down to 23°N) 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.