

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**102<sup>ND</sup> MEETING**

**Panama City, Panama**

**2-6 September 2024**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-102 I-1**

**SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR**

**SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA**

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Victoria, British Columbia (Canada), on the occasion of its 101<sup>st</sup> Meeting:*

*Recalling* its responsibility, established in the Antigua Convention, for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area and for the formulation of recommendations in this regard to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs);

*Observing* that south Pacific albacore tuna supports diverse fisheries in areas under national jurisdiction, as well as in areas beyond national jurisdiction, across the breadth of the Pacific Ocean south of the equator, encompassing the convention areas of the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

*Emphasizing* the importance of regional and global cooperation to ensure the effective conservation and protection of living aquatic resources throughout their range of distribution, as encouraged in paragraph 12 of Article 6 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

*Thus recognizing* the importance of working with the WCPFC, as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage south Pacific albacore tuna fisheries throughout the migratory range of the stock in the Pacific Ocean south of the equator;

*Recalling further* paragraph 4 of Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

*Encouraged* by recent collaborations in this regard between the scientific staff of the IATTC Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through which a Pacific-wide stock assessment of south Pacific albacore tuna was conducted;

*Observing* that fishing controls for south Pacific albacore tuna are in effect exclusively in the waters of the WCPFC Convention Area south of 20°S and that there are currently no controls in effect in the IATTC Convention Area outside the overlap area;

*Considering* the recommendation of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, at its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, that longline catches of south Pacific albacore tuna be reduced in the WCPFC Convention Area to avoid further and prolonged depletion of vulnerable biomass by adult catches;

*Considering* that document SAC-15-13 REV indicates that the catch and effort of the longline fleet have increased substantially in recent years, that the WCPFC has adopted interim reference points, and that the IATTC has not yet adopted a resolution on this issue.

*Recalling* that longline fishing vessels greater than 24 meters length overall (LSTLFVs) are highly mobile and can easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, so they have a high potential to operate between IATTC and WCPFC convention areas;

*Recalling* Resolution C-11-05 on the establishment of a list of longline fishing vessels over 24 meters (LSTLFVs) authorized to operate in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

*Finally, taking into account* Article IV of the Antigua Convention, which calls upon the Members of the Commission to apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management, and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention.

*The IATTC therefore resolves that:*

1. At the annual meeting in 2025, reference points and interim catch and/or effort limits that are compatible with the work of the WCPFC, as recommended by the IATTC scientific staff in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall be proposed and considered.
2. Coordinate with the WCPFC on a joint effort and process to develop and explore a range of harvest strategies for consideration.
3. CPCs and IATTC scientific staff shall participate in the upcoming WCPFC science management dialogues to develop a harvest strategy for south Pacific albacore throughout the stock's range.
4. Under the provisions established in Resolution C-03-05, CPCs shall report to the Commission by April 2025 all required data on their respective fleets that have caught south Pacific albacore tuna from 2012 to 2023. The results of the data requested and analyzed by the scientific staff shall be reviewed annually by the SAC in order to make recommendations to the Commission on conservation measures, if necessary.
5. The IATTC scientific staff, taking into account feedback from the CPCs, should develop and make available data forms as part of the ongoing process to improve data provision under Resolution C-03-05. The forms should be presented and reviewed at the 2025 SAC meeting and distributed to the CPCs.
6. The IATTC scientific staff shall present, during the SAC meeting, the data forms developed by the staff for the collection of operational data. The SAC shall review and recommend modifications, if necessary, for the adoption of the data forms, taking into account their importance and scope.
7. This measure shall enter into force on 1 January 2025 and may be reviewed annually by the IATTC scientific staff and the SAC for their respective recommendations to the Commission.