

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

81ST MEETING

ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)
27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2010

PROPOSAL A-1

SUBMITTED BY JAPAN

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 Convention Area;

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Understanding that bycatches of seabirds are known to occur in the longline fisheries operating in some areas of the Convention Area;

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Reaffirming the importance of implementing the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (hereafter referred to as "IPOA-Seabirds");

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;

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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;

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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. Members and Cooperating Non-members of the Commission (hereafter referred to as "CMCs") 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.

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2. CMCs shall require their longline vessels¹ that fish for species covered by the Commission in the Convention Area north of 23°N (except the Gulf of California and the area east of a line drawn from the intersection of the 28N° 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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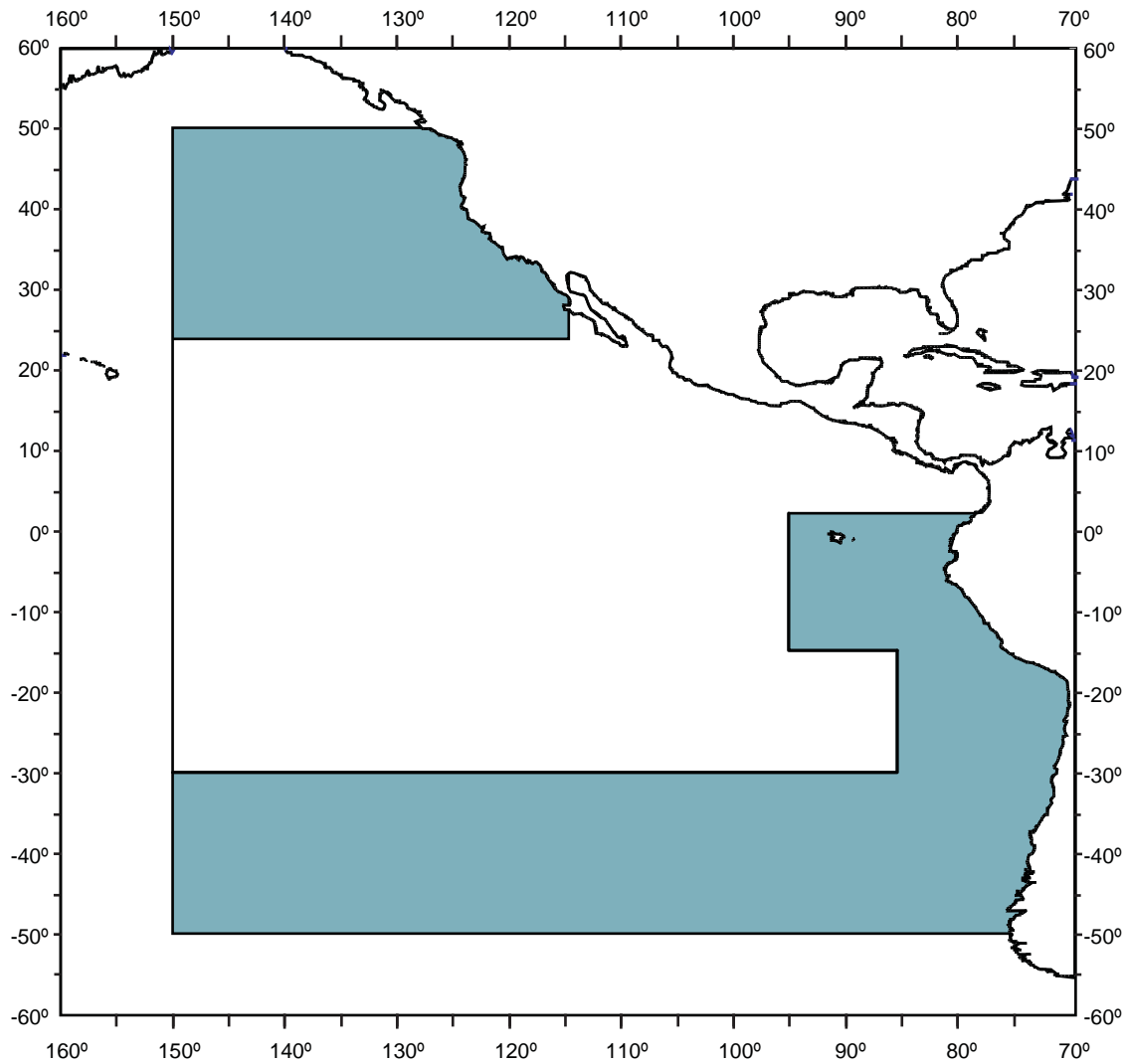
Table 1: Mitigation measures

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

¹ Vessels propelled by outboard motors are not subject to this resolution

3. CMCs with longline vessels fishing in the Convention Area other than the area mentioned in paragraph 2 above are encouraged to voluntarily employ at least one of the mitigation measures in Table 1.
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4. The Commission shall, by its 2011 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 Advisory 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's Conservation and Management Measure 2007-04. If the Commission is not able to agree on such specifications at its 2011 annual meeting, the specifications agreed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission shall be applied for this purpose.
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5. CMCs shall inform the Commission, by 1 September 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.
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6. CMCs are encouraged to work, jointly and individually, to undertake research, especially on specifications for weighted branch lines, 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.
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7. CMCs 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.
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8. CMCs 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.
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9. CMCs 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.
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10. CMCs shall begin implementation of this resolution no later than 1 September 2011.
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11. The effectiveness of this resolution to reduce seabird bycatch in the Convention Area, 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 Advisory 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.