

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 70TH MEETING

**Antigua (Guatemala)
June 24-27, 2003**

Chairman: Dr. Pablo Girón Muñoz (Guatemala)

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AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. The fishery in 2002
4. Status of tuna and billfish stocks
5. Report of the Scientific Working Group
6. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Compliance
7. Report of the Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties
8. Use of Vessel Monitoring Systems
9. Implementation of the June 2002 Resolution on Fleet Capacity:
 - a. Proposals to strengthen the resolution
 - b. Regional Plan of Action
 - c. Limitation of capacity of vessels other than purse seiners
10. Review of Commission staff's research
11. Recommended research program and budget for FY 2005 (October 1, 2004-September 30, 2005)
12. Conservation of sea turtles
13. Report of the Working Group on the IATTC Convention
14. Recommendations and resolutions for 2003
15. Place and date of next meeting
16. Election of officers
17. Other business
18. Adjournment

DOCUMENTS

(available at www.iattc.org)

IATTC-70-04	Tunas and billfish in the EPO
IATTC-70-09	A satellite-based Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the IATTC
IATTC-70-10a	Proposals to strengthen the June 2002 resolution on fleet capacity
IATTC-70-10b	Draft plan for regional management of fishing capacity
IATTC-70-12	Program and budget for fiscal year 2005
IATTC-70-14	Recommendations and resolutions for 2003: consolidation of appropriate resolutions

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees
2. Report of the Scientific Working Group
3. Report of the 4th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Compliance
4. Report of the Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties
5. Report of the Working Group on the IATTC Convention
6. [Resolution on provision of data](#)
7. [Resolution on at-sea reporting](#)
8. [Resolution on the establishment of a list of longline fishing vessels over 24 meters authorized to operate in the EPO](#)
9. [Resolution on criteria for attaining the status of cooperating non-party or cooperating fishing entity to AIDCP and IATTC](#)
10. [Resolution on financing the IATTC](#)
11. [Resolution on sea turtles](#)
12. [Resolution on the adoption of the Antigua Convention](#)
13. [Resolution on the participation of a fishing entity in the Antigua Convention](#)
14. [Consolidated resolution on bycatch](#)
15. Statement by Japan on the adoption of the Antigua Convention
16. Statement by Mexico on the adoption of the Antigua Convention
17. Recommendations for conservation measures for yellowfin and bigeye tuna
18. Draft resolution on the conservation of tunas in the EPO in 2003

1. Opening of the meeting

Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the IATTC, opened the meeting. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1. Dr. Pablo Girón Muñoz of Guatemala was elected Chairman of the meeting.

The United States, as the Depositary for the IATTC convention, announced that Spain had received the approval of all the Parties to become a member of the Commission, but some internal formalities were necessary before it could formally join the Commission. Mexico indicated that since this was a matter of technical formalities, Spain should participate in the meeting as a *de facto* member of the Commission, with all rights and privileges. Spain was warmly welcomed to the table by all delegations.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted, with the report of the Working Group on the IATTC Convention postponed until later in the meeting.

3. The fishery in 2002

Dr. Allen presented information on the fishery during 2002, elaborated in [Document IATTC-70-04](#).

4. Status of tuna and billfish stocks

Continuing the presentation of Document IATTC-70-04, Dr. Allen reviewed the status of the stocks of yellowfin and bigeye tunas and other species in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).

In particular, he referred to the final section of the document dealing with ecosystem considerations, and stressed the importance for the Commission of keeping these considerations in mind when making decisions on the conservation of the resources.

The yellowfin stock was estimated to have declined from a high point in 2001 to slightly less than the level that would provide the average maximum sustainable yield (AMSY) in 2002, and was expected to increase to above that level, as the fishing mortality rate in recent years has been less than that required to produce the AMSY. If a stock-recruit relationship is incorporated into the estimation procedure, the current estimated stock size would be only 70% of the size that would produce the AMSY, and the fishing mortality rate would be greater than the rate that produces the AMSY. The total catch and stock size could be increased if the average size of yellowfin in the catch were increased. While the stock size is slightly lower than last year, the purse-seine fleet capacity at sea for the early months of 2003 was greater by about 8% than it had been in the previous two years, and if this were to continue through the remainder of the year it would be necessary to close the purse-seine fishery for two months if the fishing mortality were to remain at the levels of recent years.

The assessment for the bigeye stock was less certain than that for yellowfin. For bigeye, longline catches are very important, and at the time of the assessment the recent catches for important components of the fleet were not available. Species composition sampling of the purse-seine catches of the past three years shows estimated purse-seine catches greater than the reported unloadings. Thus the sensitivity analyses presented included alternative versions of the basic data on which the assessment is based. The trends seen last year have continued: recent recruitment has been poor, and the stock is on a declining trajectory and is either near or below the level that will produce the AMSY. The stock was expected to fall to levels lower than those previously seen. Substantial reductions in catch from all sectors would be necessary if the stock were to recover.

Following his presentation, Dr. Allen noted that there was no formal decision by the Commission establishing a requirement to provide catch and other fisheries data to the staff, and that it might be useful to define these requirements. The member governments agreed that a resolution to this effect would be appropriate, and after discussing a draft prepared by the staff, approved a [Resolution on the provision of data](#) (Appendix 6).

5. Report of the Scientific Working Group

Dr. Allen presented the report of the Scientific Working Group (Appendix 2), and drew the attention of the meeting to its recommendations.

He noted a decline in the catch rates of silky sharks, and said the IATTC staff is working on an initial assessment of the condition of the population. Japan indicated that more information was needed about the status of the populations of this species throughout the Pacific, and expressed interest in having Japanese scientists cooperate in the assessment.

6. Report of the Permanent Working Group on Compliance

Mr. David Hogan of the United States, Chairman of the 4th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Compliance, presented his report (Appendix 3). The Parties endorsed all the recommendations in the report, and adopted the *Resolution on at-sea reporting* (Appendix 7) drafted by the Working Group.

The matter of the purse-seine vessels of the two countries – Bolivia and Colombia – whose fleets did not respect the closure of the purse-seine fishery in December 2002, an issue of very serious concern to all the IATTC member countries, was extensively discussed. Many delegations expressed the view that strong action needed to be taken, as the reputation of the organization was at stake.

It was suggested that such actions could include, *inter alia*, removal of these vessels from the Regional Vessel Register, and the establishment of procedures to prevent tuna caught in violation of such closures from being purchased or processed, as Costa Rica had done.

It was also noted that the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP had discussed the *dolphin-safe* status of such fish, and that the IATTC should look into recommending to the AIDCP that fish caught during such closures, in violation of IATTC resolutions, should not be certified as *dolphin-safe*.

There was general support at the meeting for having the Commission establish a definition of non-cooperating non-Parties, similar to what has been done in other tuna organizations.

Several draft resolutions were presented to address the problem of the violations of the 2002 closure and how to deal with any similar transgressions in future. Mainly because of time constraints, no resolution on this subject was agreed before the meeting adjourned.

7. Report of the Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties

The Chairman of the Joint Working Group, Lic. Mario Aguilar of Mexico, reported the results of the second meeting of that group (Appendix 4). He presented the draft resolutions on a *Positive list of longline vessels* (Appendix 8) and *Criteria for attaining the status of cooperating non-party* (Appendix 9) agreed by the Joint Working Group, and both were adopted by the Parties.

8. Use of Vessel Monitoring Systems

Dr. Allen presented Document *IATTC-70-09*, explaining the background of this issue with respect to the interest and involvement of the Commission in establishing a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) for the fleets of member countries operating in the EPO. The document includes an overview of how satellite-based VMS works, describes systems currently in use (or soon to be implemented), with emphasis on those being implemented by states with interests in the Pacific Ocean and regional fisheries organizations akin to the Commission, and considers implementation of such a system by the IATTC.

There was general agreement at the meeting that VMS is a valuable fisheries management tool, and that it would be useful for the Commission to establish a pilot program to explore the benefits of a VMS for the work of the Commission. There was discussion, but no agreement, on the extent to which the Secretariat might be involved in a regional system established by the member governments. The United States introduced a draft resolution on the establishment of a pilot program; this was discussed by the meeting, and a number of modifications were proposed. There was consensus on the fundamental purpose and

operation of such a pilot program but insufficient time to prepare and discuss an amended draft resolution that took into account the proposed changes.

9. Implementation of the June 2002 Resolution on Fleet Capacity:

a. Proposals to strengthen the resolution

Mr. Brian Hallman of the IATTC staff presented Document [IATTC-70-10a](#), which describes the implementation of the 2002 *Resolution on Fleet Capacity* to date, and includes some suggestions for strengthening and clarifying the resolution.

Prior to discussing the strengthening of the resolution, the meeting addressed another matter raised in Document IATTC-70-10a, the question of further extending the 31 January 2003 deadline, agreed at the June 2002 meeting, for several vessels to fish in the EPO in order to remain on the Regional Vessel Register. A letter from Ecuador had been circulated to the Parties stating that, for reasons of *force majeure*, one of the two Ecuadorean vessels involved had been unable to begin fishing, and asking for a second 90-day extension of the April 30 deadline. Mexico had expressed a reservation about the extensions, as a matter of procedure, and asked that the matter be discussed during the present meeting.

During the ensuing discussion, Mexico indicated that it did not object to the extension *per se*, but rather was concerned about the process and wanted to ensure transparency in what was being done. After a brief discussion, the extension was approved by all the Parties.

The Secretariat expressed its view that the most important issue to be addressed in the implementation of the resolution on capacity is the question of vessel transfers. The Secretariat's understanding of how the resolution was intended to work with respect to transfers was to allow vessels on the Register to simply change flag from one participant to another. The participant the vessel was transferring from would not be able to replace the vessel, and there would be no restrictions on any participant being able to receive the transferring vessel.

However, the resolution does not take into account the time lag often involved in such transfers. Often a vessel intending to change flag will receive a provisional registration from a new flag, but until it is removed from the registry of the old flag, the latter has the legal responsibility for the vessel. The problem arises when a vessel is removed from a national registry before it has completed all the required procedures for being officially part of another registry. When a vessel is removed from a national registry and the Commission's Register, it is not able to simply transfer flag and automatically obtain a new national registration, according to the Resolution. Further, when a government removes a vessel from the Register it is able to replace it, according to the Resolution.

The Secretariat had included a proposal to address this issue in Document [IATTC-70-10a](#), but it was not discussed in any depth at the meeting, and it was agreed that, given the complexity of the issue, it would be better to address it at a meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity.

The other capacity management issue raised by the Secretariat was to modify the Resolution to provide more flexibility in the handling of inactive vessels. It was agreed that this should also be discussed by the Permanent Working Group.

The United States indicated that it would like flexibility in the management of the trips allotted for its vessels fishing in the western Pacific to fish in the EPO in paragraph 12 of the resolution. Specifically, it wanted these vessels to be allowed to make more than one trip in the IATTC's regulatory area within the 32 trips allotted, and it presented a draft resolution to this effect for consideration. This was discussed only briefly, and no agreement was reached. The United States noted that it would like to discuss this issue in more detail in the Permanent Working Group.

b. Regional Plan of Action

Dr. Allen presented Document [IATTC-70-10b](#), explaining that the Plan of Action (EPO Plan) presented

in this document was prepared in accordance with the terms of the IATTC resolutions on *bigeye tuna* and *fleet capacity*, adopted in June and August 2000, respectively. In these resolutions, the Commission requested the Director to “prepare a comprehensive draft plan for the regional management of tuna fishing capacity, in accordance with the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity”.

The EPO Plan is a policy document that will establish the general framework for managing the capacity of the tuna fleets in the eastern Pacific, and it will be implemented by resolutions adopted by the Commission. It is based on the draft plan presented at the 69th meeting of the Commission, but has been modified to take into account the discussion at that meeting and the 2002 *Resolution on Fleet Capacity*.

The EPO Plan follows the closely the structure of the FAO Plan, and also contains elements from several IATTC resolutions, and text that has been discussed at meetings of several Commission working groups.

The meeting discussed this new draft of the EPO Plan in detail, and several suggestions were made for improvements. The Secretariat was asked to incorporate these changes; however, there was no opportunity to present the final plan, with the revisions, for approval at the meeting.

c. Limitation of capacity of vessels other than purse seiners

Dr. Allen introduced this topic, indicating that, in the past, several delegations had noted that the Commission needed to address limiting the capacity of the longline fleet, but the staff had no specific guidance on how to proceed with this subject.

Japan indicated that it was time that the IATTC considered limiting the capacity and catches of the longline fleet in addition to those of the purse-seine fleet, mainly in the interests of conserving the bigeye resource. Japan proposed that the catch of bigeye by all fishing gears in the Pacific Ocean should be restricted to the level of 2001, and indicated that it would present a proposal to be part of a resolution for tuna conservation. Japan also stressed that it had voluntarily reduced its worldwide longline fleet by 20% and would like to see efforts by both Parties and non-Parties to reduce longline fleets and avoid illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) catches. Japan also suggested more interaction with other international organizations to deal with this problem.

10. Review of Commission staff's research

Dr. Allen presented a summary of various aspects of the research carried out by the IATTC staff. Japan indicated that there should be a more comprehensive analysis of the habitat portion of the assessment and that there should be more interchange with other international organizations to compare information. Japan also noted that, although the studies of maturity of bigeye in the Pacific were preliminary, it seemed that there could be differences from bigeye in the Atlantic, and that they would like to involve a Japanese scientist in this research. Japan also commented that it seemed clear that the correlation between El Niño events and recruitment indicated in the assessment report did exist, although this should be viewed with caution.

Spain noted that ICCAT was hosting a world meeting on bigeye tuna, and suggested that the IATTC would benefit by attending.

El Salvador indicated that industry scientists should be allowed to participate in scientific research that contributes towards stock assessments.

11. Recommended research program and budget for FY 2005 (October 1, 2004-September 30, 2005)

Dr. Allen presented Document *IATTC-70-12*, which presents the proposed research program and estimates of expenditure for FY 2005, by project and specific budget objects, in US dollars.

Dr. Allen expressed his concern over the budget situation facing the Commission, mainly due to rising costs and the failure of governments to make timely payments or to meet their financial obligations at all.

He noted that continual efforts are being made to reduce expenditures: the current budget includes eliminating one person from the scientific staff, reducing travel, and canceling planned replacement of equipment.

Nevertheless, Dr. Allen noted that the expected regular operations expenditure in FY 2003 is \$4,634,284, with an expected total deficit for the year of \$205,322, assuming all outstanding contributions are paid. This would reduce the bank balance at the end of the financial year to \$209,016, sufficient for less than one month's operation.

For FY 2004, the projected expenditure is \$315,400 more than the total of contributions provisionally established in the 2002 Resolution on Financing. If this total is not increased, it will be necessary to make further reductions in staffing.

In previous years the Commission has had sufficient cash reserves to carry its operations into the new financial year without receiving contributions at the beginning of the year. This is no longer the case, as virtually all the reserves have been depleted. The Commission's financial regulations do not address when member contributions must be paid. To maintain the financial viability of the Commission, the staff recommends that the financial regulations be amended to make all contributions due and payable within 30 days, that is, by 1 November of each year. Also, members that are extremely late in making payments or simply fail to pay their dues suffer no consequences under the current financial regulations, and the Secretariat proposes amending the regulations so that any government more than two years delinquent in payments would no longer be considered a member in good standing.

Dr. Allen presented a draft resolution on financing, which included a schedule of contributions required of member countries for FY 2004. In the ensuing discussion, several countries expressed concern that the contributions did not appear to be based on an agreed, concrete, transparent formula, and some countries had reservations about the level of contributions they would be required to pay according to the table presented. Dr. Allen related the recent history of the negotiations to establish an agreed formula for contributions, noting that, although a great deal of progress had been made, final agreement was not achieved, and the table simply reflected the results of the negotiations.

After some discussion, a *Resolution on financing* (Appendix 10) approving a budget of \$4,866,254 for FY 2004, was agreed by the Parties, with a new schedule of contributions, modified to take into account the concerns over the level of payments expressed by some countries.

Regarding the proposed amendment of the financial regulations, Venezuela expressed some reservations about the wording with respect to the criteria for not being a member in good standing. This language was then modified to reflect the language agreed by all Parties to address the same problem in the new Convention. With this modification, it was agreed to amend the financial regulations in two places, as reflected in paragraph 10 of the *Resolution*.

It was also agreed to convene a meeting of the Working Group on Finance to seek final agreement on a formula for determining member country contributions.

12. Conservation of sea turtles

Dr. Allen made a brief presentation on mortality of sea turtles associated with tuna fisheries, noting that this problem is being addressed by the Commission with respect to purse-seine vessels, and mentioned several approaches which have been considered to further reduce mortality in both the purse-seine and longline fisheries.

Several delegations expressed the view that regional fisheries management organizations were the right place to deal with the problem of sea turtle mortality associated with fishing, and that the IATTC could provide an example of how to advance this issue in a regional context. Mexico agreed that the Commission could complement the work of other organizations working on reducing sea turtle mortality, but warned that the budget needed to be kept in mind, and the Commission should not attempt too much

with the limited resources available.

Ecuador announced that it was planning a program to conserve sea turtles that would concentrate on preventing their capture. All delegations agreed that the issue of conservation of sea turtles merited more detailed attention, but thought that the Working Group on Bycatch would be a more suitable forum for such a detailed discussion. Eventually, the meeting agreed on a *Resolution on sea turtles* (Appendix 11), which encourages the collection of information on sea turtles and providing it to the IATTC, the development of measures to release sea turtles caught alive, and the development of a three-year program by the Working Group on Bycatch to improve sea turtle conservation and mitigate bycatches of turtles. Japan announced that it would be interested in hosting a meeting of that Working Group to focus on sea turtles, and suggested that such a meeting could take place early in 2004.

13. Report of the Working Group on the IATTC Convention

The Chairman of this working group, Ambassador Jean-François Pulvenis of FAO, gave a report on the background of the negotiations, (Appendix 5), and thanked all those involved in the long and successful process, which had culminated in agreement in Antigua on the text of a new convention to replace the 1949 Convention establishing the IATTC. He submitted this text, entitled the *Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention Between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica*, or the *Antigua Convention*, for consideration and approval by the Commission. All the delegations congratulated the Working Group and the Chairman, and the meeting then approved a *Resolution adopting the Antigua Convention* (Appendix 12), as well as a *Resolution on the participation of a fishing entity in the Antigua Convention* (Appendix 13). Japan and Mexico requested that their statements be included in the minutes (Appendices 15 and 16). The meeting was adjourned for a brief ceremony to sign the Record of Decision regarding the adoption of the Convention.

14. Recommendations and resolutions for 2003

Dr. Allen presented the recommendations of the staff regarding conservation and management measures for yellowfin and bigeye tuna for 2003 (Appendix 17). A lengthy discussion took place on this matter, and several different proposals were made in an effort to reach consensus. In the end, a draft resolution (Appendix 18) was produced which all of the IATTC members except Ecuador could support. Ecuador agreed to consider the draft resolution further and to advise the Commission by correspondence whether or not it could agree to it.

The meeting adopted the following resolutions:

		Appendix
C-03-05	Provision of data	6
C-03-04	At-sea reporting	7
C-03-07	Establishment of a list of longline fishing vessels over 24 meters authorized to operate in the EPO	8
C-03-11	Criteria for attaining the status of cooperating non-party or cooperating fishing entity to AIDCP and IATTC	9
C-03-06	Financing the IATTC	10
C-03-10	Conservation of sea turtles	11
C-03-02	Adoption of the Antigua Convention	12
C-03-09	Participation of a fishing entity in the Antigua Convention	13
C-03-08	Consolidated resolution on bycatch	14

The *Resolution on bycatch* (Appendix 14) consolidated into one document the several resolutions on bycatch which had been previously agreed and which create ongoing obligations for the governments.

15. Place and date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next regular meeting of the IATTC would be held in Peru, in June 2004.

16. Election of officers

Because of time constraints, no election of officers took place.

17. Other business

Dr. Allen informed the meeting that all the parties had approved the *Resolution on the IATTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document* presented at the 69th meeting of the IATTC in June 2002.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on June 27th, 2003, at 10:45 p.m.

Appendix 1.

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

70^a REUNION - 70th MEETING

24-27 de junio de 2003 - June 24-27, 2003

Antigua, Guatemala

ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES

COSTA RICA

LIGIA CASTRO - Comisionada
ASDRÚBAL VÁSQUEZ - Comisionado
INCOPECA

JORGE AGUILAR
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

ECUADOR

LUCÍA FERNÁNDEZ de DE GENNA - Comisionada
LUIS TORRES NAVARRETE - Comisionado
Ministerio de Comercio Exterior,
Industrialización, Pesca y Competitividad
ROBERTO AGUIRRE
Cámara Nacional de Pesquería
LUIGI BENINCASA
RAMÓN MONTAÑO
ATUNEC
MARIA EUGENIA DE GENNA
ITALO DE GENNA
MEGAINVEST S.A.

MARIO DE GENNA
Manareco
ABEL PALADINES
P.H. Industria, Pesca, Construcciones
ALFREDO SALVADOR
Cámara Ecuatoriana de Industriales & Procesadores
Atuneros
RAFAEL TRUJILLO
Peña, Larrea, Torres & Paredes, Abogados
RICARDO P. VELÁZQUEZ
INEPACA
BARTOLOME FERNANDEZ

EL SALVADOR

MARIO GONZALEZ, Comisionado
MANUEL CALVO, Comisionado
MARIO RIVERA
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SONIA SALAVERRIA
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MIGUEL A. PEÑALVA
Calvopesca

ESPAÑA - SPAIN

CARLOS DOMINGUEZ
JUAN IGNACIO ARRIBAS
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima
AMOR SOLA MENENDEZ
Embajada de España en Washington
JAVIER ARÍZ TELLERIA
Instituto Español de Oceanografía

IGNACIO LACHAGA
GABRIEL SARRO
JULIO MORON
OPAGAC
IGNACIO URIBE
Pesquera Jealsa

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SCOTT BURNS - Commissioner
ROBERT C. FLETCHER - Commissioner
PATRICK ROSE - Commissioner
RODNEY MCINNIS - Commissioner
WILLIAM GIBBONS-FLY
DAVID HOGAN
ASHLEY ROACH
Department of State
SVEIN FUGNER
PAT DONLEY
JUDSON FEDER
GARY SAKAGAWA
National Marine Fisheries Service

JOHN WILKIE
Valley Detroit Diesel Allison-EMD
MICHAEL MCGOWAN
MARCELA CAMPA
Bumble Bee Seafoods
PETER FLOURNOY
Western Fishboat Owners Association
U.S. Tuna Foundation
CARY L. GANN
Caribbean Marine Service Co., Inc.
KELLY MALSH
Defenders of Wildlife
MANUEL SILVA
M/V Sea Quest, Inc.
D.G. WEBSTER

FRANCIA - FRANCE

XAVIER VANT - Commissioner
Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery
DIDIER ORTOLLAND - Commissioner
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MICHEL DION
Orthongel

GUATEMALA

PABLO GIRON - Comisionado
FRATERO DIAZ MONGE - Comisionado
XIOMARA GOMEZ
RODOLFO FUENTES
SERGIO RUANO
SERGIO GUZMAN
ALEJANDRO ARRIVILLAGA
JUAN H. SEGURA
CARLOS R. LIUTI
RUBEN LOPEZ BRAN
SAMUEL COLOMA
LUIS A. LOPEZ
FAUSTINO AREVALO
ROSALINA VILLEDA
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JUAN F. MONROY
Liuthi Machinery Co., Inc.
JOAQUÍN GÓMEZ
CLAUDIA PINEDA
Atunera Maya S.A.

JAPON – JAPAN

KATSUMA HANAFUSA - Commissioner
MASANORI MIYAHARA
SEIICHI SAKAMOTO
ZIRO SUZUKI
TAKAAKI SUZUKI
HIDEKI NAKANO
Fisheries Agency of Japan

TATSUO SUNAHARA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
SHIBA KENICHI
National Ocean Tuna Fishery Associations
HISAO MASUKO
REIKO OHASHI
Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative
Associations

MEXICO

JERONIMO RAMOS, Comisionado
GUILLERMO COMPEAN, Comisionado
MICHEL DREYFUS, Comisionado
MARIA TERESA BANDALA, Comisionada
RICARDO BELMONTES
MARIO AGUILAR
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LUIS FLEISCHER
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MAXIMO CARVAJAL
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RAUL VALDES RAMIREZ
Secretaría de Economía
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Grupomar S. A.
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MIGUEL A. MARENCO, Comisionado
Ministerio de Fomento, Industria y Comercio

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PANAMA

ARNULFO FRANCO, Comisionado
Autoridad Marítima de Panamá

PERU

JORGE VERTIZ
Ministerio de la Producción

LUCY CAMACHO
Embajada de Perú en Guatemala

VANUATU

HUGO ALSINA LAGOS
Office of Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs

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DANIEL NOVOA , Comisionado
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FRANCISCO ORTISI
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DOMENICO PINTO
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RICARDO MOLINET
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WANG LIANG
Chinese Embassy in Mexico

COREA - KOREA

CHONG ROK PARK
OH SEUNG KWON
SUNGKWON SOH
Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

SOO JEONG CHOI
Korea Maritime Institute
YOUNG SOO AHN
SAJO Industries Co., Ltd.

TAIPEI CHINO - CHINESE TAIPEI

SING-HWA HU
CHUNG-HAI KWOH
DING-RONG LIN
Fisheries Agency
KUO-CHING PU
TA-SENG KUAN
CHUN-YU CHANG
KUO FU TUNG
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PETER S.C. HO
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YU-CHI LIN
KEVIN LIN
Deep Sea Tuna Boatowners & Exporters
NIEN-TSU HU
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National Sun Yat-sen University
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Appendix 2.

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
FOURTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP
REVIEW OF STOCK ASSESSMENTS**

**La Jolla, California (USA)
May 19-21, 2003**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman: Robin Allen

AGENDA

1. Welcome, introductions, consideration of agenda
2. The fishery in 2002
3. Sampling of catches for species composition
4. Review of stock assessments
 - i. Yellowfin
 - ii. Bigeye
 - iii. Striped marlin
5. Bycatch species
 - i. Silky sharks
6. The status of stocks of tuna and billfish in the EPO
7. Report and recommendations
8. Other business
9. Adjournment

DOCUMENTS

- SWG-4-00 Draft: Tuna and billfish in the eastern Pacific Ocean
- SWG-4-01 Draft: Report on sampling the eastern Pacific Ocean tuna catch for species composition and length-frequency distributions
- SWG-4-02 First draft: Recommended diagnostics for large statistical stock assessment models
- SWG-4-03 Draft: Status of yellowfin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean in 2002 and outlook for 2003
- SWG-4-04 Draft: Status of bigeye tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean in 2002 and outlook for 2003
- SWG-4-05 Draft: Status of striped marlin in the eastern Pacific Ocean in 2001 and outlook for 2003/2004

APPENDICES

- A. List of attendees
- B. Longline data provided to or collected by IATTC for use in stock assessment and *ad hoc* research collaborations.
- C. Categories and levels of data for reporting information from longline fisheries

The 4th Meeting of the IATTC Scientific Working Group was held in La Jolla, California (USA) on May 19-21, 2003. The attendees are listed in Appendix A.

1. Welcome, introductions, consideration of agenda

The meeting was called to order on May 19, 2003, by the Chairman, Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the IATTC, who thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and then asked the attendees to introduce themselves. After a brief discussion, the provisional agenda was approved without change.

2. The fishery in 2002

Ms. Suter reviewed the information on the fishery for tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) in 2002 (Document SWG-4-00). Discussion centered on recent changes of the longline data, especially those from Korea and Taiwan, and on the numbers used in the assessment versus those reported in the document. It was pointed out that the most recent longline data from Korea and Taiwan were received too late to be included in the assessment. The staff was asked to verify whether the data which were received recently had been raised to total landings.

3. Sampling of catches for species composition

Mr. Tomlinson reviewed a system for sampling surface-caught tunas in the EPO, which was initiated in 2000 (Document SWG-4-01). Briefly, the fish in a well of a purse seiner or pole-and-line vessel are selected for sampling only if all the fish in the well were caught during the same month, in the same type of set (floating-object, unassociated school, or dolphin), and in the same sampling area. These data are then categorized by fishery.

The discussion focused on the overall use of catch estimates based on the species composition method versus the estimates based on the historical standard method. Dr. Allen pointed out that for skipjack and yellowfin the difference is relatively small, but the use of the species composition catch estimates makes a large difference in the assessment of bigeye. The group agreed that the species composition estimates for catch for the years 2000 to 2002 should now be considered the best estimates, and should be used as the base case in assessments. It also agreed that an adjustment was also appropriate for previous years for which no species composition data are available. It was further suggested that both sets of catch figures could be made available for meetings of the Scientific Working Group.

4. Review of stock assessments

The assessments of yellowfin and bigeye were performed with A-SCALA (*Age-Structured Statistical Catch-at-Length Analysis*).

Dr. Harley reviewed the results of the meeting on diagnostics for large statistical stock assessment models held in La Jolla, October 2-4, 2002 (Document SWG-4-02). The meeting followed a recommendation of the 3rd meeting of the Scientific Working Group. These models are large and complex and there is a need to determine how to best summarize the results of such models so that the quality of the model fit can be investigated. The discussion was mainly about technical details and the group agreed that the meeting was useful to better understand and improve the assessments.

Dr. Maunder talked about improvements made to the assessment for 2003. He reviewed details of new catchability decisions, selectivity smoothness penalty decisions, considerations of the effective sample size and a new method to allow missing data in environmental indices. He also summarized new research on neural networks for standardization of CPUE and explained a new likelihood profile approximation to forward projections. A summary of the changes is:

- Retrospective analysis to determine years to average catchability
- Cross-validation to determine selectivity smoothness parameters

- Analytical formula to re-weight length-frequency sample size
- Method to allow missing data in environmental indices MSY_{ref} and SBR_{ref}
- Neural network CPUE standardization
- Likelihood profile approximation to forward projections

The discussion focused on the tradeoffs associated with oversmoothing and on the importance of replication of the results of CPUE standardization and neural networks.

4.1. Yellowfin

Dr. Maunder reviewed the yellowfin assessment presented in Document SWG-4-03. There were comments on the relative stability of the catchability coefficient estimates compared to those used in other oceans. It was suggested that the estimates for yellowfin did not show the same changes as those for bigeye because the FAD fishery does not take much yellowfin. The effects on the analysis of the full retention policy the Commission has had the past 2 years, the work on standardization of purse-seine effort to be carried out later this year, and the interpretation of AMS_Y under different recruitment regimes, alternative gear selectivity patterns and vulnerability of fish were discussed.

4.2. Bigeye

Dr. Harley reviewed the bigeye assessment presented in Document SWG-4-04. As a general point, it was noted that the time series under analysis covers a period during which a single set of environmental parameters, known as a regime, prevailed. Many oceanographers believe that a regime shift may have occurred around 1998, coinciding with the recent period of very low recruitment.

Some participants felt that it could be important to review the purse-seine data prior to 1993 to see if it may be possible to correct these data for potential species mis-identification, as was done for the post-1992 data. The group also discussed the possibility of extending the model back prior to 1975, but it was noted that there was little size composition data available for this period and the results of an extended analysis would likely not provide any additional information for stock status in recent years, thus it was not considered a high priority. It was also noted that interpreting changes over a long period would be difficult because of the extensive changes over the past fifty years.

The effects of the use of new maturity, fecundity and natural mortality schedules in the model were discussed, and in particular their relationship with the unusually low SBR at the stock size which would produce the AMS_Y . The reason for the pronounced drop in that reference point compared to last year's estimate was a combination of changes in the estimated natural mortality rate and the much greater age of maturity based on samples from purse-seine caught bigeye. It was noted that bigeye taken in purse-seine sets may not be representative of the population of mature fish. It was also noted that, when the model was fitted with a stock-recruit relationship, the SBR at AMS_Y was closer to previous estimates.

The issue of calculating the effective sample size for length-frequency samples was discussed, and some participants thought these samples should be used in the base case. However, these estimates were not used for the base case because the staff felt they should be investigated further before being used for purposes other than sensitivity analyses.

The issue of stock structure was also discussed. It was agreed that the alternative of a Pacific wide stock should be presented. The Working Group noted that work was underway with a Pacific wide assessment, but this had not yet produced results useful for management. It was also noted that tagging of bigeye with archival and conventional tags has not demonstrated long-distance movements.

The Working Group was concerned about uncertainty associated with estimates of catch data, and particularly that some important data only became available very recently and that there were no estimates of unrecorded catch. The group agreed that it was important to run the model with the recent catch data, and that the information should be reported to the Commission meeting.

4.3. Striped marlin

Dr. Hinton reviewed the striped marlin assessment in Document SWG-4-05. There was discussion of the potential impact on analyses of sexually dimorphic growth in striped marlin. It was noted that in the models used, either growth was not part of the model structure or parameterization (Pella-Tomlinson), or the model results were presented for a range of annual incremental growth rates (Deriso-Schnute model) that spanned the range of values obtained from observed male and female growth rates in the literature.

There was a discussion of the potential confounding of environmental effects in spatial and temporal strata from El Niño events. It was pointed out that a number of available indices of large-scale environmental variation used as indicators of El Niño had been considered in the modeling process, but none were significant in the final fitting process. It was also noted that the statistical habitat-based standardization may directly account for local effects by modeling the environment.

Participants noted that the presentation did not discuss alternative stock structure hypotheses and that such a presentation would have provided the group with additional information for discussion. The question of stock structure is outstanding, but the assessment presented in 2002 had indicated that the most plausible structure was that the striped marlin off Ecuador and Mexico were from a single population, and Dr. Hinton reported that this was supported by the preliminary results from genetic studies. A collaborative investigation of the stock structure and status of striped marlin in the Pacific using new genetic analyses and fisheries data from the entire basin was undertaken during 2002. However, the results of genetic analyses were not available in time to allow analyses of fisheries data and testing of stock structure hypotheses and status before this meeting. Thus, the report presented was an update to the report for 2002 using updated modeling techniques for standardization of catch rates and model selection.

5. Bycatch

5.1. Silky sharks

Dr. Lennert-Cody reviewed preliminary research on modeling trends in the bycatch per set of silky sharks using data from floating-object sets collected by observers aboard large purse-seine vessels. Her analysis demonstrated a substantial decline in catch per set over the period 1992-2002.

The discussion centered on the problems associated with correct identification of the species and the need for improved methods of counting large numbers of animals in the bycatch. The merits of analyzing trends in bycatch per set from sets on unassociated tuna schools for comparison to that of floating-object sets was also discussed. It was pointed out that FAD density and shark bycatch per set in floating-object sets may be negatively correlated, and thus estimates of FAD density may be needed to understand trends in bycatch per set in floating-object sets. To address the issue of changes FAD density over time, it was suggested that the effect of the fishery on silky shark populations could also be examined using a population dynamics model, with a gear-saturation effect. It was noted that data on bycatch taken with other gears, such as large and small longlines, must be included in the estimates of total silky shark bycatch for the eastern Pacific Ocean. It was also noted that there is a need to assess the potential impact of gears not sampled by observers, including smaller purse-seine vessels and directed hand-line effort by purse-seine vessel crews at night.

6. The status of stocks of tuna and billfish in the EPO

Dr. Allen introduced Document SWG-4-00, which is to be the primary source of data and scientific information presented to the Commission for its consideration of the effects of the fishery and of any conservation measures. The sections on yellowfin, bigeye and striped marlin are summaries of this year's assessments. The remaining sections are mostly updates of information and assessments previously reported.

Several suggestions were made for improvements in the document, including the addition of a summary of what was robust and what was uncertain in the assessments, as well as specific suggestions on maps,

tables, figures, simpler wording and the overall layout of the document.

7. Report and recommendations

7.1. Advice from the IATTC staff to the Commission for the management of the fisheries

Dr. Allen said that following the review of the assessments, additional work will be carried out, especially the analysis of the bigeye stock with the inclusion of recent longline data received from Korea, China, and Taiwan, and the results will be taken account of in the advice provided at the 70th Meeting of the IATTC in June 2003. However, subject to those changes, he said that the situation appeared to be similar to that anticipated last year, and accordingly it was likely that this year's recommendations would be similar to those of last year.

For yellowfin, the base case estimates indicate that the biomass is declining from the relatively high level, following strong recruitment during the late 1990s. The strong recruitments have allowed catches above the AMSY without depressing the stock size below the AMSY level. The spawning biomass is about the level at which the AMSY would be achieved.

There have apparently been two different productivity regimes, with different levels of AMSY, and the biomass required to produce the AMSY may differ between the regimes. The average weight of the yellowfin in the catch is much less than the critical weight, so increasing the average weight of the fish caught could substantially increase the AMSY.

An alternative assessment, using a stock-recruit relationship with a steepness of 0.75, produces a more pessimistic view. While this alternative was thought to be less likely than the base case, it is generally acknowledged that some relationship must exist between stock and recruitment, and thus the best estimates are likely to lie between the base case and the alternative.

The conclusion is that current fishing mortality should not be allowed to increase, with the aim of keeping it at or below than the level that would produce the AMSY. Given that there have been restrictions on fishing in each of the last four years, a similar restriction would be necessary to achieve that goal.

The stock status for bigeye tuna is less certain, because bigeye have been highly vulnerable to the purse-seine fishery only since 1994, and because the fishery has been in a state of rapid change since then. The biomass of bigeye declined in 2003, as predicted last year, after reaching a recent peak during 2000. The spawning biomass is now near the level that supports the AMSY and declining. Weak recruitment is a concern, with below-average recruitment occurring each quarter during the period mid-1998 to 2001. More recent recruitment is uncertain. The spawning biomass is expected to continue to decline. In the base case, and most sensitivity analyses, fishing effort needs to be reduced to allow the stock to recover to levels that can produce the AMSY in future years.

It is likely that the staff will recommend that fishing effort be reduced to facilitate a recovery of the stock from the levels it is expected to reach in the next few years. In addition to any general restrictions on fishing that the Commission might agree, a reduction in fishing effort on FADs in offshore waters (west of 95°W) is likely to be proposed.

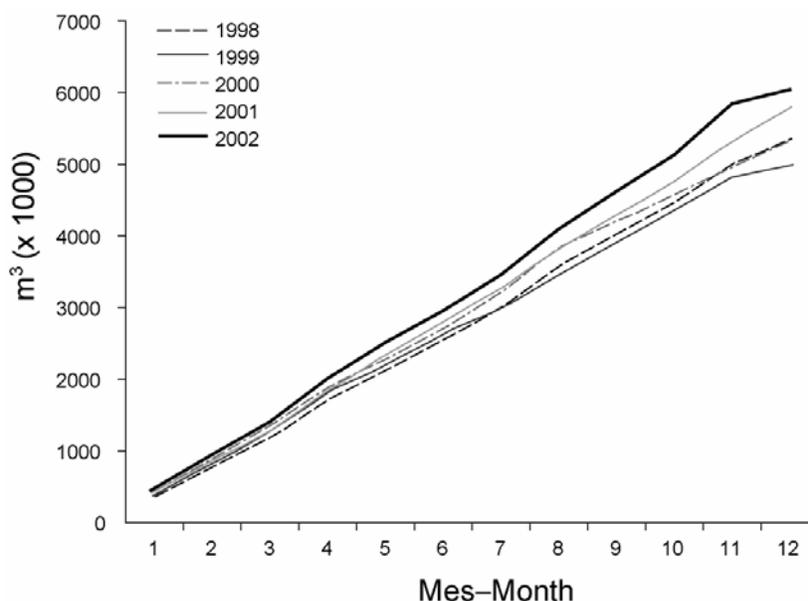
The staff does not intend to make recommendations concerning striped marlin and silky sharks. The latter will probably be considered by a meeting of the Bycatch Working Group.

Dr. Allen said the staff would be proposing that the Commission adopt standards for data reporting for vessels for which logbook and unloading data were not available. Dr. Hinton described the data currently provided to the Commission (Appendix B) and suggested reporting specifications (Appendix C).

7.2. Working group recommendations

7.2.1. Yellowfin

The Working Group noted the importance of evaluating the effect of management measures to date. It was noted there had been various measures addressing yellowfin since 1999 and the Commission should be advised of the effects of those, particularly as the total capacity of the purse-seine fleet had been increasing over that period. Various difficulties in measuring the effects of particular conservation measures in the face of environmental changes were discussed. While noting it was difficult to say what would have happened in the absence of any of those measures, two possible measures of effort were suggested, the total number of sets per year and the cumulative capacity at sea in each year. The Working Group noted that the total number of sets in recent years had been less than in 1998, but that there had been a large increase in sets on tunas associated with dolphins in 2002 compared to 2001 and earlier years. The figure showing the cumulative capacity of the purse-seine fleet at sea during 1998-2002, shown below, was not available at the meeting.



Cumulative capacity of the surface fleet at sea, by month, 1998-2002

The Working Group also recommended that the simulations of effects of proposed measures be provided to the Commission. The staff noted that for purse-seine catches these could be interpolated from the forward projections with fishing mortality being varied by plus or minus 25%.

7.2.2. Bigeye

The Working Group discussed criteria for time and area closures that might be appropriated for bigeye management, focusing on the situations where most of the purse-seine catches of small bigeye are taken. This tends to be near the equator, west of 95°W, in August to November.

There were mixed views on whether any restrictions should apply to both longline and purse-seine gears. It was pointed out that purse-seine closures would have little immediate effect on spawning biomass, but would have long-term effects because of the time needed for the fish to reach sexual maturity. The effects of restricting longline fishing would be immediate. Reducing purse-seine catches eventually has a greater impact on the spawning biomass than reducing longline catches. It was also noted that the intended effects of any restrictions would be undermined if only part of the fleet complied. Finally it was noted that distant water longline fleets operations are planned over long time periods and any

unpredictable changes would be difficult to accommodate. The Working Group suggested that this problem could be addressed by considering management measures that could be applied over a longer time period than the remaining months of this year.

7.2.3. Striped marlin

The Working Group did not have specific recommendations concerning the management of striped marlin, but it was suggested that the new standardization method presented for this species be included in the updated Document SWG-4-00.

7.2.4. Silky sharks

With respect to silky sharks, it was noted that any restrictions on sets on FADs to conserve bigeye would also have an effect on catches of silky sharks. It was also recommended that the issue of direct effort directed to this species by handlining at night from purse seiners be examined.

7.2.5. Data

The Working Group endorsed, for large-scale vessels, the proposal for Commission standards for reporting for vessels that do not provide logbooks. The group also recommended that coastal countries be asked to provide data on artisanal fleets. The group considered the issue of the best means to raise data for individual analyses, and suggested that the best data to obtain is the most detailed data possible along with the information on how it was raised. Thus, for catch and effort sample data it is indispensable to obtain total catch and effort along with a description of the method used to obtain the sample data.

7.3. General recommendations

The Working Group noted that it would be desirable that in future meetings assessments of the three major species, yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack could be reviewed.

The Working Group was told of plans for a World Bigeye Meeting to be held in Madrid in March 2004. It was recommended that the Commission be asked to formally support active participation in this meeting.

Some participants noted that a more extensive review of the staff's research could be provided if there were more time to study the assessment and other documents. In particular, it would be helpful for detailed information from sensitivity analyses to be posted on the Commission's web site. There were mixed views about extending the duration of the meeting, but suggestions that the process might be made more of a continuous cycle with mid year meetings on particular topics such as last year's diagnostic meeting were favored. It was agreed that it would be useful to hold a meeting later this year to consider reference points.

The Working Group recommended that a single set of catch statistics incorporating the staff's best estimate of species composition be reported in official catch statistics, rather than the current practice of reporting catches based primarily on unloading reports.

8. Other business

Dr. Hall presented information concerning the interaction of sea turtles in tuna fisheries, the decline of numbers of nesting leatherback turtles in Costa Rica and Mexico, sightings and mortality of turtles reported by observers on purse-seine vessels, and migration patterns recorded by electronic tags.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm on 21 May.

Appendix A.

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL
SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP -- GRUPO DE TRABAJO CIENTÍFICO
4th MEETING- 4^a REUNION**

**May 19-21, 2003 – 19-21 de mayo de 2003
La Jolla, California, USA**

ATTENDEES - ASISTENTES

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Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros
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Appendix B.

Longline data provided to or collected by IATTC for use in stock assessment and *ad hoc* research collaborations.

	Type	Resolution	Species
Chile	Landings	EPO, statistical yearbook reports	Various species
People's Republic of China	Catch and effort	EPO, 2001, 5x5 – month, raised	Tunas and billfishes, with major category groupings
Costa Rica	Landings and export	EPO, 1991 – 2002	Tunas and billfishes
Ecuador	Landings and export	EPO, 1998 – 2001	Tunas, billfishes, shark (pooled) and other miscellaneous by species, swordfish for years prior to 1998.
Spain	Catch and effort	EPO, 1997 – 2000, 5x5 – month, raised	Swordfish in numbers and weight
	Length frequency	EPO, 1997 – 2000, 5x5 – month	Swordfish
Guatemala	Landings	EPO, 1999 – 2002	Tunas and billfishes, with major category groupings
Honduras		no information	
Indonesia		no information	
Japan	Catch and Effort	Pacific, 1954 – 2001, 5x5 – month, raised EPO, 1971 – 2001, 1x1 – month, sample data EPO, 1975 – 2002, 5x5 – month, sample data with gear configuration detail EPO, 1998 – 2002, 1x1 – month, sample data with gear configuration detail Various other for ongoing collaborations on billfish analyses	Tunas and billfishes in numbers
	Total catch	Pacific and EPO	Tunas and billfishes in numbers and weight
	Length frequency	1x1, 5x5, 5x10 & 10x20 by time, 1971-2001 Various other for ongoing collaborations	YFT, BET, (by month) PBF, SWO (by quarter) Billfish (by month)
Korea	Catch and effort	Pacific, 1975 – 1986, 5x5 – month, presumably raised Pacific, 1987 – 2001, 5x5 – month, raised	Tunas, billfishes, and other in weight and numbers

Mexico	Catch and effort	EPO, 1981 – present, logbook (some partial, may be missing navigation log)	All species in numbers and/or weight
	Landings	EPO, 1981 – 2001, as unloadings from various trips, incomplete	Tunas and billfishes
Nicaragua	Landings	EPO, 1997 – 2001	Tunas and billfishes, with major category groupings
Panama		no information	
Peru	Landings	EPO, statistical yearbook reports and IATTC contacts	Various species
French Polynesia	Catch and effort	EPO, 1992 – 2002, 1x1 – month, sample	Tunas and billfishes in numbers and weight
	Total catch	Pacific and EPO	Tunas and billfishes in weight
El Salvador	Landings	EPO, 2000 – 2002	Tunas and billfishes, with major category groupings
Taiwan	Catch and effort	Pacific, 1964 – 2000, 5x5 – month, raised	Tunas, billfishes, sharks (pooled), and other in numbers and weight
	Total catch	Pacific, 1999 – 2001	Tunas, billfishes, sharks (pooled), and other in weight
USA	Catch and effort	EPO, 1991 – 2000, 1x1 – month, sample Logbook, miscellaneous, incomplete	Tunas, billfishes, sharks, misc spp (by species) in numbers
	Average weight	Hawaii market sample	Tunas, billfishes, sharks, misc spp (by species)
	Landings	California, ~1950 – 2000, by vessel, all gear types	All species in weight

Appendix C

Categories and levels of data for reporting information from longline fisheries.

Category	Level	Resolution	Data
Catch and effort sample data	1	Set-by-set, logbook data with gear configuration and targeting information	Catch in numbers, and weight if available; effort in number of hooks
	2	1x1 – month, sample by gear configuration (e.g. hooks per basket), with targeting information	
	3	5x5 – month, sample by gear configuration (e.g. hooks per basket), with targeting information	
Length frequency	1	Set position, start or end of set	Length or weight of individual fish
	2	Grid position, best possible spatial-temporal resolution of area of capture	

Total catch and effort with description of method used to obtain raised data.

Proposed reporting requirements for aggregated longline data provided on an annual basis based on categories and levels identified in the table. It is noted that standardized logbooks and data collection procedures for longline vessels has been addressed in various forums, including SCTB, and that the IATTC has participated in the standardization process for the western Pacific. It is also noted that Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the United States participate in the FFA/SCTB logbook data standardization program. It is recommended that a Pacific-wide standard for data collection be developed and adopted.

It is also noted that scientific analyses require detailed data, and the quality of the analysis presented is directly related to the quality of the data available for analysis.

Catch and associated effort data –

Preferred – Level 1, set-by-set data, from which data may be aggregated by IATTC staff at resolutions appropriate for the assessment method and ancillary data (e.g. fine scale environmental data in habitat-based standardization) being used.

First Alternate – Level 2, aggregated 1x1 – month data with gear configuration and targeting information.

Second Alternate, if gear configuration data not sampled on 1x1 – month resolution

(It is noted that increasing understanding of longline gear operations and species specific behaviors may require data at the set-by-set resolution for some standardizations. As well, for certain species, e.g. sailfish, set-by-set data have been recommended for use in stock assessment due to the number of sets with zero catch.)

Total catch data –

Estimated total catch in numbers, and weight if available.

Biological/Length or weight frequency data –

Preferred – Level 1, exact location of the sample

Alternate – Level 2, Grid position, best possible spatial-temporal resolution of area of capture

Along with all data provided, details should also be provided on collection methods, assumptions used in raising data or in converting information from one measure to another (e.g. length to mass).

Appendix 3.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON COMPLIANCE

4TH MEETING

ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)
20 JUNE 2003

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair: David Hogan (United States)

The Working Group convened, and after the approval of the substitute chair, reviewed and approved the agenda with one addition under Item 5.

The staff reviewed the relevant compliance resolutions, which can be found in Document COM-4-00. Following was a presentation of compliance with the resolutions.

The first resolution reviewed was the resolution on bycatch, and the staff first reviewed the compliance with the sea turtle provisions, noting that there has been a decrease in the overall number of violations of the resolution. However, there remain some specific problems that should be improved. For example, of the 1000 turtles involved in 842 sets in 2002, 911 were released unharmed or escaped, but 22 were passed through the power block, identified as a preventable action by the staff.

It was noted that the document did not contain information from national observer programs, and the members agreed that it would be preferable to integrate such information into future reports. There was also a discussion of the level of data available from longline fisheries.

The staff proposed an adjustment of the bycatch resolution to make it a requirement to release sea turtles captured during fishing operations, and after some discussion the Working Group agreed that the adjustment should be referred to the Working Group on Bycatch for further consideration, and members indicated that other issues, such as information collection, mitigation measures, and longline interaction should also be discussed at the next meeting of that working group.

The staff then presented compliance information on the release of sharks, noting that the few instances of live sharks reaching deck presented handling problems, and the Working Group agreed that measures to address this issue might be addressed in the Working Group on Bycatch. The staff also brought to the attention of the Working Group the issue of direct fishing for sharks by some vessel crews.

The staff presented the compliance information with the full retention requirements, indicating that the levels of compliance were inconclusive in terms of the conservation benefit to the fishery of this measure, and the presentation described the number of *Tuna Discard Records* received compared to the number of discard incidents.

The staff informed the Working Group that there were no reported violations of the prohibition on transshipment or the use of tender vessels.

The staff reported on the violation of the yellowfin and bigeye tuna conservation resolution, noting that there were a total of 8 vessels comprising the national fleets of Colombia and Bolivia that continued to fish during the closure. The Working Group discussed the nature of the violation, agreeing that it was an extremely serious problem, especially in light of the letter received from the Government of Colombia stating that it chose not to implement the provisions of the IATTC resolution in its national regulations. The staff indicated that no explanation or response to the Secretariat's communications on the matter had

been received from Bolivia. The Working Group agreed to present to the Commission the full range of actions that might be taken to address these violations and deter similar violations in the future, including multilateral and bilateral communications, refusal to accept tuna landed from vessels violating the conservation resolution, and removal or suspension of such vessels from the Regional Vessel Register.

On Agenda item 5, the Working Group heard from some members regarding possible infractions in 2002 identified from national observer programs or landings, and the delegation of Mexico requested that the method of reporting this type of information to the staff be standardized. Venezuela reviewed their written submission on this agenda item, and other members provided brief verbal reports. The Working Group also briefly discussed actions taken by Parties on staff reports of infractions committed in 2001.

Japan presented a paper per their request to add an item to agenda item 5 concerning information they had developed regarding a reported increase in the production of “super purse-seiners” and the effect this type of vessel/level of effort may have on total catches in the eastern Pacific. Japan noted the implications of this issue for some of the Parties, including Vanuatu and the U.S. The unconfirmed nature of some of the information in the paper (characterized as such in the paper and during the presentation) was discussed, and it was noted that any unconfirmed reports should be verified as soon as possible before or soon after presentation to the Parties. The paper outlined some requests for possible Commission action.

Agenda item 6 concerned at-sea reporting, and the staff continued with the presentation of the last item in Document COM-4-00, noting that the rate of weekly reports received remains at 51%. There was a brief discussion of the problems that might contribute to this issue, and some Parties noted that this is an issue that does not seem to improve over time. The staff introduced a draft resolution adjusting the requirements for weekly at-sea reporting, and the Working Group agreed to forward the draft resolution to the Commission.

Recommendations to the Commission:

1. That the Working Group on Bycatch be convened as soon as possible, and that among its work items it consider the draft adjustment to the Bycatch Resolution concerning release of sea turtles, handling methods for sharks, and issues regarding longline bycatch.
2. That the Commission consider all available options for addressing the failure of the Colombian and Bolivian vessels to observe the December closure.
3. The Commission consider the draft resolution on at-sea reporting, and that it also consider communicating to the Parties to the AIDCP in support of a similar measure under that Agreement.
4. That the Commission consider the recommendations in section 4 of the paper presented by Japan .

Appendix 4.

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN
CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA
COMMISSION**

JOINT WORKING GROUP ON FISHING BY NON-PARTIES

2ND MEETING

**ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)
20 JUNE 2003**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. The Joint Working Group met on the afternoon of June 20. The following countries participated in the meeting, as either members of the IATTC or Parties to the AIDCP, or both: Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Panama, United States, Vanuatu and Venezuela.
2. Dr. Allen gave a summary of the IATTC report to the FAO on IUU fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), pursuant to the respective IPOA.
3. The meeting discussed the terms of reference for the Working Group and agreed by consensus to recommend for approval the terms of reference in Appendix A. To this end, the Working Group decided to submit these terms of reference for the approval of both to the Commission and the Meeting of the Parties to the AIDCP.
4. The Working Group discussed measures to deter fishing by non-cooperating parties in the EPO. It was agreed that the Working Group should initially establish the criteria for determining which governments and/or vessels could be considered as cooperating, for the purposes of the IATTC conservation and management program, as well as for the requirements for dolphin conservation pursuant to the AIDCP. A small drafting group met to consider possible criteria with respect to the IATTC, and the result of this meeting is attached (Appendix B) for the consideration of the Commission.
5. The Working Group discussed the establishment of a "positive" list of longline vessels, which would be a list of the vessels of parties and cooperating non-parties authorized to fish in the EPO. The Working Group agreed that the establishment of such a list would be a useful tool to combat IUU fishing. A small drafting group met to consider a resolution proposed by Japan on this matter, and was able to agree on a proposal (Appendix C) for consideration by the Commission.
6. The Working Group received a report from Japan regarding the expansion of purse-seine fishing capacity in the western Pacific Ocean, noting that this increased capacity could have an adverse impact on EPO resources because of their fishing operations in the vicinity of 150°W as well as the unknown stock structure of tunas in the Pacific. The problem posed by possible illegal incursions by these purse-seine vessels into the EPO was also considered. The Working Group agreed to forward to the Commission a proposal by Japan for several actions which could be taken by the Commission to address this problem, including asking the flag states and fishing entities concerned to investigate the operations of the newly-built purse-seiners identified, to ask the Preparatory Conference to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to consider measures to stop the rapid increase of fishing capacity, and to address effective cooperation and coordination with the WCPFC, particularly to monitor fishing operations around the area of the boundary between the IATTC and WCPFC.
7. Two Parties reported that they will soon finish their National Plans of Action on IUU Fishing and will present them to the Working Group for its information. States were similarly invited to prepare, as

appropriate, their National Plans of Action in accordance with the FAO International Plan of Action on IUU Fishing.

8. Recommendations to the Commission:
 - a. Approve the attached terms of reference for the work of the Joint Working Group;
 - b. Approve the attached resolution establishing a positive list of longline vessels for the EPO;
 - c. Agree to the actions noted above with respect to the expansion of purse-seine capacity in the western Pacific.
 - d. Approve the criteria for identifying cooperating non-parties.

Appendix 5.

REVIEW OF THE IATTC CONVENTION

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

1 Pursuant to the Resolution adopted by the Commission at its 61st Meeting in June 1998 on the establishment of a Working Group to review the 1949 IATTC Convention, the Working Group held ten sessions, as follows:

- 1st La Jolla, California, October 19, 1998
- 2nd Ensenada, Mexico, January 28, 1999
- 3rd La Jolla, California, October 6-7, 1999
- 4th La Jolla, California, May 22-25, 2000
- 5th La Jolla, California, September 11-16, 2000
- 6th San Jose, Costa Rica, March 12-17, 2001
- 7th La Jolla, California, September 3-8, 2001
- 8th La Jolla, California, February 4-9, 2002
- 9th Managua, Nicaragua, September 30-October 5, 2002
- 10th La Jolla, California, March 18-22, 2003.

Additionally, the Working Group held a special meeting of legal and technical experts in Antigua, Guatemala, June 22-26, 2003, to harmonize the English, Spanish and French texts of the results of the negotiations conducted by the Working Group referred to in paragraph 9 below.

- 2 Representatives of all thirteen Parties to the 1949 Convention participated in the meetings of the Working Group, namely the representatives of: Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, United States, Vanuatu and Venezuela.
- 3 Representatives from other States and a regional economic integration organizationⁱ and a fishing entity,ⁱⁱ which are not Parties to the 1949 Convention and whose vessels have fished for fish stocks covered by the draft Convention referred to in paragraph 9 below during the four years preceding its adoption, participated in the meetings of the Working Group.
- 4 Observers from a number of non-governmental organizationsⁱⁱⁱ also attended the meetings of the Working Group.
- 5 The Working Group elected Ambassador Jean-François Pulvenis (Venezuela (1st-8th sessions), FAO (9th session to date)) as Chairman of the Working Group.
- 6 The Secretariat of the Working Group consisted of the following members of the IATTC Staff: Dr. Robin Allen (Director), Alejandra Ferreira, Brian Hallman, Berta Juarez, and Nicolas Webb.
- 7 The Working Group used as the basis of its work the *Chairman's Text* prepared on the basis of initial draft conventions proposed by Mexico, the United States, Venezuela and the European Community, as well as written and oral proposals by other participants.^{iv}
- 8 This text was subsequently revised several times^v on the basis of the discussions and the submission of specific proposals that were recorded in a series of *Working Documents (1-16 rev.)*,^{vi} which also reflect the agreements that had been reached.
- 9 On June 26, 2003, the Working Group agreed to submit this report to the Commission, including
 - the text of the draft *Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention Between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica* (“*Antigua Convention*”), in English, Spanish and French (Attachment 1);
 - the draft *Resolution by the Commission for adoption of the Antigua Convention*, in English and

Spanish (Attachment 2); and

- the draft *Resolution on the participation of a fishing entity in the Antigua Convention*, in English and Spanish (Attachment 3).

Jean-François Pulvenis
Chairman

Attachment 1: *Draft Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention Between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (“Antigua Convention”)*

Attachment 2: *Draft Resolution by the Commission for adoption of the Antigua Convention*

Attachment 3: *Draft Resolution on the participation of a fishing entity in the Antigua Convention*

i Canada, China, Colombia, Republic of Korea and the European Community.

ii The fishing entity has been participating in the work of the IATTC as an observer under the name “Taiwan”. It will be designated as “Chinese Taipei” for its participation in the Antigua Convention.

iii The Billfish Foundation, the Ocean Conservancy (formerly the Center for Marine Conservation), the Humane Society of the United States, Fundación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza (FUDENA), and the World Wildlife Fund.

iv *Chairman’s Text*, 6 June 1999.

v *Chairman’s Text*, 2 October 1999

Revised Chairman’s Text, April 2000

Draft Consolidated Text, July 2000

Revised Consolidated Text, 27 July 2002

Revised Consolidated Text – Revision 2, 5 October 2002

Revised Consolidated Text – Revision 2a, 25 February 2003

Draft Convention, 24 May 2003.

vi *Working Document 1*, 22 May 2000

Working Document 2, 23 May 2000

Working Document 3, 24 May 2000

Working Document 4, 25 May 2000

Working Document, Pending Issues, July 2000

Working Document 5, 11 September 2000

Working Document 6, 12 September 2000

Working Document 7, 15 September 2000

Working Document 8, 21 April 2001

Working Document 9, Proposals Relating to Pending Issues, 21 April 2001

Working Document 8A, 6 September 2001

Working Document 10, 3 February 2002

Working Document 10A, 9 February 2002

Working Document 11, List of Pending Issues, 9 February 2002

Working Document 12, Proposals Relating to Pending Issues, 9 February 2002

Working Document 13, 4 October 2002

Working Document 14, List of Pending Issues, 5 October 2002

Working Document 15, 5 October 2002

Working Document 16, 21 March 2002

Working Document 16 Rev, 24 March 2003.

Appendix 6.

RESOLUTION C-03-05

RESOLUTION ON DATA PROVISION

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Emphasizing the importance of obtaining comprehensive information on the catches, and related information, by all vessels fishing for species under the purview of the Commission;

Understanding that all member nations of the Commission are obliged to provide information on catches by all of their vessels fishing for any species under the purview of the Commission;

Aware of the long-standing and well-established practice of vessels fishing in the EPO providing catch information to the Director;

Noting that nations not members of the Commission which are fishing in the region are obliged under international law to cooperate with the Commission, and that the provision of catch data is one aspect of such cooperation;

Concerned that the Director is not receiving all pertinent catch information;

Therefore recommends to the High Contracting Parties that:

1. Through the appropriate government authorities and in collaboration with those authorities, they take the necessary steps to ensure that all pertinent catch information is provided to the Director on an annual basis, for all of their vessels fishing for species under the purview of the Commission.
2. The data be provided, by species and fishing gear, where practical, via vessel logbooks and unloading records, and otherwise in aggregated form as in the following table, with Level 3 catch and effort data as a minimum requirement, and, whenever possible, Levels 2 and 1 catch and effort data and length-frequency data.

Category	Level	Resolution	Data
Catch and effort	1	Set-by-set, logbook data with information on gear configuration and target species	Total catch in numbers, and weight if available; fishing effort
	2	1°x1°-month, with information on gear configuration and target species	
	3	5°x5°-month, with information on gear configuration and target species	
Length frequency	1	Set position, start or end of set	Length or weight of individual fish
	2	Grid position, best possible spatial-temporal resolution of area of capture	

3. The aggregated data referred to in paragraph 2 for each year shall be provided by 30 June of the following year.
4. The technical aspects of the data to be supplied shall be established by the Director in collaboration with scientists of the members.
5. The following exceptions shall apply to the immediate entry into force of this resolution:
 - a. For vessels of less than 24 meters in length overall, the requirements of this resolution shall not enter into force until 1 January 2007. However, each member shall make its best efforts to provide as much data as possible for these vessels.

- b. Catch data from artisanal vessels may be reported as total annual catches, without data on fishing effort.
- c. Catch data from recreational fishing vessels may be reported as total annual catches, without data on fishing effort.
6. The Director communicate with the governments of states not party the Commission whose flag vessels may be fishing in the region, to comply with the terms of this resolution.
7. The Director ensure that the catch information provided to the Commission is maintained in strict accordance with the Commission's confidentiality rules and procedures.

Appendix 7.

RESOLUTION C-03-04

RESOLUTION ON AT-SEA REPORTING

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), meeting in Antigua, Guatemala, on the occasion of its 70th Meeting:

Believing that regular and timely reporting of fisheries information from vessels at sea is important in the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission;

Aware that the Parties to the AIDCP are already committed to providing agreed information on dolphin mortalities on a weekly basis through the AIDCP On-board Observer Program;

Has agreed as follows:

1. To require all purse-seine vessels which carry an on-board observer to transmit to the Secretariat a weekly report by the observer, by fax, e-mail, or radio, as appropriate;
2. The report transmitted pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be prepared by the observer, using a format provided by the Director, and shall include the estimated catch of tuna, by species and set type, and the mortalities of dolphins by stock;
3. To encourage fishing companies to cooperate by providing to the Secretariat this same information with respect to purse-seine vessels which do not carry on-board observers.
4. All information must be handled pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Confidentiality.

Appendix 8.

RESOLUTION C-03-07

RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIST OF LONGLINE FISHING VESSELS OVER 24 METERS (LSTLFVs) AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), meeting in Antigua, Guatemala, on the occasion of its 70th Meeting:

Recalling that the FAO Council adopted, on June 23, 2001, an International Plan of Action (IPOA) aiming to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, that this plan stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, and in particular to establish records of vessels authorized to fish and of vessels engaged in or supporting IUU fishing,

Noting that large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLFVs) are highly mobile, and can easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, and thus have a high potential for operating in the Convention Area without timely registration with the Commission,

Considering that the other regional fisheries management organizations have been taking measures in their areas of competence to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by LSTLFVs,

Reaffirming the *Resolutions on Fishing by Vessels of Non-Parties* adopted in June 2000 and June 2001, and

Reaffirming the Commission's action to establish a Regional Vessel Register that contains, for all fishing vessels, including LSTLFVs, that are authorized to fish for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area, the information specified in paragraph 2 of this resolution,

Recognizing that this resolution will be implemented in conjunction with the *Resolution on Criteria for Cooperating non Parties* adopted at this meeting

Noting that nothing in this Resolution will preclude the rights and obligations of Parties based on other international agreements,

Has agreed, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 5, of the Convention, subject to the international obligations of the Parties, that:

1. The Commission shall establish, by August 1, 2003, and thereafter maintain a list of longline fishing vessels larger than 24 meters overall length ("the LSTLFV List"). For the purposes of this resolution, LSTLFVs not included the LSTLFV Record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land tuna and tuna-like species in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).
2. The initial LSTLFV List shall consist of the LSTLFVs of IATTC Parties, cooperating non-Parties, entities, fishing entities or regional economic integration organizations (collectively "CPCs") on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. The LSTLFV List shall include the following information for each vessel:
 - a. name of vessel, registration number, previous names (if known), and port of registry;
 - b. a photograph of the vessel showing its registration number;
 - c. previous flag (if known and if any);
 - d. International Radio Call Sign (if any);

- e. name and address of registered owner or owners;
- f. where and when built;
- g. length, beam, and moulded depth;
- h. fish hold capacity in cubic meters, and carrying capacity in metric tons;
- i. name and address of operator (manager) or operators (if any);
- j. type of fishing method or methods;
- k. gross tonnage;
- l. power of main engine or engines.

Each CPC shall notify the Director of any addition to, deletion from, and/or modification of its LSTLFVs on the Regional Vessel Register by July 31, 2003. Each CPC shall thereafter notify the Director of any changes affecting the LSTLFV List at any time they occur.

3. The Director shall maintain the LSTLFV List, and shall ensure publicity of the Record, including placing it on the IATTC website, in a manner consistent with the confidentiality requirements of the pertinent CPCs.
4. The flag CPCs of the vessels on the LSTLFV List shall:
 - a. authorize their vessels on the LSTLFV List to operate in the EPO only if they are able to fulfill, in respect of these vessels, the requirements and responsibilities under the Convention and its conservation and management measures;
 - b. take the measures necessary to ensure that their vessels on the LSTLFV List comply with all relevant IATTC conservation and management measures;
 - c. take the measures necessary to ensure that their vessels on the LSTLFV List keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorizations to fish and/or transship;
 - d. ensure that their vessels on the LSTLFV List have no history of IUU fishing activities or, if any vessel does have such history, that the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over the vessel, or that, having taken into account all relevant information, the vessel is not engaged in, or associated with, IUU fishing;
 - e. ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their vessels on the LSTLFV List are not engaged in, or associated with, tuna fishing activities conducted in the EPO by LSTLFV not included in the LSTLFV List.
 - f. take measures necessary to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the vessels on the LSTLFV List are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs, so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.
5. CPCs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 4, including punitive and sanction actions and, in a manner consistent with domestic law, report the results of the review to the Commission at its 2004 meeting and annually thereafter. In considering the results of such reviews, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag CPCs of LSTLFVs on the LSTLFV List to take further actions to enhance compliance by their vessels with IATTC conservation and management measures.
6. With respect to LSTLFVs:
 - a. CPCs shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit fishing for, retaining on board, transshipment and landing of tuna and tuna-like species by LSTLFVs not included in the LSTLFV List.
 - b. To ensure the effectiveness of IATTC conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:
 - i. Flag CPCs shall validate statistical documents only for vessels on the LSTLFV List,

- ii. CPCs shall require that species covered by Statistical Document Programs caught by LSTLFVs in the EPO, when imported into the territory of an IATTC Party, be accompanied by statistical documents validated for vessels on the LSTLFV List and,
 - iii. CPCs importing species covered by Statistical Document Programs and the flag States of vessels shall cooperate to ensure the accuracy and legitimacy of statistical documents.
- 7. Each CPC shall notify the Director of any factual information indicating that LSTLFVs not on the LSTLFVs List are engaged in fishing for, and/or transshipment of, tuna and tuna-like species in the EPO.
- 8.
 - a. If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 7 is flying the flag of a CPC, the Director shall ask that CPC to take the measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the EPO.
 - b. If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 7 cannot be determined or is of a non-cooperating non-Party, the Director shall report this to the Commission.
- 9. The Commission and the CPCs concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies, to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature so as to avoid adverse effects upon tuna resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU LSTLFVs from the EPO to other oceans.

Appendix 9.

RESOLUTION C-03-11

RESOLUTION ON CRITERIA FOR ATTAINING THE STATUS OF COOPERATING NON-PARTY OR COOPERATING FISHING ENTITY TO AIDCP AND IATTC

Taking account of the establishment of the Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties,

In accordance with the terms of reference established for that Group,

Conscious of the urgent need to develop criteria to establish the conditions under which the status of cooperating non-party or cooperating fishing entity shall be determined in both AIDCP and IATTC,

The following requirements must be respected by non-parties and fishing entities seeking the status of cooperating non-party or cooperating fishing entity.

1. Information requirements:

- a. Communicate full data on its historical fisheries in the IATTC area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas;
- b. Communicate annually catch and effort data and size-frequency distribution of the catches (when possible) in due time and appropriate format for scientific evaluation of the stocks;
- c. Communicate details on current fishing presence in the area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics;
- d. Communicate research programs it has conducted in the IATTC area and share the information and the results with the IATTC and AIDCP.

2. Compliance requirements:

- a. Respect all conservation measures in force in IATTC-AIDCP;
- b. Respect the capacity limits already in force in IATTC for tuna vessels;
- c. Inform IATTC/AIDCP of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels, including *inter alia* and as appropriate, observer programs, inspection at sea and in port, and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS);
- d. Respond to alleged violations of IATTC or AIDCP measures by its vessels, as determined by the appropriate bodies, and communicate to AIDCP or IATTC the actions taken against the vessels.

3. Participation:

Participation at plenary and scientific meetings, as an observer.

This status shall be accorded on a year-to-year basis and shall be decided by both the AIDCP Meeting of the Parties and the IATTC Annual Meeting on the basis of a review of compliance with the above mentioned requirements.

Appendix 10.

RESOLUTION C-03-06

RESOLUTION ON FINANCING

The Parties to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Understanding the importance of ensuring sufficient funding for the Commission in a timely manner so it may continue to effectively develop and implement the agreed conservation and management program for the living marine resources of the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and conduct the associated data collection and research;

Noting that non-payment of the agreed contributions may impair the Commission's ability to continue its operations;

Aware that the allocation of the costs of supporting the Commission among Parties should be transparent, fair and equitable, stable, and predictable, but also should allow for redistribution of costs as new Parties join;

Giving due consideration to the current requirement in the Convention establishing the Commission that the proportion of the expenses paid by each Party should be related to the proportion of the total catch utilized by that Party and the consensus of the Parties that other factors should be considered in determining their proportional contributions;

Taking into account the relevant provisions of the Antigua Convention, adopted in Antigua, Guatemala, on 27 June 2003;

Recognizing that the ability of a Party to make its contribution may be limited by circumstances beyond its control, and that such a situation may require a reconsideration of the budget for that year;

Acknowledging that the entry of Spain as a member of the Commission will result in partial payment of its annual contribution in 2003 and full payment in 2004, providing greater assurance that the approved program and budget of the Commission will be fully funded each year, and provide for restoring financial stability;

Noting that several non-Parties derive benefits from catching or utilizing fish covered by the Convention, but do not make contributions to the Commission;

Recalling the Resolution on Finance adopted by the Commission in June 2002; and

Taking note of the staff's proposals regarding the budget presented in Document IATTC-70-12 and the need to implement a long-term financing system;

Have agreed as follows:

1. To adopt the recommended budget of US\$ 4,866,254 for FY 2004 presented in Document IATTC 70 12.
2. For FY 2003, the contribution of Spain will be US\$250,684.
3. To contribute to the budget of the IATTC for FY 2004 in accordance with the following schedule of payments, which was developed taking into account the draft funding formula illustrated in the tables attached to the Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Working Group on Finance, held August 29-31, 2001, in La Jolla, California.

(US\$)	FY 2004
Costa Rica	32,000
Ecuador	275,430
Spain	498,664
France	66,582
Guatemala	44,692
Japan	513,068
Mexico	989,219
Nicaragua	12,993
Panama	80,458
Peru	24,175
El Salvador	17,383
United States	1,987,344
Venezuela	309,177
Vanuatu	15,000
Total	4,866,254

4. That the Working Group on Finance restart its deliberations on the funding formula in order to achieve consensus among the Parties on the use of the formula for determining each Party's contribution to the IATTC budget for FY 2005 and for the longer term. The Working Group shall meet before 1 March 2004, and present a proposal and methods for defining the level of contributions for FY 2005 to be submitted to the Annual Meeting in June 2004. This proposal shall take into account the provisions of the Antigua Convention.
5. That the Director shall inform each Party, at least two months prior to the annual meeting, of its projected contribution for the following two financial years.
6. That the Commission shall not pay more than 30% of the costs associated with the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program for vessels of member states.
7. For FY 2003, the contribution of Spain shall be one-half of that calculated using the formula referred to in paragraph 2. For FY 2004, the member contributions will be adjusted by adding the contribution of Spain for FY 2003 and reducing the contributions of all member in proportion so that the sum of contributions is equal to the requested budget.
8. That the contributions of any new member of the Commission shall be determined on the same basis as the contributions of existing members, subject to the Commission's financial regulations.
9. To call upon States not presently members of the IATTC which have vessels fishing for fish covered by the Convention to make voluntary contributions to the Commission until such time as they might become members.
10. To amend the Commission's Financial Regulations to incorporate the following points:
 - a. Contributions shall be payable by the Contracting Parties as of the first day of the financial year to which they relate and should be paid within 30 days, by 1 November of each financial year.
 - b. If a member of the Commission is in arrears in the payment of its contributions by an amount equal to or greater than the total of the contributions due from it for the preceding twenty-four (24) months, that member shall not be considered to be in good standing, unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Appendix 11.

RECOMMENDATION C-03-10

RECOMMENDATION ON SEA TURTLES

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), meeting in Antigua, Guatemala, on the occasion of its 70th Meeting:

Recalling the Resolutions on bycatch adopted at the 66th, 68th and 69th Meetings of the Commission;

Noting the need to improve the collection of scientific data regarding all causes of mortality of sea turtles, including but not limited to, data from fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean;

Being aware that the 25th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries agreed to hold a Technical Consultation on conservation of sea turtles in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2004;

In order to further the objectives and provisions of the IATTC Resolution on Bycatch;

Recommends that:

1. The IATTC should encourage Contracting Parties, as well as States, fishing entities and regional economic integration organizations operating fishing activities in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) to collect, and provide to the IATTC, all available information on interactions with sea turtles in the EPO, including both incidental and direct catches and other impacts on sea turtle populations.
2. The IATTC should develop measures to require the release of sea turtles that are incidentally caught alive by all gear types, and share all available information such as technical measures to reduce the incidental catch of sea turtles and to ensure the safe handling of all turtles that are captured, in order to improve their survivability.
3. The IATTC should review the available information on the current status of sea turtle conservation including both incidental and direct catches, their impact on the population and other factors affecting the mortality of sea turtles.
4. Taking due account of the relation with sea turtle conservation efforts undertaken in other international organizations and agreements, the IATTC should explore the development of a three-year program that could include mitigation of sea turtle bycatch, biological research on sea turtles, improvement of fishing gears, industry education and other techniques to improve sea turtle conservation.
5. The IATTC should convene a meeting of the Bycatch Working Group to begin development of the three-year program contemplated in paragraph 4, as well as to identify, to the extent possible, the measures for improved fishing gears and techniques that may be implemented in the short term to mitigate sea turtle bycatch.

Appendix 12.

RESOLUTION C-03-02

**RESOLUTION ON THE ADOPTION OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE
STRENGTHENING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA
COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE 1949 CONVENTION BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA
RICA**

ANTIGUA CONVENTION

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission:

Recalling the Resolution it adopted at its 61st Meeting in June 1998 on the establishment of a Working Group to review the IATTC Convention;

Having received the report of that Working Group, including the text of a draft Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica;

Adopts the “Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica” (hereinafter the “Antigua Convention”).

Invites the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Convention to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Antigua Convention as soon as possible.

Notes that nothing in the Antigua Convention should be interpreted as prejudicing the rights of the States involved in a dispute of sovereignty or in the delimitation of the maritime areas concerned.

Decides that Parties to the 1949 Convention that have not consented to be bound by the Antigua Convention upon its entry into force shall be deemed to remain members of the Commission unless such a Party to the 1949 Convention elects not to remain a member of the Commission by so notifying the Depositary in writing prior to the entry into force of the Antigua Convention.

Also decides that a Party electing not to remain a member of the Commission after the entry into force of the Antigua Convention shall do so by denouncing the 1949 Convention, in accordance with Article V, paragraph 4 thereof.

Requests the Depositary to inform the Parties to the 1949 Convention when the conditions for entry into force of the Antigua Convention have been met and remind them of the relevant provisions of this resolution.

Calls upon the fishing entities referred to in Article XXVIII of the Antigua Convention to sign the instrument and/or provide the written communication referred to in that Article, drafted in accordance with the texts attached to this resolution as Annexes A, B and C.

ANNEX A. INSTRUMENT FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF FISHING ENTITIES

The following fishing entity:

Considering that multilateral cooperation constitutes the most effective means for achieving the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources;

Committed to ensuring the long-term conservation and the sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention Between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (“Antigua Convention”);

Recognizing the significant efforts and the outstanding achievements of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, as well as the importance of its work in the tuna fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean;

Considering that the aforementioned objectives could best be achieved through the widest possible participation in the work of the Commission;

Considering the provisions of Article XXVIII of the Antigua Convention;

Hereby declares its firm commitment, subject to the transmittal of the written communication referred to in Article XXVIII, paragraph 1(b) of the Antigua Convention, drafted in accordance with Annex B of the *Resolution on the Adoption of the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica* adopted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, to:

- (a) abide by the terms of the Antigua Convention and comply with any conservation and management measures adopted pursuant thereto;
- (b) fulfil its obligations as a member of the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Antigua Convention.

The original text of this instrument shall be deposited with the Government of the United States of America which shall send certified copies thereof to the signatories and the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, having been duly authorized to that effect, has appended his or her signature hereto.

DONE at _____, on this _____ day of _____, 200__, in English and Spanish, both texts being equally authentic.

[name of fishing entity]

[name of duly authorized representative of the fishing entity]

ANNEX B. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE COMMITMENT OF FISHING ENTITIES

To the Depositary,

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica* adopted in Antigua, Guatemala on 27th June of 2003, regarding the participation of fishing entities, and in accordance with Article XXVIII, paragraph 1(b) of that Convention, I have the honor to express the firm commitment of [name of fishing entity] to abide by the terms of that Convention and comply with any conservation and management measures adopted pursuant thereto, as well as to fulfil its obligations as a member of the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, having been duly authorized to that effect, have appended their signatures hereto.

DONE at _____, on this _____ day of _____, 200__.

[duly authorized signature]

[name of fishing entity]

**ANNEX C. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE COMMITMENT OF FISHING ENTITIES
WITH RESPECT TO AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION OR ITS ANNEXES**

To the Depositary,

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica* adopted in Antigua, Guatemala on 27th June of 2003, regarding the participation of fishing entities, and in accordance with Article XXVIII, paragraph 3 of that Convention, I have the honor to express the firm commitment of [name of fishing entity] to abide by the terms of that Convention as amended and comply with any conservation and management measures adopted pursuant thereto, as well as to fulfil its obligations as a member of the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, having been duly authorized to that effect, have appended their signatures hereto.

DONE at _____, on this _____ day of _____, 200__.

[duly authorized signature]

[name of fishing entity]

Appendix 13.

RESOLUTION C-03-09

**RESOLUTION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF A FISHING ENTITY IN THE
ANTIGUA CONVENTION**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission:

Recalling the Resolution on the adoption of the Antigua Convention;

Recognizing its active participation as an observer under the name Taiwan in the work of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, due to its significant presence in the Eastern Pacific Ocean for over 30 years, and in the negotiation leading to the adoption of the Antigua Convention;

Calls upon that observer to sign the instrument and/or provide the written communication referred to in Article XXVIII of the Antigua Convention, drafted in accordance with the texts attached to the Resolution on the adoption of the Antigua Convention, in its character as a fishing entity under the name Chinese Taipei.

Appendix 14.

RESOLUTION C-03-08

CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION ON BYCATCH

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Recalling and reaffirming the Resolutions on Bycatch adopted at the 66th, 68th, and 69th Meetings of the Commission in June 2000, 2001, and 2002, respectively;

Recognizing the value of consolidating the operative parts of these resolutions into one comprehensive resolution on bycatch;

Believing that any additional measures on bycatch should also be incorporated into this single resolution;

Has agreed as follows:

ACTIONS BY GOVERNMENTS

1. Reduction of the incidental mortality of juvenile tunas:

- a. Until January 1, 2005:
 - i. Implement programs to require all purse-seine vessels to first retain on board and then land all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna caught, except fish considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size. A single exception shall be the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set.
 - ii. Review annually the effect and effectiveness of this program.
- b. Support, and seek the necessary funds for, the following future studies and research:
 - i. Develop technology for releasing juvenile tunas, particularly sorting grids.
 - ii. Apply technology for the identification of species and size composition in schools prior to setting, for example acoustic technology.
- c. Pursue the establishment of mechanisms for communicating information on areas of high concentration of juvenile tunas in real time within the fleet or parts of the fleet, taking account of the importance of ensuring confidentiality of such information.

2. Release of non-target species

Require fishermen on purse-seine vessels to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, all sharks, billfishes, rays, mahi mahi (dorado), and other non-target species.

3. Sea turtles:

- a. Require fishermen on purse-seine vessels to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, all sea turtles.
- b. Encourage all the Parties to voluntarily provide the Commission with all data on incidental catches of sea turtles in all fisheries, mainly those for tunas, recognizing that a comprehensive approach is necessary to deal effectively with sea turtle issues;
- c. Encourage FAO to address the conservation and management of sea turtles, including the issue of bycatches of sea turtles as part of such a comprehensive approach;
- d. Implement the following actions:
 - i. Train crews of tuna purse-seine vessels, particularly those without observers, in techniques for handling turtles to improve survival after release, and encourage States to take similar actions

for other tuna fisheries.

- ii. Prohibit tuna-fishing vessels disposing of salt bags or any other type of plastic trash at sea.
- iii. Encourage the release, when practicable, of sea turtles entangled in FADs.
- iv. Foster the recovery of FADs when they are not being used in the fishery.
- e. Require specific measures for encircled or entangled sea turtles, as follows:
 - i. Whenever a sea turtle is sighted in the net, all reasonable efforts should be made to rescue the turtle before it becomes entangled in the net, including, if necessary, the deployment of a speedboat.
 - ii. If a turtle is entangled in the net, net roll should stop as soon as the turtle comes out of the water and should not start again until the turtle has been disentangled and released.
 - iii. If a turtle is brought aboard the vessel, all appropriate efforts to assist in the recovery of the turtle should be made before returning it to the water.

4. **General:**

Publicize the provisions of the Resolutions, particularly the requirement to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, all sea turtles, sharks, billfishes, rays, dorado and other non-target species.

Encourage fishermen to develop and use techniques and equipment to facilitate the rapid and safe release of any such animals.

For longline vessels, urge those governments with such vessels operating in the region to provide the required bycatch information as soon as possible.

ACTIONS BY IATTC STAFF

1. **Reduction of the incidental mortality of juvenile tunas:**

Seek the necessary funds for the following future studies and research:

- i. Develop technology for releasing juvenile tunas, particularly sorting grids.
- ii. Apply technology for the identification of species and size composition in schools prior to setting, for example acoustic technology.

2. **Species of large pelagic fish of interest to the artisanal fishery, particularly dorado:**

Identify areas of high bycatches of these species, and verify the stability in time and space of any such areas.

3. **Billfish, sharks and rays:**

Develop techniques and/or equipment to facilitate their release from the deck or from the net.

Seek the necessary funds to carry out experiments to determine the survival rates of released billfish, sharks and rays.

Define areas and periods in which any of these species are most likely to be caught.

4. **Sea turtles:**

Study and formulate recommendations regarding modifications of the design of FADs to eliminate entanglement of sea turtles, particularly the use of webbing hanging below FADs.

5. **General:**

For longline vessels, urge those governments with such vessels operating in the region to provide the required bycatch information as soon as possible.

Appendix 15.

STATEMENT BY JAPAN

On the occasion of adoption of this new convention, Japan would like to make the following statement for the record.

1. Article IV (Precautionary approach)

Japan agrees to adopt this new Convention as entirety, however Japan's position on the precautionary approach remains unchanged.

2. Article XVIII (Implementation) Paragraph 2

Although this paragraph requires all the information, Japan would like to note that the Working Group confirmed that the confidentiality is ensured by Article XX (Confidentiality) of this new convention and rules of procedure.

3. Article XVIII (Implementation) Paragraph 4(b)

This paragraph requires the Parties to ensure that vessel owners and/or captain allow the Commission to collect information based on the practice of purse-seine fleet. Japan would like to note that the Working Group confirmed that the flag state's responsibility for data collection is ensured and that the ways and means of collecting information of other type of fishery should be considered when making rules of procedure in this respect, taking due account of the character of such fisheries.

4. Article XVIII, Paragraph 10, and Article XXVI, Paragraph 3

Japan would like to note that actions by the Commission and Contracting Parties to deter vessels from activities that undermine the effectiveness of this Convention shall be made in consistency with flag state rights and obligations of international law.

Appendix 16.

STATEMENT BY MEXICO ON THE ADOPTION OF THE ANTIGUA CONVENTION

Mr. Chairman, representatives of the Parties to the Commission, distinguished observers, ladies and gentlemen:

For Mexico it is a source of pride and satisfaction to have completed today, in the beautiful City of Antigua, a long-awaited process.

The adoption of the Antigua Convention signals a new era in the conservation and management of the tuna resources of the eastern Pacific Ocean. Today, the commitments assumed by the international community for the sustainable use of natural resources are strengthened, and the will of those of us who participate in this fishery is reiterated.

Mexico cannot but express its pleasure at the conclusion of a long and hoped-for effort, in which, although there were differences, the spirit of cooperation prevailed, which moves us in favor of future generations.

Strengthening the IATTC makes it an open multilateral instrument that incorporates the principle of saturation of the fishery. The text of the Antigua Convention reflects a balance in the interests of those involved; however, we must note that some of us would have liked to see more detail included, Mexico would have liked to see matters such as an organic structure in line with other international instruments, a wider objective that contemplated the need to avoid and reduce bycatches and discards, above all of juveniles, as well as specific conservation principles and measures.

The Antigua Convention clarifies the mandate of the Commission and represents an opportunity to redouble efforts in the light of the best available scientific evidence.

Mexico is pleased to have taken part in this effort, its contributions are a reflection of its commitment and it wishes to call for a crystallization of the intensive work carried out over the last five years, and therefore urges all those involved to take the actions necessary for the Antigua Convention to enter into force soon.

Finally Mexico and its delegation here present wishes to congratulate all those who took part in the Working Group whose work brought about this new and modern instrument, in particular the Chairman, our friend Ambassador Jean-François Pulvenis, who achieved balance in the text and skilfully handled critical junctures during the process, maintaining always the principle of inclusion and collaboration throughout the negotiation; for all that, thank you very much and congratulations to all.

Antigua, Guatemala, 27 June 2003

Appendix 17.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2003

1. YELLOWFIN TUNA

The stock assessment for yellowfin is similar to that of 2002. The best assessment shows that the stock size has declined from a high point in 2001 to slightly less (89%) than the level that would produce the average maximum sustainable yield (AMSY), and is expected to increase to above that level, as the fishing mortality rate in recent years has been less than that required to produce the AMSY. This base-case assessment did not include a stock-recruitment relationship; if that were included, the current estimated stock size would be only 70% of the size that would produce the AMSY, and the fishing mortality rate would be greater than the rate that produces the AMSY. The forecast recovery of the spawning stock to above the AMSY level assumes that future recruitment will be at average levels.

The total catch and stock size could be increased if the average size of yellowfin in the catch were increased. The longline fishery catches the largest fish and takes less than 5% of the catch. The catch from other surface fisheries is negligible.

The situation is similar to that of 2002 except that the stock size is slightly smaller. However, the capacity of the purse-seine fleet at sea in 2003 to date is about 8% greater than it was in 2001 and 2002, and if this continues through the remainder of the year it would be necessary to close the purse-seine fishery for two months to maintain fishing effort at recent levels.

1.1. Recommendations

1. That the purse-seine fishery for tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean be closed for two months in 2003.

2. BIGEYE TUNA

The stock assessment for bigeye is less certain than that for yellowfin. For bigeye, longline catches are very important, and at the time of the assessment the recent catches for important parts of the fleet were not available. Estimates of purse-seine catches for the past three years based on species composition sampling are greater than reported unloadings, so sensitivity analyses were carried out using alternative versions of the basic input data.

Nonetheless, in all the analyses the trends seen last year have continued. Recent recruitment has been poor, and the stock is on a declining trajectory and is either near or below the level that will produce the AMSY. The best assessment indicates that fishing mortality should be reduced by 16% from recent levels in order to maintain the stock at levels that will produce the AMSY. The assessment predicts that the stock will decline to the lowest levels seen. While there has yet been no evidence that stock sizes affect recruitment, it may be that recruitment will be reduced when the stock reaches the low levels forecast. If the recruitment were reduced, even greater reductions in fishing effort would be necessary to allow the stock to recover. .

I recommend that greater reductions be made in bigeye catches than will be achieved by the two-month closure to purse-seine fishing. In 1999, there was a three-month closure for purse-seine sets on floating objects. However, that experience indicated there were significant compliance problems in defining sets on floating objects, suggesting that other means of restricting these catches should be used. An alternative that should be considered is to close an area of the EPO to purse-seine fishing. Most bigeye is taken between of 5°N and 10°S, west of 90°W, and I recommend that area be closed to purse seining for a period of 2 months in addition to the general closure.

Given the very low projected levels of spawning stock size, the catch of large fish should be reduced as well as that of small fish. The longline catches in 2001 were nearly 50% greater than in 2000. I

recommend that measures be taken to restrict the total longline catch to the level of 2000.

Purse-seine sets on floating objects primarily take skipjack, and fishery closures to conserve bigeye unnecessarily restrict skipjack catches. There are avenues available (*e.g.* fishing gear modifications, identifying species composition of schools associated with floating objects) which might reduce bigeye catches in sets on floating objects, but they require further research.

2.1. Recommendations for 2003

1. Close the purse-seine fishery for tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean for two months.
2. Reduce longline catches of bigeye in the eastern Pacific Ocean to the levels taken in 2000.
3. Close the area between 5°N and 10°S and between 90°W and 150°W to purse-seining for two months, in addition to the closure in 1) above.
4. Research into fishing technologies that would enable skipjack to be captured in sets on floating objects without catching bigeye.

3. OTHER SPECIES

There are no management recommendations for other species.

Appendix 18.

IATTC 70 B3

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

This text was extensively discussed at the 70th Meeting of the IATTC, and was acceptable to all Parties except Ecuador. Ecuador agreed to consider the draft resolution further and to advise the Commission by correspondence whether or not it could agree to it.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Recalling that the *Resolution on the Conservation of Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean* approved by the IATTC at its 69th meeting in Manzanillo, Mexico, encouraged states and fishing entities with large-scale tuna longline vessels (LSTLVs) to undertake initiatives similar to that of Japan, *i.e.* reduction by 20% of its fleet, in accordance with FAO International Plan of Action,

Being aware with grave concern that, despite the above Resolution, the catch of bigeye tuna by LSTLVs and their fishing capacity are still growing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), which for the purpose of this Resolution is the area bounded by the coastline of the Americas, the 40°N parallel, the 150°W meridian, and the 40°S parallel,

Having responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like fishes of the EPO, and for the formulation of recommendations to the High Contracting Parties with regard to these resources, and having maintained since 1950 a continuing scientific program directed toward the study of those resources,

Notes that the tuna resource of the EPO supports one of the most important surface fisheries for tunas in the world,

Recognizes that, based on past experience in the fishery, the potential production from the resource can be

reduced by excessive fishing effort,

Notes that in the years from 1980 through 2002, excepting 1987, the Director recommended conservation measures to the Commissioners, and that in turn such measures were approved by the Commissioners for recommendation to their respective governments,

Believing that it is important to follow a precautionary approach when addressing conservation and management measures for the tuna resource of the EPO, and

Considering that the studies of yellowfin and bigeye tuna presented at this meeting show that, the current fishing effort (2000-2001 average) would be above the average maximum sustainable yield levels for both species if recruitment is strongly dependent on the amount of spawning.

Resolves:

1. That this resolution is applicable to 2003, except for paragraph 5, which is also applicable to 2004;
2. That the fishery by purse-seine tuna-fishing vessels in the EPO be closed from 0000 hours on 1 December to 2400 hours on 31 December;
3. Pole-and-line and sportfishing vessels are not subject to this resolution.
4. To discourage landings and commercial transactions in tuna or tuna products originating from fishing activities prohibited by this resolution. The Director may provide relevant information to the Parties to assist them in this regard.
5. Each IATTC Party, cooperating non-party, fishing entity or regional economic integration organization (collectively "CPCs") shall, for purse-seine fisheries:
 - 5.1. On or before 1 October 2003, inform all interested parties in its national tuna industry of the closure, and send a copy of this notice to the Director.
 - 5.2. Ensure that at the time the closure begins, and for the entire duration of the closure, all purse-seine tuna-fishing vessels flying its flag in the EPO are in port, except that vessels carrying an observer from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program may remain at sea provided they do not fish in the EPO. The only other exception to this provision shall be that vessels carrying an observer from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish.
 - 5.3. Take the relevant measures and inform the Director of these on or before October 1, 2003.
6. That each CPC shall take the measures necessary to ensure that its total annual longline catch of bigeye tuna in the EPO during 2003 and 2004 will not exceed that in 2001¹. Each CPC with LSTLVs shall provide monthly reports to the Director.
7. This resolution shall not be considered to prejudice any future arrangements by the Commission for the conservation of bigeye and yellowfin tuna.
8. That the Commission shall, at its 71st Meeting, develop a long-term program for the conservation of bigeye tuna in the EPO.

¹ The Parties acknowledge that France, as a coastal State, is developing a tuna longline fleet on behalf of its overseas territories situated in the EPO.