

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
3RD MEETING

Guayaquil, Ecuador
25 June 2015

REPORT OF THE MEETING
AGENDA

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4 Review of budgets for 2016 and 2017	CAF-03-04
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b) Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity (Resolution C-11-11)	CAF-03-05b
c) Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution C-12-07)	CAF-03-05c
d) Other	
6 Other business	
7 Recommendations to the Commission	
8 Adjournment	

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Lillo Maniscalchi, of Venezuela, Chairman of the Committee, opened the meeting. The list of attendees is attached as Appendix 1.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes. El Salvador asked to include in point 6 "*Other business*" a presentation of its proposal on the formula for calculating the contributions of Members to the IATTC budget.

3. Review of the financial audit report

It was reported that the financial audit report had been given to the Commissioners and Heads of delegations. There were no comments.

4. Review of budgets for 2015 and 2016

Ms. Nora Wade, of the IATTC staff, presented the document [CAF-03-04](#) recalling that the budget for the current fiscal year, 2015, is US\$ 6,554,232, and requesting approval of a budget of US\$ 7,012,647 budget for 2016. She noted that this includes an increase of approximately 2% in salaries, in line with the rate of inflation and the rising cost of living in the United States, the host country of the Commission, as well as other extraordinary costs (web page design, travel costs of candidates for Director, and translation assistance), but does not include funds for the annual meeting. She also reported that there are US\$ 3,682,994 in outstanding contributions to date, including unpaid contributions for 2015.

The United States asked whether any country had offered to host the meeting of the Commission in 2016,

as the costs of annual meetings are covered by the host country, and inquired about the additional costs stemming from the resumption of the 87th regular and 88th extraordinary meetings of the IATTC in October 2014, and the funding sources that were used to cover those expenses. The United States also asked about the substantial increase in the miscellaneous expenses category.

Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the IATTC, reported that no country had yet offered to host the annual meeting in 2016, and that there are no funds available for hosting the meeting if it is held at IATTC headquarters in San Diego. He also confirmed that the 87th and 88th meetings had indeed generated extraordinary costs that had not been budgeted for. Ms. Wade explained that the primary source of the increase in miscellaneous costs was the increase in costs associated with bank transfers (both when receiving contributions from Members and when transferring money to field offices). The United States stated that any transfer fees associated with the payments of contributions due by Members should be borne by the Member making the transfer, not by the IATTC budget.

Canada asked whether the difference of US \$ 129,000 between the actual total current expenditures in 2014 and the agreed budget for that year was incorporated into the 2016 budget, and also asked what would be done with the pending contributions if they were paid.

Dr. Compeán explained that there was no surplus of US\$ 129,000 in 2014 , but rather a shortfall of about US \$ 1,500,000 due to unpaid contributions . In the event of payments of past-due contributions, some of that income would necessarily be used to cover approved expenditures that had been suspended due to inadequate funding. Any remainder would likely be used in a discretionary manner, such as for modest salary increases for the staff, whose salaries have been frozen for a number of years. He explained that staff salaries are the greatest expense, and that operating costs are much lower than in other similar organizations. He reiterated that the requested increase is coherent, and aims to take into account inflation and the rising cost of living and salaries in the host country, in addition to including extraordinary costs.

Responding to the European Union, Dr. Compeán explained that the IATTC website needed improvements to make it more efficient, but it could be maintained as is, and that, regarding the costs of travel of the staff , these would be continued to be kept as low as possible.

Several delegations expressed their support for approving the proposed budget.

The European Union noted that the agreed performance evaluation has not been carried out, so they were not able to assess whether the activities specified in the proposed budget should be carried out. Therefore, the European Union maintained its position of not accepting any increase in the budget until the performance evaluation is completed.

The Chairman recalled that Members had been informed by the Director about the progress made in the process of the performance review of the IATTC and AIDCP under Resolution C- 14-09, including the formation of the virtual working group and the posting on the IATTC website (and other relevant sites) of the call for bids from potential evaluators. A bid from a company with experience in such work had already been received.

Ecuador stated that it could not accept any budget increase at this time.

After long discussions, and in view of the objections of the European Union and Ecuador, the Committee concluded that it could only approve a budget for the same amount as in 2015, and this would be reported to the Commission.

Dr. Compeán noted that all delegations should clearly understand that the amount of the approved budget is not necessarily the same as the amount of contributions received, as the latter is generally lower due to non-payment by some Members, which results in a significant challenge for the Commission and its staff.

5. Financial contributions by Members

a. Regular budget (Resolution [C-13-06](#))

Panama reported that it had recently made payments, and that would make great efforts to make contributions and gradually eliminate the overdue balance.

The European Union stated that the delay of Panama in its payments and the accumulation of the debt is a problem for all Members, and the commitment by Panama to make efforts to pay the pending contributions should be clearly reflected in the minutes. Other delegations supported this idea.

b. Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity (Resolution [C-11-11](#))

Dr. Compeán presented Document CAF-03-05b on the special fund for building capacity in developing countries. Noting that Resolution C-14-03 stipulates that 2% of the Commission's budget should be allocated to the fund, he asked that the Commission indicate where the funds should come from, since they are not included in the proposed budget.

Several delegations stated that these 2% should be added to the amount of the agreed operational budget, and the sum of these two amounts would form the basis for calculating the amount of each Member's annual contribution. The European Union supported that approach, and the resulting increase in the total budget amount for 2016, because that would not represent an increase in the operational budget, but rather an additional contribution in accordance with the provisions of Resolution C-14-03.

Ecuador reiterated that it could not accept any budget increase, so there was no consensus on the matter.

c. Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution [C-12-07](#))

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, of the IATTC staff, presented Document C-03-05c, indicating that there was a surplus in 2014, and a surplus was expected at the end of 2015. Also, the Members participating in the program had approved continuing through 2016 the contract with the *Marine Resources Assessment Group* consortium for operating the program.

A budget for 2016 of US\$ 800,000 was presented. The total contribution for 2016 by the participating Members would be US\$ 700,000; the balance would be covered by the existing surplus and the expected surplus for 2015.

6. Other business

El Salvador presented its proposal (IATTC-89 B-1) to modify the gross national income (GNI) categories in the formula for the calculation of contributions.

After a presentation on what the Members' contributions would be with the changes proposed by El Salvador, it was agreed to recommend to the Commission that the contributions be calculated on the basis of that proposal.

7. Recommendations to the Commission

After further consultations between its members, the Committee agreed to submit to the Commission the following recommendations:

1. Approve a budget of US\$ 6,774,232 for 2016, which includes funds for holding the 90th meeting of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity, in La Jolla in 2016, and for covering the total cost of the review of the IATTC and the AIDCP.
2. Approve a budget of US\$ 800,000 was approved for the transshipment observer program for 2016, US\$ 700,000 of which would be paid by the participants, with the remainder paid from the existing surplus.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on 2 July 2015.

Appendix 4b

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

6TH MEETING

Guayaquil, Ecuador
24-25 June 2015

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2014:	
a. Report by the staff on compliance	COR-06-03
b. Interactions of fishing vessels with data buoys	
c. Review of the questionnaires completed by CPCs relating to Resolution C-11-07	
4. Consideration of the IUU Vessel List	COR-06-04
5. Cooperating non-Members	COR-05-05
6. Other business	
7. Recommendations for the Commission	
8. Adjournment	

APPENDIX

1. List of attendees

The sixth meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (COR) was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, 24-25 June 2015.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. David Hogan, of the United States. Mr. Luis Torres, of Ecuador, was appointed rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted with a modification to include as a new item 3b) a presentation by the United States on interactions of fishing vessels with data buoys.

3. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2014:

a. Report by the staff on compliance

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, of the staff, presented Document COR-06-03, which contains detailed information on compliance with IATTC resolutions in 2014, as well as on the implementation of Resolution C-11-07 on compliance. He reviewed the timeline established in Resolution C-11-07 for the

distribution and submission by CPCs of the Standard Questionnaire on Compliance, and it was emphasized that the number of infractions continues to decline. A number of Members made corrections and clarifications that reports or data had been submitted, and requested that the Secretariat update the report.

The Government of Colombia requested the removal from the report of the vessel *Nazca*, which is related to alleged non-compliance with Resolution C-04-05, in trip 146043, because that case was not reported by the Secretariat and on reviewing the compliance report prepared by the observer for that trip, the non-existence of the alleged infraction could be determined. The Secretariat stated that this was an error, which would be deleted from the report.

The European Union commented that it is interesting to see the tables of the evolution of compliance and that efforts must be made to continue to improve. They also added that the question of arrears in the payment of contributions to the budget is a matter for concern, and reminded the meeting that a Member of the Commission in arrears by an amount equal to or greater than its contributions for the preceding 24 months shall not have the right to participate in decision-making in the Commission.

Mexico noted that the information dealt with in the meeting of the Committee should be used only within the Commission.

Recommendations by the Committee arising from the discussions of this agenda item:

- a) The Commission should review Resolution C-07-03 with a view toward any revisions that might be necessary to improve implementation, in particular if the reporting is repetitive and acts as a factor in the lack of compliance with reporting requirements.
- b) Regarding Resolution C-11-02, the Commission and the Secretariat should review the compliance questionnaire process to determine if there is a way to elicit more information to substantiate all replies and to review the resolution to ensure it is clear what applies, how it applies, and what information on implementation the Commission wishes to receive.
- c) The Commission should clarify the requirement for reporting implementation in Resolution C-12-07 on transshipments, to make clear whether it expects such reports.
- d) Resolution C-11-08 should be included in the compliance questionnaire, which should differentiate between implementing an observer program and data reporting.
- e) With regard to Resolution C-05-03, the Commission should explore methods for improving monitoring and implementation, specifically with regard to data collection for shark conservation.
- f) The Commission should consider whether it would be useful to establish a minimum threshold for tuna discards pursuant to the requirement on discards in Resolution C-13-01.

b. interactions of fishing vessels with data buoys

The United States presented information on multiple cases of fishing in association with data buoys, including cases resulting in damage and loss of the data buoys themselves or their functions. Most of the instances of data buoy vandalism in the EPO occur in the areas to the west of the Galapagos Islands, and the United States asked Members for their help in indentifying and prosecuting offending vessels. The Committee acknowledged the important data and environmental services derived from these buoys and which all Members, benefit from and discussed ways to improve compliance with C-11-03. One Member suggested that it would be useful if the relevant section (17.2.5) of the manual used by observers provided some examples of the types of interactions that are problematic, noting that such examples are given in the text of the resolution. Another Member suggested that education on data buoy issues should be covered in the courses provided to all purse-seine captains, regardless of the size class of the vessels. The United States committed to follow up with Members on the existing cases, and also to engage with interested delegations on how they could use VMS or other methods to identify where their vessels may

be fishing in proximity to data buoys. In view of the importance of the matter, it was suggested that the training of captains and observers on this issue should be reinforced.

c. Review of the questionnaires completed by CPCs relating to Resolution C-11-07

The Committee provided a summary of possible non-compliance cases, identified either by the CPC in the Questionnaire or by the Secretariat, as well as the corresponding responses by each CPC. Each CPC was given the opportunity to explain measures taken to, (1) ensure the CPC remains compliant, such as in reporting, or (2) ensure compliance among its vessel owners/operators, in part by investigations, fines, etc. Only one member, Kiribati, did not have representatives present at the meeting of the Committee or in the IATTC to participate in the review process. .

Also, a number of Members noted that the data examined are for the purse-seine fleet only, and that the performance of the longline fleet is largely unknown in addition to the fact that there is not even full compliance with the requirement an observer of coverage rate of 5%..

Recommendations by the Committee arising from the discussions of this agenda item :

- g) Future compliance reports should use the compendium produced by the Secretariat as the basis for an annex to the annual compliance report to track national reporting on implementation and compliance over time.
- h) The Commission should clarify where sealing wells can be allowed for capacity management and whether and when it may be used for other purposes.
- i) The Commission should encourage those Members to resolve the budget contribution arrears issue as soon as possible, and to also consider whether there are any other options the Commission could take advantage of to reinforce the collective responsibility to contribute to the IATTC budget.

Panama indicated that it had initiated procedures with its Ministry of Economy and Finance, and hoped to make payments during the current year and be in a better situation by 2016. The European Union asked that this statement be reflected in the minutes.

- j) The Commission should consider whether there was a basis to change the call for disaggregated data per resolution C-03-05 or to clarify the scientific or data management reasons to continue the current practice.
- k) The SAC at its next meeting should approve a data reporting format called for in Resolution C-11-08.
- l) The Commission should reiterate the importance of all CPCs to send delegates to its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Review Committee.

4. Consideration of the provisional IUU vessel list

The Secretariat presented document COR-06-04. There was one request from Fiji to remove a vessel, the *Xin Shi Ji 16*, from the current list IUU vessel list. France presented an analysis of the substantiating information presented by Fiji and identified several areas of concern based on a lack of information or clarity. The concerns were shared by some other Members and there was no consensus to remove this vessel from the IATTC IUU vessel list.

- m) The Committee recommended that the Commission send a communication to Fiji requesting additional information based on the elements discussed by the Committee.

5. Cooperating Non-Members

There were four renewal requests to be considered for cooperating non-member status from Bolivia, Indonesia, Liberia and Honduras. Bolivia and Honduras were present at the Committee meeting and no

objections were raised to renewing their status. Indonesia and Liberia did not have representatives at the meeting.

- n) The Committee recommended that the Commission renew cooperating non-member status for Bolivia and Honduras, and consider renewing cooperating non-member status for Indonesia and Liberia, while reminding them of their responsibility to attend and participate in the work of Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

6. Other business

Colombia raised the usefulness of considering revising the IATTC compliance information reporting procedures to provide an opportunity for vessel captains to express their comments, e.g., on fishing conditions or other factors, regarding issues of compliance contained in the observer report in a way similar to how the process works under the AIDCP. Such a process could assist flag state CPCs in any investigation of compliance issues.

- o) The Committee recommended that the Commission consider reviewing its procedures regarding the observer reports to determine whether captains have an opportunity to comment on observer reports for IATTC matters and if there is a need for additional space or other adjustments of the observer forms; examine the usefulness of additional training to make captains aware of existing opportunities to make comments; analyze the need for and possibility of how to accommodate an opportunity for captains comments on compliance matters identified in post-trip analysis of obsv reports, and any other changes that may be needed to implement such a mechanism.

The European Union made a presentation of its proposal IATTC-89 E-1 on improving compliance, which is pending before the Commission. The presentation generated some discussion regarding the classification of the infractions contained in the proposal. .

7. Recommendations for the Commission

The Committee made several recommendations to the Commission as detailed above, under the various items of the agenda.

8. Adjournment

The Committee was adjourned on July 2, 2015.

Appendix 5a

MEXICO: Bluefin tuna

Mr. Chairman, Mexico wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the various delegations with whom we have had the privilege and pleasure of working over recent days to reach consensus on several very important resolutions, including: port state measures, management of FADs, conservation of silky and hammerhead sharks, substantial increase in observer coverage aboard longline vessels, manta rays and others.

It is unfortunate that in several of the most important issues that this Commission faces, some delegations were unable to join the consensus. Perhaps the most important is the adoption of a resolution which defines our responsibility and position regarding a plan for the management and recovery of the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna that MUST be coordinated between the IATTC and the WCPFC. To our knowledge, one delegation has apparently decided that it will not allow consensus for the adoption of that resolution.

Mr Chairman, the best available science indicates that the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is in delicate condition and that it is imperative that very significant actions be taken to address this situation. It is also a fact that, given that 84 percent of the impact on this stock occurs in the Western Pacific and that therefore, what does not happen there regarding management and reducing pressure on the biomass of the breeding stock has a significant effect on those of us who participate in this important fishery here in the Eastern Pacific.

As stated in Resolution C-14-06, on the management of bluefin that we adopted last year, "any measure adopted in the EPO will have less benefit than expected for the stock unless the [WCPFC] adopts strong measures. " This has clearly not happened.

One of the most important aspects of the draft resolution that we have been working on with the United States to help to establish a recovery plan for Pacific bluefin tuna, is the requirement and absolute commitment to close cooperation between the IATTC and the WCPFC in developing a single unified and fair plan for the recovery of this stock.

Not achieving joint management will be catastrophic for the stock of Pacific bluefin. In fact, failing to get our two commissions to work together to manage this shared population, has already led us to the situation we now face. But it is not too late.

It is not too late and we still have time, to work together and achieve the recovery of this important resource and it is not too late either to reach an agreement at this meeting and to express the position of this Commission on how to proceed to cooperate constructively with the WCPFC, the Northern Committee and the ISC.

Nor is it too late for US to take significant further action here in the EPO, as a precaution and as a further signal to the Western Pacific that the time to act is NOW. It is past the time when we had the luxury of waiting for someone else to act.

Mr. Chairman, last year when we adopted management measures for bluefin tuna under Resolution C-14-06, we agreed and later implemented a 40-percent reduction for all sizes of the catch composition of bluefin. By indicating this, the resolution was saying that the measures should serve as an interim step to ensure the sustainability of Pacific bluefin tuna and called upon the WCPFC to take fair and comparable actions. It was foreseen in the resolution that future conservation measures would not be based solely on these interim measures, but also on the future development of information and the advice of the scientific staff of the IATTC.

The latest scientific findings of the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries of Japan indicate a serious and further decline in the levels of recruitment of Pacific bluefin tuna, well below those recorded in 2013 and the advice of our scientific staff at the IATTC that the spawning biomass is very low, suggest that further reductions of catches should be implemented throughout the range of the stock and of all sizes

and ages.

Mr. Chairman, in keeping with our precautionary approach and based on the best available science, Mexico announces that it will voluntarily implement a further reduction in the commercial catch of Pacific bluefin tuna to 2,750 tons in 2016, a volume that is below the mandate of Resolution C-14-06 in force.

Furthermore Mexico, in keeping with that resolution, will be implementing a National Catch Documentation System (CDS) for Pacific bluefin tuna, which includes audits of existing inventories of captured bluefin destined for the farms, catch and market data, based on tonnage as well as number of individual fish. Mexico believes that the data collected through these actions would not only improve our internal ability to ensure compliance, but could also provide useful information that can be used by the scientific staff of the IATTC and the ISC to assess the relative impacts of Mexican bluefin tuna fishery in the Pacific.

Mexico will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the recovery of the bluefin tuna stock. Mexico has done and will continue to do its part. Mexico urges all parties involved with this resource in the IATTC and WCPFC to do the same.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Mexico again calls on all Commissioners around this table, to keep up the commitment to finding a way to the adoption of a resolution that will guide our interactions with the WCPFC, the Northern Committee and the ISC for the development of a truly collaborative, truly cooperative and truly effective management for the joint management of Pacific bluefin tuna.

Appendix 5b

Suggested edits to the interim HCR from the United States

Interim HCR for tropical tunas (i.e., bigeye and yellowfin)

In relation to target reference points:

1. Management measures shall be established such that F can be expected to equal the F -target on average.

In relation to limit reference points:

2. If probability that F exceeds F -limit $>10\%$: Establish measures to reduce to F to the F -target (with at least 50% probability), and with less than 10% probability that F will exceed F -limit.
3. If probability that S is below S -limit is $>10\%$: Establish measures to rebuild to S -target (at least 50% probability) within 2 generations or 5 years (whichever is greater), and with less than 10% probability that S will fall below S -limit within 2 generations or 5 years (whichever is greater).

Appendix 5c

COLOMBIA: Capacity still to be allocated to Colombia by the IATTC

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We also support the proposal by Vanuatu on the procedure to follow regarding requests for increased capacity. As Costa Rica has said, a clearly defined road map will be the best product we can reach at this session.

Since our request is different to that of other countries in the list mentioned at the beginning of this agenda item, and given that we are making our request to the secretariat, and not to the Parties, we want to make the following statement, and ask that it be reflected in the minutes of the meeting and in future iterations of the studies of the SAC.

The Government of Colombia, would like to recall that at the 69th Meeting of the Parties to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, Colombia, like Peru and Costa Rica, presented a claim for increased capacity of "up to 14,046 m³" in Resolution C-02-03, as a claim because we are a coastal State, with a prolonged and significant interest in developing and maintaining our tuna-fishing industry in the EPO.

My delegation would like to reiterate the statements made at the 87th and 88th Meetings of the Parties to the Commission, held in Lima and La Jolla respectively, as well as what we expressed at the Sixth Scientific Advisory Committee, where our country has highlighted the importance of taking into account in the capacity analyses, the historical rights of coastal States, especially countries which expressed their claims under the asterisk in Resolution C-02-03.

Therefore, we have asked the Secretariat to include the missing capacity to be allocated to the government of the Republic of Colombia as recorded under that asterisk, equivalent to 4,772 m³ of carrying capacity, in the capacity analyses conduct by the IATTC, as can be seen in the document that was circulated yesterday afternoon.

The Government of the Republic of Colombia emphasizes, that this request should not be interpreted as a request for current capacity to be resolved in the Capacity Working Group, but should be understood as a reaffirmation of the interest in the future recognition of the missing carrying capacity that our country possesses, as a result of a historical right, recognized by the Commission in Resolution C-02-03 and regarding which there has not been any renunciation.

I thank the Secretariat for including this statement in the minutes of this meeting.

Appendix 5d

MEXICO: Proposal to consider the cases of capacity of Guatemala and Venezuela

During the discussion of item 6 of the agenda of the 89th meeting of the Tropical Tuna Commission "Matters related to fleet capacity" and the debate on the cases of activation of carrying capacity approved for Guatemala and Venezuela at the 88th Extraordinary Meeting of the Commission, the Members agree:

The activation of 3,762 m³ for Guatemala and 1,668 m³ for Venezuela, whose merits were recognized at the 88th Extraordinary Meeting of the Commission, is subject to the adoption by the Commission in 2016 of appropriate conservation measures for tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean on the basis of a recommendation by the IATTC scientific staff in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Such measures shall be established on the basis of capacity scenarios that also include such capacity as

available for the purpose of establishing appropriate conservation measures for all the fleet.

The utilization of such capacity will be effective from the entry into force in 2017 of the aforementioned conservation measures and may only be conditioned on the adoption of a capacity management plan in the EPO if by the time of adoption of the conservation measure the plan has already been approved by the Commission

Appendix 5e

VANUATU: Proposed draft terms of reference for the Virtual Working Group of Fleet Capacity and the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity

1. The Commission approved the development of a draft IATTC Resolution addressing all capacity claims, requests and disputes with a view finalizing a list that would constitute the closed list of all pending cases to be considered favourably by the Commission at its 90th Meeting and place them on a “carrying capacity waiting list”¹.
2. The Commission agreed that said draft IATTC Resolution should give the necessary guarantees to the CPCs concerned that the listed capacity claims, requests and disputes should all be considered favourably without need for further review, but be conditioned on the adoption by the Commission of appropriate conservation measures (that would apply to all CPCs) and a Capacity Management Plan (that would apply to all CPCs), which should offset the contemplated increase in capacity.
3. In addition, the Commission agreed that the draft IATTC Resolution should as far as possible address the principles covering possible conservation measures and the Capacity Management Plan referenced in paragraph 2 above.
4. The Commission was of the view that by doing so, the merits of all capacity claims, requests and disputes would never be debated again (on the understanding that no more capacity claims, requests and disputes would be submitted to the Commission in the future), allowing the Commission to concentrate on ways to address the anticipated increase in capacity.

Establishment of a Virtual Working Group on Fleet Capacity

The Commission decided to establish a Virtual Working Group on Fleet Capacity under the coordination of Ecuador and instructed it, taking into account the decisions taken by the Commission, to:

1. Prepare a list of all pending capacity claims, requests and disputes, using document “SAC-06 INF-B-Capacity Scenarios” as a basis;
2. Prepare draft guidelines on a methodology for determining conservation measures that would offset the contemplated increase in capacity;
3. Develop a Capacity Management Plan using documents “IATTC-73-EPO-Capacity-Plan”, “IATTC-85-PROP-H-2-JPN- Management-of-fishing-capacity”, “CAP-14-INF-A-EU-Capacity-management-plan” as a basis, and any other relevant documents deemed appropriate;
4. Prepare a Draft IATTC Resolution on Capacity Claims, Requests, and Disputes taking into account the outcomes of items 1, 2 and 3 above and the decisions taken by the Commission;

¹ Said « capacity waiting list » refers to all capacity claims, requests and disputes to be considered favourably by the Commission but not activated until such as time the Commission has adopted appropriate conservation measures and a capacity management plan to offset the contemplated capacity increase.

5. Submit a report on the progress made by the group to the 17th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity, to be convened in 2016.

Convening of the 17th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity

The Commission decided to schedule the 17th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity in 2016 under the coordination of Ecuador and instructed it, taking into account the decisions taken by the Commission, to continue, but not be limited to, the work of the Virtual Working Group on Fleet Capacity, with the following provisional agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting;
2. Adoption of the agenda;
3. Review of the report of Virtual Working Group on Fleet Capacity;
4. Continue the work of the Virtual Working Group on Fleet Capacity, based on the terms of reference approved by the Commission at its 89th Meeting;
5. Finalize the draft IATTC Resolution on capacity claims, requests, and disputes for submission to the 90th meeting of the Commission for review and subsequent adoption;
6. If time permits, draft a set of conservation measures that could offset the increase in capacity contemplated in the capacity claims, requests and disputes, and subsequently develop a draft Capacity Management Plan.
7. Other business
8. Adjournment

Appendix 5f.

COSTA RICA: Proposal for terms of reference for the Permanent Working Group on fleet capacity

1. Charge the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity with preparing and presenting a draft resolution that addresses the capacity requests, claims and disputes, as presented and recommended by the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity at the 87th Meeting of the IATTC, and the conservation measures necessary to offset any increase in capacity. Furthermore, this draft resolution shall contain concrete proposals for measures for implementing a capacity management plan in the EPO.
2. The approach and analysis shall be comprehensive, but maintain the approach of different categories of requests, included in the report of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity presented at the 87th and 88th Meetings of the IATTC.
3. New requests that are not included in the footnote to Resolution C-02-03 shall be included on a waiting list in order of the date of their submission, and analyzed and reviewed at a later date.
4. Any increase in capacity agreed by the Commission shall be in accordance with the conservation measures and with a Plan for the Management of Capacity adopted by the Commission, with the exception of Guatemala and Venezuela, whose requests for restitution were recognised and whose conditions for activation were adopted at the 88th meeting of the IATTC.
5. The Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity shall present the elements necessary to set out the different capacity scenarios, before the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2016 for analysis by that Committee.

Appendix 5g

ECUADOR: Text for the minutes of the 89th meeting of the IATTC

In order to improve coordination between IATTC and WCPFC, The Commission decided to exhort the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), to consider at its next WCPFC annual meeting

1. To strengthen cooperation with the IATTC in the scientific areas, in order to improve their work dynamic jointly, using similar assessment models for analyzing the status of all the shared stocks of tropical tunas in the Pacific Ocean as a whole.
2. To identify differences in characteristics and structure of purse-seine operation and stock dynamics in the Central and Western Pacific and Eastern Pacific.
3. To develop management measures established as a total closure of catches for the purse-seine fishery for skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tunas, whereby the operation of the fleets is totally stopped, in order to achieve greater efficiency of the measures for the sustainability of these species throughout the Pacific Ocean. The number and timing of days of closure should be based on the best available science. The WCPFC could consider making appropriate adjustments to other existing conservation and management measures if a total closure is adopted.
4. To work in the development of a coordinated rebuilding and management plan for the bluefin tuna stock. The IATTC shall ask the WCPFC for a joint meeting with all interested parties after the stock assessment by the ISC is carried out in 2016, in order to adopt equivalent points of reference.

The United States does not take a position at the IATTC regarding specific conservation and management approaches enacted at the WCPFC. The United States recognizes there was widespread support at the IATTC for urging the WCPFC to consider a science-based total closure for an agreed period of time as a more effective conservation measure than certain existing approaches at the WCPFC, and to control overall fishing capacity in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.