

# Proposed tag recovery program to be implemented for the EPOTTP during 2019-2021

**Kurt Schaefer and Daniel Fuller**  
**Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission**



IATTC RTTP Workshop, La Jolla, California USA, 28-31 January 2019

# INTRODUCTION

- The success of the EPOTTP, or any other tagging program, is highly dependent on implementing a well designed tag recovery program so as to optimize the collection of high-confidence tag recapture information
- The three principle components of the proposed IATTC tag recovery program consist of the following: 1) Publicity campaign, 2) Tag recovery staff, and 3) Cash rewards and prizes

# PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

- A digital 1 page informational flyer about the IATTC EPOTTP, including procedures for returns of PDTs and ATs and associated rewards, will be distributed widely in advance of the first EPOTTP tagging cruise and throughout the program to cannery managers, purse-seine and transshipment vessel unloaders and supervisors, purse-seine and longline vessel Captains and crews, as well as IATTC, National Program, and MRAG observers, and others
- Colorful glossy paper poster versions with essentially the same information will be hand delivered to managers of the major canneries in ports where IATTC field offices are located, and sent to managers of all other major canneries, and unloading facilities operating in Latin America, requesting the posters be displayed in a common area accessible by their employees.

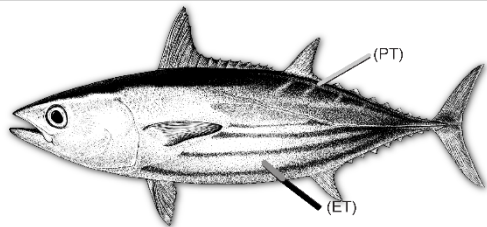
# PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN



## EASTERN PACIFIC TUNA TAGGING PROGRAM

Rewards for tags on skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye

Return tags and receive rewards- Also entry into annual drawings for US\$1000 prizes



**US\$10 or US\$15 for plastic tags (PT) and  
US\$250 for electronic tags (ET) from inside fish**

When a tagged fish is found, DO NOT remove the tags from fish until you first try contacting a representative at one of the following IATTC offices for further instructions

**Ecuador:** Las Playas (4) 276 5471, Manta (5) 262 1943  
**México:** Manzanillo (314) 333 7290, Mazatlán (669) 982 3520  
**Panamá:** (507) 260 7546  
**Venezuela:** Cumaná (293) 431 977

Please record the following information and provide with tag(s) to a Tuna Commission representative, or follow the instructions below:

- Species and fork length (straight line from the tip of the jaw to the fork of the tail)
- Tag numbers for plastic tags and electronic tags
- Date and location of capture
- Fishing vessel name and gear type that caught the fish
- Finder name and full contact details

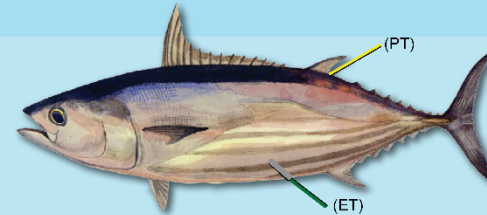
**Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)**  
IF UNABLE TO CONTACT A LOCAL IATTC REPRESENTATIVE  
PLEASE VISIT THE IATTC WEBSITE TO REPORT TAG RECOVERIES  
at [www.iattc.org/tagging/tagreturns](http://www.iattc.org/tagging/tagreturns) or email the above information  
and a photograph of the tagged fish to [tagreturns@iattc.org](mailto:tagreturns@iattc.org)



## EASTERN PACIFIC TUNA TAGGING PROGRAM

Rewards for tags on skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye

Return tags and receive rewards- Also entry into annual drawings for US\$1000 prizes



**US\$10 or US\$15 for plastic tags (PT) and  
US\$250 for electronic tags (ET) from inside fish**

When a tagged fish is found, DO NOT remove the tags from fish until you first try contacting a representative at one of the following IATTC offices for further instructions

**Ecuador:** Las Playas (4) 276 5471, Manta (5) 262 1943  
**México:** Manzanillo (314) 333 7290, Mazatlán (669) 982 3520  
**Panamá:** (507) 260 7546  
**Venezuela:** Cumaná (293) 431 977

Please record the following information and provide with tag(s) to a Tuna Commission representative, or follow the instructions below:

- Species and fork length (straight line from the tip of the jaw to the fork of the tail)
- Tag numbers for plastic tags and electronic tags
- Date and location of capture
- Fishing vessel name and gear type that caught the fish
- Finder name and full contact details

**Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)**  
IF UNABLE TO CONTACT A LOCAL IATTC REPRESENTATIVE  
PLEASE VISIT THE IATTC WEBSITE TO REPORT TAG RECOVERIES  
at [www.iattc.org/tagging/tagreturns](http://www.iattc.org/tagging/tagreturns) or email the above information  
and a photograph of the tagged fish to [tagreturns@iattc.org](mailto:tagreturns@iattc.org)



# PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

- A digital 1 page informational flyer about the IATTC EPOTTP, including procedures for returns of PDTs and ATs and associated rewards, will be distributed widely in advance of the first EPOTTP tagging cruise and throughout the program to cannery managers, purse-seine and transshipment vessel unloaders and supervisors, purse-seine and longline vessel Captains and crews, as well as IATTC, National Program, and MRAG observers, and others
- Colorful glossy paper poster versions with essentially the same information will be hand delivered to managers of the major canneries in ports where IATTC field offices are located, and sent to managers of all other major canneries, and unloading facilities operating in Latin America, requesting the posters be displayed in a common area accessible by their employees.
- The flyers will primarily be distributed in Spanish throughout Latin America, but Chinese, English, Japanese, and Korean versions will also be available for distribution.
- Flyers will be sent to our colleagues in China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, and the United States, and asked for them to be distributed to their longline fleets.
- Flyers will also be sent to the MRAG longline observer transshipment program supervisors and asked to request of all observers to inform and inquire with longline vessel crews and unloaders about the tagging program and importance of returning tags found.
- The flyers in all languages mentioned will also be posted at the IATTC website, with an easy to locate tab for inquiries about tag returns. The website address is included in the labels on the PDTs and ATs



# TAG RECOVERY STAFF



- IATTC has field offices located nearby the major ports where the majority of tropical tunas captured by purse-seine vessels in the EPO are unloaded.
- IATTC field office staff are well versed with established IATTC procedures for handling, paying rewards, and processing of tags recovered from tropical tunas, including confirming and documenting whether the associated recapture information is of high or low confidence.
- IATTC field office supervisors and staff will maintain regular correspondence about tag recoveries with supervisors at canneries throughout their country, and collect those tags and pay rewards during routine scheduled visits.
- Three full time tag recovery technicians (TRTs) will be actively monitoring the unloadings of purse-seine and transshipment vessels in the ports of Manta and Psorja, Ecuador, and Mazatlan, Mexico
- TRTs will focus on collecting high-confidence tag recapture data, specifically validating well numbers the day in which tunas are found with tags intact aboard purse-seine and transshipment vessels during unloading. Length measurements will be taken with calipers for those tunas, and the sex identified when possible by TRTs.
- The TRTs will have motor scooters for efficient transportation around the docks and work cell phones. Those cell numbers will be widely and routinely distributed to unloaders and their supervisors of purse-seine and transshipment vessels, including when handing out tag recovery flyers. This will enable TRTs to respond quickly when notified by cell phone about tunas found during unloadings, to attempt to obtain high-confidence tag recapture information.
- PDTs and ATs will be collected and securely stored at field offices to be shipped at the end of each month to IATTC La Jolla Headquarters, after field office supervisors send notifications of intended shipment to IATTC, along with a spreadsheet listing all numbers of tags being shipped and the amount of each tag reward paid.
- A full time tag recovery data editor will be hired to work at IATTC headquarters in La Jolla to validate tag recapture information and enter tag recapture data into the IATTC database, as well as provide summary reports and other EPOTTP associated tasks.



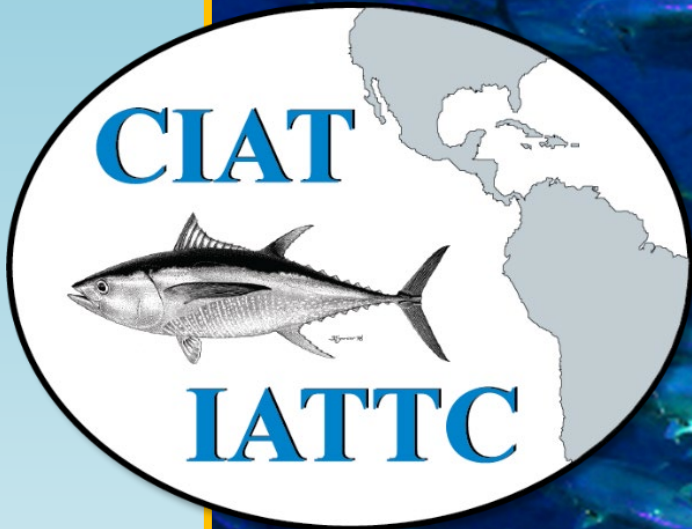


# REWARDS AND PRIZES



- Sufficiently attractive monetary rewards and the chance of winning large monetary prizes appear to be most effective at motivating unloaders and cannery workers in Latin America to return recovered tags from tunas to IATTC.
- For the return of PDTs with recapture information validated as high-confidence a reward of US\$15/ea will be paid, and US\$10/ea for PDTs with low confidence recapture information.
- There will be separate annual drawings in Ecuador and Mexico for 5 prizes in each location of US\$1000. Only the PDTs with recapture information validated as high-confidence will be included in the drawings from which the finders in Ecuador and Mexico will be selected randomly using a computer program. For each PDT returned with recapture information validated as high-confidence the associated finders name will be linked to that tag number and included in the drawing.
- A US\$250 reward will be paid for the return of ATs. That amount is printed on both the ATs and the green PDT which will be attached to tunas with ATs. The US\$250 is an amount which we have attempted to standardize across the Pacific with all organizations deploying ATs or PSATs.
- All rewards and prizes are to be paid promptly through IATTC field offices or through IATTC headquarters.





# Questions

