

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
c/o SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA, 92038

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING

San José, Costa Rica
23 - 24 February 1960

Plano de mil reuniones

The twelfth meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, being the regular annual meeting for 1960, convened at 10:30 a.m. 23 February 1960 in the conference room of the U.S. Operations Mission in the Edificio Rex in San José, Costa Rica.

Attending the meeting were the following persons:

Representatives of member governments:

- Costa Rica: Lic. José Luis Cardona-Cooper, Commissioner
Ing. Alfredo Ruiz Solórzano - Jefe del Departamento de Tierras y Bosques, Ministerio de Agricultura e Industrias
Sr. Milton Lopez - Jefe de la Sección de Pesca y Vida Silvestre, Ministerio de Agricultura e Industrias
- Panama: Sr. Henry Kourany, Secretario de la Embajada de Panamá
- U. S. A.: Mr. Robert L. Jones (Chairman of the Commission)
Mr. Lee F. Payne (Commissioner)
Mr. J. L. McHugh - U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, representing Mr. Arnie J. Suomela, Commissioner

Members of scientific staff of the Commission:

- Dr. Milner B. Schaefer, Director of Investigations
Mr. Hernán Sobrado H.)
Mr. William H. Bayliff) Scientists
Mr. Edward F. Klima)

Official Observers from other governments:

- Mexico - Sr. Fernando Flores, Secretario de la Embajada de Mexico
Guatemala - Sr. Coronel Roberto Lorenzana, Embajador
El Salvador - Lic. Santiago Rolando Alvorenga, Director del Departamento de Promoción de Economía de El Salvador
Honduras - Sr. Carlos Callejas, Secretario de la Embajada de Honduras
Colombia - Sr. José Mario Franco Ortega, Embajador
Ecuador - Sr. Jorge Salzado Vera, Agregado Comercial a la Embajada del Ecuador
Peru - Capitán de Navío Esteban Zimic, Jefe del Servicio Hidrográfico y Faros de la Marina del Perú
Chile - Sr. Augusto Millán Iriarte, Embajador
Italy - Prof. Domenico Vitola, Encargado de Negocios de Italia

Members of the Advisory Committee to the United States Section:

- Mr. Donald Loker
Mr. Anthony Nizetich

Members of Advisory Committee to the Costa Rican Section:

Dr. Lino Vicarioli, Director de Agricultura
Dr. Carlos Iglesias, Director de Industrias

Others:

Sr. Roy I. Kimmel, Chargé d'Affairs ad interim of the Embassy of
the U.S.A.
Mr. James Johnston (U.S.A. Embassy)

Sr. Kourany, representing Panama, was unable to arrive at the morning session of the meeting, since he had been only recently designated to represent his government in place of Commissioner Richard Eisenmann, who had been expected to attend but who had been unfortunately unable to do so.

An address of welcome, opening the meeting, was made by Licenciado José Luis Cardona-Cooper. He outlined the history of the Commission, its objectives, and its progress. He introduced the representatives of the member governments and the official observers from other governments and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Robert L. Jones replied on behalf of the United States Section, expressing their pleasure at being able to be in Costa Rica, and expressing satisfaction at the attendance of the observers from other nations.

Approval of the agenda

There had been circulated in advance a suggested agenda for the meeting. There being no requests for additional items to be added, the suggested agenda was adopted as the agenda for the meeting.

Discussion of the status of the fishery and research progress

Dr. Schaefer, Director of Investigations, commenced presentation of information on recent developments in the fishery for the tropical tunas and for the bait species, and on the conditions of the fish stocks, and of the results of research carried forward during the past year. This presentation was illustrated with a number of charts and graphs, in the form of projected lantern slides.

The presentation of this information, and discussion thereof by the Commissioners and others in attendance, continued during the remainder of the morning.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:00 noon.

The meeting reconvened at 2:35 p.m., representatives of all member nations being in attendance.

The Director of Investigations completed his presentation of the current research results, and answered a number of questions from the audience.

Annual Report for 1959

A draft of the Annual Report of the Commission for the calendar year 1959 had been prepared by the Director and sent to the Commissioners for review prior to the meeting. There were suggestions for some minor revisions, which were incorporated.

Since Mr. Kourany had not yet had the opportunity to study the report in detail, consideration of its approval was tabled until the following day.

Research program for 1960-1961

An outline of the recommended research program for fiscal year 1960-1961 had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

1. Collection, compilation and analysis of catch statistics, logbook data and related information for tunas and baitfishes
 - a. Continuing routine collection and compilation of current data, including computation of established statistical indices.
 - b. Continue research based on these data to study changes in abundance and yield in space and time, including both long-term and short-term changes.
 - c. Continuing research to measure the effects of fishing on the stocks, and the effects of changes in the abundance and distribution of fish stocks on the operating patterns of the fishing fleets.
 - d. Investigations of changes in efficiency of fishing vessels related to improvements in gear and operating methods.
 - e. Further development and application of theoretical population-dynamics models to describe effects of fishing on stock and yield.
2. Investigations of the life history, biology, and population structure of the yellowfin and skipjack tunas
 - a. Continuation of size-composition sampling program in San Diego, San Pedro, Peru and Ecuador.
 - b. Continuing research on age and growth, based on size composition data, including time and space variations.
 - c. Continuing research on estimation of abundance of year classes, and estimation of mortality rates, employing size composition data in conjunction with data on catch-per-unit-of-fishing-effort.
 - d. Studies of tuna migrations and population structure.
 - (1) Tagging
 - (a) Continued tagging operations from commercial fishing vessels from California, Peru and Ecuador.
 - (b) Tagging from chartered vessels to obtain data for times and areas not adequately covered by tagging from fishing vessels on regular fishing cruises.
 - (c) Continuing analysis of tag-recovery data to measure migration patterns and rates of movement, rates of growth, and mortality rates.
 - (2) Correlation of size-frequency data with tagging results to infer population structure.

- (3) Research on blood-typing as a method of studying population structure of tunas, in cooperation with scientists of the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in Hawaii and California.

e. Studies of tuna maturation, spawning, and early life history.

- (1) Completion of studies of spawning based on gonad examination, except for some additional collection of material from outlying islands inadequately sampled.
- (2) Completion of fecundity study for yellowfin; continuation of fecundity study of skipjack.
- (3) Continuation of studies of spawning and early development of tunas by collection of larvae and juveniles.
 - (a) Collection of materials on oceanographic and other cruises incidental to other studies.
 - (b) Continued systematic sampling of larvae off Costa Rica from the Puntarenas laboratory to assess seasonal variations.
 - (c) Completion of at least one major publication on the larvae and juveniles of the yellowfin and skipjack tunas and related species in the Eastern Tropical Pacific.

f. Behavior of tunas.

- (1) Studies of schooling habits of tunas - only incidental work will be done on this project during the year, the accumulated data having been analyzed and a publication now being in process of preparation.
- (2) Studies of temporal variations in abundance of tunas in individual fishing areas, as a basis of forecasting, and for correlation with variations of environmental factors.

- g. Feeding habits of tunas - Completion of a publication on the general studies made during the last two years. Continued studies to be of lesser intensity and directed toward special problems, such as the effect of islands in causing tuna aggregations.

3. Oceanography and tuna ecology

- a. Continuing study of accumulated oceanographic and meteorological data for the purpose of elucidating seasonal and annual variations in physical, chemical, and biological factors, and for study of oceanic processes.
- b. Completion of analysis and publication of "Eastropic" data.
- c. Analysis of data collected on the cruise to study processes in the area of the Central American "dome" and in the vicinity of Cocos Island in November-December 1959.
- d. Conducting in September-December 1960, jointly with Scripps Institution of Oceanography, of a cruise from the Panama Bight southward to Chile to study the physical, chemical, and biological oceanography of the region well offshore which has never been studied in detail, which appears to be necessary

for properly understanding events nearer shore off northern South America.

- e. Cooperation in oceanographic studies planned to be conducted in near-shore waters by scientists in Ecuador and Peru, to be related as closely as possible to (d) above, and which will also provide a continuing basis of measuring variations in the Peru Current and adjacent sea areas.
- f. Continued cooperation with other agencies in the collection of sea temperature and meteorological data from offshore areas and coastal stations, and in their compilation and analysis. (The U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries will use these data, in part, for the preparation of monthly current, synoptic charts to be issued routinely for the use of fishermen and scientists).
- g. Completion of studies now underway on indicator organisms; evaluation of results to determine whether they should be continued.

4. Research on baitfishes

- a. Studies in the Gulf of Nicoya.
 - (1) Monitoring of anchoveta population and herring population.
 - (2) Analysis of additional hydrographic data collected in 1959-1960.
 - (3) Collateral collection of tuna larvae off Cape Blanco (referred to under tuna biology, etc).
- b. Studies in the Gulf of Panama.
 - (1) Work on identification of anchovy larvae and juveniles.
 - (2) Preparation of report on rearing experiments.
 - (3) Full-scale tagging program using internal tags.
 - (4) Completion, if possible, of study on anchoveta feeding habits.
- c. Studies in the Gulf of Guayaquil (in cooperation with U.N. Special Fund project).
 - (1) Initiation of research on the physical, chemical, and biological oceanography in the Gulf.
 - (2) Initiation of studies of the anchoveta and other baitfishes.
- d. Continued collection of data and materials from other areas by tuna vessels and by special field trips.
- e. ~~Compilation and analysis of statistical data from tuna boat logbooks on the abundance and yield of bait stocks in major baiting areas.~~

At the request of the Chairman, Dr. Schaefer explained the various items in the outline, with particular reference to new lines of study which were proposed to be initiated. It was indicated that this program is substantially the same as that previously recommended to the member governments, although some curtailment of re-

search on tuna migrations would be necessary because the funds which would be appropriated for 1960-1961 would be about \$13,000 less than originally recommended. Following this discussion, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed that: The Commission approves and adopts the research program for the fiscal year 1960-1961 as presented by the Director of Investigations.

Cooperation with Special Fund projects in Ecuador and Peru

The Director of Investigations had informed the Commissioners in various correspondence, over the last few months, that the governments of both Peru and Ecuador have applied to the Special Fund of the United Nations for substantial grants for programs of fishery research and development over a four-year period. The Executing Agency, in each case, will be the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which will be responsible for preparing a detailed work program in consultation with the governments concerned, for recruitment of personnel, and for the administration of the projects. In both cases, in developing preliminary plans for the projects, which include substantial research in oceanography and on the biology and population dynamics of commercially important organisms, the officials of the countries and of FAO had sought the cooperation of the staff of the Tuna Commission.

In Peru, the program will be conducted by an "Institute of Marine Resources" and in Ecuador by a "Fisheries Institute".

Cooperation between scientists of the Tuna Commission and the staffs of these new organizations in research of mutual interest would be of obvious benefit to the Tuna Commission. It has been planned, therefore, to integrate certain aspects of the Commission's investigations with these new investigations: In Peru it is planned to continue the research on the tunas on substantially the current basis; research in oceanography in the Peru Current by the Commission's staff and scientists of Scripps Institution of Oceanography will be planned to complement the studies of the Peruvian project with full exchange of data; the Commission's staff would also assist with the planning and execution of research on the anchoveta population. In Ecuador, in addition to the already established work on tuna at Manta, it is planned to initiate investigations of the oceanography of the Gulf of Guayaquil and of the ecology and biology of baitfishes of that region in cooperation with the Fisheries Institute, and also to cooperate in the planning and execution of studies in oceanography in sea areas between the Ecuadorian mainland and the Galapagos Islands.

The Director of Investigations had exchanged correspondence with Dr. Finn, Director of the Fisheries Division of FAO, with a view to arranging for the cooperative work of the staff of the Tuna Commission and the staffs of the new Institutes in Ecuador and Peru. He had sent to Dr. Finn, informing the Commissioners at the same time, a draft of an agreement under which the Commission's Director of Investigations and the Directors of the Institutes will arrange for cooperation, and the furnishing to each other of facilities and services in the study of scientific problems of mutual interest. Dr. Finn had incorporated the provisions of this draft in a letter to Dr. Schaefer, indicating that approval of same would constitute the agreement between FAO and the Commission, to remain in effect until 31 December 1960, and to be extended and reviewed annually thereafter.

The pertinent paragraphs of Dr. Finn's letter are:

"I am glad to learn from you that so far as you can see, no very complex or formal arrangements appear to be necessary. The object of this letter is, therefore, to outline some Heads of Agreement which, if you agree with them,

would be regarded as a sufficient basis for establishing the collaboration which, I think we both agree, will be both desirable and necessary.

"The basis of this collaboration between your Commission and the two Institutes lies in a common interest in promoting and carrying out studies on the biology of tuna and of several species of small fish used as bait for tuna, and also in studies on the environment of tuna and tuna bait species.

"Close association with the scientific work of your Commission would undoubtedly enlarge and strengthen the scientific program of both the Institutes, and I believe that close collaboration in planning and executing programs of research between your Commission and the scientific staffs of the two Institutes would be mutually beneficial. The nature of the proposed collaboration, at the operating level, takes the form of an exchange of services and facilities. Since the two Institutes will establish, staff and equip laboratories and research vessels, certain of these could, from time to time, be made available to you and your staff. At the same time, you have personnel familiar with the oceanographic and biological phases of the work planned to be undertaken by the two Institutes, as well as certain equipment and facilities; certain of these might be made available to one or other of the Institutes as the need arises.

"I would therefore propose:

that the Directors of the two Institutes (who will both work under my direction), furnish the Commission such temporary laboratory quarters for your scientific officers on detail to either Institute, including fixed equipment and furniture and utilities, as shall be mutually agreed upon between you and either Director;

conversely, that you furnish either or both the two Directors or their scientific officers, similar facilities by mutual agreement;

that the methods of scientific collaboration between the staffs of the two Institutes and your staff (including detail of staff) be carried out as mutually agreed between you and the respective Institute Directors;

that there be a mutual exchange of unprocessed scientific data between the Commission and the two respective Institutes, and that you on the one hand and the two Institutes on the other, reciprocate in furnishing each to the other, duplicate copies of processed data in fields of mutual interest, as agreed upon by you and the two respective Directors;

that the two Institutes shall be free to publish the results of any mutual work for which they or their staff members have primary responsibility, and the Commission shall likewise be free to publish work for which your staff members are primarily responsible. Joint publication of certain results, if desirable, shall be agreed upon by you and the two respective Directors.

"I believe that it is necessary to add that no member of or delegate to the U.S. Congress nor any United States Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of any contract arising from this collaboration, or to any benefit which may arise therefrom; it being understood that this shall not be construed to extend to any agency or company incorporated in the United States of America where any such contract or agreement is specifically made for the benefit of such corporation or company.

"I suggest that the terms of this letter shall become effective on the receipt here of any affirmative reply from you, and shall remain in effect until 31 December 1960; and that these terms may be extended and revised annually on or about the 1st of November of each year."

The foregoing ^{information} ~~motion~~ having been presented by Dr. Schaefer, and discussed, the following resolution was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved:

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission formally approves the Director of Investigations' arranging joint research on problems of mutual interest with the Directors of the Institute of Fisheries in Ecuador and the Institute of Marine Resources in Peru.

Japanese catch statistics

The Director of Investigations had, prior to the meeting, informed the Commission of the lack of adequate statistics on Japanese fishing operations in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean, as follows:

"We have become aware that during the past three years, Japanese flag vessels, fishing by the long-line method, have been fishing in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean, and attempts have been made to collect, through the Japanese Fishery Agency, data on the localities and dates of such operations and the resulting tuna catches. Data were obtained for late 1957 and for 1958, but it is believed that these may not be complete. No data have been obtained for 1959, despite repeated requests.

"It is our belief that the amounts of the catch in the area of our responsibility have been minor, so far, but that they may increase greatly in the future. The lack of information on even a minor part of the tuna catch is regrettable, but the lack of information on large amounts, which may very well be in prospect, could render futile our studies of the effect of fishing on the tuna stocks in the Eastern Pacific".

A draft resolution from the Commission directed to the Japanese Government, urging that that Government provide the Commission with the statistical data needed, had been prepared by the Director of Investigations for the consideration of the Commission. This draft was considered in detail, and changes in wording were suggested. It was also agreed that the resolution should be directed not to the Japanese Government, but to the governments which are members of the Commission, as well as to the governments bordering on the Pacific Ocean represented at the meeting by observers, suggesting that they each address a communication to the Japanese Government requesting that the needed statistical data be forwarded to the Commission.

The resolution was tabled until the following day to permit necessary redrafting.

Research program and budget for 1961-1962.

The Director had prepared and circulated in advance of the meeting recommendations for the research program for the fiscal year 1 July 1961 to 30 June 1962, with estimates of the budget required for its execution. At the request of the Chairman, Dr. Schaefer reviewed the recommendations and the proposed budget amounting to \$384,915. The budget required for this research program is slightly less than that recommended for the previous year, but represents an increase of \$11,915 over the amount which will probably be appropriated for the previous year, (1960-1961).

After discussion of these recommendations, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed that: The program of research prepared by the Director of Investigations for the fiscal year 1 July 1961 to 30 June 1962 is recommended to the member governments and there is recommended to be appropriated a budget of \$384,915 for its execution.

Proportion of contribution from member governments for fiscal year 1961-1962

In accordance with the Convention, the Commission had determined that contributions from member governments for the joint expenses of the research program should be in proportion to the quantities of yellowfin and skipjack tuna from the Eastern Tropical Pacific utilized by each nation, with a minimum contribution of \$500.00. At the request of the Chairman, Dr. Schaefer presented statistics which showed that the utilization of these tuna species by member nations during the most recent calendar year (1959) was:

United States of America	295.8 million pounds
Republic of Costa Rica	1.1 million pounds
Republic of Panama	none

It was, therefore, moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that: The contributions for the joint expenses of the Commission during the fiscal year 1 July 1961 to 30 June 1962 shall be in the following proportions: United States of America 99.6%; Republic of Costa Rica 0.4%; Republic of Panama, minimum contribution of \$500.00.

Interest of additional countries in joining the Commission

The Chairman noted that at the last annual meeting the member governments had been requested to communicate with other governments bordering on the Eastern Pacific Ocean, calling to their attention that the Convention is open to adherence of all nations having an interest in the tuna fishery of this region, and pointing out the mutual desirability of having them adhere to the Convention; he asked for information on the results of this request. It was indicated that the member governments had communicated with the other nations concerned, and that, as a result, several of them had expressed considerable interest in the possibility of adhering to the Convention. The Director of Investigations had discussed the work of the Commission with government ministers in both Mexico and Ecuador. Ecuador had indicated in its proposal to the Special Fund of the United Nations for the establishment of a Fisheries Institute that it was in the process of joining the Commission. It was expected that that nation, and perhaps others, would adhere in the near future.

Observer at Second International Conference on the Law of the Sea

The Commission, as an international organization concerned with fisheries, had been invited by the Secretary General of the United Nations to send an observer to the Second International Conference on the Law of the Sea, which is to convene in Geneva on 17 March 1960, to deal with the matters of the breadth of the territorial sea and exclusive fishing zones. The desirability of sending the Director of Investigations to this conference was discussed, it being noted that his attendance could be valuable to the member governments and others if there should arise technical questions such as the geographical distributions of fish stocks and of the fisheries for them. It was pointed out, however, that he should not be concerned with political matters, which are completely outside the scope of the Commission's authority.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that: Dr. Schaefer is authorized to attend the Second International Conference on the Law of the Sea, convening in Geneva on 17 March, as an observer for the Tuna Commission, to deal with technical matters only, and that his expenses in attending the Conference will be paid from the funds for joint expenses of the Commission.

It then being 4:40 p.m., the meeting was adjourned until 10:00 a.m. the following day.

The meeting reconvened at the same location at 10:20 a.m. 24 February 1960.

Approval for publication of Annual Report for 1959

The representative from Panama had examined the draft of the Annual Report for 1959 and expressed his satisfaction with it. Representatives of the other two member countries indicated they were also satisfied with it. It was then moved, seconded, and unanimously passed that: The Annual Report of the Commission for the year 1959, as drafted by the Director of Investigations, is approved for publication.

Japanese catch statistics

The new draft of the resolution requesting Japanese catch statistics was examined, and some changes of language were made in both the English and Spanish texts. The resolution, which is appended hereto, was then moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted.

Election of officers for the next year

Sr. Lic. José L. Cardona-Cooper of Costa Rica was nominated for Chairman of the Commission for the ensuing year, and Mr. Arnie J. Suomela of the United States was nominated for Secretary of the Commission for the ensuing year; both were unanimously elected.

Date and place of next meeting

This time of the year appearing to be most convenient, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the next annual meeting shall convene on 23 February 1961.

In accordance with the regular rotation of meeting places, the next annual meeting would be held in Panama. It was suggested, however, that should another nation or nations adhere to the Convention, it would be desirable to hold the meeting in one of them. It was therefore moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that: The next annual meeting will be held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, unless another nation or nations adhere to the Convention during calendar year 1960, in which event the meeting will be held at a suitable location in the first nation to adhere, should that nation desire to have the meeting held there.

Sr. Henry Kourany, representing Panama, addressed the meeting expressing the satisfaction of his government with the progress of the Commission's work, and thanking the government of Costa Rica for its hospitality during the meeting.

Mr. Robert L. Jones, representing the United States, also expressed the gratitude of his government for the hospitality of the government of Costa Rica.

Sr. Cardone-Cooper noted that Mr. Eugene D. Bennett of the United States had been unable to attend the meeting because of illness, and suggested that the Commission express its regret that he was unable to attend and the hope that he would have a speedy recovery. This was unanimously approved.

The Commission also unanimously approved a suggestion that letters of thanks be sent to Mr. Stone, of the U.S. Operations Mission in Costa Rica, and to Mr. Sherman of the Centro Cultural Costaricense, for the facilities they had provided for the meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Resolution Respecting Japanese Catch Statistics

THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

Noting that Japanese flag vessels have been catching substantial amounts of tunas in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean

Noting that data on locations and dates of fishing operations and resulting catches of tunas, by vessels of whatever flag, are essential to the Commission's studies of the effects of fishing on the tuna stocks of the Eastern Pacific Ocean, especially in the region south of 5°N latitude between 110°W longitude and the mainland and in the region north of 5°N latitude between 120°W longitude and the mainland.

Considering that the investigations being conducted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission are of benefit also to all the countries of the tropical zone of the Eastern Pacific Ocean

Being informed by the Director of Investigations that informal requests for such data through the Japanese Fishery Agency have not resulted in such data being furnished to him, except for some data for the years 1957 and 1958

Respectfully suggests that the member Governments of the Commission, and the Governments of those countries bordering on the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean represented here by Observers, request, as soon as possible, the Government of Japan to take measures to maintain complete records of the fishing operations and tuna catches of its fishing vessels operating in the sea areas above referred to, and to make such records available to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission for its continuing studies of the tuna populations in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean.