

REPORT ON  
THE THIRTEENTH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE  
CONSERVATION OF YELLOWFIN TUNA

1. The meeting was held in San Diego beginning on Sunday, December 17th.
2. Mr. W. Vancampen (U. S. A.) was elected Chairman and Mr. J. Mercado (Mexico) was elected Secretary.
3. The credentials of the attendants were accepted as of the Twelfth Inter-Governmental Meeting.
4. The Provisional Agenda (Appendix 1) was adopted.
5. Dr. Joseph reported the 1972 estimated catch from the C. Y. R. A. as follows:

	<u>Yellowfin</u>	<u>Skipjack</u>
Canada	5.0	1.1
Ecuador	3.0	4.1
Japan	3.8	.2
Mexico	7.8	2.7
Panama	2.4	.9
Spain	3.4	.9
U. S. A.	119.3	24.4

	<u>Yellowfin</u>	<u>Skipjack</u>
Combined Countries:		
Bermuda		
Chile		
Columbia		
Costa Rica		
Peru		
France	<u>2.5</u>	<u>1.3</u>
	<u>147.5</u>	<u>35.6</u>

6. The U. S. A. stated that an informal proposal that would satisfy the requirements of developing nations had been made in Panama but that it had never been formally presented to the meeting. The U. S. delegation then presented the proposal for consideration. The proposal is as outlined in Appendix 2.

7. The Mexican delegation stated that they felt encouraged and requested time for further study. They did point out, however, that the formation of an adhoc committee might complicate this situation.

8. The Chair then adjourned the meeting.

9. Most of Monday, December 18th was occupied with inter-delegation meetings. The Mexican position can be simply described as follows.

They wanted:

A) the total Mexican catch during the 1973 open season on a free basis,  
and

B) in addition to the 6,000 ton small boat allowance, they wanted an

of 6,000 tons of Yellowfin will be available to their new vessels. If the catch during the open season exceeds 4,000 tons, the special allocation of 6,000 tons will be reduced by the amount in excess of 4,000 tons.

After lengthy discussions on the problems listed by Costa Rica, it was finally agreed that a special working group of the committee would be formed to study the specific problems of developing nations and to make recommendations as to solutions thereof. This is detailed in Appendix 4.

13. The Inter-Governmental meeting was then re-convened on Wednesday, December 20th with the following results.

A) All nations represented accepted the proposal (which satisfied the Mexican problem) as outlined in Appendix 3.

B) All member nations accepted the proposal (which satisfied the Costa Rica problem) as outlined in Appendix 4.

C) The area southwest of the Galapagos Islands was opened to free fishing for the year 1973 only. See Appendix 5.

D) The concept of the last free trip will continue on a thirty day basis only - Mexico suggested that the concept of a free trip at any time during the year after the season closure be brought up again for 1974.

14. The meeting was adjourned.

The 28th meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission was

convened; the meeting was chaired by Mr. William Terry (U. S. A.).

- A) Dr. Joseph was asked to draft the resolution incorporating the changes as outlined in Appendices 3 and 4.
- B) The creation of a special working party for review of problems of developing countries was approved.
- C) The opening of the area southwest of the Galapagos Islands for free fishing during 1973 only was approved. See Appendix 5.
- D) The applications of Nicaragua and France for membership in the committee was discussed. The U. S. A., Japan, and Canada stated that they supported acceptance of the applications. Costa Rica made no comment on their position and Mexico stated that they would review the matter and inform their decision by mail.
- E) It was agreed that Dr. Joseph would contact Panama and gain their acceptance of the proposed resolution concerning the 1973 fishery.
- F) The specific date of the next meeting was rested in the hands of the Chairman. It will, however, be held in Washington, D. C. sometime between October 15th - November 15th, 1973.

Appendix 1

THIRTEENTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE  
CONSERVATION OF YELLOWFIN TUNA

San Diego, California

December 17, 1972

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting by the Provisional Chairman
2. Appointment of Credentials Committee
3. Election of Officers
4. Consideration and adoption of agenda and organization of work
5. Consideration of measures for implementing the recommendations  
of the IATTC for 1973
6. Other business
7. Adjournment

Proposal of the United States Delegation for Revision of Paragraph 7 of the IATTC Resolution on Recommended Measures for the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna to Apply to the 1973 Season

7(a) Permit, during 1973, the newly constructed flag vessels of those members of the Commission which are developing countries and whose fisheries are in an early stage of development (that is, whose tuna catch in the Convention Area in 1970 did not exceed 12,000 short tons and whose total fish catch in 1969 did not exceed 400,000 metric tons) and which entered the fishery for yellowfin tuna in the Convention Area for the first time during the closed season in 1971 or during 1972 and which, because of characteristics such as size, gear or fishing techniques, present special problems to fish unrestricted for yellowfin tuna until such vessels have taken in the aggregate 2,000 short tons of yellowfin, or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the aggregate catch of such vessels to 2,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna;

7(b) Authorize an adhoc committee of the Commission, to be composed of one representative each of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and the particular member Government concerned, with such other members as may wish to participate, to meet at or about the time of the closure of the open season for the yellowfin tuna fishery to examine, in the light of information to be supplied by the Director of Investigations, the extent to which the objectives of this paragraph are likely to be achieved and to determine and recommend to the Contracting Parties such upward adjustment of the amount of yellowfin tuna which may be taken in unrestricted fishing by the vessels described above as may be appropriate to achieve the objectives of subparagraph (a), but not exceeding 4,000 short tons additional, such recommendation to become effective 10 days following notification to the Contracting Parties.

PROPOSAL

App. 3

7. Permit, during the closed season for 1973, the newly constructed flag vessels of those members of the Commission which are developing countries and whose fisheries are in an early stage of development (that is, whose tuna catch in the Convention Area in 1970 did not exceed 12,000 short tons and whose total fish catch in 1969 did not exceed 400,000 metric tons) and which entered the fishery for yellowfin tuna in the Convention Area for the first time during the closed season in 1971 or during 1972 and which, because of characteristics such as size, gear or fishing techniques, present special problems, to fish unrestricted for yellowfin tuna until such vessels have taken in the aggregate 6,000 short tons of yellowfin, or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the aggregate catch of such vessels up to 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna; provided, that if the aggregate catch of yellowfin tuna during the open season (including the last open trip) of the above described tuna fishing vessels of any such developing country should exceed 4,000 short tons (as determined by the Director of Investigations,) the allocation of 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna available to the described vessels of such country during the closed season shall be reduced by the amount that the open season catch of yellowfin tuna exceeds 4,000 short tons.

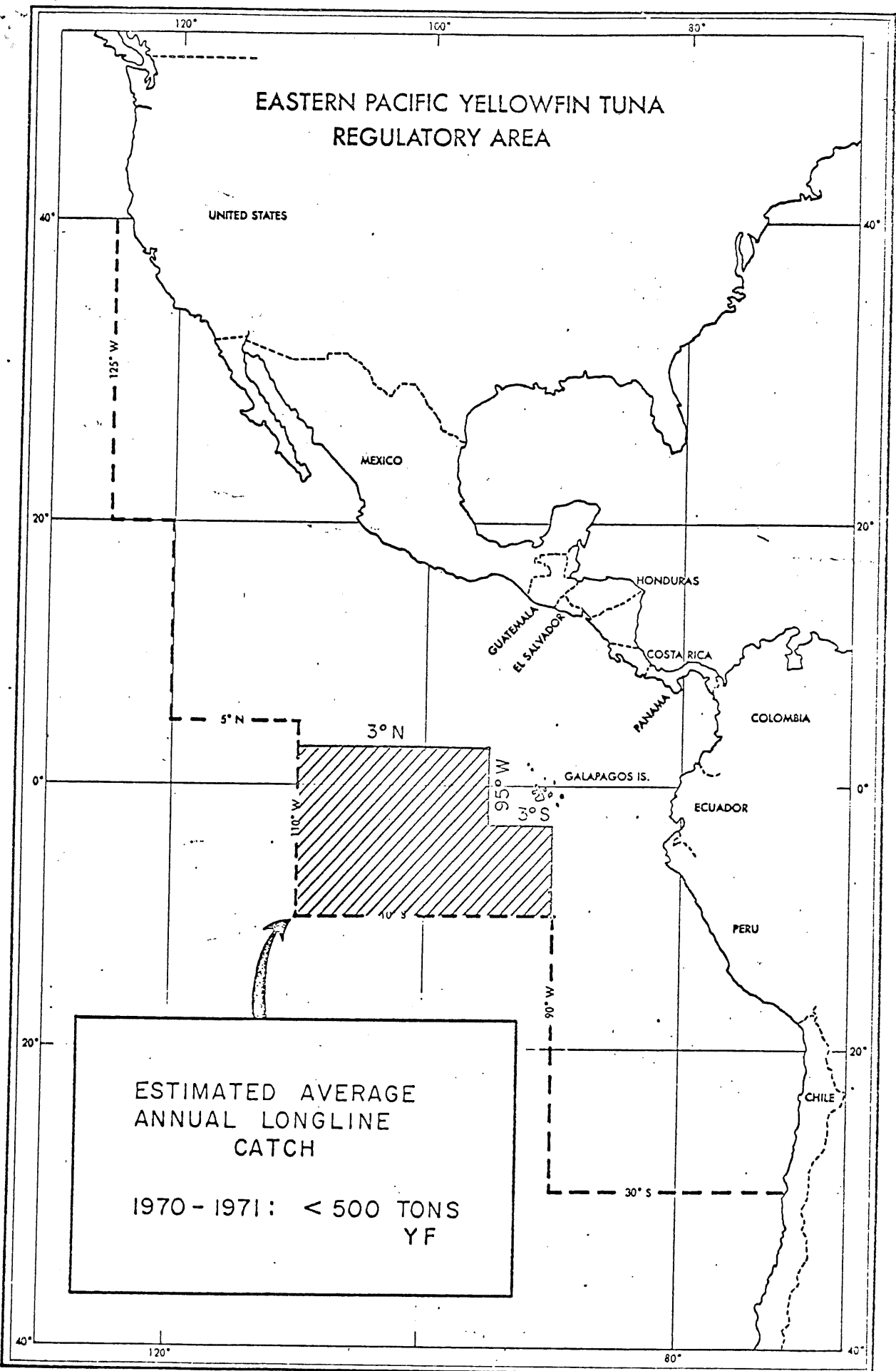
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To permit that founding members of the I. A. T. T. C. which are developing nations and whose fisheries are at an early stage of development and that due to their commitments of fishing effort have the possibility during 1973 to operate one or more fishing vessels that due to their size, gear and fishing techniques present special problems, to be able, through the I. A. T. T. C. , to request a meeting of a special working group of <sup>the</sup> members of the Commission plus the interested country, to study the specific problem and to recommend to all the other members the solution which may be adopted. This recommendation will be transmitted to all member nations by cable and their answer shall be transmitted within 10 days. The Chairman of the Inter-Governmental Meeting, after consulting with the other members of the meeting, shall appoint the members of the Working Group.

Costa Rica offers the city of San Jose as a meeting place for the Working Group.



Appendix 5



( PREPARED FOR I.G. WORKING GROUP MEETING, MEXICO CITY, APRIL 12-14, 1972 )

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION  
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING  
RESUMEN DE LAS MINUTAS DE LA VIGESIMA OCTAVA REUNION

December 20, 1972  
20 de Diciembre de 1972

San Diego, California  
U.S.A.

Chairman: Mr. William M. Terry, U.S.A.  
Presidente: Sr. William M. Terry, EE.UU.

Acting Secretary: Mr. Shigemi Ando, Japan  
Secretario Interino: Sr. Shigemi Ando, Japon

The twenty-eighth meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission convened in plenary session in the Toledo Room of the Sheraton Airport Hotel, San Diego, California at 1055 hours December 20, 1972. The following Commissioners and Government representatives were in attendance:

CANADA

Commissioner

Mr. G. F. Waring

COSTA RICA

Commissioners

Ing. Eduardo Bravo Pérez

Mr. Fernando Flores Banuet

JAPAN

Mr. Tatsuo Yamaguchi

Mr. Koji Imamura

Mr. Shigemi Ando

MEXICO

Amb. Castro y Castro

Commissioners

Mr. Arturo Díaz Rojo

Mr. Joaquin Mercado

Mr. Pedro Mercado

Mr. Amin Zarur

U.S.A.

Commissioners

Mr. John G. Driscoll Jr.

Mr. Donald P. Loker

Mr. William M. Terry

IATTC

Dr. James Joseph

Director of Investigations

Chairman: Mr. William M. Terry

Acting Secretary: Mr. Shigemi Ando

Interpreters

Mr. Anthony Sierra

Mr. José de Seabra

The Chairman convened the meeting and thereafter proceeded to explain that at its 27th Meeting held earlier this year in Panama the Commission approved a resolution recommending the establishment of a catch quota of 130,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna during 1973 with the provision that the Director of Investigations may increase it by not more than three successive increments of 10,000 short tons each, if he concludes from re-examination of the available data that such increases would offer no substantial danger to the stock. The Chairman further explained that agreement was not reached at the Panama meeting on a method for implementing the recommended quota. He did explain, however, that such agreement was reached in the 13th Inter-governmental Meeting on the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna held in San Diego on December 17-20, 1972. He then referred to a resolution (APPENDIX I) from the 13th Intergovernmental Meeting which recommended to the Commission certain measures to be considered for inclusion in the Commission's recommendations for the management of yellowfin tuna during 1973. The resolution was discussed by the members of the Commission and it was unanimously agreed that the principles discussed therein should be included in the Commission's resolution concerning recommendations for conservation measures.

The Chairman next reviewed previous suggestions made by the Director of Investigations to allow fishing on an experimental basis during the closed season for yellowfin tuna in an area of the Commission Yellowfin Regulatory Area (CYRA) lying westward of the Galapagos Islands. This was discussed by those present and all national sections agreed that such action should be taken on an experimental basis during 1973.

A draft of the Commission's resolution concerning recommendations for conservation measures for yellowfin tuna during 1973, including the suggested recommendations transmitted by the 13th Inter-Governmental Meeting, was discussed by the Commission. After discussion it was accepted unanimously (Appendix II).

The Chairman next reviewed an additional recommendation (Appendix I, last two paragraphs) from the 13th Intergovernmental Meeting which suggests the establishment of a special working group comprised of members of the Commission, to deal with special problems which might develop during 1973 for certain member countries of the Commission as a result of the management program. At such time as such problems present themselves the interested country can, through the offices of the Commission, request a meeting of the special working group. The Government of Costa Rica offered its capital, San Jose, as a meeting place for this working group.

The Chairman next noted that both he and the Director of Investigations, on separate occasions, had the opportunity to discuss the activities of the Commission with government authorities in Spain, a country whose flag vessels have been fishing within the Convention area. He reported further that the discussions were quite fruitful and an atmosphere of mutual cooperation prevailed between the Commission and Spain.

The Chairman next mentioned that some time had elapsed since Nicaragua and France had made application to adhere to the Convention establishing the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. He urged all Member Governments to act on

these applications as soon as possible. He was informed by some of the national sections present that action had already been taken by their governments and he was assured by others that action would be taken forthwith.

In his closing remarks the Chairman thanked all national sections for their participation in the meeting. There being no further business he declared the 28th Meeting of the Commission closed at 1120 hours, 20 December 1972.

APPENDIX I

Draft resolution from the 13th Inter-Governmental  
Meeting on the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna

RESOLUTION

The Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna,

- Considering that the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, at its 27th Meeting, held in Panama, R.P., in November 1972, decided to recommend to the Contracting Parties a yellowfin tuna catch quota for 1973 of 130,000 short tons, with the possibility of up to three increments of 10,000 short tons each, at the discretion of the Director of Investigations, and further

- Considering that the tuna fishing industries of certain member countries are faced, or may be faced, with special problems in 1973,

Resolves to recommend to the IATTC that it recommend to its member Governments that they continue in 1973 the same measures that were in effect for the conservation of yellowfin tuna in 1972, with the following modifications in addition to the increase in the catch quota noted above:

Permit, during the closed season of 1973, the newly constructed flag vessels of those members of the Commission which are developing countries and whose fisheries are in an early stage of development (that is, whose tuna catch in the Convention Area in 1970 did not exceed 12,000 short tons and whose total fish catch in 1969 did not exceed 400,000 metric tons and which entered the fishery for yellowfin tuna in the Convention Area for the first time during the closed season in 1971 or during 1972 and which, because of characteristics such as size, gear or fishing techniques, present special problems to fish unrestricted for yellowfin tuna until such vessels have taken in the aggregate 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna, or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the aggregate catch of such vessels to 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna; provided that if the aggregate catch of yellowfin tuna, as determined by the Director of Investigations, during the open season (including the last unrestricted trip) of the above described tuna fishing vessels of any such developing country should exceed 4,000 short tons, the allocation of 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna available to the above described vessels of such country during the closed season shall be reduced by the amount that the open season catch of yellowfin tuna exceeds 4,000 short tons.

Further resolves, to permit founding members of the IATTC which are developing nations and whose fisheries are at an early stage of development and that due to their commitments of fishing effort have the possibility during 1973 to acquire one or more fishing vessels that due to their size, gear and fishing techniques present special problems, to request through the IATTC a meeting of a special working group of all members of the Commission to study the specific problem and to recommend a solution. This recommendation will be transmitted to all member nations by cable and their answer shall be transmitted within 10 days.

Costa Rica offers the city of San Jose as a meeting place for the Working Group.

RESOLUTION

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Taking note that the stock of yellowfin tuna exploited in the eastern Pacific Ocean prior to 1965 was being fished at a rate faster than the stock could naturally replace itself,

Taking note also that the conservation regime first implemented in 1966 and maintained each year since has successfully maintained the stock of yellowfin tuna inhabiting the Commission's yellowfin regulatory area (CYRA) defined in the resolution adopted by the Commission on May 17, 1962, at high levels of abundance,

Considering the condition of the stock during late 1972,

Considering also that the program of experimental fishing designed to empirically ascertain the maximum sustained yield from the yellowfin stock has operated successfully since its inception,

Taking note that the recommendations for establishing a conservation regime during 1972, approved at its 26th Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, were for 1972 only,

Considering certain unique problems which were evident in 1972, remain unresolved,

Considering also the resolution from the 13th Intergovernmental Meeting held in San Diego, California on December 17-20, 1972, on the conservation of yellowfin tuna which recommends certain management decisions to the Commission,

Concludes that it is desirable to continue in 1973 the conservation program for yellowfin tuna and

Therefore recommends to the High Contracting Parties that they take joint action to:

- 1) Establish the annual catch limit (quota) on the total catch of yellowfin tuna for the calendar year 1973 at 130,000 short tons from the Commission's Yellowfin Regulatory Area (CYRA) defined in the resolution adopted by the Commission on May 17, 1962, provided:
  - a) that if the annual catch rate is projected to fall below 3 short tons per standard day's fishing, measured in purse-seine units adjusted to limits of gear efficiency previous to 1962, as estimated by the Director of Investigations, the unrestricted fishing for yellowfin tuna in the (CYRA) shall be curtailed so as not to exceed the then current estimate of equilibrium yield and shall be closed on a date to be fixed by the Director of Investigations;
  - b) that the Director of Investigations may increase this limit by no more than three successive increments of 10,000 short tons each if he concludes from re-examination of available data that such increase will offer no substantial danger to the stock.

- 2) Reserve a portion of the annual yellowfin tuna quota for an allowance for incidental catches of tuna fishing vessels when fishing in the (CYRA) for species normally taken mingled with yellowfin tuna, after the closure of the unrestricted fishing for yellowfin tuna. The amount of this portion should be determined by the scientific staff of the Commission at such time as the catch of yellowfin tuna approaches the recommended quota for the year.
- 3) Allow vessels to enter the (CYRA) during the open-season, which begins January 1, 1973, with permission to fish for yellowfin tuna without restriction on the quantity until the return of the vessel to port.
- 4) Close the fishery for yellowfin tuna in 1973 at such date as the quantity already caught plus the expected catch of yellowfin tuna by vessels which are at sea with permission to fish without restriction reaches 130,000, 140,000, 150,000 or 160,000 short tons, if the Director of Investigations so determines that such amounts should be taken, less the portion reserved for incidental catches in Item 2 above and for the special proportion allowed for in Items 6 and 8 below, such date to be determined by the Director of Investigations.
- 5) Permit each vessel not provided with a special allowance under Items 6 and 8 below, fishing tuna in the (CYRA) after the closure date for the yellowfin tuna fishery to land an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna taken in catches of other species in the (CYRA) on each trip commenced during such closed season. The amount each vessel is permitted to land as an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna shall be determined by the Government which regulates the fishing activities of such vessels; provided, however, that the aggregate of the incidental catches of yellowfin tuna taken by all such vessels of a country so permitted shall not exceed 15 percent of the combined total catch taken by such vessels during the period these vessels are permitted to land incidental catches of yellowfin tuna.
- 6) Permit the flag vessels of each country of 400 short tons capacity and less fishing tuna in the (CYRA) after the closure date for the yellowfin tuna fishery to fish freely until 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna are taken by such vessels or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the catch of yellowfin tuna by such vessels to 6,000 short tons; and thereafter to permit such vessels to land an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna taken in the catch of other species in the (CYRA) on each trip commenced after 6,000 tons have been caught. The amount each vessel is permitted to land as an incidental catch shall be determined by the Government which regulates the fishing activities of such vessels; provided however, that the aggregate of the incidental catches of yellowfin tuna taken by such vessels of each country so permitted shall not exceed 15 percent of the total catch taken by such vessels during trips commenced after 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna have been caught.
- 7) The species referred to in Items 2, 5 and 6 are skipjack tuna, bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna, albacore tuna, bonito, billfishes and sharks.



- 8) Permit, during the closed season for 1973, the newly constructed flag vessels of those members of the Commission which are developing countries and whose fisheries are in an early stage of development (that is, whose tuna catch in the Convention Area in 1970 did not exceed 12,000 short tons and whose total fish catch in 1969 did not exceed 400,000 metric tons) and which entered the fishery for yellowfin tuna in the Convention Area for the first time during the closed season in 1971 or during 1972 and which, because of characteristics such as size, gear or fishing techniques, present special problems, to fish unrestricted for yellowfin tuna until such vessels have taken in the aggregate 6,000 short tons of yellowfin, or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the aggregate catch of such vessels to 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna; provided that, if the aggregate catch of yellowfin tuna as determined by the Director of Investigations during the open season (including the last unrestricted trip) of the above described tuna fishing vessels of any such developing country should exceed 4,000 short tons, the allocation of 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna available to the above described vessels of such country during the closed season shall be reduced by the amount that the open season catch of yellowfin tuna exceeds 4,000 short tons.
- 9) a) In order to not curtail their fisheries those countries whose Governments accept the Commission's recommendations, but whose fisheries of yellowfin tuna are not of significance, will be exempted of their obligations of compliance with the restrictive measures.
- b) Under present conditions, and according to the information available, an annual capture of 1,000 tons of yellowfin tuna is the upper limit to enjoy said exemption.
- c) After the closure of the yellowfin tuna fishery, the Governments of the contracting parties and cooperating countries may permit their flag vessels to land yellowfin tuna without restriction in any country described in paragraphs a) and b) above which has tuna canning facilities until such time as the total amount of yellowfin tuna landed in such country during 1973 reaches 1,000 short tons.
- 10) For 1973 only, in order to avoid congestion of unloading and processing facilities around the date of the season closure and the danger that vessels may put to sea without adequate preparations, any vessel which completes its trip before the closure may sail to fish freely for yellowfin tuna within the (CYRA) on any trip which is commenced within 30 days after the closure.
- 11) For 1973 only, exclude from the CYRA on an experimental basis the area defined as follows: the area encompassed by a line drawn commencing at 110°W longitude and 3°N latitude extending east along 3°N latitude to 95°W longitude; thence south along 95°W longitude to 3°S latitude; thence east along 3°S latitude to 90°W longitude; thence south along 90°W longitude to 10°S latitude; thence west along 10°S latitude to 110°W longitude; thence north along 110°W longitude to 3°N latitude.
- 12) Obtain by appropriate measures the cooperation of those Governments whose vessels operate in the fishery, but which are not parties to the Convention for the establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, to put into effect these conservation measures.

