

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

Scripps Institution of Oceanography
La Jolla, California 92037, U.S.A.

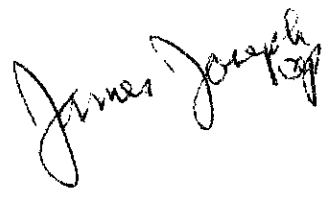
Date: March 23, 1977
Ref: 8035-160a

Memorandum

From: Director of Investigations
To: All attendees of the XX Intergovernmental Meeting for the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna
Subject: Transmittal of the Minutes of the Meeting

This past week Mr. José B. Godoy M. of the Nicaragua delegation sent us copies of the minutes of the XX Intergovernmental Meeting for the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna, held in Managua, Nicaragua in October 1976, asking that we distribute them to the attendees.

We are pleased to enclose a copy of the Minutes, together with a set of the appendices.



CLP/rn
enc.

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

Scripps Institution of Oceanography
La Jolla, California 92037, U.S.A.

Date: December 7, 1976
Ref: 6870-160

Memorandum

From: Director of Investigations *CLP*

To: All Commissioners and attendees of the 33rd meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Subject: Additional material from the 33rd meeting

Transmitted herewith are copies of speeches given by the President of Nicaragua, His Excellency Anastasio Somoza, by Mr. José B. Godoy M., Chairman of the Commission, and by Dr. James Joseph, Director of Investigations (IATTC) at the opening of the Commission's 33rd meeting. These were received too late for inclusion with the minutes of the meeting, but should be attached to them now.

Also enclosed is a copy of a resolution pertaining to the tuna-porpoise situation, which was adopted at the 20th intergovernmental meeting, held in Managua during the same week as the Commission's 33rd meeting. Some of the participating governments have requested that this be distributed to the persons receiving the minutes of the meeting because it pertains to activities of the Commission.

CLP/rn
enc.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The 20th Intergovernmental Meeting
on the
Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna

RECOGNIZING THAT the operations of the international tuna fleet which purse seines for yellowfin tuna in the eastern tropical Pacific involve the incidental mortality of marine mammals, and

CONSIDERING ALSO THAT such operations of the international tuna purse seine fleet impact on the populations of porpoise inhabiting the waters of the eastern tropical Pacific, and

RECOGNIZING THAT there is a need to determine on an international basis the impact of incidental mortality on the individual porpoise stocks.

RESOLVES:

- A. To support the action taken by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) instructing the Director of Investigations to undertake a comprehensive technical review of all existing information pertaining to the tuna porpoise problem and to prepare a detailed proposal for Commission porpoise research.
- B. To recommend that the Commission reconvene at the earliest reasonable date but no later than June of 1977 to consider the proposal prepared by the Director of Investigations and to make decisions concerning the implementation of the proposal.

- C. To support, in principle, a guest scientist program of the Commission but to await the presentation of the proposal prepared by the Director of Investigations in order to determine how such a program might relate to future commission efforts.
- D. To permit 1,000 tons of the 1977 IATTC yellowfin tuna quota to be allocated during the closed season to the United States for continued research on the reduction of incidental porpoise mortality.
- E. To agree to collect for transmission to the Commission on a calendar year basis the best possible information regarding the following:
 - a. the number and total capacity tonnage of its purse seine vessels fishing in association with porpoise,
 - b) the number of sets made on tuna associated with porpoise by its purse seine vessels,
 - c) the average number of porpoise encircled per set,
 - d) the amount of yellowfin tuna caught in association with porpoise by its purse seine vessels, and
 - e) the number of porpoise by species incidentally killed.
- F. To cooperate with all other interested governments in the exchange of scientific data on porpoise mortality.

RESOURCES OF THE SEA -- HOPE FOR HUMANITY: SOMOZA

Speech given by the Honorable President of the Republic, Mr. Anastasio Somoza, during the inauguration of the 33rd meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission at the Intercontinental Hotel on October 11, 1976

Honorable members of the State, honorable ministers and vice-ministers, honorable members of the diplomatic corps, honorable heads of the autonomous organizations of the State, honorable members of the general staff of the national guard, honorable commissioners of the 33rd meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), ladies and gentlemen,

I am greatly pleased to be present at the opening session of the 33rd meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission of which Nicaragua has been a part since 1973. I consider this meeting to be very important because it will deal with the coordination of inter-relations among the member countries and will seek suitable means to develop and rationalize the exploitation of tunas and related species.

Besides the immediate interests of this group there is the obvious need to analyze the resources of the sea in terms of food for mankind.

A great deal has been said lately about these resources and the necessity of exploiting them in a technical and rational manner in order to avoid abuse and dangerous overfishing.

The demographic explosion in the world, ecological changes and, even more, the intensification of agriculture without a scientific basis have been creating a disturbing crisis in the production of basic foodstuffs, which are required on a daily basis by mankind.

In the face of this grave situation, which has now become a world concern, the scientist in his laboratory and governmental leaders have been searching for a solution to this problem and serious studies have been carried out on natural resources, as well as means of controlling, managing and developing them.

Investigations have been made on the resources of the sea, on the potential of the reserves, and on the protein content of these resources. As a result investigators have come to the conclusion that the food which the sea provides and which can be extracted to satisfy the needs of mankind, is the solution to the problem.

Also there has arisen a basic question about the problem of rationalizing the use of the resources of the sea, so that these riches do not meet the same fate that they have in some countries. I believe it is in this area that the real importance of this meeting is manifest. In the words of Engineer Jose B. Godoy I see the future of this Commission to be not only an attempt to strengthen itself but more important to put its best efforts into the fulfillment of its

task which is to increase the riches of the sea by means of efficient methods and adequate controls to assure future generations of a sustained supply of calories and proteins justly required by an active and progressive society.

In my capacity as President of the Republic, I cordially greet the honorable commissioners present here and at the same time I declare this meeting to be open.

My sincere wish is that God may enlighten your decisions and that He guide you not only along the lines of economic interest but also that He inspire you to a humanistic philosophy which will give lustre to your noble objectives which offer a voice of hope to humanity.

Many thanks,

A. Somoza

SPEECH BY JOSE B. GODOY M.

on the occasion of the opening session of the 33rd meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

Mr. President, heads of government offices, members of the diplomatic corps, honorable ministers and vice-ministers of the state, honorable heads of the autonomous organizations of the state, honorable members of the general staff of the Nicaragua national guard, honorable commissioners, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Nicaraguan Delegation, of which I am a member representing the Instituto de Fomento Nacional, I wish to express our most cordial greetings this morning upon beginning the 33rd meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, an event which takes on profound significance due to the presence of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Anastasio Somoza Debayle, who by honoring us with his presence, stimulates us to bring to a happy ending the decisions which must be made with regards to our activities.

It is no exaggeration to state that the resources of the sea are the last important remaining means for man to free himself from hunger and to assure an adequate supply of highly nutritious food, in the present and in the future.

The above statement should serve as a means of orienting the nations of the world to the need of giving emphasis to the utilization of fishery resources, even though it involves, especially for all countries, the study, control, administration and development of these resources, keeping in mind the rational basis for exploitation. In this regard the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission fulfills a praiseworthy task.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that 60% of the population in developing countries suffers chronic malnutrition and hunger. Except for North America and Western Europe, in nearly all parts of the world the daily consumption of protein and calories is less than the minimum required in an active and progressive society.

On the other hand, the world population which was about 4,000 million in 1974, increases at a daily rate of 2.1%. If this growth rate continues, we must expect that the total number of human beings will reach 7,000 million as we enter the 21st Century. In these circumstances the difference in nutrition will be greater and this makes us think about the unfailing need to increase food production, in time and space, to cover the minimum needs which then will be required.

From this one can see that the development and utilization of the living resources of the sea, which occupy two thirds of the earth's surface, now play an important role and are becoming increasingly important in man's efforts to solve the problem posed by the continual demand for food, the need to reduce

the nutrition deficit and the obligation to provide a better life. In light of these urgent matters every possible effort should be made to increase the availability of fishery products, by means of more efficient measures of control adequate to assure a sustained supply.

In effect we can say that the fishery resources in general, and tuna in our particular case, have transcendental importance in the development of human life and thus it is logical that emphasis should be given day by day to their rational utilization on the basis of strict compliance with the controls necessary to their conservation, thus maintaining a more just and fair distribution for the coastal nations.

In 1973 Nicaragua in search of new horizons for her fisheries became a member of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, ratifying the Convention signed in Washington in 1949 between the U.S.A. and Costa Rica, taking into consideration the exploitation of tunas at a general and continual level of utilization. As all of you know, this organization at present is backed by the member countries which benefit from the catch of tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean under regulations that are permanently formulated by means of information which is obtained, studied and interpreted in an objective manner by the executive staff which is the scientific body that supports the utilization of the fish populations under its jurisdiction, thus fulfilling the laudable task of conserving the riches of the sea, the patrimony of our countries, in which coming generations will find a certain source of nutrition.

After 26 years from its inception, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission is the principal organization in this field, and its authority is recognized even by non-member countries, because there are many advantages from participating in the Commission's work, especially the support given by keeping and making available to the Commission the tuna logbooks, data that serve to carry out the scientific studies and make possible the formulation of recommendations for methods of capture and the establishment of suitable limits on the total tonnage of catch. This is of enormous importance for the economic welfare of the countries in the regulatory area for yellowfin tuna and for other nations that exploit this fishery, since it serves to establish conservation measures for the tuna resource and therefore to stabilize industrial development and the commercialization of these species, as well as avoiding dangerous and ineffective investment.

The international solidarity involved directly or indirectly in the interests and purposes of the Commission, should lead to its strengthening, not only so that it continues its useful work but that its work be extended to other areas and activities, above all to the grave problem of increasing environmental contamination.

We hope that in this 33rd meeting of the IATTC we will find an adequate means of working with each other rather than against each other, and that the discussions will be carried out with logic, justice and brotherhood in order to obtain results leading to an agreement which is stimulating and preferential for developing member countries which need an equitable basis to continue the struggle to develop and rationalize the exploitation of tuna and tuna-like species as a valuable and important part of their respective economies.

SPEECH BY DR. JAMES JOSEPH

on the occasion of the opening session of the 33rd meeting of the
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Mr. President, honored guests to this meeting, ladies and gentlemen,

I am indeed honored to have this opportunity to say a few words to you on the occasion of the 33rd meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

As you all know, there are major changes taking place in the use of ocean resources, including fish. There is a strong trend among the nations of the world to extend their jurisdictions over these resources.

Such action would place many species of animals under the control of the coastal states. Such control could be effective for the species which are resident in coastal areas. However, for species such as tunas which undertake vast migrations across entire oceans, travelling from the juridical zone of one nation to that of another or to the high seas, special problems would be encountered. For these species management by a coastal state alone cannot be effective, because the fish do not recognize boundaries established by man, but respond only to environmental boundaries.

Species such as tunas which migrate over great distances can be properly managed only through international cooperation. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission is an example of such international cooperation.

The Commission was established in 1949, more than 25 years ago, by treaty between Costa Rica and the United States. Since then membership has increased to eight nations, including our host Nicaragua, the most recent nation to adhere.

The objective of the Commission is conservation of the tuna resources of the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Through this program the yellowfin tuna resource has been maintained at levels which can support maximum yields on a sustained basis.

Although the Commission has had problems deriving from philosophical differences relating to the distribution of the resource among users, all countries have agreed to the need for management, and have made sacrifices to see that management has been effective in terms of conservation.

I am optimistic that such cooperation will continue in the future, and that the tuna resources of the eastern Pacific Ocean will be available to future generations.

It is only through such international cooperation that the living resources of the sea can be sustained in perpetuity.

This 33rd meeting of the Commission has special significance because it is being held during a time when changing concepts concerning the uses of the ocean are evolving. I am confident that all delegates to this meeting will keep this in mind as they work toward a successful conclusion.