

# COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT) INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

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## MEMORANDUM

7 December 2024

Ref.: DRAFT

To: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation  
c.c.: Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia

From: Arnulfo L. Franco, Director

Re: IATTC Seabird Action Plan – Intersessional Meeting of the Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group (EBWG) – 13 January 2025 (*by videoconference*)

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### Background:

The second meeting of the Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group (EBWG) agreed in 2024 to adopt the **Seabird Action Plan** (described in Annex 1 of the EBWG-02 Recommendations). The overarching goal of the Plan is to update Resolution C-11-02 in 2025, after consultation with the EBWG and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

The Seabird Action Plan requires the IATTC scientific staff to conduct a seabird assessment for presentation to the EBWG in 2025, which should include, but not be limited to: a) a comparison between mitigation measures adopted in Resolution C-11-02 and those in other tRFMOs; b) an update of document SAR-7-05b: spatial distributions of seabird species in the IATTC Convention Area, overlap with LL fishing effort, and conservation statuses; c) an overview of mitigation measures in use by CPCs in the IATTC Convention Area as required in paragraph 5 of Resolution C-11-02; and d) a summary of observed and estimated seabird bycatch rates in the IATTC Convention Area, including geographic information where possible.

The recommendations of the 2nd EBWG also stipulate that an **intersessional meeting** will be held prior to the third meeting of the EBWG. **This meeting has been scheduled for January 13, 2025, from 3PM to 6PM PST (UTC-8).**

### Objectives:

The January intersessional meeting will review the Seabird Action Plan and the staff's progress towards the goals that it establishes. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for participants to provide feedback, as appropriate, with a view to ensuring the successful implementation of the Plan.

### Participation:

The meeting will be open to all interested **IATTC Members** but, given the nature of the topics to be covered, it is recommended that the participants that they designate have proven expertise, knowledge, experience, or interests on seabirds and related issues.

**Relevant IGOs and accredited NGOs** are also encouraged to participate as observers. In addition, it is understood that the IATTC staff may identify and invite **individual experts** as well as representatives of **other relevant entities** that have experience in the field.

As usual, a **registration form** will be posted on the meeting website to allow for each participant to register individually. This registration form can also be used for the designated representatives of IGOs and NGOs. If there are problems using the registration form, interested participants should contact directly Ms. Monica Galvan, Assistant to the Director, at [mgalvan@iattc.org](mailto:mgalvan@iattc.org).

#### **Arrangements:**

The intersessional Seabird Action Plan meeting will be held by **videoconference**, utilizing the Zoom platform and will be organized and facilitated by the IATTC staff. An invitation to join the meeting will be sent individually to each registered participant.

As indicated above, the meeting will be held on 13 January 2025. The meeting will be scheduled for a maximum duration of three hours, starting at **3 PM PST (UTC -8)** and finalizing around **6 PM PST (UTC -8)**.

For the convenience of the participants, a document will be posted on the website with more precise indications on the ways the meeting will be conducted, taking into account the special requirements and limitations of videoconferencing, based on the practice followed by the Commission and its bodies for previous IATTC meetings by videoconference.

Languages: English and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation.

A **provisional agenda** is shared below, which will also be posted on the meeting website, as soon as possible.

#### **Provisional agenda:**

1. Welcome to participants and adoption of the agenda.
2. A brief description of the Seabird Action Plan.
3. Progress made by the staff on the seabird assessment:
  - a) Spatial distributions, overlap and seabird bycatch rates in the IATTC Convention Area.
  - b) Review of conservation and management measures and mitigation techniques used by the CPCs in the IATTC Convention Area.
4. Others.
5. Closure of the meeting.