

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND THE
EXCHANGE AND RELEASE OF DATA**

between

**THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA
COMMISSION**

and

THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (hereafter IATTC)
and the Pacific Community (hereinafter SPC):

RECOGNISING that the objective of the IATTC under the 2003 Antigua Convention is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by that Convention and that the functions of the IATTC also include the conservation of species and ecosystems associated with these fish stocks or otherwise impacted by the fisheries targeting them;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that SPC is currently, among others, the science provider to the WCPFC through the work of its Oceanic Fisheries Programme, and needs access to accurate and comprehensive scientific data on fisheries targeting the resources of tuna in the region, billfish and other oceanic species including non-target species in order to provide high-quality scientific information and advice on the status of, and fishery impacts on, stocks targeted or otherwise impacted by regional oceanic fisheries;

NOTING that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention calls upon the IATTC to cooperate with subregional, regional, and global

fishery organizations and arrangements and, as appropriate, establish relevant institutional arrangements such as consultative committees, in agreement with such organizations or arrangements, with the goal of promoting the achievement of the objective of the Antigua Convention;

CONSCIOUS of the existence of a shared area under their respective competence and, additionally, of fish stocks and other species that migrate through areas which fall under the scientific purview of both IATTC and SPC;

DESIROUS to put into place arrangements and procedures to enable, facilitate and promote scientific cooperation, data exchange and sharing between the two organizations in order to enhance their scientific missions and activities;

CONVINCED of the benefits of establishing scientific partnerships and cooperation in furtherance of their respective institutional objectives as detailed in their relevant instruments such as treaties, statutes, regulations and resolutions;

RECOGNIZING the importance of guaranteeing the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of fishing resources in the Pacific Ocean and the conservation of associated or impacted the species and ecosystems and their biodiversity,

Agree as follows:

1. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The IATTC and SPC agree to establish and maintain cooperation and collaboration on matters of common scientific interest to the two organizations, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- i. exchange of data and information, in a manner consistent with the information-sharing policies of each organization¹, and where appropriate, those of the WCPFC;
- ii. research efforts relating to fisheries-related topics of mutual interest, including but not limited to, target stocks, non-target, associated and dependent species and their ecosystems, fishing gear and fleet capacity.

¹ For SPC, data provisions must consider the requirements outlined in the *Governance of fisheries, aquaculture and marine ecosystems data provided to SPC by its members* policy (<https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/o4wf6>)

2. MANNER OF COOPERATION

Cooperation between the IATTC and SPC may include:

- i. information-sharing about fisheries, stocks and species of mutual interest;
- ii. periodic exchange of relevant meeting reports, information, research data and results, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest.
- iii. collaboration on research topics of mutual interest, including, as appropriate, the use of relevant human and financial resources.

3. EXCHANGE OF DATA

Exchange of data and scientific information in support of the work and objectives of both Organizations may be exchanged, consistent with the confidentiality rules, information sharing policies and internal data security procedures of each Organization.

Anticipated areas of data exchange include but are not limited to:

- i. Operational-level tuna fisheries data including catch and effort (as well as by-catch of mammals, turtles, sharks and billfish), observer, unloading, transshipment and port inspection data.
- ii. Relevant physical and ecological data
- iii. Relevant FAD data of different resolution and nature

4. MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS

This Memorandum of Understanding may be subject to modification and amendment by mutual consent of both organizations, expressed in writing.

5. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND TERMINATION

- i. This Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force on the day of its second signature, for a period of two (2) years from that date.
- ii. The validity of this Memorandum of Understanding will be renewed automatically for successive periods of two (2) years, in the absence of a written notification to the contrary by one Party to the other, at least one (1) month before its expiry.

- iii. Each Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding through a written notification to the other Party, which will become effective six (6) months after the date of the notification.

Signed on behalf of the the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Pacific Community (SPC):



Arnulfo L. Franco
IATTC Director

Date: 02/13/23



Stuart Minchin
SPC Director General

Date: 01/06/2023