

**1<sup>st</sup> Workshop for Advancing Shark, Sea Turtle and Seabird BHRP Guidelines**  
**(15 December 2025 – by videoconference)**

**Announcement**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Circle Hook Workshop was held in April 2025 and the workshop recommended ‘a future amendment to Resolution C-19-04 include a more recent guideline to required use of best handling and release methods as presented at this workshop for all IATTC fisheries’ to replace the FAO 2009 document currently in use, which has been demonstrated to be outdated. Consequently, the recommendations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group (EBWG) also requested the Commission consider urging the EBWG, as soon as possible, to make recommendations regarding the updating of best practice guidelines for sea turtle handling and release practices for all fisheries under the competence of the Commission.

Concurrently, a similar request was made by the 103<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission which agreed, in 2025 to adopt Resolution C-25-08 on sharks requiring the IATTC Scientific Staff, in collaboration with the IATTC SAC and EBWG, to continue to develop and recommend to the Commission a comprehensive set of best handling and release practices (BHRP) for the safe release of sharks for inclusion in the measure in 2026.

Similarly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> EBWG tasked the IATTC staff with the development of the [Seabird Action Plan](#), which focused on better understanding the impacts of fisheries on seabirds as well as assessing the different mitigation options, including BHRPs. The final goal of the Seabird Action Plan was to inter-sessionally coordinate a draft proposal for updating C-11-02, which could also include an update of the BHRPs described in it.

The IATTC scientific staff generated a workplan in 2024 to develop BHRP for all vulnerable taxa captured in IATTC fisheries ([EB-02-03](#)). The workplan included a timeline and the steps necessary for the generation of BHRPs across taxa. Following advice from the Scientific Advisory Committee that the development of BHRP be done in close collaboration with CPCs and consider practicality on fishing vessels, several documents ([SAC-16-10](#) on sharks, [EB-03-05](#) on sea turtles, and [EB-03-06](#) on seabirds) were prepared for the third meeting of the EBWG in 2025 after having undergone several rounds of review and comments from CPC delegates, CPC scientists and subject matter experts. The BHRP guidance in these documents is based on the best available data and has been vetted by the fishing industry representatives across CPCs for practicality of implementation on fishing vessels across fleets.

**Objectives**

The intention of this workshop is to provide participants an opportunity to continue to review in detail, and provide feedback, as appropriate, on the content and BHRP recommendations provided in [SAC-16-10](#) (sharks), [EB-03-05](#) (sea turtles) and [EB-03-06](#) (seabirds) to make progress towards the potential adoption of meaningful BHRP guidelines for these taxa in 2026.

**Participation**

The meeting will be open to all interested IATTC members and stakeholders but given the nature of the topics to be covered, it is recommended that designated participants have proven expertise, knowledge, experience, or interests on sharks, seabirds and or sea turtles. Relevant IGOs and accredited NGOs are also encouraged to participate as observers. As usual, a registration form is 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 workshop for Advancing Shark, Sea Turtle and Seabird BHRP Guidelines 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 15 December 2025. The meeting will be scheduled for a maximum a duration of four hours, starting at 2 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. A provisional agenda is shared below, which will also be posted on the meeting website, as soon as possible.

Languages: English and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation.

### **Provisional agenda:**

1. Welcome to participants and adoption of the agenda
2. A brief description of the BHRP work plan [EB-02-03](#)
3. Review of the Shark BHRP Guidelines available in [SAC-16-10](#)
4. Review of the Sea turtle BHRP Guidelines available in [EB-03-05](#)
5. Review of Seabird BHRP Guidelines available in [EB-03-06](#)
6. Others
7. Closure of the meeting