

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**85<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

Veracruz Veracruz, (Mexico)

10-14 June 2013

**PROPOSAL IATTC-85 B-1**

**SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**IATTC RESOLUTION ON THE CREATION OF A WORKING  
GROUP TO PROGRESS ON CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEMES  
FOR TUNA SPECIES**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**Goal:** to assess and discuss the main issues concerning a strategy towards a catch documentation scheme for tuna species in IATTC through the creation of a specific Working Group to address those matters.

**Rationale:** catch documentation schemes market measures have been internationally recognized as one of the most effective tools to fight against IUU and act upon the management of stocks and catches, in addition they are also an invaluable instrument for gathering huge amount of data.

To achieve all these goals, it is necessary to establish an effective control of the movements of these catches through the traceability of the product from the net to its final market, including reprocessing in intermediate countries.

The creation of a Working Group at IATTC to discuss the main matters surrounding the development of a catch documentation scheme for tuna species will permit to collect all the necessary input and allow a clear view of all the elements involved.

## IATTC RESOLUTION ON THE CREATION OF A WORKING GROUP TO PROGRESS ON CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEMES FOR TUNA SPECIES

*The Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC),*

*RECOGNIZING* the impact that market factors have on the fishery;

*CONCERNED* by the impact that illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing has in the IATTC Convention area;

*REITERATING* the responsibilities of flag States to ensure that their vessels conduct their fishing activities in a responsible manner, fully respecting IATTC conservation and management measures;

*NOTING* the need for improved and strict control on all the components involved in the tuna and tuna-like species fisheries;

*UNDERLINING* the complementary role that importing States also have in the control of the catches of tuna and tuna-like species to ensure compliance with IATTC conservation and management measures;

*RECALLING* IATTC's statistical document program for bigeye tuna and its objectives;

*RECOGNIZING* that properly tracing tuna and tuna-like species from the point of capture to their final import has significant operational and technical aspects that would need to be addressed for any effective catch certification scheme;

*COMMITTED* to taking steps that conform with international law, notably as regards the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to ensure that tuna and tuna-like species entering markets of Members, Cooperating non Members and non-members of IATTC is caught in the Convention area in a manner that does not diminish the effectiveness of IATTC conservation and management measures;

*Agrees:*

1. To create a Working Group participated by Members and Cooperating Non Members to address technical and practical issues associated with the development of a Catch Certificate Scheme for tuna species by IATTC taking into account the following factors:
  - i) The conservation status of IATTC species/stocks;
  - ii) Existing catch documentation schemes in other RFMOs and in IATTC Members;
  - iii) Monitoring and control measures currently in place and their effectiveness and utility;
  - iv) Which species, stocks, ocean areas, and/or fisheries would most benefit from additional monitoring and control measures, and which approaches or tools, including catch certification schemes, could best be used to enhance the effectiveness of IATTC conservation and management measures;
  - v) How IATTC fisheries are conducted (e.g., fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting Members and Cooperating Non-Members, etc);
  - vi) The ways in which products from IATTC fisheries are processed, transported, and traded;
  - vii) The overall level of trade by species and product type as well as the Members, Cooperating Non-Members and non-Contracting Parties involved;

- viii) Operational issues, capacity requirements, and costs associated with various monitoring and control approaches, including data collection, electronic transmission of data, submission, handling, analysis, reconciliation and dissemination associated with catch certification schemes and options for addressing the costs; and
  - ix) Any other relevant issues or information.
2. The Working Group shall commence in 2013. It will report progress to the Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2014.