

# COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> TECHNICAL MEETING ON DORADO

### Review current state of knowledge and identify available data sources for dorado in the eastern Pacific Ocean

14-16 October 2014; Manta, Ecuador

#### Scope and objectives of meeting

The Antigua Convention requires the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) to adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures for species belonging to the same ecosystem as tuna-like species exploited in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). One species with significant levels of interaction and bycatch in the tuna fisheries is dorado (*Coryphaena hippurus*), also known as dolphinfish or mahi-mahi.

A conventional stock assessment of dorado cannot be carried out because the available fisheries data (catches, composition, CPUE) are incomplete and/or unreliable. In addition, the high productivity of the species (*i.e.* high fecundity, and fast growth rates over a short lifespan) complicates conventional stock assessment analysis. Recruitment seems to be highly variable and strongly influenced by environmental conditions, and it is difficult to separate the exploitation and environment effects with conventional stock assessment models. Alternative stock status (or stability) indicators (SSIs) are needed.

At the request of some EPO coastal Member States, the IATTC staff has carried out collaborative research on dorado stock assessment (see document [SAC-05-11b](#)). As part of the IATTC Stock Assessment Group's plan for future research for low-information stocks and bycatch species, the following tasks are of interest for dorado: i) develop methods to define stock structure, ii) identify and test SSIs, reference points, and decision rules through a management strategy evaluation (MSE) framework.

Also at the request of some EPO coastal Member States, the IATTC staff plans to facilitate a series of workshops aimed at improving knowledge about the stock structure of dorado in the EPO and developing SSIs for management and conservation of the species. The Republic of Ecuador is pleased to host the first workshop of the series. This three-day meeting will bring together fishery scientists involved in dorado research in the EPO who wish to contribute to this regional collaborative effort. The objectives of this workshop are the following: 1) promote synergy in Member States for a regional investigation of dorado in the EPO, 2) review the current state of knowledge of dorado in the EPO; 3) identify and pool available data sets across fisheries/regions in the EPO and; 4) plan the next steps of the collaborative research activities.

Participants are encouraged to present research covering the following topics:

- Fleet structure (fleet characteristics, areas and season of operation)
- Fishery statistics (landings, discards, CPUE, length compositions)
- Biological information (age and growth, reproductive biology, sex ratios)
- Stock structure (conventional and archival tagging studies, genetic studies)
- Stock status indicators (CPUE, average lengths)