

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

94TH MEETING

Bilbao, Spain, 22-26 July 2019

PROPOSAL IATTC-94 L-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
EVALUATION WORKSHOPS

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Rationale: The IATTC scientific staff plans to convene a series of management strategy evaluation (MSE) workshops beginning in 2019. The intent of this Resolution is to clarify the scope and steps in the MSE process for workshop participants and the Commission.

RESOLUTION C-19-xx

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
EVALUATION WORKSHOPS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) gathered in Bilbao, Spain, on the occasion of its 94th Meeting:

Committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Recognizing that the Commission adopted an interim harvest control rules (HCR) for tropical tuna fisheries in the EPO in Resolution C-16-02;

Noting that Resolution C-16-02 calls on the IATTC scientific staff to further test the reference points and harvest control rules to support Commission adoption of a permanent HCR;

Mindful that management strategy evaluation (MSE) is the leading process to test HCRs and other management strategies for its effectiveness in attaining management objectives;

Acknowledging that MSEs are being conducted for other tuna fisheries in the Pacific Ocean;

Committed to ensuring that scientific advice is taken into account in the development of the Commission's conservation and management measures for tropical tuna; and

Further acknowledging the IATTC scientific staff's plan, set forth in the Staff's Activities and Research Plan (SAC-10-01a), to convene a series of MSE Workshops beginning in 2019.

Resolves as follows:

IATTC MSE Workshops

1. The priority species for the IATTC MSE Workshops (Workshops) shall initially be bigeye tuna, and later incorporate yellowfin and skipjack tunas. Recognizing that the tropical tuna species are managed together within the IATTC, and that all three species will need to be considered when reviewing management goals in the MSE.
2. The Workshops shall be chaired by the IATTC scientific staff.
3. The Workshops shall be open to the participation of various stakeholders such as scientists, fishery managers, fishing industry representatives, administrators, representatives of nongovernmental organizations, and fishers.

Objective of the MSE Workshops

4. Clarify the MSE process for tropical tunas.
5. Enhance communication and foster mutual understanding among fisheries scientists, managers, and stakeholders on matters related to harvest strategies and MSE.
6. Engagement with managers and stakeholders on management goals for tropical tunas, harvest strategies, and reference points.

The MSE Workshops(s) shall undertake the following in 2019 and 2020:

7. Review fundamental concepts of MSE, including target, limit, and threshold reference points, harvest control rules (HCRs), and harvest strategies;
8. Review management objectives, performance metrics, candidate reference points, and candidate HCRs developed for testing in other MSE Workshops, such as ISC Workshops for North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna;
9. Propose management objectives as a first priority (i.e., first Workshop) for consideration by the IATTC scientific staff;
10. Propose a list of performance metrics, candidate reference points, and alternative HCRs as a subsequent priority (i.e., second Workshop) for consideration by the IATTC scientific staff; and,
11. Establish next steps and a timeline for the MSE process.

Workshop outcomes

12. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) shall have the opportunity to review the outcomes of the Workshops at its meetings and to provide additional input if needed.

Reports

13. The IATTC scientific staff shall present the report of the Workshops and the plan for next steps including a timeline to the SAC in 2020.
14. The IATTC scientific staff shall provide a report at the 2020 IATTC annual meeting on progress to date.