Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE CONVENTION

1st Meeting, 19 October, 1998
La Jolla, California, USA

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

At the 61st Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), held in June 1998, it was agreed that a working group should be convened to review the functions of the IATTC and its Convention and, if necessary, formulate possible amendments to the Convention. Representatives from Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union (EU), Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Spain, Taiwan, the United States, Vanuatu, and Venezuela met in La Jolla on October 19, 1998, to fulfill that mandate.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Ambassador Jean-François Pulvenis of Venezuela, at 9:45 a.m. on October 19. He welcomed the attendees (Appendix 1), and noted that various proposals had been presented, but that there had not been time to study them in detail, and therefore the meeting would limit itself to a general discussion and not deal with specific points. The provisional agenda (Appendix 2) was adopted.

The Chairman called on Dr. Robin Allen, Deputy Director of the IATTC, to explain the existing Convention and the background to and reasons for considering changing it. Dr. Allen summarized the contents of the background paper prepared by the staff for the meeting. The staff noted that the Convention did not prevent the Commission from extending its functions, as it had already done, and that the intergovernmental forum permitted all nations, and not just IATTC member nations, to participate in the work of the IATTC. The basis for the IATTC’s involvement in activities and aspects of the tuna fishery not contemplated in the 1949 Convention was discussed.

The delegations stated their positions on the Convention. One opinion was that the 1949 Convention was sufficient as it was, and that the system of decisions by resolution had worked well.

Other delegations noted that the aim was to strengthen the IATTC, and that there was wide support for changing the Convention to incorporate ideas and objectives, such as the ecosystem approach to management, that would not have been thought of in 1949 but which were needed today. There were also many details that needed modifying and resolving, and there was considerable support for the need to update the Convention. Most of the delegations agreed with these remarks.

It was agreed that concrete proposals for amendments should be submitted, by e-mail or on diskette, to the IATTC staff as soon as possible, and preferably before the end of November. The Chairman, with the assistance of the staff, would incorporate all the proposals in a single document, which would be distributed to all the governments involved and would form the basis for the discussions at the meeting in June 1999.

The group agreed to take advantage of the IRP meeting in Ensenada (Mexico) in January 1999 to hold informal consultations, but would begin to review the proposals submitted at the IATTC meeting in June 1999.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. on October 19, 1998.
Appendix 1.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL
WORKING GROUP ON THE IATTC CONVENTION

October 19, 1998 – 19 de octubre de 1998
La Jolla, California (USA)

ATTENDEES – ASISTENTES

MEMBER COUNTRIES - PAISES MIEMBROS

COSTA RICA

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ECUADOR

LUIS TORRES NAVARRETE
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EL SALVADOR

RENE SALGADO
CENDEPESCA
RICARDO HERNANDEZ
Cámara Salvadoreña de la Pesca y la Acuicultura

JAPAN - JAPON

JUN-ICHIRO OKAMOTO
Commissioner
NAOKO HAMAGUCHI
SHINGO OTA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NICARAGUA

LESTER MEJIA SOLIS
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA

BRIAN HALLMAN
WILLIAM GIBBONS-FLY
VIOLANDA BOTET
U.S. Department of State

BILL HOGARTH
SVEIN FOUGNER
WANDA CAIN
GARY SAKAGAWA
National Marine Fisheries Service

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VANUATU

ED WEISSMAN
M/V Pamela Ann

VENEZUELA

JEAN-FRANÇOIS PULVENIS
Comisionado
HUGO ALSINA LAGOS
Comisionado

SANTOS VALERO
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

JON CELAYA
AVATUN
NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES - PAISES NO MIEMBROS

ESPÁÑA - SPAIN

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CARLOS LARRAÑAGA CES
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima

LUIS ESTERUELAS
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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY– COMUNIDAD EUROPEA

MARGARIDA CARDOSO
XAVIER VAZQUEZ
European Commission

MEXICO

CARLOS CAMACHO GAOS
JERONIMO RAMOS PARDO
GUILLERMO COMPEAN JIMENEZ
RICARDO BELMONTES ACOSTA
MARIO AGUILAR
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Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente
MARIA TERESA BANDALA MEDINA
Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

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JOSÉ VELÁZQUEZ CARDENAS
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JUAN VELÁZQUEZ MACOSHAY
Supremos del Golfo y del Pacífico, S.A. de C.V.

PERU

JUAN ARRUS ROKOVICH
JORGE VERTIZ CALDERON
Ministerio de Pesquería

MATE BARAKA
Pesquera Hayduk, S.A.

TAIWAN

PAUL WEN-LIANG CHANG
KENNY HU
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CHUNG-HAI KWOH
Fisheries Administration, Council of Agriculture

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS - ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES

NINA YOUNG
Center for Marine Conservation

KITTY BLOCK
Humane Society of the United States

HÉCTOR LÓPEZ
Fundación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza (FUDENA)

IATTC - CIAT

JAMES JOSEPH, Director
ROBIN ALLEN, Assistant Director
WORKING GROUP ON THE IATTC CONVENTION

October 19, 1998

La Jolla, California, USA

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chairperson
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Description of the functions of the IATTC and its Convention
5. Review of the functions of the IATTC and its Convention
6. Other business
7. Time and place of next meeting
8. Adjournment