

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

80TH MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
8-12 JUNE 2009

RESOLUTION C-09-01

**RESOLUTION ON A MULTIANNUAL PROGRAM FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN IN
2009-2011**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Being responsible for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like species of the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and for formulating recommendations to the High Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Parties, Cooperating Fishing Entity and Regional Economic Integration Organization (collectively “CPCs”) with regard to these resources, and having maintained, since 1950, a continuous scientific program dedicated to the study of these resources,

Recognizes, based on past experience in the fishery, that the potential production from the resource can be reduced if fishing effort is excessive;

Aware, that previous conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission, and although the catches of bigeye and yellowfin tunas have decreased, capacity continues to increase,

Observes that the yellowfin tuna resource in the EPO supports one of the most important surface fisheries for tunas in the world;

Taking into account the best scientific information available, reflected in the staff’s recommendations and in the report of the Working Group on Stock Assessments in May 2009;

Considering that the studies of bigeye tuna presented show that the stock is below a level that would produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and that the studies of yellowfin tuna indicate that the spawning stock will likely decline under current levels of fishing mortality;

Considering that the population of bigeye is the same for all the Pacific Ocean, from east to west;

Recognizing the importance of urging the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to adopt parallel conservation measures for the tuna stocks in that region, and in particular, the shared stocks of highly migratory tunas in the Pacific Ocean;

Resolves as follows:

1. This resolution is applicable in the years 2009-2011 to all purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 4 to 6 (more than 182 metric tons carrying capacity), and to all longline vessels over 24 meters length overall, that fish for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas in the EPO.
2. Pole-and-line, troll, and sportfishing vessels, and purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 1-3 (less than 182 metric tons carrying capacity) are not subject to this resolution.
3. All purse-seine vessels covered by this resolution must stop fishing in the EPO for a period of 59 days in 2009, 62 days in 2010, and 73 days in 2011. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods in each year as follows:

2009 – 1 August to 28 September, or from 21 November to 18 January 2010;

2010 – 29 July to 28 September, or from 18 November to 18 January 2011;

2011 – 18 July to 28 September, or from 7 November to 18 January 2012.

In 2011 the results of the conservation measures adopted shall be evaluated, in the context of the results of the stock assessments for 2011 and, depending on the conclusions reached by the scientific staff of the Commission, the period of duration of the closure for that year shall be ratified or adjusted.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3, purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity class 4 (between 182 and 272 metric tons carrying capacity) will be able to make only one single fishing trip of up to 30 days duration during the specified closure periods, provided that any such vessel carries an observer of the On-Board Observer Program of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP).
5. That the fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna by purse-seine vessels within the area of 96° and 110°W and between 4°N and 3°S illustrated in Figure 1 be closed from 0000 hours on 29 September to 2400 hours on 29 October.

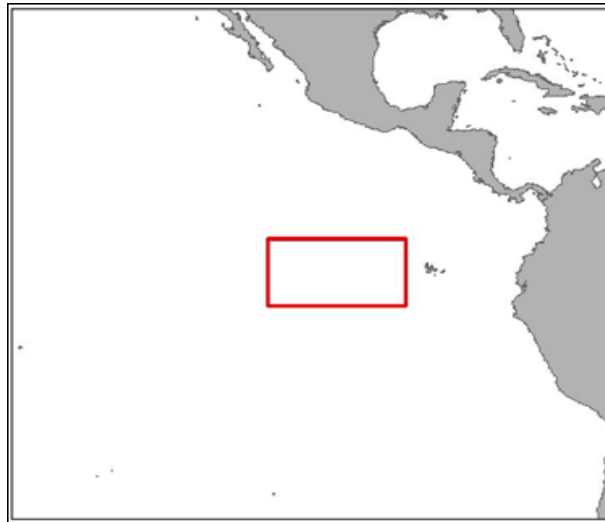


Figure 1. Closure area

6. In each one of the years covered by this resolution, and for each one of the two closure periods, each CPC shall notify the Director, by 15 July in 2009 and by 15 April in 2010-2011, the names of all the purse-seine vessels that will observe each closure period.

Every vessel that fishes during 2009-2011, regardless of the flag under which it operates or whether it changes flag or the jurisdiction of CPC under which it fishes during the year, must observe the closure period to which it was committed.

7. Each CPC shall, for purse-seine fisheries:
 - a. Before the date of entry into force of the closure, take the legal and administrative measures necessary to implement the closure;
 - b. Inform all interested parties in its national tuna industry of the closure;
 - c. Inform the Director that these steps have been taken;
 - d. Ensure that at the time a closure period begins, and for the entire duration of that period, all the purse-seine vessels fishing for yellowfin, bigeye, or skipjack tunas that are committed to observing that closure period and that fly its flag, or operate under its jurisdiction, in the EPO are in port, except that vessels carrying an observer from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program

may remain at sea, provided they do not fish in the EPO. The only other exception to this provision shall be that vessels carrying an observer from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish in the EPO.

8. Each CPC shall take the measures necessary to control the total annual catch of bigeye tuna in the EPO during 2009-2011 by longline tuna vessels fishing under its jurisdiction.
9. China, Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei shall take the measures necessary to ensure that their total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the EPO during 2009-2011 do not exceed the following levels:

Metric tons	2009	2010
China	2,533	2,507
Japan	32,713	32,372
Korea	12,073	11,947
Chinese Taipei	7,635	7,555

10. For 2011, the total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the EPO shall be adjusted appropriately based on the conservation measures adopted for purse-seine vessels in 2011, as ratified or adjusted in accordance with paragraph 3.
11. Other CPCs shall take the measures necessary to ensure that their total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the EPO during 2009-2010 do not exceed the greater of 500 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001^{1,2}. CPCs whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director. For 2011, the limits in this paragraph shall remain in effect if the Commission maintains conservation measures for purse-seine vessels, as ratified or adjusted in accordance with paragraph 3
12. To prohibit landings and transshipments of tuna or tuna products that have been positively identified as originating from fishing activities that contravene this resolution. The Director shall provide relevant information to the Parties to assist them in this regard.
13. Each CPC shall notify the Director, by 15 July in 2009 and by 15 April in 2010-2011, of national actions taken to implement this resolution, including any controls it has imposed on its fleets and any monitoring, control, and compliance measures it has established to ensure compliance with such controls.
14. To evaluate progress towards the objectives of this resolution, in 2010 and 2011, the IATTC scientific staff will analyze the effects on the stocks of the implementation of this resolution, Resolution C-06-02, Resolution C-04-09, and previous conservation and management measures, and will propose, if necessary, appropriate measures to be applied in future years.
15. To authorize the Director to develop, in consultation with interested Parties a pilot program for research into, and gathering information on, the FADs used to aggregate tunas in the EPO. As an integral part of the program, initiate, in the first quarter of 2010, in Manta (Ecuador), a research and information-gathering program for FADs. The program shall include, *inter alia*, provisions for the marking of FADs, maintaining a record of the numbers of FADs on board each vessel at the beginning and end of each fishing trip, and recording the date, time, and position of deployment of each FAD. The Director shall report on the status of this effort at the next annual meeting of the IATTC. The information collected shall be held by the Commission staff, and shall be made available

¹ The Parties acknowledge that France, as a coastal State, is developing a tuna longline fleet on behalf of its overseas territories situated in the EPO.

² The Parties acknowledge that Peru, as a coastal State, will develop a tuna longline fleet, which will operate in strict compliance with the rules and provisions of the IATTC and in accordance with the resolutions of the Commission.

to CPCs, subject to any confidentiality rules or policies that the Commission may establish, which must be defined before the program begins..

16. Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the Director shall continue the experiments with sorting grids for juvenile tunas and other species of non-target fish in the purse-seine nets of vessels that fish on FADs and on unassociated schools, by developing an experimental protocol, including parameters for the materials to be used for the sorting grids, and the methods for their construction, installation, and deployment. The Director shall also specify the methods and format for the collection of scientific data to be used for analysis of the performance of the sorting grids. The foregoing is without prejudice to each CPC carrying out its own experimental programs with sorting grids and presenting its results to the Director.
17. Renew, for 2010, the program to require all purse-seine vessels to first retain on board and then land all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna caught, except fish considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size. A single exception shall be the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set. At its annual meeting in 2010, the Commission shall review the results of the program, including compliance, and decide whether to continue it.
18. The Director shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by IATTC and WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness, including by frequent consultations with his counterpart in WCPFC, so that they can maintain, and inform their respective organizations of, a thorough understanding of conservation and management measures directed at bigeye, yellowfin, and other tunas, and the scientific bases and effectiveness of those measures.