

The IATTC Eastern Pacific Ocean Tuna Tagging Program (EPOTTP) during 2019-2020

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Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission



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OBJECTIVES

- Obtain information on movements and dispersion of skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye tunas in the EPO to define the appropriate spatial scales for assessments and management.
- Improve the scientific basis for estimation of abundance, exploitation rates, selectivity, and growth and natural mortality rates for skipjack tuna, as well as yellowfin and bigeye tunas.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Tagging cruises

- We propose to undertake 3 tropical tuna tagging cruises in the EPO, each of about 90 days duration, during 2019 and 2020 utilizing a chartered live-bait pole-and-line vessel.
- Tunas of as great a size range as possible will be targeted for tagging with plastic dart tags (PDTs) and archival tags (ATs), with the intent to deploy a minimum of 10,000 PDTs per cruise, with a distribution of approximately 50% skipjack and 25% each for bigeye and yellowfin tunas. The tagging activities will target tunas in unassociated surface schools, as well as tunas associated with floating objects, islands, seamounts, and dolphins.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Additional activities

- Double tagging experiments to estimate tag shedding rates, and tag seeding experiments to estimate tag reporting rates will be conducted.
- The tag recovery program includes publicity, tag recovery specialists, attractive tag rewards and drawings for monetary prizes.

TAG RECOVERY PROGRAM

- A digital 1 page informational flyer about the IATTC EPOTTP, including procedures for returns of PDTs and ATs and associated rewards, will be posted on IATTC website and distributed widely, in multiple languages, in advance of the first EPOTTP tagging cruise and throughout the program to cannery managers, purse-seine and transshipment vessel unloaders and supervisors, purse-seine and longline vessel Captains and crews, as well as IATTC, National Program, and MRAG observers, and others.
- Colorful glossy paper poster versions with essentially the same information will be hand delivered to managers of the major canneries in ports where IATTC field offices are located, and sent to managers of all other major canneries, and unloading facilities operating in Latin America, requesting the posters be displayed in a common area accessible by their employees.

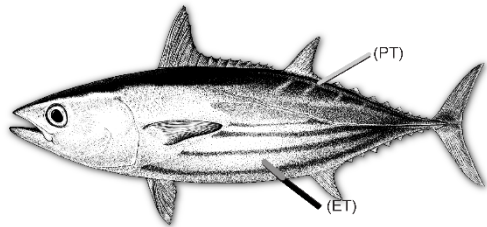
TAG RECOVERY PROGRAM



EASTERN PACIFIC TUNA TAGGING PROGRAM

Rewards for tags on skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye

Return tags and receive rewards- Also entry into annual drawings for US\$1000 prizes



**US\$10 or US\$15 for plastic tags (PT) and
US\$250 for electronic tags (ET) from inside fish**

When a tagged fish is found, DO NOT remove the tags from fish until you first try contacting a representative at one of the following IATTC offices for further instructions

Ecuador: Las Playas (4) 276 5471, Manta (5) 262 1943

México: Manzanillo (314) 333 7290, Mazatlán (669) 982 3520

Panamá: (507) 260 7546

Venezuela: Cumaná (293) 431 977

Please record the following information and provide with tag(s) to a Tuna Commission representative, or follow the instructions below:

- Species and fork length (straight line from the tip of the jaw to the fork of the tail)
- Tag numbers for plastic tags and electronic tags
- Date and location of capture
- Fishing vessel name and gear type that caught the fish
- Finder name and full contact details

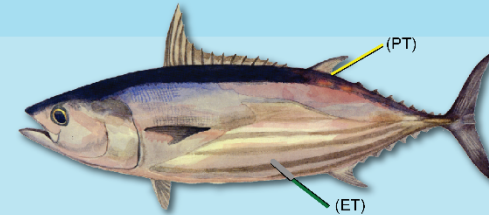
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
IF UNABLE TO CONTACT A LOCAL IATTC REPRESENTATIVE
PLEASE VISIT THE IATTC WEBSITE TO REPORT TAG RECOVERIES
at www.iattc.org/tagging/tagreturns or email the above information
and a photograph of the tagged fish to tagreturns@iattc.org



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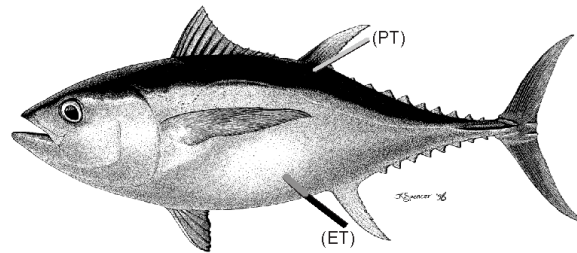
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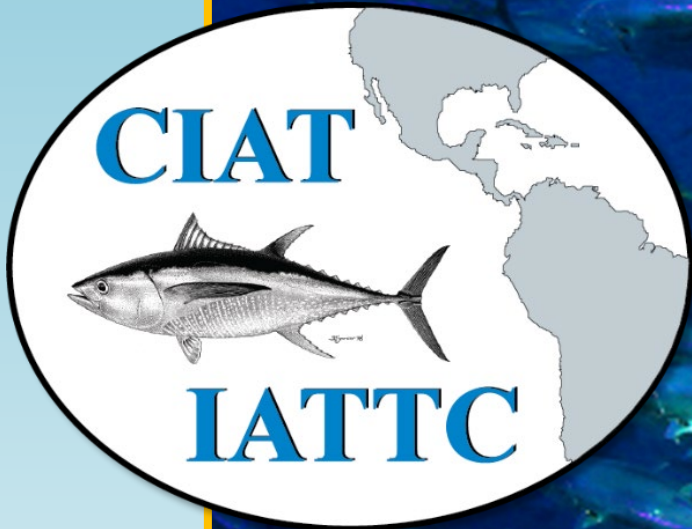
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PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

- We are interested in your suggestions and seeking your assistance in making arrangements to send via email the flyer to distant water longline fleets of China, Chinese Taipei, Japan and Korea operating in the EPO to enhance the probability of tag recoveries from BET and YFT caught by longlines.



Thank you!

