INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

~~82ND~~ 104TH MEETING

~~LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)~~LISBON, PORTUGAL
31 AUGUST~~4~~ – ~~8 JULY~~04 SEPTEMBER ~~2011~~2026

RESOLUTION C-~~11~~26-~~02~~XX (REV. 2)

RESOLUTION TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT ON SEABIRDS OF FISHING FOR SPECIES COVERED BY THE IATTC

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in ~~La Jolla, California (USA)~~Lisbon, Portugal, on the occasion of its ~~82nd~~ 104th Meeting:

Recognizing that some threatened and endangered seabird populations are found in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Understanding that bycatches of seabirds are known to occur in the longline fisheries operating in some areas of the EPO;

Noting that the Antigua Convention calls for the adoption of conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for the fish stocks;

Reaffirming the importance of implementing the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries ("IPOA-Seabirds");

Recalling that tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations responsible for other ocean areas have adopted measures to mitigate the accidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries;

Believing that fisheries observer programs can greatly increase the understanding of the extent of interactions between seabirds and fisheries, and the evaluation of how seabird bycatch mitigation measures can be most effectively applied;

Taking account of the work of the IATTC, including the IATTC Technical Meeting on Seabirds held on 11 May 2009, that has ~~showed~~ shown that combining different mitigation measures is more effective than using a single measure in reducing bycatch of seabirds;

Noting that scientific research into mitigation of seabird bycatch in longline fisheries has shown that the effectiveness of measures depends on the type of vessel, the season, and the species of seabirds present; and

Noting that effective mitigation measures can reduce the loss of bait and therefore increase catches;

Agrees that~~;~~:

1. Members and cooperating non-Members (CPCs) shall report to the IATTC on their implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries.

2. CPCs shall require their longline vessels[1] of more than 20 meters length overall that use hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical systems and that fish for species covered by the IATTC in the EPO north of 23°N (except in Mexican waters as described in the minutes of the 81st meeting of the IATTC and as

[1] Vessels propelled by outboard motors are not subject to this resolution

shown on the map in Annex 1) and south of 30°S, plus the area bounded by the coastline at 2°N, west to 2°N-95°W, south to 15°S-95°W, east to 15°S-85°W, and south to 30°S (see Annex 1) to use at least two of the mitigation measures in Table 1, including at least one from Column A. Vessels shall not use the same measure from Column A and Column B.

Table 1: Mitigation measures

Column A	Column B
Side-setting with bird curtains and weighted branch lines[2]	*Tori* line[3]
Night setting with minimum deck lighting	Weighted branch lines
Tori line	Blue-dyed bait
Weighted branch lines	Deep-setting line shooter
	Underwater setting chute
	Management of offal discharge

3. CPCs with longline vessels fishing in the EPO other than the area mentioned in paragraph 2, are encouraged to voluntarily employ at least one of the mitigation measures included in Table 1.

4. Minimum technical standards for measures are shown in Annex 2, subject to possible modifications based on research and evaluations mentioned in paragraphs 6 and 11.

5. CPCs~~–~~ shall inform the IATTC, by 1 September 2011, and annually thereafter, of the mitigation measures that their flag vessels plan to employ in the implementation of this resolution.

6. CPCs are encouraged to work, jointly and individually, to undertake research, especially on specifications for weighted branch lines, to further develop and refine methods for mitigating seabird bycatch, including measures for use during the process of hauling in longlines, and shall submit to the IATTC any information derived from such efforts. Preferably, research should be undertaken in the fisheries and areas in which the measures will be used.

~~6.~~7. 7. CPCs are encouraged to undertake feasibility and performance studies regarding the technical standards for mitigation measures in Table 1~~, such as the effectiveness of different towed objects of tori lines,~~ based on their specific operational conditions, and present the results to the Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG) and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for consideration.

~~7.~~8. CPCs shall provide annually to the IATTC any available information regarding interactions with seabirds involving their flag vessels in the fishery, including bycatches of seabirds and details of seabird species and all relevant information available from observer or other monitoring programs.

~~8.~~9. CPCs are encouraged to establish national programs to place observers aboard longline vessels flying their flags or fishing in their waters, for the purpose of, *inter alia*, gathering information on the interactions of seabirds with the longline fisheries.

~~9.~~10. CPCs are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that seabirds captured alive during longline fishing operations are released alive and in the best condition possible, and that, whenever possible, hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird.

~~10.~~11. CPCs shall begin implementation of this resolution no later than 1 September 2011 for their longline vessels equal to or greater than 24 meters in length overall, and no later than 1 September 2012 for their longline vessels less than 24 meters in length overall. The technical specifications for measures most suitable for use by vessels less than 24 meters in length overall shall be considered by

[2] This measure can only be applied in the area north of 23°N until research establishes the utility of this measure in waters south of 30°S. If using side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines from column A this will be counted as two mitigation measures.

[3] If tori line is selected from both Column A and Column B this equates to simultaneously using two (i.e. paired) tori lines.

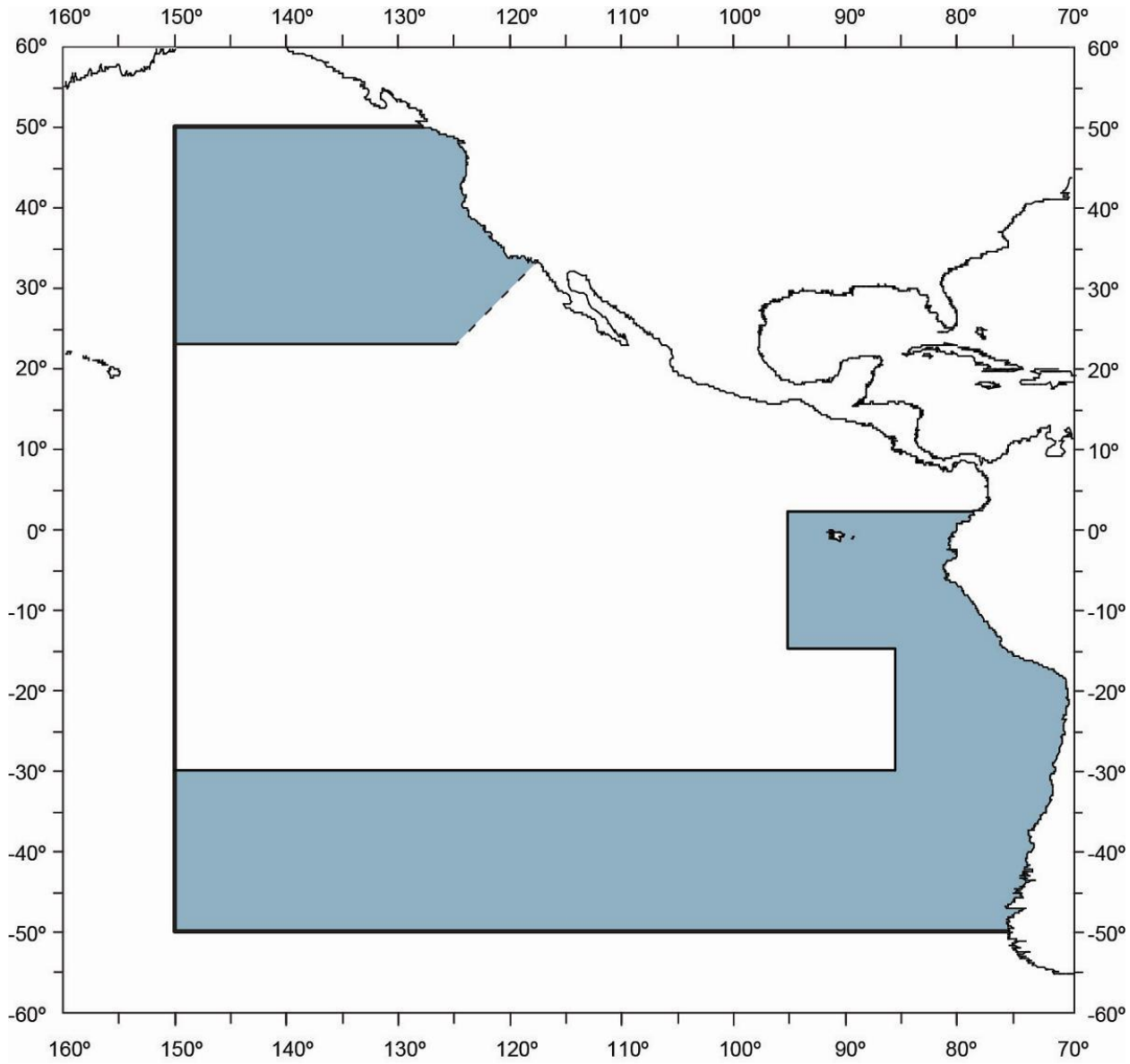
the ~~Working Group on Bycatch~~EBWG, the ~~Scientific Advisory Committee (~~SAC~~)~~, and the IATTC scientific staff.

~~11.~~12. The effectiveness of this resolution to reduce seabird bycatch in the EPO, including the mitigation measures in Table 1, the area of application, and the minimum technical specifications adopted pursuant to this resolution, shall be subject to review and possible modification in 2027, taking into account the scientific advice from the ~~Working Group on Bycatch~~EBWG, the SAC, ~~and~~ the IATTC scientific staff, and the work products produced pursuant to the Seabird Action Plan.

~~12.~~13. The ~~Working Group on Bycatch~~EBWG, and the SAC will also consider the need to extend this resolution to other fleets operating in the EPO.

~~13.~~14. This resolution replaces IATTC Resolution C-~~05~~11-~~01~~02.

Annex 1



Areas[4] (shaded) within the EPO in which the use of at least two mitigation measures for reducing seabird bycatch is required: north of 23°N (except in Mexican waters) and south of 30°S, plus the area bounded by the coastline at 2°N, west to 2~~0~~°N-95°W, south to 15°S-95°W, east to 15°S-85°W, and south to 30°S.

[4] This map is for illustrative purposes only

Annex 2
Specifications for Column A mitigation measures

1.a. Tori lines

i. Minimum length: 100 m
ii. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5 m above the water at the stern on the windward side of the point where the hookline enters the water.
iii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
iv. Streamers must be less than 5m apart, be using swivels and long enough so that they are as close to the water as possible.
v. If the tori line is less than 150 m in length, must have a towed object attached to the end, and the towed object should generate sufficient drag so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
vi. If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

1.b. Tori line (light streamer)

i. Minimum length of tori line: 100 m or three times the total length of the vessel.
ii. Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5 m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.
iii. Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.
iv. Streamers must be less than 1m apart and be 30 cm in minimum length.
v. If two (*i.e.* paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2. Side setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines

i. Mainline deployed from port or starboard side as far from stern as practicable (at least 1 m), and if mainline shooter is used, must be mounted at least 1m forward of the stern.
ii. When seabirds are present the gear must ensure mainline is deployed slack so that baited hooks remain submerged.
iii. Bird curtain must be employed:

- Pole aft of line shooter at least 3 m long;
- Minimum of 3 main streamers attached to upper 2 m of pole;
- Main streamer diameter minimum 20 mm;
- Branch streamers attached to end of each main streamer long enough to drag on water (no wind) – minimum diameter 10 mm.

3. Night setting

i. No setting between local sunrise and one hour after local sunset.
ii. Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum, noting requirements for safety and navigation.

4. Weighted branch lines

i. Following minimum weight specifications are required:

ii. Minimum weights attached to all branch lines is 45 g, with the following options:

- less than 60 g weight attached to within 1 m of the hook; or
- greater than 60 g and less than 98 g weight attached to within 3.5 m~~s~~ of the hook; or
- greater than 98 g weight attached to within 4 m of the hook.

Specifications for Column B mitigation measures

1. Weighted branch lines

i. Following minimum weight specifications are required:
ii. Minimum weights attached to all branch lines is 45 g, with the following options:

- less than 60 g weight attached to within 1 m of the hook; or
- greater than 60 g and less than 98 g weight attached to within 3.5 m of the hook; or
- greater than 98 g weight attached to within 4 m of the hook.

2. ~~Blue~~ Blue-dyed bait

i. The IATTC Secretariat shall distribute a standardized color placard.
ii. All bait must be dyed to the shade shown in the placard.

3. Management of offal discharge

i. Either:

- No offal discharge during setting or hauling; or
- Strategic offal discharge from the opposite side of the boat to setting/hauling to actively encourage birds away from baited hooks.