

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico

24-28 July 2017

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 E-2

**SUBMITTED BY BELIZE, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA,
NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA AND PANAMA**

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-05-03 ON THE
CONSERVATION OF SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH
FISHERIES IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The sustainable utilisation of species of fisheries interest is one of the basic objectives of fisheries administration. The Commission has been adopting management measures aimed at ensuring the sustainable management of the shark resource in its different species, under the auspices of the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, the guidelines of the International Plan of Action for the Management and Conservation of Sharks and in the context of the functions that the Antigua Convention establishes.

In the year 2005, the IATTC issued Resolution C-05-03 aimed at ensuring the full utilisation of catches and the elimination of discards, through the establishment of a weight relationship between fins and body or carcass of the shark. Since that date management alternatives have been developed and implemented that had demonstrated their effectiveness for ensuring the eradication of the practice of finning. Such measures include establishing regulations that require retaining on board sharks caught from when they are caught until the first point of unloading, with their fins adhered naturally, with partial cuts which, without separating the fins from the body, allow the proper management of that catch destined for human consumption, in the framework of innocuousness, by means of prompt and timely bleeding, together with cutting off the head and gutting the animal, normally known as “fins attached naturally with partial cuts”, also, it guarantees 100% that finning is not done.

Since the year 2012 OSPESCA Regulation OSP-05-11 entered into force under the Central American SICA-OSPESCA integration framework. This regulation regulates the partial cutting of fins and the maintenance of natural adherence. During the period when this management tool was in force, it has been demonstrated that the mechanism adopted is useful, viable, transparent, and demonstrable for the eradication of finning.

While the regulation in force has been implemented, in consideration of the dynamism to which the process of management and management of fisheries must be exposed, the purpose of this proposal is that the countries subjected to IATTC regulations recognise as viable and timely the alternative that the mechanism of fin attached in a natural manner with partial cuts provides, without prejudice to the merits of the implementation of the regulations contained in Resolution C-05-03, for which reason what is intended with this proposal, is coexistence, for the alternative implementation of one or other method, at the choice of the Flag States, of the management strategy in force that allows the fins to be separated from the carcasses, provided that the weight of the fins does not exceed 5% of the weight of the carcasses of the sharks aboard, with the practice of fins attached to the body of the sharks in a natural manner, with partial cuts.

Finally, bearing in mind the recommendation of the Performance Review of the IATTC presented in the year 2016, regarding exploring improvements in the collection of data on shark mortality in the

management of the associated fisheries, it is considered advisable to request the development of a characterisation study of the longline fleet that will facilitate the management actions for the species caught in accordance with the conditions of each class.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd meeting:

Agrees:

To amend Resolution C-05-03 “*ON THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN*”, adding paragraphs 4 bis and 4 ter, so that hereafter they read:

4 bis, Alternatively, CPCs may require of their vessels that the sharks they have on board and up to the first point of landing on shore, keep their fins attached naturally to the body, allowing longitudinal cuts in the muscle area adjacent to the fins of each shark, provided that the fins are not totally separated from the carcass. The competent authorities of the CPCs shall develop the mechanisms for compliance control and data collection necessary to ensure compliance with this provision.

4. ter. CPCs shall inform the Commission from 1 January 2018 of the selected management method for sharks in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 4 bis of this resolution that they will require of their vessels for each authorised fishing gear, reporting annually whether the chosen management is maintained or changed. CPCs shall seek to change to the method of fins attached. The forms for providing data to the Commission shall specify the methods utilised and the information derived from it shall be considered for maintaining a suitable assessment of these methods as components of the necessary scientific recommendation in the management of these species. The Commission shall develop a characterisation analysis of the longline fleet that is active in the EPO to adequately differentiate its impact on the fisheries covered by the Convention and shall present its results to the Scientific Advisory Committee in the year 2019 .