

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

**Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024**

RESOLUTION C-24-04

SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama on the occasion of its 102st Meeting:

Recalling its responsibility, established in the Antigua Convention, for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area and for the formulation of recommendations in this regard to its Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs);

Observing that south Pacific albacore tuna supports diverse fisheries in areas under national jurisdiction, as well as in areas beyond national jurisdiction, across the breadth of the Pacific Ocean south of the equator, encompassing the convention areas of the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

Emphasizing the importance of regional and global cooperation to ensure the effective conservation and protection of living aquatic resources throughout their range of distribution, as encouraged in paragraph 12 of Article 6 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

Thus recognizing the importance of working with the WCPFC, as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage south Pacific albacore tuna fisheries throughout the migratory range of the stock in the Pacific Ocean south of the equator;

Recalling further paragraph 4 of Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Encouraged by recent collaborations in this regard between the scientific staff of the IATTC Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through which a Pacific-wide stock assessment of south Pacific albacore tuna was conducted;

Observing that fishing controls for south Pacific albacore tuna are in effect exclusively in the waters of the WCPFC Convention Area south of 20°S and that there are currently no legally binding control measures in effect in the IATTC Convention Area outside the overlap area;

Considering the recommendation of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, at its 17th meeting, that longline catches of south Pacific albacore tuna be reduced in the WCPFC Convention Area to avoid further and prolonged depletion of vulnerable biomass by adult catches;

Considering that document SAC-15-13 REV indicates that the catch and effort of the longline fleet have increased substantially in recent years, that the WCPFC has adopted interim reference points, and the need to further develop management strategies on transregional and highly migratory species.

Recalling that longline fishing vessels greater than 24 meters length overall (LSTLFVs) are highly mobile and can easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, so they have a high potential to operate

between IATTC and WCPFC convention areas;

Recalling Resolution C-11-05 on the establishment of a list of longline fishing vessels over 24 meters (LSTLFVs) authorized to operate in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Finally, taking into account Article IV of the Antigua Convention, which states that “[t]he members of the Commission, directly and through the Commission, shall apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct and/or the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by this Convention”;

The IATTC therefore resolves that:

1. At the annual meeting in 2026, reference points that are compatible with the work of the WCPFC, as recommended by the IATTC scientific staff in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall be proposed and considered.
2. CPCs and IATTC scientific staff are encouraged to work with the WCPFC and SPC to investigate the stock structure(s) of south Pacific albacore.
3. CPCs and IATTC scientific staff are encouraged to participate in WCPFC science management dialogues to develop a harvest strategy for south Pacific albacore throughout the stock's range.
4. The IATTC scientific staff, taking into account feedback from the CPCs, should develop and make available data forms for south Pacific albacore as part of the ongoing process to improve data provision under Resolution C- 03-05. The forms should be presented and reviewed at the 2025 SAC meeting and distributed to the CPCs.
5. The IATTC scientific staff shall present, during the SAC meeting, the data forms developed by the staff for the collection of operational logbook data. The SAC shall review and recommend modifications, if necessary, for the adoption of the data forms, taking into account their importance and scope.
6. This measure shall enter into force on 1 January 2025 and may be reviewed annually by the IATTC scientific staff and the SAC for their respective recommendations to the Commission.