

# COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

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## INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

### 1<sup>st</sup> EXTERNAL REVIEW OF IATTC STAFF'S STOCK ASSESSMENT OF SKIPJACK TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

La Jolla, California (USA)

7-10 November 2022 (*participation by teleconferencing optional*)

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The first conventional stock assessment for skipjack tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) was produced by the IATTC staff in 2022 ([SAC-13-07](#)). Although the assessment is termed *interim* by the staff, the staff considers it reliable for management advice. The term *interim* results from additional improvements being expected on the skipjack assessment under the ongoing 2021-proposed methodology and workplan to develop a stock assessment for skipjack in the EPO that includes the use of tagging data ([SAC-12-06](#), [SAC-13-08](#)). In addition, several issues have been identified in the assessment and the available tagging data have not been incorporated into the assessment yet. Therefore, an independent review of the assessment is important to obtain external input about the appropriateness of its current assumptions and recommendations on improvements in preparation for the next benchmark assessment in 2024.

Some, but not all, of the developments that will be covered in the review include appropriateness of using longline data, the growth curve and its estimation, conflicting information about absolute biomass in the indices of abundance, weighting of data sets, and dome shaped purse-seine selectivity. In addition, analysis of the tagging data is currently being conducted through a staff's collaboration with Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and combines advection diffusion models with spatiotemporal models ([SAC-13-08](#)). This new and highly sophisticated analysis is intended to overcome issues with incomplete tag mixing. Due to the technical nature of the analysis, the IATTC seeks outside expertise to review the methodology and to provide recommendations for improvement. Finally, the staff seeks advice on the alternative approaches to integrate the information from the tagging analysis or the tagging data itself into the stock assessment and management advice.

The main objectives of the meeting are to: 1) review the assessment model used for skipjack tuna and to provide advice on how to improve the assumptions made in the assessment; 2) review the tagging analysis and provide suggestions for improvement; and 3) consider methods to incorporate information from the tagging data into the stock assessment and management advice.

The results of the review will be reported to the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in May 2023.

Scientists and managers from governments, industry, NGOs, and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend.

Language: English