INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

104th MEETING
Lisbon, Portugal
31 august – September 4, 2026

PROPOSAL IATTC-104 A-4

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

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2027, 2028, and 2029

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Lisbon, Portugal, on the occasion of its 104th Meeting:

Aware of its responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and for formulating recommendations to its Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) with regard to these resources;

Recognizing that the potential production from the resource can be reduced if fishing effort is excessive;

Concerned that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase;

Taking into account the best scientific information available, reflected in the IATTC staff's recommendations, and the precautionary approach; and

Recalling the need to take into account the special circumstances and requirements of the developing countries of the region, particularly the coastal countries, as recognized in the Antigua Convention, in particular in its Preamble and its Article XXIII, paragraph 1;

Recalling that Article VII, paragraph 1(c) of the Antigua Convention provides that the Commission shall *"adopt measures that are based on the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention and to maintain or restore the populations of harvested species at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield..."*;

Recognizing the importance of the Integrated Port Sampling Program, as a catch and biological data collection tool ~~to provide the best scientific estimates available for bigeye tuna catch~~ on the landings of tropical tuna at ports by the purse seine fleet.

Considering the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee 1.3 pursuant to which "… the scientific prerequisites of paragraph 1 of Resolution C-25-01 have been met, as the SAC has concluded that the results of the MSE for bigeye tuna show that the management measures of Resolution C-25-01 are effective."

Considering, the recommendation of Scientific Advisory Committee 1.4(a), according to which "... in response to recent analyses by IATTC scientific staff of the current status of bigeye, yellowfin,

and skipjack populations, the Commission may now consider gradual modifications to conservation measures under a Management Procedure, including options identified by staff."

Agrees:

To apply in the Convention Area the conservation and management measures for tropical tuna set out below, and to request that the staff of the IATTC monitor the fishing activities of the respective CPCs' flag vessels relative to this commitment, and also report on such activities at each annual meeting of the Commission:

~~1.~~ These measures are applicable from 00:00 hours on 1 January 2027~~6~~ and will expire on to 24:00 hours on 31 December 2030~~2026~~, except for the second closure period referred to in paragraph 3, which extends until 24:00 hours on 31 December 2029~~11 January 2027~~, unless the scientific advice provided by the staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in 2026 through the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process confirms the effectiveness of the measures in place. In this case, the Resolution would remain in force until 24:00 hours on 31 December 2028, except for the second closure period referred to in paragraph 3, which would extend until 24:00 hours on 11 January 2029, and also except for the additional days of closure that would be added pursuant to paragraph 4 to that second closure period. These measures are applicable to all CPCs' purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 4 to 6 (182 metric tons carrying capacity or more), and to all their longline vessels over 24 meters length overall, that fish for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area; except for the provisions of paragraph 41, which are applicable to all active purse-seine vessels on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register (RVR).~~.~~

1.

2. Pole-and-line, troll, and sportfishing vessels, and purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 1-3 (181 metric tons carrying capacity or less) and longline vessels less than 24 meters length overall fishing in waters beyond national jurisdiction, are not subject to these measures, except those related to the management of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), and the provisions relating to the catch limits per country for longline fisheries determined in paragraph 30 which includes the total catches of the group of vessels for the respective flag regardless of the fishing area.

~~2.~~ ~~.~~

MEASURES FOR PURSE-SEINE FLEETS

3. All purse-seine vessels covered by these measures must stop fishing in the Convention Area for a period of 53 days in 2027 and 40 days in 2028 and 2029 ~~64 days in each year covered by this Resolution~~.

   a. For purse-seine vessel class 5 and 6, these closures shall be observed as follows:

      a. For 2027, ~~in one of two periods, as follows:~~ from 00:00 hours on 6 August to 24:00 hours on 27 September ~~8 October~~, or from 00:00 hours on 9 November to 24:00 hours on 31 December ~~11 January of the following year~~.

      b. For years 2028 and 2029, from 00:00 on August 6 to 24:00 on 14 September, or from 00:00 on 9 November to 24:00 on 18 December.

   ~~a.~~

   b. Class 4 purse-seine vessels shall observe a closure of 53 ~~64~~ consecutive days in 2027 and a 40-day closure in 2028 and 2029, at any time of the year, at the discretion of the vessel owner, who shall notify the flag CPC in writing, and the latter to the Director of the IATTC, of the start date of the closure at least 30 days in advance. These provisions for class 4 vessels

shall apply on an exceptional basis during the period of validity of this Resolution, and the IATTC scientific staff shall evaluate their effects for review by the CCA and the corresponding recommendation to the Commission.

~~b.~~

4. For the years 2026 and 2027–2028, should the resolution remain in force pursuant to paragraph 1, CPCs shall ensure that vessels that exceeded during the previous year the threshold ~~annual catch limit~~ of 1,200 metric tons of bigeye tuna shall increase during the following year by 10 additional days the closure period established in paragraph 3 of this resolution. This way, for those who exceed this in 2027, the increase in the closure will take place in 2028; for those who exceed in 2028, the increase in the closure will take place in 2029; and for those who exceed in 2029, the increase in the closure will take place in 2030. It is understood that according to the rules in force in 2026, for those who have exceeded in 2026, the increase in the closure will take place in 2027.

~~4.~~

If during this same period a vessel exceeds the threshold of the annual catch limit of 1,500 metric tons of bigeye tuna, they shall increase the closure by 13 days; if it exceeds the annual catch limit of 1,800 tons of bigeye tuna, it shall increase its closure by 16 days; if it exceeds threshold of the ~~the~~ annual catch limit of 2,100 metric tons, it shall increase its closure by 19 days; and if it exceeds the threshold of the annual catch limit of 2,400 metric tons, it shall increase its closure by 22 days, in addition to the closure stipulated in paragraph 3 of this resolution.

For class 5 and 6 purse-seine vessels, the additional days of closure pursuant to this paragraph shall be added, as appropriate, to the beginning of the closure for vessels observing the first period and to the end of the closure for vessels observing the second period, so that the closure of the first period shall always end on 8 October and the second period shall always begin on 9 November of each year. For class 4 purse-seine vessels, the additional days of closure must be added consecutively to their chosen days of closure.

The IATTC Secretariat shall send to the CPCs by 1 March ~~2026~~ 2027 the names of the vessels that must observe additional closure days in accordance with this paragraph and so on, every year during which this Resolution is in effect.

5. Each CPC shall strengthen the sampling and control system for tuna catches through, among others, the utilization of on-board observer data, logbooks, port sampling and information from tuna processing facilities, to facilitate to the operators and captains the monitoring of their catches and a better compliance with the objectives of this Resolution.

6. CPCs shall be responsible for the compilation and submission of the final data on the annual catches of bigeye tuna made by individual vessels flying their flag during the current year and such data shall be reported to the Secretariat no later than 15 February of the following year.

7. Recognizing the scientific value of the Integrated Port Sampling Program (IPSP) as described in SAC-16-05, the program shall be implemented and remain active with the necessary budgetary support from the Commission for the duration of this Resolution.

8. For ~~2026~~ ~~2026~~ 2027 and following years, if applicable, as soon as possible, after the conclusion of each trip, the IATTC staff will transmit to the flag CPC their best estimate of a vessel's catch for that trip, together with an accounting of the data and the methodology used to arrive at the estimate. The flag CPC will then determine the amount of bigeye catch that will be attributed to a vessel for a given trip per paragraph 11.

~~9.~~ The sampling in port and processing plants may prioritize vessels that have reached an average catch between the years 2017 to 2019 greater than five hundred (500) tons of bigeye tuna per year, according to the data received by the Secretariat.

9.

10. CPCs shall provide the IATTC Secretariat, data derived from tuna processing companies on vessels flying their flag for all fish caught in the Convention Area, including available data on species, sizes and weights, no later than ten days from the last day of classification of the product in the plant. Where, due to verification, validation, or transmission procedures established in national law, a CPC is unable to meet such a deadline, it may apply an alternative term not exceeding (90) ninety days from the last day of classification. The CPC shall inform the Secretariat in advance of the applicable national procedures and the required time limit.

    The Commission shall review this provision in 2027, based on a report from the scientific staff on the availability, quality, and scientific usefulness of the information received.

    ~~10. CPCs shall ensure that the processing plants data for vessels flying their flags for any fish caught in the IATTC Convention Area be provided to its fisheries authorities in real time (i.e., within 10 days from the first day of unloading until the last day of grading by size), with copy to the IATTC staff.~~

11. The CPCs will be responsible for estimating the catch of bigeye tuna of each vessel flying its flag at the end of each trip, to the extent that one or more data sources are available to the CPC in the days immediately after the conclusion of the trip and discharge (e.g., observer estimates, ship's log data, well sampling, cannery data). The duty to estimate the catch of the vessel will be the responsibility of the flag CPC.

12. In the event that the *status quo* conditions, as represented by the average annual catches of bigeye tuna during the three-year period 2017-2019 (66,906 t – Best Scientific Estimate [BSE]), are not offset by this measure, or taking into consideration the results of any new stock assessments for bigeye, the IATTC scientific staff shall propose to the Commission an update of its recommendations for these conservation measures, including, among others, an increase of the numbers of closure days.

13. If the implementation of this measure has positive effects that demonstrate an improvement of the status of the bigeye tuna stock, the scientific staff shall analyze the conservation measures in force in order to submit to the Commission for consideration new measures that consider, among others, reducing the number of closure days or eliminating the "*corralito*."

14. The fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna by purse-seine vessels within the area of 96º and 110ºW and between 4°N and 3°S, known as the "*corralito*", which is illustrated in Figure 1, shall be closed from 00:00 hours on 9 October to 24:00 hours on 8 November.

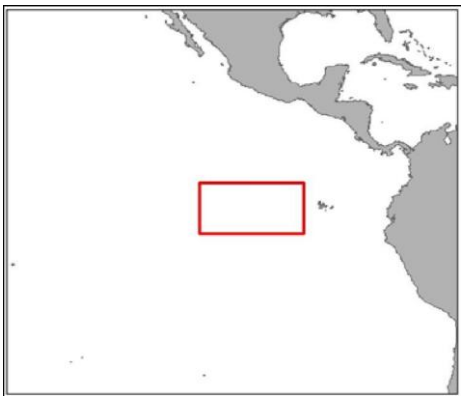

Figure 1. Closure area

15. a. For each one of the closure periods stipulated for class 5 and 6 purse-seine vessel in paragraph 3 of this Resolution, each CPC shall notify the Director, by 15 July of each year, the names of all the purse-seine vessels that will observe that closure period, also identifying those that must

observe additional closure days pursuant to paragraph 4 of this resolution.

b. Every vessel that fishes, regardless of the flag under which it operates or whether it changes flag or the jurisdiction of the CPC under which it fishes during the year, must observe the closure period to which it was committed.

16. a. If a *force majeure*[1] event renders a class 5 or 6 vessel[2] unable to proceed to sea outside one of the two closure periods during a period of at least 75 continuous days, a CPC may request an exemption for a reduced closure period as provided in paragraph 3 and subparagraph 16b. If an exemption is granted, the vessel will be required to observe a reduced closure period as outlined below in subparagraph 16e. A request for exemption due to *force majeure* shall be sent by a CPC to the Secretariat within 30 calendar days of the end of the period of inactivity due to *force majeure*. Requests submitted after this time will not be considered.

b. In addition to the request for exemption, the CPC shall send the evidence necessary to demonstrate that the vessel did not proceed to sea during said continuous period, which closure period the vessel observed, and that the facts on which the request for exemption is based were due to *force majeure*.

c. After the timely receipt of both the request and supporting information required in subparagraph b, the Director shall immediately send the request and the evidence electronically to the other CPCs for their consideration, duly coded in order to maintain the anonymity of the name, flag and owner of the vessel.

d. The request shall be considered accepted unless an IATTC Member objects to it formally within 15 calendar days of the receipt of said request, in which case the Director shall immediately notify all CPCs of the objection.

e. If the request for exemption is accepted:

i. the vessel shall observe a reduced closure period of 32 ~~40~~ consecutive days in the same year during which the *force majeure* event occurred, in one of the two periods prescribed in paragraph 3, to be immediately notified to the Director by the CPC, or

ii. in the event said vessel has already observed a closure period prescribed in paragraph 3 in the same year during which the *force majeure* event occurred, it shall observe a reduced closure period of 32 ~~40~~ consecutive days the following year, in one of the two periods prescribed in paragraph 3, to be notified to the Director by the CPC no later than 15 July of that year.

iii. vessels that benefit from the exemption must carry an observer from the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) on board.

iv. The exemption shall only apply to the ordinary ~~64-day closure~~ period stipulated in paragraph 3 of this Resolution, not to the additional periods stipulated in paragraph 4.

17. Each CPC shall, for purse-seine fisheries:

a. Before the date of entry into force of the closure, take the legal and administrative measures necessary to implement the closure;

b. Inform all interested parties in its tuna industry of the closure;

c. Inform the Director that these steps have been taken;

d. Ensure that at the time a closure period begins, and for the entire duration of that period, all the purse-seine vessels fishing for yellowfin, bigeye, and/or skipjack tunas that are committed to observing that closure period and that fly its flag, or operate under its jurisdiction, in the Antigua Convention Area are in port, except that vessels carrying an observer from the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) on board may remain at sea, provided they do not make a set or deploy, retrieve, visit or check a FAD in the Convention Area. The only other exception to

this provision shall be that vessels carrying an observer authorized pursuant to the AIDCP may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area.

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[1] For the purposes of paragraph 16, only cases of vessels disabled in the course of fishing operations by mechanical and/or structural failure, fire or explosion, shall be considered force majeure.

[2] This exemption applies to the vessels of fleets that observe either of the closure periods prescribed in paragraph 3.

MEASURES FOR THE FISHERY ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES

18. For the purposes of this Resolution, the definitions contained in Annex I shall apply.

19. CPCs shall ensure that purse-seine vessels flying their flag have no more than the following number of FADs, as defined in Annex I (consistent with Resolution C-19-01), active at any one time:

Class 6 (1,200 m^3 and greater):	340 FADs
Class 6 (< 1,200 m^3):	210 FADs
Classes 4-5:	85 FADs
Classes 1-3:	50 FADs

20. A FAD shall be activated exclusively onboard a purse-seine vessel.

21. For the purposes of this resolution, a FAD is considered active when it:

    a. is deployed at sea; and

    b. activation of the satellite buoy has occurred, and the satellite buoy is transmitting its location and is being tracked by the vessel, its owner, or operator.

22. Deactivation of a satellite buoy attached to a FAD may only be done in the following circumstances: complete loss of signal reception; appropriation of a FAD by a third party; temporarily during a selected closure period; for being outside of:

    - the area between the meridians 150° W and 100° W, and the parallels 8° N and 10°S;
    - the area between the meridian 100° W and the coast of the American continent and the parallels 5° N and 15°S;

    or transfer of ownership. CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, deactivations to the Secretariat using the specific data fields indicated in Annex II. The reports shall be submitted at monthly intervals with a time delay of at least 60 days, but no longer than 90 days after the deactivation. The FAD Working Group, based on advice from the IATTC scientific staff, shall provide to the SAC and the Commission advice on any required adjustments.

23. Remote reactivation of a satellite buoy at sea shall only occur in the following circumstances: to assist in the recovery of a beached FAD; after a temporary deactivation during the closure period; or transfer of ownership while the FAD is at sea. CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, any remote reactivation to the Secretariat using the specific data fields indicated in Annex III. The reports shall be submitted at monthly intervals with a time delay of at least 60 days, but no longer than 90 days after the remote reactivation.

24. The IATTC scientific staff and the Working Group on FADs will also, to the extent possible, review the variation in levels of aggregation, mortality, change in fishing strategy, and durability of FADs built with biodegradable materials or with designs and materials that present less risk for the environment.

~~25.~~ In order to support the work of the IATTC scientific staff in analyzing the impact of FAD fisheries, while protecting business confidential data, CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, daily information on all active FADs to the Secretariat. The information provided shall be identical in form and content to the raw satellite buoy data provided by the buoy manufacturers to the original users (i.e., vessels and vessel administrators), as specified in ~~d~~

25. ~~in the~~ Annex IV of this Resolution. Reporting shall occur at monthly intervals and with a time delay of at least 60 days, but no longer than 90 days.

Information received under this paragraph shall be used exclusively for scientific and management purposes authorized by the Commission. Access to individualized data will be limited to expressly authorized staff and its disclosure or use for other purposes will require the prior consent of the flag CPC, pursuant to Resolution C-15-07.

26. In order to provide the IATTC scientific staff with valuable information to feed their work, as agreed in 2023, CPCs shall continue reporting, or require their vessels to report to the IATTC, utilizing a format developed by the IATTC staff and approved by the Commission, complete VMS data for all vessels required to carry VMS pursuant to Resolution C-14-02. The information reported to the Secretariat shall include, at a minimum, the information specified in Paragraphs 2(a) of and 2(b) of that Resolution. Where the flag CPC requires more frequent polling rates, CPCs are encouraged to submit higher-frequency VMS data. Reporting shall occur every two months and with a time delay no longer than 90 days. Data collected pursuant to this paragraph shall be treated in accordance with Resolution C-15-07 on data confidentiality policy and procedures.

Information received under this paragraph shall be used exclusively for scientific and management purposes authorized by the Commission. Access to individualized data will be limited to expressly authorized staff and its disclosure or use for other purposes will require the prior consent of the flag CPC, pursuant to Resolution C-15-07.

~~26.~~

27. Each CPC shall ensure that:

a. its purse-seine vessels do not deploy FADs during a period of 15 days prior to the start of the selected closure period;

b. all their Class 6 purse seine vessels make reasonable, documented, and operationally safe efforts to recover, during the 15 days prior to the commencement of the closure, FADs under their ownership or control over which they have fished during the same period. The impossibility of recovering a FAD due to meteorological or security reasons, loss of signal, appropriation by third parties, or location outside the operational range of the ship, will not be considered non-compliance, provided that it has been duly documented and communicated to the flag CPC. ~~all its Class-6 purse-seine vessels recover within 15 days prior to the start of the closure period a number of FADs equal to the number of FADs set upon during that same period~~.

28. a. In compliance with Resolution C-23-04, to reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, CPCs shall ensure that, as required as of 1 January 2025, the design and construction of any FADs to be deployed or redeployed (i.e., will be placed in the water) in the IATTC area of competence shall comply with the following specifications in accordance with Annex I of that resolution:

i. the use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD;
ii. only non-entangling FAD materials and designs shall be used

b. CPCs, with the support of the Commission and its staff and in consultation with all stakeholders, as appropriate, shall ensure that the design and use of biodegradable non- entangling FADs are made in compliance with the provisions of Resolution C-23-04 and its Annex I.

29. The Scientific Advisory Committee and the *Ad hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs shall review the progress and results of the implementation of the FAD provisions contained in this Resolution and make recommendations to the Commission, as appropriate.

MEASURES FOR THE LONGLINE FISHERY

30. China, Japan, Korea, United States, and Chinese Taipei undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by the total of their longline vessels in the Convention Area during the period in which this Resolution remains in force do not exceed 55,131 metric tons, distributed at the following levels:

Country	Metric tons
China	2,507
Japan	32,372
Korea	11,947
Chinese Taipei	7,555
United States	750

31. All other CPCs undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area do not exceed the greater of 500 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001[3,4]. CPCs whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director.

32. A CPC referenced in paragraph 30 may make a single transfer of a portion of its bigeye tuna catch limit to other CPCs that also have a bigeye tuna catch limit listed in paragraph 31, provided that the total transferred by any CPC does not exceed 30 percent of its catch limit. These transfers cannot be made to retroactively cover an overage of another CPC's catch limit. Both CPCs involved in a transfer shall, separately or jointly, notify the Director 10 days in advance of the intended transfer. This notification shall specify the tonnage to be transferred. The Director shall promptly notify the Commission of the transfer.

33. The CPC that receives the transfer shall be responsible for management for the transferred catch limit, including monitoring and monthly reporting of catch. A CPC that receives a one- time transfer of bigeye tuna catch limit shall not retransfer that catch limit to another CPC. The amount of bigeye transferred shall be considered without prejudice by the Commission for the purposes of establishing any future limits or allocations.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION AND ADOPTION OF A MULTI-STOCK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE BY THE COMMISSION

33 bis. The preliminary and indicative work schedule proposed by the scientific staff and at the 5th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group **to Strengthen the Dialogue among Scientists, Managers, and other Stakeholders on MSE is endorsed, with the amendments presented in Annex XX. This plan contemplates the completion of the evaluation process of multi-stock management strategies for tropical tunas in 2032, for the consequent adoption of a multi-stock Management Procedure for tropical tuna by the IATTC. This endorsement does not in itself constitute the adoption of the Tropical Tuna Management Strategy, which should be further analyzed until its corresponding adoption.**

~~33.~~

OTHER PROVISIONS

34. Landings and transshipments of tuna or tuna products that have been positively identified as originating from fishing activities that contravene these measures are prohibited. The Director is requested to provide relevant information to CPCs to assist them in this regard.

35. Each CPC shall submit to the Director, by 15 July, a national report on its updated national compliance scheme and actions taken to implement these measures, including any controls it has

imposed on its fleets and any monitoring, control, and compliance measures it has established to ensure compliance with such controls.

36. In order to evaluate progress towards the objectives of these measures, the IATTC scientific staff will analyze the effects on the stocks of the implementation of these measures, and previous conservation and management measures, and will propose, if necessary, appropriate measures to be applied in future years.

~~37.~~ Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the Director is requested to continue the experiments with sorting grids for juvenile tunas and other species of non-target fish in the purse-seine nets of vessels that fish on FADs and on unassociated schools, by developing an experimental protocol, including parameters for the materials to be used for the sorting grids, and the methods for their construction, installation, and deployment. The Director shall also specify the methods and format for the collection of scientific data to be used for analysis of the performance of the sorting grids. The foregoing is without prejudice to each CPC carrying out its own experimental programs with sorting grids and presenting its results to the Director.

37.

38. All purse seine vessels shall retain on board and download all caught bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna, except for those that are considered to be unfit for human consumption for reasons other than their size.

Fish resulting from the final set of a fishing trip are also exempt from this obligation when there is not enough space in the wells to load the entire catch. The condition of the final set and the lack of space may be accredited by means of the fishing logbook, the distribution of the catch in the wells, the observer's report, and any other information that the flag State authority deems relevant.

~~38.~~ The immediate return to the sea or use by third parties of the part of the catch that cannot be physically taken on board shall not constitute a breach, provided that the recipient of the product is duly authorized and complies with the relevant data provision requirements. ~~To renew the requirement for all purse-seine vessels to first retain on board and then land all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna caught, except fish considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size. A single exception shall be the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set.~~

39. The IATTC shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness,

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[3] The Commission acknowledges that France, as a coastal State, is developing a tuna longline fleet on behalf of its overseas territories situated in the Convention Area.

[4] The Commission acknowledges that Peru, as a coastal State, will develop a tuna longline fleet, which will operate in strict compliance with the rules and provisions of the IATTC and in accordance with the resolutions of the Commission.

especially in the overlap area, including by frequent consultations with the WCPFC, in order to maintain, and inform their respective members of, a thorough understanding of conservation and management measures directed at bigeye, yellowfin, and other tunas, and the scientific bases and effectiveness of those measures.

40. The IATTC shall continue supporting the enhancement of the Regional Tuna Tagging Program (RTTP) with wide spatial coverage to allow for estimation of growth, natural mortality and abundance; and while maintaining a priority for tropical tunas, also include swordfish and sharks to the extent practicable (see proposal E.4.b in SAC-16 INF-E). In addition, the RTTP shall collaborate and coordinate with opportunistic tagging programs conducted by CPCs and relevant stakeholders by means such as providing data on drifting FADs during the closure periods, with appropriate safeguards to protect business confidential information. IATTC staff shall use these data to continue prioritizing research concerning the stock structure(s) of yellowfin tuna.

~~41. Funding for the RTTP in the amount of $1.8M USD shall be provided through one-time assessed contributions to be paid by all purse-seine vessels listed as active on the IATTC RVR at any point during the calendar year 2026. All such vessels will pay an amount equal to $6.16USD per cubic meter of well capacity. Payment for such vessels is due by 30 June 2026, or for vessels entering the RVR after 15 January 2026 is due prior to the vessel's inclusion in the RVR, along with its AIDCP vessel assessment. If voluntary contributions are obtained in support of the RTTP, this amount will be deducted from the $1.8million USD and the assessed rate of payment per cubic meter will be recalculated. All the surplus resulting from the inclusion of new vessels on the RVR will be reported by the Secretariat to the CPCs in a timely manner, in writing, and will be used only for research projects to strengthen stock assessments.~~

~~41.~~

~~42.~~ Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the IATTC scientific staff shall continue research work on the relationship between the depth of nets deployed by tuna vessels and the catches of bigeye tuna, in order to determine its effect on an increase in fishing mortality in each area of operation. For the 2026 meeting of the IATTC SAC, the results of this work should be presented for their respective analysis and recommendations to the Commission. The results shall be presented in aggregate form and without identifying individual vessels, companies, or operational strategies. Any management measure based on such results shall require prior review by the SAC and a decision by the Commission based on the best available science.

~~42.~~

43. In ~~2026~~ 2027 and in 2028, the scientific staff shall evaluate the results of these measures ~~shall be evaluated~~ in the context of the results of the stock assessments and of changes in the level of active capacity in the purse-seine fleet and, depending on the conclusions reached by the IATTC scientific staff, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, and based on such evaluation, the Commission shall take further actions including substantial extension of closure days for purse-seine vessels or equivalent measures, such as catch limits.

44. The IATTC shall continue efforts to develop harvest strategies for tropical tunas. The IATTC scientific staff shall prioritize and continue to establish the scientific basis, through Management Strategy Evaluation testing, to advise the Commission on initial candidate harvest strategies, starting with bigeye tuna. The staff, consulting with the ad hoc Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation and the SAC, shall then present for the Commission's adoption in ~~2026~~ 2027 a candidate harvest strategy for bigeye tuna, including candidate management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.

45. Except in cases of *force majeure* prescribed in paragraph 16, no exemptions will be allowed with regard to the closure periods notified to the Director in accordance with paragraph 16a, nor with regard to the fishing effort of the purse-seine fleets of the respective CPCs.

Annex I

Definitions

For the purposes of this Resolution, the following definitions shall apply:

a. FAD (consistent with Resolution C-19-01): Anchored, drifting, floating or submerged objects deployed and/or tracked by vessels, including through the use of radio and/or satellite buoys, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for purse-seine fishing operations.

b. Satellite buoy: A buoy that uses a satellite network service to indicate its geographical position and is compliant with requirements in Resolution C-19-01 to be clearly marked with a unique identification code.

c. Activation of a satellite buoy: The act of initializing network service for receiving the satellite buoy's position. Activation is done by the buoy supplier company at the request of the vessel owner or manager. Following activation, the vessel owner pays for the communication service. The buoy can be transmitting or not, depending if it has been switched on.

d. Deactivation of a satellite buoy: The act of cancelling network service for receiving the satellite buoy's position. Deactivation is done by the buoy supplier company at the request of the vessel owner or manager. Following deactivation, the communication service is no longer paid for, and the buoy stops transmitting.

e. Reactivation of a satellite buoy: The act of re-initializing network service for transmission of a satellite buoy's position after deactivation. The procedure is the same as the one to be followed for activation of a satellite buoy.

f. Signal loss: The situation in which, without any intervention of the owner/operator/manager, a satellite buoy cannot be located by the owner on a monitoring device. The main causes of signal loss are buoy retrieved by another vessel or person (at-sea or on-shore), FAD sinking and buoy failure.

Annex II

Satellite Buoy Deactivation

CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, any deactivation of a satellite buoy to the Secretariat using the following data fields of the first communication of the buoy after being activated:

- date [YYYY/MM/DD],
- time [hh:mm],
- buoy identifier code,
- latitude [expressed in degrees and minutes in decimal values],
- longitude [expressed in degrees and minutes in decimal values],
- speed [knots], and
- reason of deactivation: signal loss, stolen FAD, beaching, temporarily during closure periods, transferred ownership, FAD outside the areas specified in paragraph 22 of this resolution, other (specify).

Annex III

Satellite Buoy Reactivation

CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, any remote reactivation of a satellite buoy to the Secretariat using the following data fields of the last communication of the buoy before being deactivated:

- date [YYYY/MM/DD],
- time [hh:mm],
- buoy identifier code,
- latitude [expressed in degrees and minutes in decimal values],
- longitude [expressed in degrees and minutes in decimal values],
- speed [knots], and
- reason of remote reactivation: recovery of a signal loss, after a temporary deactivation during the closure period, or transfer of ownership while FAD is at sea, other (specify).

Annex IV

Format of the information to be requested to satellite buoy manufacturers

a) Daily information on buoy location

The following data fields should be included for all the buoys and positions recorded during the day, in fishing company-specific csv files:

- date [dd-mm-yyyy],
- time [hh.mm],
- unique buoy identifier code [the format varies for each buoy manufacturer but is always an alphanumeric code],
- IMO of the vessel associated to the buoy and receiving the information,
- latitude [expressed as decimal degrees],
- longitude [expressed as decimal degrees],
- speed [knots],
- echosounder = on/off.

Additionally, whenever possible, the following information corresponding to each transmission will be included:

- Water temperature.
- Buoy in the water (only for those buoys with sensors that allow identifying buoys in the water)
- Activation and deactivation dates.
- Estate or transmission mode of the buoy (e.g. immediate information, retrieving, etc.)

Data should be received in csv files named "X-YYYY-MM-ZZZZZZZ.csv" where X is the code of the buoy manufacturer (M, S, Z, for Marine Instruments, Satlink, and Zunibal, respectively), YYYY is the year, MM the month, and ZZZZZZZ the name of the fishing company. A single csv file will be prepared for company, year and month.

b) Information on acoustic records

The following data fields must be included for all the buoys and acoustic records recorded daily, in fishing company-specific csv files:

- ZUNIBAL: company, unique buoy identifier code, date (date, time), type (position or sounder), latitude, longitude, speed, drift, total

- SATLINK: Company, unique buoy identifier code, Message Descriptor (MD), date (date, time), latitude, longitude, battery charge (bat), temp, speed, drift, layer1, layer2, layer3, layer4, layer5, layer6, layer7, layer8, layer9, layer10, sum, max, mag1, mag2, mag3, mag4, mag5, mag6, mag7, mag8.

- MARINE INSTRUMENTS: company, unique buoy identifier code, TransmissionDate, TransmissionHour, lat, lon, mode, light, poll, temperature, vcc, SounderDate, gain, layers, layerbits, maxdepth, sd1, sd2, sd3, sd4, sd5, sd6, sd7, sd8, sd9, sd10, sd11, sd13, sd12, sd14, sd15, sd16, sd17, sd18, sd19, sd20, sd21, sd22, sd23, sd24, sd25, sd26, sd27, sd28, sd29, sd30, sd31, sd32, sd33, sd34, sd35, sd36, sd37, sd38, sd39, sd40, sd41, sd42, sd43, sd44, sd45, sd346, sd47, sd48, sd49, sd50.

Data should be received in csv files named "X-YYYY-MM-ZZZZZZZ-Sounder.csv" where X is the code of the buoy manufacturer (M, S, Z, for Marine Instruments, Satlink, and Zunibal, respectively), YYYY is the year, MM the month, and ZZZZZZZ the name of the fishing company. A single csv file will be prepared for company, year and month.