

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

La Jolla, California (USA)

18-20 October 2016

**WORKSHOP ON METHODS FOR MONITORING THE STATUS OF EASTERN
TROPICAL PACIFIC OCEAN DOLPHIN POPULATIONS**

Pacific Room

Southwest Fisheries Science Center

La Jolla, California

The Antigua Convention of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) requires that the status of all species potentially impacted by the purse-seine fishery in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) be monitored. As a result of a hiatus in fishery-independent surveys since 2006, there are currently no reliable indicators with which to monitor the status of ETP dolphin populations. This lack of information is problematic because, in spite of the current low levels of reported mortalities, high levels of historical mortality and low estimated population rates of increase have resulted in ambiguous population status.

The IATTC will be hosting a workshop to discuss methods for estimating abundance and monitoring dolphin stock status. The purpose of the workshop is to bring together experts in the fields of line-transect and mark-recapture surveys, abundance estimation and population modelling, and imagery, tagging and genetics data, to discuss options for developing indices with which to monitor dolphin populations. The goal of the workshop is to identify methods, both conventional and novel, for assessing dolphin stock status.

The workshop will include presentations of background papers on: 1) a review of historic and potential data sources, including fisheries data, tagging and genetics data, survey data (led by IATTC staff); 2) a review of data analysis methods including line-transect and mark-recapture (led by Stephen Buckland, University of St Andrews); and, 3) a review of population assessment modelling methodology (led by Andre Punt, University of Washington). Discussions will follow on potential methods for monitoring population status, using both conventional methodologies, as well as non-conventional and experimental methodologies that may require future research and development.

Active involvement in the workshop is by invitation only. However, the workshop will be open to observers and there will be public comment periods to allow workshop observers to comment on the material presented and on discussions.