

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

104th MEETING

**Lisbon, Portugal
31 August – 4 September 2026**

RECOMMENDATION C-26-10

RECOMMENDATION ON COORDINATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE IATTC AND THE PROCESSES RELATED TO THE BBNJ AGREEMENT

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

Recalling the objective and principles of the Antigua Convention and especially the commitment of Members to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention, as well as associated or dependent species and related marine ecosystems;

Recognizing the role of regional fisheries management organizations as competent mechanisms for the adoption of conservation and management measures based on the best available scientific evidence;

Taking note of the adoption of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and of the obligation of the Conference of the Parties to the BBNJ Agreement to respect and not undermine the competences of relevant legal instruments and frameworks and of relevant global, regional, subregional, and sectoral bodies;

Recognizing the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination, among the various international and regional frameworks related to the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources in areas outside national jurisdiction;

Noting that Article XXIV of the 2003 Antigua Convention calls upon the IATTC to cooperate with subregional, regional, and global fisheries organizations and agreements and, where appropriate, to establish relevant institutional mechanisms, such as consultative committees, in agreement with such organizations or agreements, with the goal of promoting the achievement of the objective of this Convention, obtaining the best available scientific information, promoting institutional coherence, and avoiding duplication with respect to their work;

Emphasizing the need to avoid regulatory duplication and to ensure that other instruments and legal frameworks respect the competencies of the Antigua Convention and of the Commission, and do not undermine them;

Recognizing the conservation and management measures already implemented by the Commission and its Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs), including those focused on the ecosystem approach, the reduction of bycatch, fisheries monitoring, the protection of associated species, and the sustainability of fisheries;

Aware of the importance of strengthening scientific and technical exchange among the IATTC and other relevant international processes related to marine biodiversity and ocean governance;

Recommends:

1. To reassert the role of the IATTC as the competent regional organization for the conservation and management of the stocks covered by the Convention and for the adoption of science-based measures aimed at sustainable management and the ecosystem approach in the Convention Area.
2. To promote cooperation and coordination among the IATTC and relevant bodies, mechanisms, and processes derived from the BBNJ Agreement, as well as other relevant organizations, including other regional fisheries management organizations, to strengthen the compatibility and effectiveness of conservation and management measures applicable in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
3. To request the scientific staff and the IATTC Secretariat to identify possible mechanisms for information exchange, scientific coordination, and technical consultation with relevant processes related to other global and regional organizations.
4. To include BBNJ as a standing agenda item at the IATTC Annual Meeting, in order to provide Members with an opportunity to review progress in the implementation of the Agreement, exchange information with relevant institutions of the BBNJ, provide guidance to the Secretariat and Scientific Staff, and consider any implications for the policies, procedures, or activities of the Commission. Under this item, the Director shall submit an annual report to the Commission on progress related to the implementation of this recommendation and on opportunities to strengthen institutional and scientific cooperation in the region.
5. To require that the participation of IATTC staff in submissions to or in consultations with the Secretariat of the BBNJ Agreement, as well as any other intervention in processes arising from the BBNJ Agreement, be carried out only under the express instruction of the Commission.
6. To encourage Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) to consider all possible ways in which the Commission could play an active role in the deliberations leading up to the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.
7. That the process for the Commission to consider recommendations made to the IATTC by the Conference of the Parties to the BBNJ Agreement is to be in accordance with the IATTC Rules of Procedure.
8. To encourage CPCs to continue strengthening conservation and management measures compatible with the ecosystem approach and with the long-term sustainability objectives of fisheries and associated marine ecosystems.