

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

~~102nd~~ 104th MEETING

~~Panama City, Panama~~ Lisbon, Portugal
~~2-6 September 2024~~ 31 August – 04 September 2026

PROPOSAL IATTC-104 E-1

SUBMITTED BY CHINA

RESOLUTION C-~~2426-04~~XX

SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in ~~Panama City, Panama~~ Lisbon, Portugal, on the occasion of its ~~102nd~~ 104th 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;

Recognizing the need for the IATTC to strengthen scientific research on south Pacific albacore tuna and to develop an explicit research plan in cooperation with the WCPFC and the Pacific Community (SPC);

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~~ SPC 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;

Noting that the 2024 Pacific-wide benchmark stock assessment indicated that the south Pacific albacore tuna stock was neither overfished nor subject to overfishing, while recognizing the uncertainties and data limitations identified in the assessment, particularly in the eastern Pacific Ocean ~~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. Noting further that the WCPFC adopted a management procedure for south Pacific albacore tuna at its 22nd Regular Session of the Commission in 2025;~~

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~~2027, ~~reference points~~management objectives 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.
- ~~1~~2. The IATTC-WCPFC Joint Working Group on South Pacific albacore tuna (SPAJWG) shall fully consider the differences in the fisheries structure and management contexts of the IATTC and the WCPFC Convention areas when developing compatible management measures.
3. The Commission shall consider increasing support for scientific research on south Pacific albacore tuna, including support for the work of the IATTC scientific staff and for relevant collaborative research activities.
4. The IATTC scientific staff shall develop a multi-year scientific work plan for south Pacific albacore tuna for consideration by the SAC and the Commission in 2027. The work plan should identify priority research activities, expected outputs, timelines, data requirements, staffing needs and estimated costs.
- ~~2~~5. CPCs and IATTC scientific staff are encouraged to ~~work with the WCPFC and SPC to investigate the stock structure(s) of south Pacific albacore.~~ continue collaborating with the WCPFC and SPC regarding the stock status and stock structure of south Pacific albacore tuna, as well as on the 2027 Pacific-wide benchmark stock assessment.
- ~~3~~6. CPCs and IATTC scientific staff are encouraged to participate actively in the SPAJWG and other relevant scientific and management processes to support the development of compatible management measures ~~in WCPFC science management dialogues to develop a harvest strategy~~ for south Pacific albacore tuna 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.~~
- ~~5.7. 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.~~ CPCs are encouraged to improve data collection, especially length composition data, and submission of operational-level logbook data for south Pacific albacore tuna in the IATTC Convention Area.
- ~~6.8. This measure shall~~ replace Resolution C-24-04 ~~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.