Objectives of the Workshop

1. Bring together a small group of scientists from throughout the world with various expertise in tropical tuna tagging programs to share their experiences and advice with IATTC staff
2. Review various aspects of recent regional tuna tagging programs including their objectives, methods, and results
3. Present and discuss the proposed activities of the IATTC regional tuna tagging program during 2019-2020
4. Present and discuss optimal and practical experimental designs in tropical tuna tagging programs
5. Discuss applications of tropical tuna tagging data for improving regional stock assessments, particularly for skipjack tuna.

Workshop Products and Rapporteuring

- A formal report prepared by IATTC staff, including abstracts of presentations, overviews of pertinent discussions, and suggested recommendations adopted by the participants
- Before finalizing and distribution a draft of the report will be circulated to all participants, and comments given due consideration
- Meeting rapporteurs are Mark Maunder (lead rapporteur), Marlon Roman and Shane Griffiths
- Presenters, please provide short abstracts of all presentations to Mark for inclusion in the report by the end of the meeting

Focus Questions

1. Overall design questions

- Is it possible to release tags throughout the EPO?
- How can the tagging program be extended to the western part of the EPO?
- If it is not possible to release tags throughout the EPO, can analyses account for it?
- What are strategies to enhance tag mixing? Should the number of tags released in a single school of tuna be limited?
- How can simulation analysis be used to improve the tagging design / or understand biases resulting from sub-optimal design?

Focus Questions

2. Tagging mortality/shedding questions

- How can tag related mortality be minimized?
- How can tag related mortality (initial and long-term) be accounted for?
- How can tag loss be minimized?
- How can tag loss (initial and long-term) be accounted for?

Focus Questions

3. Tag reporting questions

- How can reporting rate be maximized?
- How can reporting rate be accounted for?
- Do high reward tags provide information to estimate recovery rates?
- How can the reliability of recovery information (e.g. date, area, length) be improved?
- How can shrinkage be accounted for?

Focus Questions

4. Complementary research questions

- Should some tagged fish be injected with OTC to provide information to validate aging methods and should they have different colored higher reward tags?