INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. General presentation of proposals submitted by Members on resolutions and others
4. The tuna fishery in the EPO, research, management recommendations and work of the SAC
    a) The fishery in 2023 and status of the tuna and billfish stocks
    b) Review of the Commission staff's research
    c) Report and recommendations of the 15th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee
    d) Conservation recommendations by the Commission staff
5. Reports of subsidiary bodies and working groups:
    a. 6th Workshop of an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO
    b. 2nd Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Working Group
    c. 2nd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch
    d. 8th Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs
    e. 11th Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance
    f. 25th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity
    g. 15th Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission and 1st Special Biennial Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission
    h. 9th Meeting of the IATTC - WCPFC/NC Joint Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna
6. Climate change
7. Discussion of resolutions and recommendations
8. Election of Chairs of subsidiary bodies and working groups
9. Other business
10. Place and date of next meeting
11. Adjournment

APPENDICES

3.		**PROPOSALS (not adopted)**
3a	A	**Chair's proposal.** Combines proposals A1, A2, A3, and A4 on tuna conservation
3b	D-1	**European Union.** Bluefin tuna
3c	E-1	**Canada.** Marine pollution
3d	F-1	**VAR.** Administration and finance
3e	F-2	**CAN.** Administration and finance
3f	L-1	**USA**. Labor standards
3g	M-1	**USA**. Sea turtles
3h	N-1	**VEN.** Capacity
3i	G-1	**VAR.** Amendment to the IATTC rules of procedure
4		**REPORTS**
4a		Recommendations of the 15th SAC meeting
4b		Report of the 6th Workshop on an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO
4c		Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Working Group
4d		Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch
4e		Report of the 8th Meeting of the A*d Hoc* Working Group on FADs
4f		Report of the 11th Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance
4g		Report of the 25th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity
4h		Report of the 15th Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission ("Review Committee")
4i		Report of the 1st Special Biennial Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission
5		**OTHER**
5a Bolivia's statement		
5b China's statement/comments on the USA proposal on labor standards (L-1)		

The 102nd meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was held in Panama City, Panama, on 2-6 September 2024. The attendees are listed in **Appendix 1.**

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting began after an opening ceremony where speeches were made regarding the work of the IATTC by the Chair of the IATTC, Dr. Andrés Arens, the Director of the IATTC, Dr. Arnulfo Franco, and the Director of the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP), Mr. Eduardo Carrasquillo. In addition, each Head of Delegation was presented with a gift from the ARAP.

The Chair of the IATTC, Mr. Arens, thanked Panama for the kind invitation to hold the 102nd meeting of the IATTC in that city. He noted with satisfaction the presence in the room of representatives of 20 Members, with the sole absence of Kiribati, as well as the participation of the five Cooperating non-Members: Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia.

It was recalled that it had been agreed at the 101st meeting that the IATTC Vice-Chair would be designated as rapporteur for the meeting, and in this case, it was Mr. Julio Guevara, of the delegation of Nicaragua.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The proposed agenda was approved with the addition of three items:

- Climate change requested by the United States at the end of item 5.
- The reading of a statement on capacity requested by Bolivia under other business.
- A request by Ecuador, under other business, to review the inclusion of a vessel in the Regional

Vessel Register and to update the measurement of the wells of another Ecuadorian vessel.

3. General presentation of proposals submitted by Members on resolutions and others

Following a well-established practice, Members were given the opportunity to present their proposed resolutions, which allowed the process of considering and discussing the proposed resolutions to begin before reaching agenda item 7.

A total of 23 proposals were presented on the following topics: conservation of tropical tunas (5), noting that there was a text prepared by the Chair to assist in the analysis process, which combined all the proposals and on the basis of which a working group of Heads of Delegation was established to try to reach consensus on the management measure; bluefin tuna (3), administration and finance (formula for calculating contributions) (2), sharks (4), marine pollution, labor standards, management strategies, sea turtles, rules of procedure (translation of documents), south Pacific albacore tuna, and measurement of vessel capacity.

The proponents were invited to merge resolutions on the same subject, such as those on administration and finance, sharks and conservation of tropical tunas.

4a. The fishery in 2023 and status of the tuna and billfish stocks

Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva, IATTC Coordinator of Scientific Research, made a detailed presentation of the item under consideration, based on document IATTC-102-01 - The tuna fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean in 2023, which describes the status of the fishery in 2023.

This presentation led to a series of questions from Members, which highlighted the following issues:

- **Yellowfin tuna**. The scientific staff were asked for their opinion in case the tropical tuna measure was decided for one or three years. Advice was also sought on the indicators that could be used for yellowfin tuna in the absence of an assessment for this species. Dr Aires-da-Silva noted that it was expected, but not certain, that the assessment for yellowfin tuna could be ready in one year. With regard to the extension period of the management measure, he stated that a 3-year measure could be recommended, bearing in mind that any of the following events should trigger a review of the management measure: (a) the completion and adoption of a yellowfin tuna stock assessment that indicates that the stock(s) is in a state that requires additional management measures; and (b) a yellowfin tuna stock assessment that is not sufficiently reliable to be used for management advice and indicators that show cause for concern.

- **Bigeye tuna**. China asked whether the measures to implement catch thresholds for bigeye tuna had been useful in improving the management of bigeye tuna in the floating-object fishery, whether there was a possibility that bigeye tuna stocks were declining, and whether the bigeye tuna stock was declining as a result of fishing by purse-seine vessels on FADs. Dr. Aires da-Silva noted that there has been a clear reduction in the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna in the FAD fishery, coinciding with the implementation of the bigeye tuna catch thresholds and the Enhanced Sampling Program, which appear to be working well for the conservation of the resource.

- **Longline data in favor of bigeye tuna conservation.** The United States asked, in relation to the scientific staff's recommendation that provision be made for longline operational data to be routinely available for scientific purposes, what information might be useful to improve longline information, and how the provision of historical data might affect longline fleets.

  Japan noted that it has repeatedly expressed interest in helping by providing all kinds of data and that there is an agreement for Japanese scientists to visit the IATTC staff to analyze data and asked other longline nations to do the same as the CPUE was only presented with data from Japanese longliners. Dr Aires-da-Silva noted that there is indeed a Memorandum of Understanding with Japan, and that not only they but also China, Korea, Chinese Taipei and others cooperate when asked for help. He explained that Japan has a deep knowledge of longline fishing, and the reliability of its data is very high. Chinese Taipei asked about the historical data needed from its side to fill

this gap.

El Salvador stated that it is concerned about the low coverage for data verification, as there is sufficient data from the Class-6 purse-seine fleet, as it operates an observer program with 100% coverage, while the longline fleet only has 5% observer coverage.

- **Tuna tagging.** In response to a question from the European Union on the advisability of implementing a tagging program for yellowfin tuna, Dr. Aires-da-Silva indicated that a tagging program would be appropriate and applicable to all tuna species, but would require a lot of work, but could be implemented with effective and increased coordination with the CPCs and the industry. He noted that the current level of data provided by the longline fleets was sufficient to keep the abundance indices up to date while the tuna tagging program is being implemented, the cost of which could reach US$ 1.4 million in the first year of implementation.
- **Closure measures.** Ecuador asked for information on the bigeye tuna assessment and how the stock would change if the closure was modified by one or two days. Dr. Aires-da-Silva said that there were several models involved in that calculation and that it took time, but he would review it with the scientific staff. The staff later responded to the question, noting that a 1–3-day reduction would not have a significant impact on the biomass of bigeye tuna. Without an updated and available benchmark assessment of yellowfin tuna, the impact on the stock of this resource cannot be estimated.

4b. Review of the Commission staff's research

The Coordinator of Scientific Research, Dr. Aires-da-Silva, presented Document IATTC-101-02 - Staff activities and research plan, detailing the staff work and research plans for 2019-2023 and beyond (report updated to March 2024), within the framework of the Strategic Science Plan (SSP) that was approved by the Commission at its 93rd meeting (see document IATTC-93-06a). He reminded the participants that the SSP comprises seven main areas of research, namely:

1. Data collection for scientific support of management
2. Life history studies for scientific support of management
3. Sustainable fisheries
4. Ecological impacts of fishing: assessment and mitigation
5. Interactions among the environment, ecosystem, and fisheries
6. Knowledge transfer and capacity building
7. Scientific excellence

Regarding the Common Oceans project and the proposal to expand it to include Ecuador, Mexico and Peru regarding sharks, the delegation of El Salvador asked if the work on shark sampling in Central America would continue. Dr. Aires-da-Silva explained that there are many shark landing sites along the American coast, so it is impossible to monitor all of them, but work could be done by selecting a few. He recalled that there was a proposal for work that needed to be approved, but it was still pending. El Salvador insisted on the need to continue the work in Central America and, if necessary, to seek new sources of funding.

Peru asked about the status of this work on sharks, noting that it had already been extended to their country. Mr. Salvador Siu, of the Secretariat, explained that progress had been made on Task 1, which included the collection of literature and the mapping and visiting of viable sites to verify landings and develop a sampling program.

COREMAHI asked if the research plan would include work on dorado or mahi-mahi and recalled that there was a resolution mandating the Commission to carry out work on this species to assist the management in South America. Dr. Aires-da-Silva indicated that this species was indeed included in the research work and

that Dr. Juan Valero was expected to work on it.

4c. Report and recommendations of the 15th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee

The Director, Dr. Arnulfo Franco, reported on the 15th SAC meeting (**appendix 4a**) held in June 2024, which he chaired. He drew the attention of the participants to the following points:

- The recommendations that have been adopted by the SAC for consideration and approval by the Commission. The text of these recommendations can be found in Document IATTC-102-03 - Report and recommendations of the 15th meeting of the Scientific Advisory.
- The recommendations of the Bycatch Working Group and the FAD Working Group, as discussed and approved by the SAC, the text of which can be found in the SAC recommendations document referred to in the previous paragraph.

In response to this presentation, the Chinese delegation made comments on albacore tuna, suggesting that reference points for catches of this species be established in the IATTC in line with those adopted by the WCPFC.

The European Union stated that the SAC meetings continue to have operational problems. At the last meeting, time was wasted on procedural matters often raised by people without scientific background, instead of discussing substantive issues, so intersessional work is essential to improve this work. The EU also indicated that politicization of SAC meetings should be avoided. The Secretariat stated that it was seeking advice on how to improve the work and was therefore analyzing the possibilities for improvement and that any guidance and suggestions from Members would be welcome.

The Ecuadorian tuna organization COREMAHI intervened to urge the Commission to adopt the recommendations on dorado and to request better information on discards of this species.

The recommendations of the SAC were generally endorsed by the Commission, and some of them were specifically considered for the formulation and approval of resolutions or measures to be applied in the near future:

- **Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP)** (SAC recommendation 1.1). Continue the ESP for bigeye catches by, inter alia, securing funding for the continuation of ESP operations in 2025. The Commission decided to continue this work at least until 2025, while assessing the feasibility of merging this program with the traditional IATTC sampling program .
- **Tropical tunas** (SAC recommendation 1). *That the current conservation measures for tropical tunas contemplated in Resolution C-21-04 be extended for a duration and in the conditions to be stipulated by the Commission.* The Commission adopted Resolution C-24-01, which extends the application of the current tropical tuna conservation measure for two more years, 2025-2026, with the understanding that the enhanced EMP port monitoring program will be extended in accordance with paragraphs 7 and 8 of this resolution. The Resolution also included updates to dates and processes that had been implemented in previous years, as well as a trigger mechanism for reviewing the measures based on the status of the stocks. (PAN, SLV and USA)
- **Bluefin tuna.** (SAC recommendation 2.4 c) *Recognizing the Commission adopted an interim harvest strategy to maintain the stock above 20%SSB0, and that the management strategy evaluation (MSE) results are expected in 2025, that the Commission consider a long-term harvest strategy with reference points at that time.* The Commission adopted Resolution C-24-03, which provides for long-term control measures for bluefin tuna catches in the Pacific.
- **South Pacific Albacore Tuna (SPALB). (**SAC recommendation 2.2). *(...) that the Commission consider interim reference points and interim limits on catch and/or effort for SPALB that are compatible with the work of the WCPFC while a harvest strategy is being developed*. The Commission adopted Resolution C-24-04, which provides for the proposal and consideration of interim reference

points and interim catch and/or effort limits by 2025, as recommended by the scientific staff of the IATTC in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, consistent with the work of the WCPFC.

- **Sharks** (SAC recommendation 6.1 and 6.2). (...) that the Commission consider the 18 shark species considered by the SAC as the draft list of species under the purview of the Commission and prioritize them for research and management. The IATTC adopted Resolution C-24-05, which adopts the aforementioned list as species under the purview of the Commission and revises the best handling practices for the release of sharks agreed in Resolution C-23-07.
- **Management strategies** (SAC recommendation 4). *That the development of management strategies for tropical tunas in the EPO continue to be supported. That the Commission consider a management procedure for BET, including reference points based on the MSE results expected in 2025-2027.* The Commission adopted Resolution C-24-08 establishing a working group to improve the dialogue between scientists, fishery managers, fishermen and other stakeholders on issues related to harvest and management strategies in the EPO.
- **Climate change** (SAC recommendation 6). *That a program of dialogue be established between scientific staff, managers, fleet managers, and captains of the tuna fleets of the CPCs, with respect to: (a) Identification and evaluation of changes in fishing strategy triggered by conservation measures and climate change.* The Commission adopted Resolution C-24-09, which amends Res. C-23-10 and, among other provisions, calls for a virtual workshop on climate change in 2025 to discuss the implementation of a work plan proposed by the IATTC scientific staff.

4d. Conservation recommendations by the Commission staff

The Coordinator of Scientific Research, Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva, referred to Document IATTC-102-04 - Staff recommendations to the Commission and made a summary presentation of these recommendations. He mainly focused on temperate tunas and non-target species, as recommendations on tropical tunas were addressed under agenda item 4a.

The Commission made no comments at the end of the presentation of these recommendations; however, they served as the basis for the discussions that led to the recommendations adopted by the SAC and reflected in various resolutions, as can be seen in point 4c of this report.

5. Reports of subsidiary bodies and working groups

a. 6th Workshop of an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO

Mr. Brad Wiley, of the Secretariat, in his capacity as Chair of the informal workshops on an electronic monitoring system in the EPO, presented a report on the 6th workshop (**appendix 4b**)held virtually from 13 to 15 December 2023 to discuss the issue at an informal level and to provide input for the work to be carried out by the Working Group established by Resolution C-22-07 Establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Electronic Monitoring.

He mentioned that a summary of the workshop was available on the IATTC website: 6th Workshop of an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS)-Discussion Summary. He also recalled that the objectives of these workshops went beyond reaching conclusions and recommendations on the issues discussed; they were also intended to educate participants, foster communication, and develop a shared understanding among stakeholders on electronic monitoring issues. In addition to information provided by IATTC staff, four additional presentations were made by invited experts from other organizations who provided additional insights and perspectives on the topics discussed. He noted that the final workshop had concluded and that the work was now being taken forward by the formal working group.

There were no comments on this report .

b. 2nd Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Working Group

Guillermo Morán, in his capacity as Co-Chair of the Group, reported on the 2nd meeting, held in Panama on 1 September 2024. He reported that the Group had completed the review of a document containing the elements of an electronic monitoring plan **(Appendix 4c**).

The Co-Chair, Mr. Colin Brinkman, highlighted the main elements of the plan and explained that this plan was voluntary and for research purposes only, not for compliance. Although, the use of electronic monitoring in IATTC fisheries would not be mandatory, those CPCs that submit data derived from electronic monitoring to the IATTC on a voluntary basis would be required to adhere to the standards.

There were no comments to this report and the guidelines document was adopted as Resolution C-24-09.

c. 2nd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG)

Mr. Manuel Correia, of Venezuela, in his capacity as Co-Chair of the Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG), presented his report (**Appendix 4d**) on the second meeting of the Group, held in La Jolla, California, on 5-6 June 2024. He noted that recommendations had been made by this group, which had been forwarded to the 15th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and incorporated into the recommendations emanating from the SAC, and which the Director, in his capacity as Chair of the SAC, had already reported to the Commission under another agenda item.

There were no comments on this report.

d. 8th Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs

Dr. Josu Santiago, Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs, reported on the 8th meeting, held in La Jolla, California, on 7-8 June 2024, and presented the recommendations adopted by the Working Group. The document containing these recommendations is available on the IATTC website and as **Appendix 4e** to this report.

The recommendations document covers the following issues: a) development of biodegradable FADs; b) data collection; c) FAD fishery indicators; and d) impacts of FAD fisheries.

The Commission adopted the recommendations presented in the report and there were no further comments.

e. 11th Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF)

Ms. Rachael Wadsworth, in her capacity as Chair of the 11th CAF meeting, presented her report **(Appendix 4f)** to the IATTC meeting, noting that the meeting was held in Panama City on 28 August 2024, was suspended and reconvened, and concluded on 5 September 2024. In her report, she noted that the Committee made the following recommendations:

1. To consider and adopt the recommendations made by the auditing firm Moss Adams, contained in the letters addressed to the Commissioners "Communications on matters related to internal control issues" and "Communications to those charged with governance," both dated 12 August 2024, taking note that the conflict-of-interest recommendation should be applicable to the employees of the Commission and not the Commissioners.
2. To charge the Director with implementing, as the Commission considers feasible and appropriate, the recommendations issued by the auditor, listed in the preceding paragraph, and to report back to the Commissioners and the Chair on progress. When appropriate, call intersessional meetings of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) to analyze these recommendations and related matters and advise the Commission.
3. To instruct the CAF to evaluate, in coordination with the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Financial Strengthening of the AIDCP, the findings and recommendations of the "Consultancy to Evaluate the Budgetary and Financial Instruments, Rules, Tools and Financial, Accountancy and Budgetary Practices Observed in the AIDCP," including the IATTC in the scope of this evaluation and advise the Commission on appropriate actions in response to these findings and recommendations.

4. To request that the Director include, in the Annual Results and Budgets Report to the CAF, the allocation table showing the proportion of Secretariat work time allocated to the AIDCP and IATTC, an explanation of how these allocations were made and how this informed the preparation of the line items for the corresponding budgets for this staff work time.
5. To submit for the consideration of the IATTC a 2025 budget for US$ 9,656,897 .
6. On the special fund to support developing countries, it was agreed to recommend implementation of the following activities for 2024-2025:
    - Second training workshop on introduction to methods used in tropical tuna stock assessments.
    - Training seminar on sea turtle mitigation techniques pursuant to Resolution C-19-04.
    - Training seminars for port inspections pursuant to Resolution C-21-07.
    - Training seminar on various IATTC-related matters.
    - Annual scholarship (three-month duration) for the training of one scientist at the IATTC headquarters in San Diego, California.
    - Support for the participation of developing Members in the annual meeting of the IATTC and its subsidiary bodies.
7. With respect to the observer program for transshipments at sea, to adopt for 2025 a budget of US$ 1,000,000. The participants would make a contribution of US$ 800,000 to be allocated according to the agreed formula and the surplus from 2024 would be used to cover the US$ 200,000, thus maintaining a contingency fund of approximately US$ 400,000.

As a result of this report, there were intense discussions that highlighted the following main points:

- The CAF recommendations were adopted.
- Approve the 2025 transshipment program budget, as recommended by the CAF.
- Approve the activities to be developed in 2024 and 2025 with resources from the special fund for capacity building in developing countries recommended by the CAF.
- The possibility of holding meetings remotely should be explored to the extent possible in order to reduce costs to the IATTC budget, as well as the need for some staff to support the meetings virtually, although the importance of having IATTC staff present at the meetings to assist and respond directly to questions from the delegations present, not only on meeting agenda items, but also on other issues of particular interest to the delegations, was also emphasized.
- The accounting of the IATTC and the AIDCP should be kept separate, with independent financial statements and budget reports, to ensure that the assets of the IATTC do not include those of the AIDCP.
- The cost of an annual meeting is between US$ 150,000 and $170,000 and has been kept within this range, but would increase if a Member did not host the meeting.
- Particular attention should be paid to the presentation of accounting reports and budgets to the Commission, as in some published documents the information presented is not the same as that projected during the meetings, or the information is insufficient, and this does not allow delegations to be sufficiently prepared to understand and support the presentation of budgets and financial information. In particular, the need to provide Commissioners in advance with complete financial and audit information, including all information such as letters to those charged with governance and internal control notes, which the external auditor said have been provided over the years but

were only made available to delegations this year; and the need for comparative data and detailed accounts to be sufficient to allow analysis of budget implementation and expenditure behavior.

- The Enhanced Monitoring Program (EMP) should be continued for another year, but the possibility of savings in program costs should be further analyzed, with particular emphasis on the fact that there should not be two coordinators, one at the landing site and the other at the IATTC headquarters offices. The latter is very costly given the coordinator's salary and the cost of living in the city of San Diego. If close coordination between the coordinator and the San Diego staff is needed, it can be done remotely, with daily meetings if necessary. This is feasible given today's significant technological advances in communications that facilitate effective coordination without the need for constant physical presence.
- When the Secretariat was asked about the contracting scheme for port samplers in the ESP, several concerns were expressed about their contractual situation, since the labor legislation in Ecuador is very strict and the Secretariat must ensure that there is no legal risk of non-compliance of any kind. Therefore, it is essential for the Secretariat to ensure that there is as little risk as possible of labor lawsuits being filed, as this would jeopardize the continuity of the program due to the costs that could result from the payment of compensation for non-compliance with labor and social security laws.
- External funding sources should be sought for the operation of the Enhanced Monitoring Program, and it was emphasized that the program is for scientific research purposes only and not for compliance purposes.
- The requested recruitment of a new accountant and another assistant in the Policy Division was not approved due to the financial difficulties faced by the Commission.
- During the intersessional period, the CAF will carry out the relevant activities and meetings to further develop the alternatives in order to recommend a draft resolution for the adoption of the formula for calculating contributions in 2025. Given the complexity of this process, this work has been given priority.

On the other hand, given the urgency to make progress in the budget negotiations and the little progress made in the discussions on this issue, the delegation of the United States proposed to consider a scheme in which a) the effective contributions of the CPCs would be maintained at the same level as in 2024 and with the same allocation, given the statement of some CPCs that they would not be able to contribute more resources than in that year; b) reduce programs or projects that are not a priority; c) use US$ 1,054,750 of the surplus from unused or uncommitted funds from previous years, leaving a small reserve fund of US$ 300,000; and d) maintain the ESP for bigeye tuna for one more year while evaluating the merging of this program with the traditional IATTC sampling program.

Thus, the Commission approved the budget for FY 2025 for a total amount of US$ 9,539,427, which includes funding for the Enhanced Monitoring Program of US$ 400,000 for 2025, and further agreed that:

- The total amount of Member contributions in 2025 would be **US$ 8,484,677**.
- This amount is similar to the 2024 contributions (US$ 8,101,033) with the addition of a percentage resulting from inflation plus US$ 200,000 ESP contribution allocated according to the agreed formula from 2023. The table of contributions is attached as part of resolution C-24-11 (**Appendix 2k).**
- A total amount of US$ 1,054,750 would be taken from the surplus of unused and uncommitted funds from previous years as recorded in the IATTC accounting records to cover the difference between the approved budget and the requested contributions. This amount of US$1,054,750 would be distributed as follows:

- US$ 200,000 for the Enhanced Monitoring Program.
- US$ 332,120 for tuna tagging research.
- US$ 522,630 to cover the difference between the agreed contributions of US$ 8,484,677 and those required to meet the approved budget, noting that the formula established in Resolution C-15-05 is not in effect because it has been objected to.

- All of the above amounts to a total of **US$ 9,539,427** to be executed in 2025.

It was also agreed that:

- The Secretariat must report when expenses incurred exceed the amount approved in the annual budget in order to avoid deficits.
- The budget contribution formula adopted in 2015 has been deemed inappropriate by several Members and the Commission agreed that a new formula should be used instead for the next budget, to be defined at the 103rd annual meeting. (PAN, SLV and EU)
- Further savings should be sought in the implementation of the Enhanced Monitoring Program, which cannot exceed the specifically authorized amount of US$ 400,000.

f. 25th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Julio Guevara, of Nicaragua, presented the report of the 25th meeting (**Appendix 4g**).

He noted that his report reflected the work carried out at a workshop on fleet capacity held in Santa Marta, Colombia, on 29-31 July at which the consultant, Dr. Dale Squires, made a presentation on the progress made in developing a proposal for a fleet capacity action plan based on a system of transferable fishing days, and an informal session among participants on the issues on the working agenda for the 25th meeting in Panama.

The Working Group's recommendations to the IATTC were as follows:

a. Inform the Commission that the consultancy study regarding a fleet capacity management plan developed by Dr. Dale Squires will not be pursued, as the group deems it theoretically very interesting but impractical in terms of actual implementation. It was agreed to thank the consultant for the work undertaken over several years.

b. Inform the Commission of Ecuador's request to develop a theoretical pilot program for capacity management, based on the perspective presented by Dr. Dale Squires and taking into account the need to circulate the implementation plan of the pilot program well in advance of the next meeting of this Working Group, prior to its implementation. In addition, provide the CPCs with information on the potential positive or negative impacts of the program in order to proceed with the consideration of the possible implementation of the theoretical pilot by the Commission.

c. Recommend that the Commission schedule a meeting of this Group dedicated solely to discuss issues related to the freezing tunnels, the temporary sealing of wells for fuel transport, the management of remaining or available cubic meters, the permanent or temporary nature of structural adjustments to fish storage wells, and the stowage factor (conversion).

d. Review the two requests from Ecuador concerning the vessels Victoria A (ex Cabrillo) and Diana María. In this regard, several Members stated that they could not support the inclusion of new capacity in the RVR until a comprehensive capacity management plan is adopted in the EPO.

e. Amend the table of pending capacity issues stemming from the 89th meeting by replacing the designation concerning capacity disputes between two countries with an indication that these are *issues arising from administrative problems*.

The Delegation of Peru used this agenda item to reiterate its request for the allocation of 5,851 m^3 of well volume needed to expand its fleet and create jobs and food in the country. If allocated to Peru, it would be used under the following conditions:

- It would be used only in national waters.
- No FAD gear would be used for tuna fishing.
- It would be subject to winter closure periods.
- Subject to the status of the tuna stocks.

The Chair and some delegations expressed that this request was not timely as it should have been presented during the Capacity Working Group and not at the IATTC plenary.

g. Work in the framework of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (COR)

a) Report of the 15th meeting of the COR

Mr. Luis Molledo, Chair of the COR, reported on the Committee's 15th meeting. He emphasized that the Committee had worked for the second year with the new format for its work to review the performance of Members and Cooperating non-Members, in accordance with the mandates of Resolution C-22-02. He noted that he would present two reports, one on the 15th meeting of the COR and the second on the 1st Special Biennial Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission, from which an action plan was derived to improve the work of the Committee and to reduce possible infractions, which presents challenges but also good opportunities for improvement.

He made a detailed presentation of the recommendations of the 15th meeting of the Committee, contained in the COR report and in **Appendix 4h**, all of which were then adopted by the Commission.

Recommendations to the Secretariat

1. To conduct a review of the questions of the Compliance questionnaire to avoid leading, unclear or repetitive questions.
2. To include in the heading of the compliance questionnaire a reminder to CPCs to provide explanations of reasons for NA designations.
3. To provide to CPCs an instruction sheet on the process for filling out the compliance questionnaire in a complete manner.
4. To, where appropriate, develop templates to be used by CPCs to comply with the reporting obligations set out in the Resolutions adopted by the Commission to be implemented as provided by each of them. This includes, but it is not limited to, data provision in Resolution C-03-05.
5. On the information and graphs contained in the *Provisional Compliance Overview* and the slides to be presented at the meetings of the COR:
    - When the Secretariat presents slides on compliance with observer coverage requirements, specify the required level and the scope of the requirement (e.g. longliners greater than 20m in length or class-6 tuna purse-seiners). Also, in a complimentary manner for information purposes, a breakdown by all classes of tuna purse-seiners and longliners over and under 20m in length should be presented in order to understand the situation of observer coverage in the context of the entire tuna fleet;
    - When the Secretariat present slides or tables containing the overall number of infractions include alleged and confirmed as separate categories;

- In table on CPCs that submitted observer reports and coverage, to show in red those CPCs who are not compliant with the minimum 5% observer coverage, including those with 0% coverage.

6. To reflect the repeal Resolution C-05-03 as provided by Resolution C-23-07.
7. To ensure that the *Draft Provisional Compliance Overview* and the *Draft Provisional Compliance Report* provides information on the implementation by CPCs of obligations in relation to recreational catch of PBF by all CPCs (as currently stipulated in paragraph 3).
8. To systematically include in the *Provisional Compliance Overview* a table with the unresolved cases from the previous 5 years, and to consistently show the past years covered across all relevant documents.
9. To move all cases related to late data submission to a separate category of late, with information on the date received, noting that late submissions compromise the ability of the Secretariat to do its work.
10. To maintain for review by the COR in the following year/s those recommendations from previous meetings of the COR that have not been completed.
11. To identify the actions to be recommended by the Committee in case of very serious non-compliance cases, including the systematic and repeated failure to provide the Compliance questionnaire.
12. To develop guidance for the Secretariat to facilitate the identification of non-compliance cases, versus other cases that cannot be qualified as non-compliance because they do not meet those criteria.
13. To develop a practices and guidance to ensure the efficient assessment by the COR of the *Draft Provisional Compliance Report* and the *Provisional Compliance Overview*, including to avoid the repetition of discussions of cases contained in both documents.
14. At the next COR meeting to follow-up on any development related to the case of the vessel Mar Aral.

Recommendations to CPCs

15. To reiterate the COR recommendation from 2023 to highlight the obligation that the minimum percentage in observer coverage in longliners is met and that the corresponding operational data is submitted.
16. To underscore the utmost importance of complying with the financial obligations of CPCs, notably the payment of the contributions to the budget.
17. To recall the obligation to comply with the individual reporting obligations for each report set out in the IATTC Resolutions.
18. To take note of the format proposed by the Secretariat for reporting on VMS of purse-seiners (Resolution C-21-04) containing five fields: vessel ID; lat; long; date (UTC), time (UTC), speed; and course.

Recommendations to the Commission

19. The Commission should seek a mechanism to allow for Venezuela to submit pending payments.

b) 1st Special Biennial Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission

Mr. Molledo, Chair of the COR, reported that this first biennial meeting was held on 31 August 2024 following the 15th meeting of the COR. He noted that at this first meeting provided an opportunity to discuss various issues that could improve the work and process of reviewing the performance and compliance with the resolutions by fleets and CPCs. These discussions made it possible to formulate some priority elements of a work plan for the COR. This was discussed by the Committee, and it was agreed to forward it to the Commission for its eventual approval.

The document with the elements for a plan **(Appendix 4i)** contains the following topics: a) automatization of the compliance process; b) follow-up of previous infractions; c) categorization of non-compliance status and the follow-up action; d) priority areas of possible non-compliance; e) human and financial resources and; d) capacity building.

The Commission approved this document and thanked Dr. Molledo for his work during the last two years as Chair of the Committee, during which he made the work more efficient and now has the elements to formulate a work plan for the Committee. Following the announcement of his resignation, the Committee elected a new Chair.

5h. Pacific bluefin tuna management

a) 9th Meeting of the IATTC - WCPFC/NC Joint Working Group

Dra. Dorothy Lowman presented the report of the 9th meeting of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna held in Kushiro, Japan, on 10-13 July 2024. The report is available here: Summary Report.

In her report, Dr. Lowman noted that the biomass of the Pacific bluefin tuna stock has increased significantly over the past 12 years, and that the recommendations for bluefin tuna harvest in the EPO that came out of this meeting included the possibility of increasing limits by 50%, with additional annual increases of 300 mt, and ensuring that the management of this species in the sport fishery is consistent with the management of the commercial fishery.

Mexico appreciated the information and highlighted the fact that the recovery of this species in the EPO is an example of the good results that can be achieved through responsible and joint work between two RFMOs, and thanked Dr. Dorothy, who is retiring as Co-Chair of the Group, for her work. Japan expressed its appreciation for the signs of recovery of bluefin tuna in the Pacific and announced that the next meeting of the Group would be held in Japan from 9-12 July 2025. Canada echoed the thanks to Dr. Dorothy for her leadership and guidance, and her dedication towards the development of the coordinated work to rebuild the stock.

b) 5th Technical Meeting on CDS of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC Northern Committee (NC) Working Group on Bluefin Tuna

Mr. Brad Wiley, of the IATTC staff, reported on the results of the meeting held in Kushiro, Japan, in July 2024, to continue the development of an electronic catch documentation scheme (e-CDS) for Pacific bluefin tuna.

He reported that some of the considerations discussed at the meeting were to approve a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the IATTC, the WCPFC and the SPC for the development of this CDS program, and to recognize the need to share costs with the WCPFC, as well as to share responsibilities equally between the two organizations and have a joint program, or to consider the creation of separate but harmonized systems.

China expressed its interest in this work as a consumer of approximately 100,000 tons of bluefin tuna per year and stressed that the cost of the system should be borne by the party reporting the catches.

The European Union thanked the Secretariat for the information and acknowledged the progress of the work and asked about the governance implications of having only one system between the two RFMOs with two levels of membership, as well as the costs. The Secretariat informed them that there had not yet been a cost analysis of having two systems, although there had been discussions on the possibility of hiring additional staff to manage the CDS system and the price would depend on the volume of information handled. The European Union expressed reservations about having a single system with two organizations and would prefer a separate but harmonized system.

Japan noted that logistical and administrative issues are still being discussed, so the actual cost of developing the Pacific CDS has not yet been estimated. It added that the system developed in the CCSBT

was not very costly and that it was important that the IATTC approve the "Letter of Agreement"(LOA) to be signed with the WCPFC and SPC. No objection to this signature was raised.

6. Climate change

At the request of the United States, this item was added to the agenda and the IATTC Secretariat was given the opportunity to make a presentation on a work plan to address the issue of climate change in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The presentation is available here: Staff's responses to requests.

Dr. Jon López, of the IATTC staff, made the presentation, noting that the intention was to hold workshops on climate change, and to this end Terms of Reference had been prepared to outline the scope of the workshops, as well as a schedule for carrying out the work.

Some delegations asked to know in detail the Terms of Reference of the workshops to ensure that what was planned was necessary. Dr López added that it was not a question of carrying out research, but of gathering existing information in order to decide and take the actions deemed necessary.

The European Union pointed out that this work must be planned taking into account that economic resources are limited and the objectives should be strictly focused on the mission of the IATTC while avoiding any duplication with analysis on more general climate change impacts conducted in other international for a (EU). The first workshop to be held should define what should be done and what can be done, and until then a work plan should be drawn up. This is a principle that should be applied to any issue discussed in the Commission; the EU also noted that the Terms of Reference did not include cooperation with other fisheries management organizations.

Dr. Aires-da-Silva mentioned that the input received was very useful and that he agreed with the idea that it would be best to hold a first workshop to define the scope and objectives of the work. On the other hand, the US delegation and the environmental group PEW expressed their support for this work.

7. Discussion of resolutions

a. Adopted Resolutions

The following resolutions were adopted:

C-24-01	Conservation measures for tropical tunas 2025-2026
C-24-02	Measures for the conservation and management of bluefin tuna in the EPO 2025-2026
C-24-03	Monitoring and control measures for the bluefin tuna fishery in the EPO (long-term)
C-24-04	South Pacific albacore tuna
C-24-05	Conservation measures for the protection and sustainable management of sharks
C-24-06	FADs
C-24-07	Regional Vessel Register
C-24-08	Management strategies
C-24-09	Minimum standards for an Electronic Monitoring System
C-24-10	Climate change
C-24-11	Financing 2025

It should be noted that Resolution C-24-01 on the conservation of tropical tunas was the subject of intense discussion throughout the week of the IATTC meeting. A working group of Heads of Delegation was

formed and met twice a day for at least one hour each time. On the last day of discussions, and noting that there were still many issues to be resolved in the Chair's text, which attempted to bring together all the proposed resolutions, it was decided to extend Resolution C-21-04 for two years (2025-2026) with the addition of two new short sections addressing the possibility that there may be problems with yellowfin tuna and that additional measures may be required for its proper management, as well as the continuation of the Enhanced Sampling Program for bigeye tuna, subject to budget and Commission approval.

The United States expressed concern that the two-year extension did not include additional language for the submission of historical acoustic buoy data and longline operational logbook data, which the Commission had negotiated in earlier drafts of the Chair's proposal and which the IATTC scientific staff had identified as critical to enhancing its ability to successfully complete a yellowfin stock assessment. The United States stated that it would not reopen the measure at this time to add these provisions but requested that the CPCs voluntarily work with the IATTC staff to provide these data prior to the 2025 Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting. The United States indicated its intention to add these data submission requirements to the resolution in the future and requested that the Commission be responsive to the previously negotiated text.

b. Proposals submitted but not approved:

The outcomes at the end of the presentation and discussion of these proposals, which could not garner the consensus needed for their approval, were as follow:

Prop.	Subject	Comments
A	**Chair's proposal.** Combines proposals A1, A2, A3 and A4 on the conservation of tropical tunas	This proposal was the subject of negotiations from the second day of the meetings through a working group of Heads of Delegation that met during the remaining four days of the meetings to find a consensus proposal. However, despite intense negotiations, differences remained on issues such as the term of the resolution. Since there was no agreement, the alternative was to approve the application of Resolution C-21-04 for another two years.
D-1 EUR	Bluefin tuna	This proposal did not receive the necessary consensus to be adopted. Instead, a proposal on the control and monitoring of bluefin tuna catches submitted by Mexico, Japan and Chinese Taipei was adopted, which seeks to control catches mainly through the presentation of a management plan for the species by the countries that catch it in the EPO.
E-1 CAN	Marine pollution	The proposal was not adopted due to lack of time for the conclusion of its debate and eventual adoption. It was co-sponsored by Korea.
F-1 and F-2	Administration and finance	Proposals F-1 and F-2 were presented to develop a new formula for the calculation of financial contributions, as the formula adopted in 2015 has already expired, as two delegations opposed its continuation at the meeting in Victoria, Canada, in 2023. The analysis of the proposals started, but there was no substantial progress to reach an agreement and this year a different mechanism was chosen to determine the amount of financial contributions for each country and it was decided that the formula should no longer be applied. It was agreed that this year the CAF would analyse the possibility of finding a new formula for calculating each CPC's contribution to the annual budget of the IATTC.
G-1 VAR	Rules of Procedure	The intention of this proposal is that all documents that form part of the information necessary to facilitate decision-making be presented in both languages of the Commission, which requires a modification of paragraph 53 of the operating rules and the inclusion of a paragraph 53 bis. It was not adopted due to lack of time for the conclusion of its debate and eventual adoption..

L-1 USA	Labor standards in fishing vessels	Some delegations supported it, but Guatemala indicated that it could only support it as a recommendation this year and China indicated that it could not support it even as a recommendation. China read out the text of a statement to that effect, which is attached as **Appendix 5b**.
M-1 USA	Sea turtles	There was no consensus on the proposal, Aligned with the recommendations of SAC-15, the Commission agreed to hold a second workshop on circle hooks in 2025 to fulfill the mandate of paragraph 3(d)(i) of Res. C-19-04.
N-1 VEN	Measurement of vessel capacity	For this proposal, Venezuela asked the Secretariat to provide a list of vessels (without revealing their names) indicating their well volume, their carrying capacity as declared in the regional register and the maximum amount of landings recorded. This information was circulated to all CPCs, but there was no time for discussion.

* All original proposals are available on the IATTC website.

8. Election of Chairs of subsidiary bodies and working groups

The Commission elected or re-elected the following persons, in addition to noting that Mr. Antonio Vásquez, of El Salvador, was elected new Chair of the Review Committee (COR) for a period of two years as established in the IATTC Rules of Procedure; Mr. Andrés Arens was reappointed as Chair and Mr. Julio Guevara as Vice-Chair following consensus with the proposal in this regard by a Member, as stated in the minutes.

The Commission elected or re-elected the following persons, in addition to noting the election of Mr. Antonio Vásquez, of El Salvador, as the new Chair of the Review Committee (COR) for a period of two years, as provided for in the IATTC Rules of Procedure; Mr. Andrés Arens was reappointed as Chair and Mr. Julio Guevara as Vice-Chair by consensus, following a proposal by a Member, as recorded in the minutes.

Working Group or Committee	**Chair(s)**
Administration and Finance	Rachael Wadsworth (USA)
Fleet Capacity in the EPO	Julio Guevara (NIC)
Ad hoc Permanent WG on FADs	Josu Santiago (EUR)
Ecosystem and Bycatch	Yonat Swimmer (USA)/Manuel Correia (VEN)
Electronic Monitoring	Colin Brinkman (USA)/Guillermo Morán (ECU)

Under this agenda item, the Commission appointed Mr. George Madeira, of the United States, to co-chair, with Mr. Masanori Miyahara, of Japan, the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna.

9. Other matters

This agenda item could not be covered as there was insufficient time for discussion. As no other matters had been discussed specifically, and only the cases of the Ecuadorian vessels Victoria A (former Cabrillo) and Diana María, as well as the date and place of the next meeting, it is expected, as indicated at the end of the meeting, to be dealt with by correspondence.

Guatemala recommended that interested parties analyze the feasibility of addressing their requests through the intersessional decision-making process.

10. Place and date of next meeting

The Commission did not have enough time to agree on the date and place of the next annual meetings of the IATTC and its subsidiary bodies, so this issue remains pending for discussion.

11. Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the 102nd meeting of the IATTC on 6 September 2024 at 8 p.m., Panama City time.

1.List of participants

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2.Resolutions
2a. Conservation measures for tropical tunas 2025-2026

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-01

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2025-2026

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

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 2025 to 24:00 hours on 31 December 2026, except for the second closure period referred to in paragraph 3, which extends until 24:00 hours on 19 January 2027, and except for the additional days of closure that would be added pursuant to paragraph 5 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.

2. Pole-and-line, troll, and sportfishing vessels, and purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 1-3 (181 metric tons carrying capacity and less) and longline vessels less than 24 meters length overall, are not subject to these measures, except those related to the management of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs).

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 72 days in each year covered by this Resolution. These closures shall be observed in one of two periods, as follows: from 00:00 hours on 29 July to 24:00 hours on 8 October, or from 00:00 hours on 9 November to 24:00 hours on 19 January of the following year.

4. For the years 2025 and 2026, CPCs shall ensure that vessels that exceeded during the previous year the 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.

   If during this same period a vessel exceeds 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 the annual catch limit of 2,100 metric tons, it shall increase its closure by 19 days; and if it exceeds 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.

   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.

   The IATTC Secretariat shall send to the CPCs by 1 March 2025 and 2026 the names of the vessels that must observe additional closure days in accordance with this paragraph.

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 Enhanced Sampling Program (EMP), established in paragraph 6 of Resolution C-21-04, it shall remain active subject to the availability of funds and budgetary approval by the Commission.

8. The IATTC scientific staff will present to the SAC in 2025:
   a. the analysis of components, actions and budget that would be necessary to maintain the existing EMP in a cost-efficient manner, with the addition of morphometric data;

   b. the analysis of components, actions, technical feasibility, scientific output consequences, and budget that would be necessary to merge the EMP with the Commission's traditional sampling program. This analysis should assess whether it would be possible to integrate the objectives and actions of each in a cost-efficient manner, including what would be needed to transfer the methodological and operational bases of the EMP acquired during previous years to make the continuity of this program feasible; and

   c. any suggested improvements to the traditional sampling program.

9. For 2025 and 2026, 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 12.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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*."

15. 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.

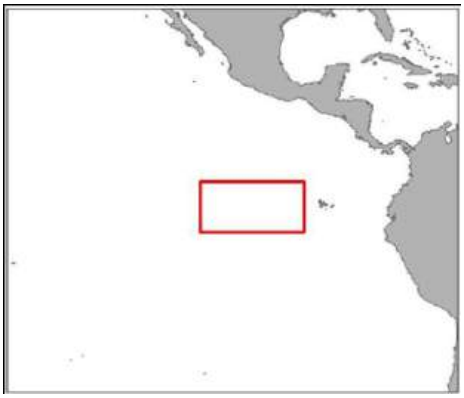


Figure 1. Closure area

16a. For each one of the closure periods stipulated 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 paragraphs 4 and 5 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.

17. a. If a *force majeure*[1] event renders a 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 17b. If an exemption is granted, the vessel will be required to observe a reduced closure period as outlined below in subparagraph 17e. 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 an 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 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 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 aboard authorized pursuant to the AIDCP.

iv. The exemption shall only apply to the 72-day closure period stipulated in paragraph 3 of this Resolution, not to the additional periods stipulated in paragraphs 4 and 5.

18. 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 authorized pursuant to the AIDCP may remain at sea, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area. The only other exception to this provision shall be that vessels carrying an observer authorized pursuant to the

[1] For the purposes of paragraph 17, 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.

AIDCP may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area.

MEASURES FOR THE FISHERY ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES

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

20. 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:

For 2025 y 2026:

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

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

22. 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.

23. Deactivation of a satellite buoy attached to a FAD may only be done in the following circumstances: complete loss of signal reception; beaching; 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.

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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 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.

27. 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.

28. 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 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.

29. 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 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

30. 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

31. China, Japan, Korea, United States, and Chinese Taipei undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during 2025 and 2026 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

32. 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.

33. A CPC referenced in paragraph 32 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 32, 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.

34. 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.

OTHER PROVISIONS

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. 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.

39. 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.

40. 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, especially in the overlap area, including by frequent consultations with the WCPFC, in order to

[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.

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.

41. Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the IATTC scientific staff shall initiate, starting in 2025, 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.

42. In 2026 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.

43. The IATTC shall continue efforts to develop harvest strategies for tropical tunas. The IATTC scientific staff shall 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 SAC, shall then present for the Commission's consideration in 2025 a candidate harvest strategy for bigeye tuna, including candidate management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.

44. Except in cases of *force majeure* prescribed in paragraph 17, 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.

45. If the benchmark assessment scheduled for 2025-2026 for yellowfin tuna or, if not available, the ongoing stock assessment, if deemed reliable, updated with the most recent data, considered by the SAC shows that F_{MSY} (or proxy) has been breached, the provisions of this Resolution shall be reviewed and amended as appropriate at the upcoming IATTC annual meeting and corresponding measures shall be adopted by the Commission to reduce the F for yellowfin tuna to F_{MSY}.

46. If the benchmark assessment scheduled for 2025-2026 for yellowfin tuna or, if not available, the ongoing stock assessment, if deemed reliable, updated with the most recent data, shows that F is below F_{MSY} and that SSB is greater than SSB_{MSY}, and providing there is no indication of degradation of other stocks, the scientific staff shall present to the Commission options for new measures that reduce, among others, the number of days of closure or the elimination of the "*corralito"* currently in force. The Commission shall amend the measure in a manner that would not cause F_{MSY} to be breached or SSB to be reduced below SSB_{MSY} for tropical tuna stocks.

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

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 20 of this resolution, other (specify).

Annex III

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].

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.

2b. Measures for the conservation and management of bluefin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean 2025-2026

AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-02

MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered virtually, on the occasion of its 102nd Meeting:

Taking into account that the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is caught in both the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Recognizing that the 2024 stock assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) shows the following:

- Spawning stock biomass (SSB) has increased over the last twelve years, and reached the second rebuilding target (20%SSBF=0) in 2021;

Taking into consideration that IATTC Members, through resolutions and voluntary actions, have, from 2012 to 2021, effected 40% reductions in the catch of Pacific bluefin tuna across the entire range of age classes available in the EPO;

Taking into consideration that the IATTC adopted an interim harvest strategy to maintain the stock above 20%SSBF=0, the IATTC scientific staff recommended that catch increases consider the performance relative to possible future reference points to be evaluated in a management strategy evaluation; and the Scientific Advisory Committee further recommended that the Commission consider a long-term harvest strategy with reference points after the MSE is completed;

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...*";

Urging all IATTC Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) involved in this fishery to participate in a fair and equitable manner, and without exceptions, in the discussion and adoption of conservation measures applicable to the stock throughout its entire range;

Mindful that these measures are intended as an interim step towards assuring sustainability of the Pacific bluefin tuna resource, consistent with the precautionary approach, and the objectives of the long-term management framework for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the EPO;

Noting that the IATTC has adopted mandatory conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna for 2012-2021, and that the measures resulted in reducing catches in the EPO;

Resolves as follows:

1. Any future catch limits shall be considered in cooperation between the IATTC and the WCPFC taking into account the historical proportional fishery impacts on SSB between fisheries in the EPO and fisheries in the WCPO, and the IATTC shall consider a more equitable balance of catch among Members that is reflective of historical harvest in Members' respective EEZs in the EPO.

The following paragraphs apply to 2021-2024:

2. The Commission shall implement this Resolution in accordance with the long-term management objectives of Pacific bluefin tuna in paragraph 1 of Resolution C-21-01 [Amendment to Resolution C-18-02].

3. Each CPC shall report its sport fishery catches annually by June 30. Each CPC shall ensure that catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by sportfishing vessels operating under its jurisdiction are managed in a manner consistent with commercial fisheries.

4. During 2025-2026, in the IATTC Convention Area, combined total commercial catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by all CPCs shall not exceed the catch limit of 12,585 metric tons. The biennial catch limits for each CPC are specified below in paragraph 5. Within each biennium, CPCs also shall not exceed a one-year maximum catch limit, as specified below in paragraph 5.[1]

5.

	Mexico	**United States**
Biennial limit 2025-2026	**10,763 t**	**1,822 t**
One-year máximum for 2025-2026	**6,296 t**	**1,285 t**

   a. During 2025-2026, the United States may catch up to 1,822 metric tons for both years combined (biennial limit), and up to 1,285 metric tons in either year (one-year maximum). The catch limits for the United States will be subtracted and reserved from the total catch limits in paragraph 4 for the exclusive use of the United States.

   b. During 2025-2026, Mexico may catch up to 10,763 metric tons for both years combined (biennial limit), and up to 6,296 metric tons in either year (one-year maximum). The catch limits for Mexico will be subtracted and reserved from the total catch limits in paragraph 4 for the exclusive use of Mexico.

6. Any over-harvest shall be deducted from the catch limit in the following year in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Resolution C-23-01. Over-harvest of the 2023-2024 biennial catch limits established in Resolution C-21-05 shall be deducted from 2025-2026 catch limits applicable to this Resolution.

7. Under-harvest of 2023-2024 biennial catch limits established in Resolution C-21-05 shall be added to catch limits in this Resolution applicable to 2025-2026 in accordance with Paragraph 6 of Resolution C-23-01.
8. CPCs should endeavor to manage catches by vessels under their respective national jurisdictions in such a manner and through such mechanisms as might be applied, with the objective of reducing the proportion of fish of less than 30 kg in the catch toward 50% of total catch, taking into consideration the scientific advice of the ISC and the IATTC staff. At the annual meeting of the

[1] Notwithstanding paragraph 5, CPCs not referenced in paragraph 4 may catch Pacific bluefin tuna so long as their catch does not exceed 10 metric tons per year.

IATTC in 2025 and 2026, the Scientific Staff shall present the results of the previous year's fishing season in this regard for the Commission's review.

9. In each year in 2025-2026, each CPC shall report its commercial catches to the Director weekly after 50% of its annual catch limit in each year is reached.

10. The Director will send out notices to all CPCs when 75% and 90% of the limits in Paragraphs 4 or 5 have been reached. The Director will send out a notice to all CPCs when the limits in Paragraphs 4 or 5 have been reached.

11. By 31 January of each year in 2025-2026, the Director shall notify all CPCs of the catch limit for each year in 2025-2026 established in Paragraphs 4 and 5 of this resolution that accounts for any over-harvest or under-harvest in accordance with Paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Resolution, and Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Resolution C-23-01.

12. In each year in 2025-2026, the IATTC Scientific Staff shall present an assessment to the Scientific Advisory Committee of the effectiveness of this resolution also taking into consideration the results of the ISC's latest Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment, harvest scenario projections performed by the ISC, and conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna adopted by the WCPFC. The Commission shall review and consider revising the management measures established in this Resolution based on the best available information, including the harvest strategy based on the management strategy evaluation expected to be completed in 2025, the latest assessment, recruitment information, projections or other relevant information, as well as outcomes of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group on Pacific bluefin tuna.

13. This resolution replaces resolution C-21-05.

2c. Monitoring and control measures for the bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean (long-term)

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-03

ON MONITORING AND CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY IN THE EPO

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered on the occasion of its 102nd Meeting:

Taking into account that the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is caught in both the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Recalling the outcomes of the 9th session of Joint IATTC-WCPFC Northern Committee (NC) Working Group meetings;

Noting that, Resolution C-21-05 establishes measures for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna including biennial catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna,

Resolves as follows:

Objectives

1. The purpose of this Resolution is to establish a regime for the monitoring and control of the conservation and management of the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery in the EPO set out in Resolution C-24-02.

2. Each CPC that has Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming shall report to the Director by 15 June each year on the implementation of its monitoring and control measures it has taken in the previous calendar year to ensure its compliance with Resolution C-24-02 that include the following components:

(1) *Monitoring and control measures for fisheries*

a. Registration of commercial fishing vessels in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register in accordance with Resolution C-24-07 on the Regional Vessel Register
b. Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets)
c. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CPCs, where such allocation exist
d. Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards), including Resolution C-03-05 on data provision
e. Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.)
f. Measures to monitor landings, including Resolution C-21-07 on port state measures
g. Measures to monitor domestic transactions.

(2) *Monitoring and control measures for farming*

a. Registration of farms that are authorized to farm Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme,

number of registered farms, number of registered 'holding pens' or 'cages')
   b. Reporting requirements for caging of fish
   c. Reporting requirements for harvest of farmed fish
   d. Measures to monitor farming activities (including Rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities)
3. CPCs that do not have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming, shall report to the IATTC Secretariat annually any by-catches of Pacific bluefin tuna under footnote 1 of Resolution C-24-02.

Review

4. The Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (COR) shall review the implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance measures reported by CPCs in accordance with this Resolution by 2026. The COR shall receive any considerations from the Joint IATTC-WCPFC/NC Working Group on the implementation of this Resolution and provide recommendations to the Commission, including on possible amendments to this Resolution and Resolution C-24-02 on measures for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna.

5. CPCs shall coordinate with the WCPFC through the Joint IATTC-WCPFC/NC and discuss any additional MCS measures, as appropriate, at their upcoming meetings, consistent with its other objectives outlined in Resolution C-16-03 on Pacific bluefin tuna.

Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)

4. IATTC shall consider establishing a catch documentation scheme (CDS) for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the EPO compatible with other CDSs for Pacific bluefin tuna by 31 December 2026. This CDS should build, inter alia, on the outcomes of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group.

2d. South Pacific albacore tuna

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-04

SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama on the occasion of its 102st 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;

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 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;

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.

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, reference points and interim target reference point that is compatible with the outcome of the WCPFC, as recommended by the IATTC scientific staff in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall be proposed and considered.
2. CPCs and IATTC scientific staff are encouraged to work with the WCPFC and SPC to investigate the stock structure(s) of south Pacific albacore.
3. CPCs and IATTC scientific staff are encouraged to participate in WCPFC science management dialogues to develop a harvest strategy for south Pacific albacore 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. 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.
6. This measure shall 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.

2e. Conservation measures for the protection and sustainable management of sharks

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-05[1]

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, at the occasion of its 102nd meeting:

Recalling that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks calls on States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt a National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

Recognizing further that some shark species are highly migratory, and that harmonized conservation and management, where appropriate, may help to ensure sustainable management at the regional level.

Noting that sharks are part of pelagic ecosystems and are caught by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

Recalling that under the Antigua Convention, "fish stocks covered by this Convention" means "stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area", and that under Article VIII, paragraph 1 (c), the Commission shall "adopt measures…to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention";

Considering that that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f) of the Antigua Convention establishes that the Commission shall "adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by this Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened";

Recognizing the need to collect data on catches, effort, discards, and utilization, as well as information on biological parameters of the species managed by the IATTC, particularly sharks;

Noting that in its Consolidated Resolution on Bycatch (C-04-05), the IATTC requires that purse-seine vessels release unharmed non-target species, to the extent practicable, including sharks, and urges

[1] Amends and replaces Resolution C-23-07 which consolidated and replaced Resolutions C-05-03, C-16-04 and C-16-05

governments with vessels targeting species covered by the Antigua Convention to provide any required bycatch information as soon as possible.

Further noting the IATTC staff's 2016 conservation recommendations for the release of sharks caught by purse-seine vessels and for prohibiting the use of shark lines by longline vessels targeting tuna and swordfish;

Aware that specific measures to be respected by vessels of all fishing gears are necessary for the conservation of sharks in the Convention Area;

Desiring to consolidate IATTC Resolutions C-05-03, C-16-04, C-16-05, and to strengthen shark conservation and management measures in the eastern Pacific Ocean;

Further considering the recommendations of the first meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG), which were endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its 14th meeting, regarding the need to address best handling and release guidelines and to explore new bycatch release devices and collect more post-release survival data for non-target shark species impacted by fisheries under the purview of the IATTC, as well as the recommendation from the SAC the adoption of a conservation and management measure requiring sharks with fins naturally attached to the body until the point of the first landing;

Considering also the need to improve the identification process of the shark species caught by fishing vessels targeting species under the purview of IATTC, with a view to their management and the integral utilization of the catches;

Recalling that the EBWG recommends that a fishery conservation and management measure be adopted that requires sharks to keep their fins attached to the body until the first point of landing;

Addressing the need to consolidate and continue updating the management regime for sharks associated with fisheries developed under the Antigua Convention;

Agrees as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. For the purpose of this Resolution:

   Shark finning means the practice of removing any fin from a shark's body and discarding its body prior to landing.

   Fin means any shark fin (including the tail) or a portion thereof.

   Full utilization means retention by a vessel of all parts of the shark, except head and guts, as appropriate until the first point of landing.

   Naturally attached means that all fins of the shark are fully or partially connected to the carcass of the shark by connective tissue or cartilage.

Buoy lines means individual lines or leaders that are attached to the float line or to the floats directly, and that are constructed of steel, metal, wire trace, or other materials[2]. Schematic diagram available at Annex 1.

Wire leaders means individual lines or leaders that are constructed of steel, metal, or wire trace, adjacent to the hooks and that are attached to the main line or a branch line. Schematic diagram available at Annex 1.

APPLICATION

2. This Resolution shall apply to all vessels operating pursuant to the IATTC Convention in the Convention Area.

NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION

3. Members and Cooperating Non-Members ("CPCs") should establish and implement a national plan of action for conservation and management of sharks, in accordance with the *FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks*.

RETENTION AND UTILIZATION

4. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishers fully utilize all retained catches of sharks, with the exception of those species for which a retention ban has been adopted by the IATTC.

5. CPCs shall prohibit shark finning.

6. CPCs shall ensure that all sharks are landed with all fins naturally attached to the body. In order to facilitate on-board storage, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the shark carcass as appropriate but shall remain naturally attached to the carcass until the first point of landing (see Annex 2).

7. Until the end of 2026, notwithstanding paragraphs 6, and other provisions in this Resolution, CPCs may take alternative measures to ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified on board the vessel at any time, using one of the following methods:

   (i) each individual shark carcass and its corresponding fins are stored in the same bag, preferably a biodegradable one
   (ii) each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding shark fins using rope or wire; or,
   (iii) the shark fins and the corresponding shark are identically, uniquely, and numerically tagged in a manner that an authorized inspector can readily identify the matching of the shark fins to the corresponding shark.

8. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, landing or trading of any fins harvested or that have been removed on board in contravention of this Resolution.

9. Paragraphs 4 to 8 shall be reviewed, in consultation with IATTC scientific staff, and amendments shall be adopted by the Commission in 2026, as necessary. If no agreement is reached in 2026 on paragraph 7, paragraph 7 shall be replaced with the following text: Notwithstanding paragraphs 6, and other

[2] These are also commonly known as "shark lines."

provisions in this Resolution, CPCs may take alternative measures to require their vessels to have onboard fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.

BYCATCH AND RELEASE

10. CPCs shall prohibit vessels targeting tuna and/or swordfish from using buoy lines.

11. CPCs shall require their vessels to promptly release unharmed all sharks (alive or dead) that are not retained, the extent practicable, as soon as they are seen on the line, entangled in the net, or brailed on the deck, taking due consideration the safety of any person on board, using the following procedures.

For purse seine vessels:

a. when seen entangled in the net, disentangle the sharks and release them into the ocean as soon as possible.
b. sharks brailed on deck must be returned to the water as soon as possible, either utilizing a ramp from the deck connecting to an opening on the side of the vessel, or through escape hatches. If ramps or escape hatches are not available, the sharks must be lowered with a sling or cargo net, using a crane or similar equipment, or as indicated in Annex 3 or any future revisions, as identified pursuant to paragraph 12.
c. prohibit the use of gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments for the handling of sharks.
d. prohibit the lifting of sharks by the head, tail, gill slits, or spiracles, or by using bind wire against or inserted through the body. Prohibit the punching of holes through the bodies of sharks (e.g., to pass a cable through for lifting the shark).
e. prohibit the lifting of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) onboard the vessel and prohibit the towing of whale sharks out of a purse-seine net, e.g., using towing ropes.

For longline vessels:

f. leave the shark in the water, where possible.
g. use a line cutter to cut the branchline as close to the hook as possible, and so that less than 1 meter remains on the animal, to the extent practicable.

12. The IATTC Scientific Staff, in collaboration with the IATTC SAC and EBWG, shall continue to develop, taking into account the practicability for fishing vessels, and recommend to the Commission a comprehensive set of best handling and release practices for the safe release of sharks for inclusion in this measure in 2025. In the meantime, CPCs may elect to use the safe handling and release guidelines described in Annex 3 and as appropriate, the tools identified in Annex 3.1 of this Resolution.

RESEARCH

13. Among shark species, the list of species in Annex 4 shall be given priority for research. The IATTC Scientific Staff in collaboration with EBWG and CPCs, shall continue to review and recommend changes to Annex 4 to the Commission, as appropriate.

14. Beginning in 2024, the IATTC Scientific Staff, in consultation with the IATTC SAC and EBWG shall continue to develop and strengthen a data collection program for sharks associated with

fisheries managed by the Commission, making use of existing research and data collection mechanisms and programs with a goal to implement and maintain a standardized program that includes the monitoring of shark catches in small scale, coastal fisheries, as identified in SAC-15-10, by 2026, taking into consideration the capacity requirements of those CPCs.

15. In 2025, the IATTC, Scientific Staff in collaboration with the IATTC SAC and EBWG shall develop and recommend to the Commission a Shark Research Plan that will prioritize research activities for *Carcharhinus longimanus and C. falciformis, Sphyrna lewini, S. zygaena, Alopias pelagicus, Alopias supercilicious, Prionace glauca, and S. mokarran,*and as appropriate, the other species listed in Annex 4. This Shark Research Plan will include timelines and financial considerations for stock assessments, ecological risk assessments, and recommended management strategy evaluations. This plan will also identify opportunities for collaboration with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) for Pacific-wide stocks.

16. Beginning in 2026 and annually thereafter, the IATTC scientific staff, in collaboration with the SAC and EBWG, shall provide an update on the Shark Research Plan at the SAC and recommendations to the Commission, as appropriate.

17. The IATTC SAC with support from Scientific Staff and the EBWG shall review the information reported by CPCs annually and will, as necessary, provide recommendations to the Commission on ways to strengthen the conservation and management of sharks within IATTC fisheries, including consideration of the use of wire leaders, by vessels fishing tuna and tuna like species.

18. By 2027, CPCs will undertake, where possible, in cooperation with the IATTC scientific staff, actions to:
    a. identify ways to make fishing gears more selective, where appropriate, including research into alternative measures to wire leaders;
    b. improve knowledge of key biological and ecological parameters, life-history and behavioral traits, and migration patterns of key shark species;
    c. identify key shark mating, pupping, and nursery areas; and
    d. improve handling practices for live sharks to maximize their post-release survival.

REPORTING AND DATA COLLECTION

19. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the identification of shark species/groups and the collection of data on their shark catches.

20. Each CPC shall annually report data for catches, effort by gear type landing and trade of sharks, by species where possible, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data, of the fisheries under the purview of the Commission.

21. CPCs are encouraged to provide aggregated information on trade, as available.

22. CPCs shall also provide to the IATTC, through observer programs, electronic monitoring programs or other means, the species identification, the number and status (dead/alive) of all sharks caught, in accordance with applicable monitoring requirements, including those caught incidentally and/or released by purse seine vessels of all capacity classes and longline vessels.

23. The IATTC Secretariat will develop a template for CPCs to report on the implementation of this Resolution for adoption by the Commission in 2024.

24. In 2025, CPCs shall use the annual compliance questionnaire to report on their compliance with this Resolution.

25. In 2026, CPCs shall use the reporting template provided by the Staff to annually report on its implementation of this Resolution. Reports for the previous year shall be submitted to the IATTC Secretariat, by June 30 of each year.

REPEAL AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

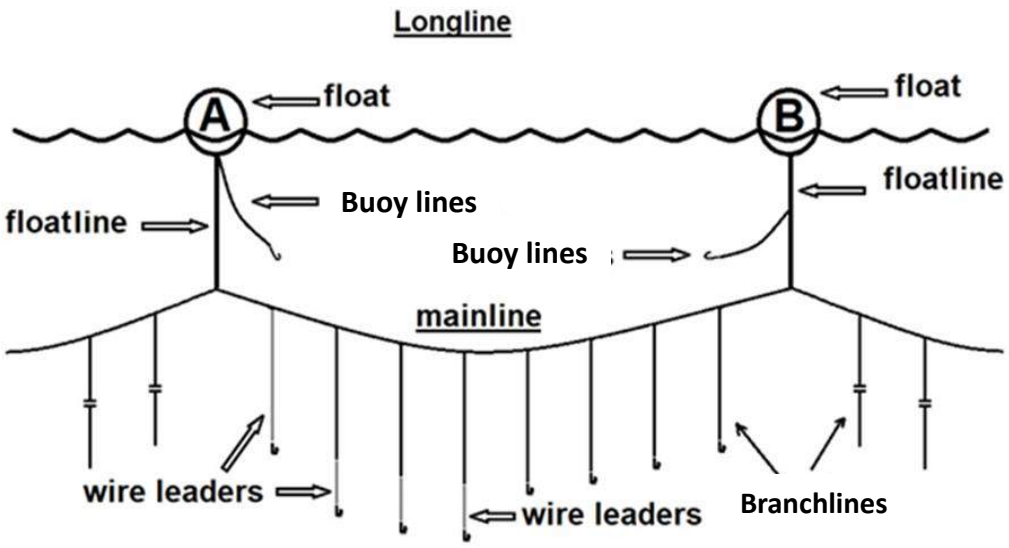
26. This Resolution shall replace Resolution C-23-07 upon its entry into force on July 1, 2025.

Annex 1

Schematic diagram of shark lines and wire leaders

Buoy lines: individual lines or leaders that are attached to the float line or to the floats directly, and that are constructed of steel, metal, wire trace, or other materials, and are deployed in the water column at depths shallower than the mainline[3].

Wire leaders: individual lines or leaders that are constructed of steel, metal, or wire trace, and that are attached to the main line or a branch line.



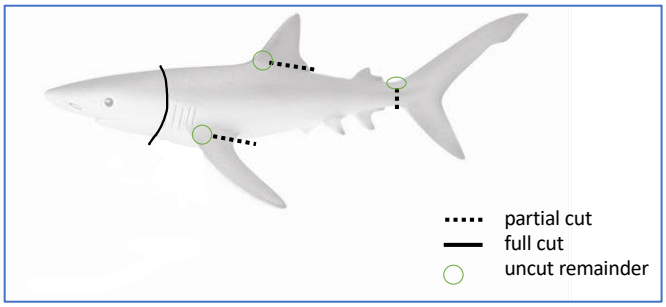
[3] These are also commonly known as "shark lines."

Annex 2

Diagram of allowable partial cuts

Naturally attached means that all fins of the shark must be fully and/or partially connected to the body of the shark by connective tissue or cartilage, while at sea. In order to facilitate on-board storage, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the shark carcass, but shall not be removed from the carcass until the first point of landing. Below is a schematic to guide fishers.

1. Only head and guts, as appropriate, may be removed at sea.
2. A partial cut at the level of the base of the dorsal fin and the base of the pectoral fins is permitted.
3. A partial cut at the level of the caudal peduncle of the base, allowing the caudal fin to be folded over the posterior area of the shark's trunk is permitted.
4. A full cut along the abdominal section is permitted in the case of the Blue Shark (*P. glauca)* in the process of gutting, provided the fins remain naturally attached.



Annex 3
Best safe handling and release practices (BHRPs) for sharks

Bearing in mind that the primary aim of release processes is to ensure the highest level of survival of sharks and that, whenever possible, prompt, and effective action will be taken to return the shark to the sea and prioritizing that the life and safety of the crew is not compromised and that crew members shall endeavor to avoid hazards in the safe handling and release operations for sharks.

To maximize the efficacy and utility of adopted BHRPs, CPCs should ensure crew are educated and trained by qualified staff on these practices regularly. Illustrated best handling and release practices should be available on the vessels.

All fisheries

SHOULD

- Release the shark in the water, if possible.
- Encourage the immediate release of sharks.

SHOULD NOT

- Attach sharks to vessel and drag while vessel operations are underway
- Hit or kick the shark
- Leave sharks laying on the deck, exposed to sun or air, except to the extent necessary to carry out these practices
- Insert hands into gill slits.

Purse-seine fishery

SHOULD NOT

- Roll sharks through the power block

For sharks entangled in the net:

- **SHOULD** Release the shark from the net, always preventing it from ascending to the power block.
- Maneuver the animal into a stretcher/cradle or ramp and release it on the opposite side of the vessel.

When brailing sharks on board:

SHOULD

- According to the vessel's conditions, to the extent possible, use bycatch reduction devices (BRDs; e.g., hoppers or ramps) to ensure sharks are sorted on the main deck and do not go down the loading hatch.
- Release the shark as soon as possible. The recommended practice is to remove the shark from the brailer, hopper or ramps by grabbing it, without suspending it, by the caudal peduncle to place it on deck. This should be done manually whenever possible.
- Maneuver sharks into a stretcher/cradle or ramp immediately when possible and release it on the opposite side of the vessel from the net.
- Consider the use of a bycatch/waste ramp on the lower decks to facilitate fast and safe release of sharks that were not sighted on the main/working deck.

For whale sharks

SHOULD

- Leave whale sharks in the water for release.
- Release of whale sharks prior to brailing.
- If the whale shark is at the side of the vessel and its head is pointed towards the stern of the vessel, the shark should be released (by opening or cutting the net in front of the sharks mouth)
- If the head of the whale shark is pointed towards the bow of the boat, the crew in charge of the net hauling operation can maneuver the winch and the capstan to bring the whale shark close to the hull, then stand the animal on the net and roll it outside the bunt.

SHOULD NOT

- Land a whale shark on deck regardless of size
- Start a brailing process if it endangers the survival of the whale shark.
  Pull or drag whale sharks out of the net by the tail or caudal peduncle.

Longline fishery (also applicable to fisheries of other surface fleets other than purse seine)

SHOULD

For sharks captured by vessels with high freeboard (>2m):

- Slow the vessel to bring the sharks alongside for identification and removal of gear.
- Avoid removing hooks from sharks. If attempting to remove hooks use long-handled de-hookers for vessels with high freeboards.
- To the extent practicable and ensure that weights are removed, when cutting the line.
- Avoid bringing sharks on board for gear removal if possible. If sharks are brought on board for gear removal:
  - Use a dip net or lasso to help lift them onboard
  - Use a stretcher or cradle for handling and restraint for the safety of the crew and to reduce injury to the animal.
  - Maneuver shark using manual restraint of the pectoral fins and the caudal peduncle (this may require two crew members depending on the size of the animals

For all longline vessels (also applicable to surface fleet fisheries):

SHOULD NOT

- Drag sharks behind the vessel until the hook rips free of the jaw.
- Lift sharks onboard without the use of a dipnet and or second point of attachment to support the weight of the animal, noting it is not recommended to lift sharks onboard the vessel.
- Attempt to remove a hook from a live shark if the hook is not visible.
- Insert gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments into the bodies of live sharks
- Cut into the jaw for removal of the hook.
- Lift sharks onto the deck if possible.

Annex 3.1

Recommended tools for best handling and release practices

FOR PURSE SEINE FISHERIES

- Bycatch sorting/releasing devices for working/main deck (e.g., hopper with a door, ramp)
- Stretcher/cradle

FOR LONGLINE FISHERIES

- Dipnet
- Short de-hooker (for sharks brought on board)
- Line cutter
- Short handled de-hooker (vessels with low [<2m] free-board)
- Long-handled line cutter (equal or in greater in length than the vessel's freeboard)
- Long-handled de-hooker (equal or in greater in length than the vessel's freeboard)

Annex 4

List of priority species for research and management

Familia	Nombre científico	Common name	Nombre común
Alopiidae	Alopias pelagicus	Pelagic thresher	Zorro pelágico
Alopiidae	*Alopias superciliosus*	Bigeye thresher	Zorro ojón
Alopiidae	*Alopias vulpinus*	Common thresher	Tiburón zorro pinto
Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus brachyurus*	Copper shark	Tiburón cobrizo
Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	Silky shark	Tiburón sedoso
Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus galapagensis*	Galapagos shark	Tiburón de Galápagos
Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus longimanus*	Oceanic whitetip shark	Tiburón punta blanca oceánico
Galeocerdonidae	*Galeocerdo cuvier*	Tiger shark	Tintorera tigre
Lamnidae	*Isurus oxyrinchus*	Shortfin mako shark	Mako de aleta corta
Lamnidae	*Isurus paucus*	Longfin mako shark	Marrajo carite
Lamnidae	*Lamna ditropis*	Salmon shark	Marrajo salmón
Lamnidae	*Lamna nasus*	Porbeagle shark	Marrajo sardinero
Carcharhinidae	*Prionace glauca*	Blue shark	Tiburón azul
Pseudocarchariidae	*Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*	Crocodile shark	Tiburón cocodrilo
Rhincodontidae	*Rhincodon typus*	Whale shark	Tiburón ballena
Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna lewini*	Scalloped hammerhead shark	Cornuda común
Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna mokarran*	Great hammerhead	Cornuda gigante
Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna zygaena*	Smooth hammerhead shark	Cornuda cruz

2f. FADs

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-06

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-23-03 THAT AMENDED RESOLUTION C-99-07 ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of its 102st Meeting:

Considering that Document SAC-14-16 on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to the Commission states the following with respect to fish-aggregating devices (FADs): *"Taking into account the importance of FAD recovery, the SAC requests that the Commission clarify if vessels other than authorized purse seiners could carry out this recovery and under what circumstances, and considers, should it be necessary, an update of Resolution C-99-07 on FADs";*

Noting that the fishery on FADs has grown in the last years, in catches of juvenile tunas, in particular yellowfin, in the purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Noting that the activity on FADs is one of the main fishing strategies in recent years, making it important to devise solutions for FADs recovery in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Concerned about the reduction in the average size of bigeye tuna caught by the purse-seine fishery in the EPO;

Concerned about the use of non-biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs that might be found abandoned and drifting in the EPO;

Reiterating the need to seek a viable solution to reduce incidental catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the purse-seine fishery in the EPO;

Reaffirming its commitment to the application of the precautionary approach, which establishes that "*[t]he absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures*" (Antigua Convention, Article IV, par. 2);

Recalling that under Resolution C- 22-03 (not applicable "*to troll vessels, pole-and-line vessels or vessels engaged in the transshipment of fresh fish at sea*" par. 3), except under the transshipment monitoring program established by the Resolution, "*all transshipment operations in the Antigua Convention Area of tuna and tuna species and sharks* (…) *must take place in port*." (par. 2);

Recalling that Resolutions adopted by the IATTC at its 61st and 62nd Meetings contained recommendations that the Parties prohibit the use of tender vessels whose role it is to deploy, repair, pick up, or maintain FADs at sea,

1. *Recommends* to the Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) under whose jurisdiction vessels operate in the EPO that:

   (a) CPCs will continue with the scientific working group established in accordance with Resolution C- 99-07 to carry out comprehensive research, in conjunction with the IATTC staff, to include, but not be limited to:

      i. The relationship between catches of bigeye and yellowfin tuna and the maximum depth of FADs.
      ii. The effect of the use of baited FADs on catch rates and size composition of the catch of tunas.
      i. Estimates of the natural mortality of the various populations of tunas.
      ii. The establishment of a maximum number of sets on floating objects which the tuna fishery in the EPO can support.
      iii. The catches of tunas and associated and dependent species in the fishery on floating objects between 130ºW and 150ºW.
      iv. The impact of permanent or temporary closure of areas to the use of FADs, especially in combination with other regulatory measures being considered by the Commission.
      v. The feasibility of a program to place observers on purse-seine vessels smaller than Class 6 (≤ 363 metric tons carrying capacity) and the appropriate level of observer coverage necessary to obtain reliable scientific information.

2. CPCs shall prohibit the use of tender vessels operating in support of vessels fishing on FADs in the EPO, without prejudice to similar activities in other parts of the world.

3. The Director shall continue research into the use of fishing gear and/or techniques to reduce the catch of small tunas and the bycatch of non-target species and continue to report to the Commission on the results of this research.

4. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall, in co-operation with the IATTC staff and fully involving the Ad Hoc Permanent Working Group on FADs, provide advice to the Commission in view of its 103rd Session on the potential benefits and modalities of implementation of a FAD register, coherently with the approach which is being implemented in other RFMOs.

5. To prevent drifting loss or stranding, CPCs are encouraged to initiate recovery programs of drifting FADs through cooperative initiatives among fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area or vessels implementing projects for the recovery of such FADs. Without restricting regular fishing operations of purse seine vessels fishing with FADs, such recovery activities shall be limited to the collection of drifting FADs for final disposal and not to perform any type of maintenance or adjustment. Except for authorized tuna purse seine vessels, these vessels shall not deploy FADs. Drifting FADs collected under the voluntary recovery program shall be taken on board and brought to port for recycling or disposal. The provisions of this paragraph shall be in effect until 31 December 2028, while the initial results are analyzed. This paragraph shall be applied without prejudice to the existing obligations of fishing vessels including those in other IATTC Resolutions.

6. CPCs that decide voluntarily to initiate these programs shall report all associated information on FAD recovery activities to the IATTC Secretariat, so that exclusively and for scientific purposes, the scientific staff, complying with rules of confidentiality, can analyze the data on a year- by-year basis and

report these results to the *Ad Hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs and the SAC, information which may be used exclusively for the corresponding purposes.

2g. Regional Vessel Register

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2 – 6 September, 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-07

ON A REGIONAL VESSEL REGISTER (AMENDS RES. C-18-06)

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City on its 102nd Meeting:

Affirming the importance of ensuring that all vessels fishing in the Antigua Convention Area comply with the conservation and management measures agreed by the Commission;

Reaffirming the need to have pertinent information relative to the operations of vessels fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Recalling that Article XII, paragraph 2 (k), of the Antigua Convention stipulates that the Director shall maintain the record of vessels fishing in the Convention Area based, *inter alia,* on the information provided pursuant to Annex 1 of the Convention;

Concerned that the current IATTC Regional Vessel Register includes fishing vessels not from Members and Co-operating Non-Members of the Commission (CPCs) and the Commission cannot confirm whether these vessels are complying with relevant IATTC resolutions;

Further recalling that the Commission has been taking various measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Convention Area,

Noting that large-scale fishing vessels are highly mobile and easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, and have high potential of operating in the Convention area without timely registration with the Commission,

Recalling that the FAO Council adopted on June 23, 2001, an International Plan of Action (IPOA) aiming to prevent, to deter and to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, that this plan stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and in particular to establish records of vessels authorized and records of vessels engaged in IUU fishing,

Further noting that the International Maritime Organization, at its 30th Assembly meeting in December 2017, adopted Resolution A.1117(30), which amends the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme to expand fishing vessels' eligibility for IMO numbers from such vessels 100 GT and above to include motorized inboard fishing vessels below 100 GT down to 12 meters in length overall authorized to operate outside waters under national jurisdiction of the flag State,

Recognizing the utility and practicality of using IMO numbers as a unique vessel identifier (UVI) for fishing vessels, and

Aware of the need to amend its Resolution C-14-01 on a Regional Vessel Register:

Agrees that:

1. The Director shall establish and maintain a record of vessels that have been authorized to fish in the Antigua Convention Area for species covered by the Convention, on the basis of the information detailed in paragraphs 2 and 3. The record shall contain only vessels that fly the flags of CPCs.

2. On the basis of the records at their disposal the IATTC staff shall introduce for each vessel the date of inclusion into the IATTC Register.

3. Each CPC shall supply to the Director the following information with respect to each vessel under its jurisdiction to be included in the record established pursuant to paragraph 1:

    a. name of vessel, registration number, previous names (if known), and port of registry;
    b. a photograph of the vessel showing its registration number;
    c. previous flag (if known and if any);
    d. International Radio Call Sign (if any);
    e. name and address of owner or owners;
    f. where and when built;
    g. length, beam, and moulded depth;
    h. freezer type and freezer capacity, in cubic meters;
    i. number and capacity of fish holds, in cubic meters and, in the case of purse-seine vessels, capacity breakdown by fish hold if possible;
    j. name and address of operator(s) and/or manager(s)(if any);
    k. type of vessel;
    l. type of fishing method or methods;
    m. gross tonnage;
    n. power of main engine or engines;
    o. the nature of the authorization to fish granted by the flag CPC (such as main target species);
    p. existence of a valid authorisation by the flag CPC to fish/transship in the Convention area and,
    q. International Maritime Organization (IMO) or Lloyd's.
    r. Register (LR) number, if issued.[1]

4. Each CPC shall promptly notify the Director of any modifications to the information listed in paragraph 3.

5. Each CPC shall also promptly notify the Director of:
    a. any additions to the record;
    b. any deletions from the record by reason of:

        i. the voluntary relinquishment or non-renewal of the fishing authorization by the owner or operator of the vessel;

[1] Effective 1 January 2016, flag CPC's shall ensure that all their fishing vessels (except for recreational fishing vessels) authorized to fish in the Convention Area that are at least 100 gross tons (GT) or 100 gross registered tons (GRT) in size have an IMO or LR number issued. Effective 1 January 2020, flag CPCs shall ensure that all their motorized inboard fishing vessels (except for recreational fishing vessels) of less than 100 GT or 100 GRT down to a size limit of 12 meters in length overall (LOA) or registered length, authorized to fish in the high seas of the Convention Area have an IMO or LR number issued. In assessing compliance with this requirement, the Commission shall take into account extraordinary circumstances in which a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO or LR number despite following the appropriate procedures. Flag CPCs shall report any such extraordinary situations in their annual reports.

ii. the withdrawal of the fishing authorization issued to the vessel in accordance with Article XX, paragraph 2, of the Convention;
iii. the fact that the vessel is no longer entitled to fly its flag;
iv. the scrapping, decommissioning or loss of the vessel; and
v. any other reason, specifying which of the reasons listed above are applicable.

6. CPCs shall notify the Director by 30 June each year of their vessels[2] on the Regional Vessel Register flying their flag that were actively fishing in the IATTC Convention Area for species covered by the Convention from 1 January to 31 December of the previous year.

7. The Director shall request each CPC to provide complete data for its vessels in accordance with paragraph 2 if the CPC does not provide all the required information.

8. The Commission shall review this resolution in 2026 and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness, including revisions to the vessel information required in paragraph 2 of this resolution. In this context, the IATTC Secretariat should analyze and suggest options to adequately implement the inclusion of the date of the initial fishing license in the Register.

[2] Excluding recreational fishing vessels.

2h. Management strategies

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-08

CREATION OF AN *AD HOC* WORKING GROUP TO STRENGTHEN THE DIALOGUE AMONG SCIENTISTS, MANAGERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ON MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of its 102nd Meeting:

Committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Recognizing that the Commission had adopted provisional reference points and harvest control rules (HCR) for tropical tuna fisheries in the EPO in Resolutions C-16-02 and C-23-06;

Noting that in Resolutions C-16-02 and C-23-06 the scientific staff is urged to continue testing reference points and harvest control rules to support the adoption by the Commission of a permanent HCR;

Noting that Resolution C-21-04 urges the scientific staff to present a bigeye tuna harvest strategy for consideration by the Commission in 2024, which was subsequently updated to 2025;

Aware that Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) is the most advanced process to test the effectiveness of HCRs and other management strategies in achieving management objectives;

Noting that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) has recommended that the Commission create a working group to facilitate dialogue to advance the process of management strategy evaluation for the development of a harvest strategy; and

Pursuant to Article VII, paragraph 1(u) of the Antigua Convention;

Agrees as follows:

1. To create the Working Group to improve the dialogue among fisheries scientists, managers and other stakeholders.
2. The Working Group shall have the following objectives:
    a. Improve communication and facilitate mutual understanding among managers and scientists regarding matters related to harvest strategies and MSE within the IATTC;
    b. Advise and assist the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the IATTC in the development and implementation of a work plan and a timeline for the harvest strategy and MSE process in the IATTC;
    c. Identify and recommend to the Commission management objectives and reference points compatible with the Antigua Convention, including the application of the precautionary approach and the corresponding performance indicators.

d. Identify and recommend candidate harvest strategies for IATTC fisheries that can be tested to determine their effectiveness and robustness in achieving management objectives for tropical tunas, beginning with bigeye tuna.

3. The Working Group shall be co-chaired by one person from the scientific area and one person from the administrative area to be decided by the Commission.

4. Without prejudice to the functions and competencies of the Scientific Advisory Committee to which this Group will report, the duties of the Working Group shall be to make recommendations:
    a. as appropriate, on the work plans and timelines for the harvest strategy and MSE processes.
    b. on candidate/potential elements of harvest strategies for testing with MSE, including:
        i. General management objectives and related performance indicators;
        ii. Candidate reference points, including the use of BMSY and FMSY or appropriate proxies as target and/or limit reference points, along with associated probabilities and timelines;
        iii. Possible harvest strategies, including input data, evaluation methods and harvest control rules.
    c. on monitoring and control systems to ensure effective implementation of harvest strategies.
    d. on exceptional circumstances protocols to guide management in circumstances outside of those for which the harvest strategy was designed.
    e. on the identification of the funds necessary to carry out the harvest strategy and MSE work plans.

5. The Working Group shall report to the Scientific Advisory Committee, upon beginning their work. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall consider the results of the Working Group under a permanent agenda item for this purpose and shall also provide new guidelines on other topics to be considered by the Working Group.

2i. Minimum standards for an electronic monitoring system

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-09

INTERIM MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEMS (EMS) IN IATTC FISHERIES

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama for its 102nd Meeting:

Committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks in the Antigua Convention Area;

Committed to ensuring that the best scientific evidence is obtained and made available to be utilized as the basis for the adoption of conservation and management measures, as stipulated in the Antigua Convention;

Mindful that Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) is a promising tool for monitoring and improving data collection, including for both purse-seine and longline vessels, and that it may, subject to additional technical work, be similarly promising for carrier vessels engaged in transshipment at sea;

Incorporating the definitions related to EMS adopted by the Commission in Resolution C-21-03;

Taking Note of the draft Interim Minimum Standards for the Use of EMS in IATTC Fisheries developed during the 2nd Meeting of the IATTC Ad Hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring;

Agrees:

1. To adopt the minimum standards for the use of electronic monitoring systems (EMS) in IATTC fisheries and associated provisions contained in **Appendix 1** and its **Annexes.**

2. As specified in Appendix 1, to review these minimum interim standards in 2027 and at least every two years thereafter, or until a final set of EMS standards is adopted, and in doing so to evaluate how effectively these standards fulfilled their purpose and, on that basis, consider whether there is the need to revise them, taking into account, inter alia, relevant information provided by CPCs on the inception and implementation of their EM programs as well as any new technological or scientific developments.

APPENDIX 1.

INTERIM MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEMS (EMS) IN IATTC FISHERIES

Goal and Scope

1. The purpose of this document is to establish a set of interim minimum standards, hereafter called minimum standards, and specifications for the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) in the Antigua Convention area, both on board purse-seine and longline vessels[11]. These standards are intended to ensure the suitability of electronic monitoring (EM) data collected for objectives of the IATTC, on an interim basis, until such time as the Commission adopts a permanent set of standards consistent with the work plan developed by the EM workshops.

2. EM is not mandatory in the IATTC at this time, and these standards do not create any independent obligation for Members and Cooperating non- Members to implement EMS onboard their fishing vessels. Data derived from electronic monitoring shall not be used to satisfy existing IATTC data requirements, including data submission and observer requirements at this time. CPCs that would like to provide the IATTC scientific staff EM data through pilot programs to develop their EM programs using these minimum standards may do so as long as they apply the mandatory items in these minimum standards. The Commission shall review this Resolution in 2027, consider CPC experiences with the use of EM in IATTC fisheries, and taking into account this review and CPC experiences, discuss the feasibility of allowing for EM to be used as a substitute for human observers to fulfill certain IATTC observer coverage requirements. A mandatory EM Program for the EPO tuna fisheries is yet to be adopted by the Commission, but is expected in the near future based on a work plan developed during the EM Workshops. This document will reflect a hybrid approach using language as follows:

    - SHALL/MUST – these are items that an EM System or EM Program must have in order to meet minimum data quality requirements;
    - SHOULD – features that could be very useful to have, but not strictly required; and
    - MAY – features that are much less critical

3. The EMS terms and definitions adopted by the Commission through Resolution C-21-03, are in **Annex 1**.

EMS technical standards and minimum data fields

4. EM equipment shall automatically and autonomously collect EM records to generate the required EM data and shall be tamper-evident (i.e., any attempts to tamper with the equipment will be detectable to the EM service provider/vessel owner, and reported to the respective vessel flag authority).
5. The recommended minimum technical requirements, performance standards, and activities that should be covered under EMS and captured by the camera(s) are provided in **Annex 2.** General recommendations for configurations of EM equipment (e.g., camera placement and subsequent views) for purse seine and longline are also in **Annex 2**, but vessels or groups of vessels with similar designs observing these minimum standards shall have a Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP)

[11] The EMWG expressed an interest in extending the scope of EM in IATTC to carrier vessels engaged in transshipment at sea pursuant to Resolution C-22-03, but noted that this will depend upon developing further technical guidance with respect to, inter alia, technical standards, data requirements, and recommended equipment configurations.

(see section on VMP below and **Annex 4**) based on vessel's designs and specifics. The VMP describes how the EM equipment is specifically positioned and configured on board to monitor fishing activities, and through which the CPCs should verify and document that the minimum standards for the use of the IATTC are met. Data obtained from the VMP, and provided by all IATTC EMS observant vessels, would ensure robust assessments on the performance, progress and evolution of the EMS in IATTC fisheries.

6. Both the mandatory minimum data fields that EMS shall collect, as well as optional data fields EMS may collect for each vessel type are provided in **Annex 3**

EM Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP)

7. If a CPC intends to achieve fisheries data submission by EM, such a CPC shall develop] an EM Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) for each vessel, or groups of vessels (e.g., all purse-seine, or all longline, or all long-line of a certain size range) fishing for tuna or tuna-like species flagged to the CPC and on which EM equipment is to be operated and applying the IATTC minimum standards for EMS. The VMP will describe the configuration, components and installation of EM equipment on each vessel, and this configuration shall be capable of collecting EM records consistent with all relevant mandatory minimum standards and technical specifications in this document. A copy of the CPC approved VMP should be maintained aboard each vessel at all times when EM equipment is deployed to monitor vessel's activities. Additional details on VMP contents are provided in **Annex 4**.

8. Any modification to the VMP, including EM equipment, shall be reported to the vessel flag authority for approval.

Data Management

9. Standards for storage and retention of EM records, data retrieval and data review and reporting are detailed in **Annex 5**.

Role of the Skipper/Vessel Master

10. The Skipper/Master of the vessel shall ensure that:
    - in case the EM equipment malfunctions, the malfunctions are reported to the relevant flag authority and, where appropriate, the provider as soon as possible;
    - on-board physical access to the EM equipment components is provided if requested by the flag authority or any CPC-authorized personnel;
    - in accordance with the VMP and the camera views capable of collecting the minimum data identified in this Resolution as specified in **Annex 2**, the cameras have an un-obstructed view, and that the lenses or lens covers are cleaned, as necessary;
    - the handling of the catch and bycatch, to the extent practicable, allows EM cameras an adequate view the collection of the relevant data fields specified in **Annex 2** (e.g., species identification, catch composition, etc.);
    - the transmission or retrieval of EM records is carried out in accordance with the mandatory provisions of **Annex 5**;
    - unless authorized and instructed by the flag CPC or CPC-authorized personnel, the EM equipment is not tampered with (e.g., disconnect the system, rearrange or obstruct the view of the cameras, disconnect cameras or sensors, switch-off the EM equipment manually, intentionally break the system).

Roles of the flag CPC

11. CPCs that decide to implement EMS to collect fisheries data for submission to IATTC shall ensure that the vessels flying their flags meet the mandatory elements of the EMS minimum standards and requirements established in this document, including the following:

Mandatory

- that CPC EM programs are developed, and designed and implemented in a manner that ensures they are transparent and the resulting data verifiable;
- that the analysis of the EM records in the synthesis of EM data is done by CPC-authorized companies or by CPC institutions or CPC authorities, with the necessary training, knowledge, skills and abilities to ensure effective EM records analysis and EM data generation; this includes sufficiently accurate species identification;
- that the health status report of the EM equipment on board each vessel under its jurisdiction be provided by the EM service provider or by the EM equipment itself;
- that rules and procedures are established in case of EM equipment failure and are followed;

Voluntary

- that in instances where actions inconsistent with these standards are detected in EM records or data, appropriate follow-up by the competent flag authority is undertaken.
- That the EM system can generate a log file including, but not limited to, the following EM processes to capture the operational health status of the system:
    - System power up
    - System shutdown planned
    - System shutdown unplanned (eg power cut)
    - Camera connectivity
    - Camera recording start and stop times (planned)
    - Camera recording error
    - Available hard drive space
    - Sensor connectivity
    - Sensor recording start and stop times (planned)
    - Sensor recording error
    - Activation and deactivation of recording triggers (eg vessel speed, drum rotation sensors, georeferences, and time scheduled)

12. CPCs that decide to implement EMS to collect fisheries data for submission to IATTC shall ensure that their programs meet the requirements in this Resolution and prior to submitting EM data to the IATTC shall submit an EM program description to the Director detailing, at a minimum, the following information:

- an example of the VMPs used in the program;
- responsibilities of fishing authorities and vessel owner/crew with respect to installing and maintaining equipment, including routine cleaning of cameras, and responses to mechanical or technical failure of the EMS;
- protocols for data storage, retrieval and transfer (**Annex 5**);
- protocols for internal reporting and following up on possible actions inconsistent with these standards that are detected. CPCs may voluntarily share information on such instances with the IATTC Secretariat

13. The EM program description in paragraph 12 above shall be submitted to the IATTC Director before a CPC's EM program begins to submit data to the IATTC. CPCs shall report any changes to their EM domestic program to the Director whenever such changes occur.

Annual Reporting

14. CPCs that decide to implement EMS to collect fisheries data for submission to IATTC shall report EM data for each year collected consistent with these minimum standards to the IATTC Secretariat, preferably consistent with data reporting deadlines of relevant resolutions or by the end of the following year using the formats and guidelines described in **Annexes 2, 3 and 5** consistent with procedures in place for other data reporting requirements and consistent with the confidentiality requirements of the CPCs.
15. CPCs that decide to implement EMS to collect fisheries data for submission to IATTC shall submit by March 30 of the following year a fleet-level summary of the VMPs to the Commission describing the implementation of their EM program(s) in the previous year, including, at a minimum, the number of vessels implementing EM by gear and fishery type]; the range of EMS configurations implemented within the fleet (including the numbers and placements of cameras for each configuration); a general description of EMS requirements placed upon vessel skippers/crews by the CPC; the percent coverage levels achieved by fishery and gear type; details on how those coverage levels were calculated; and, where appropriate, information on compliance monitoring so that these reports can be reviewed by the EMWG or other Commission body, as appropriate.

EMWG roles and responsibilities

16. The EMWG should review, with assistance of the IATTC staff where appropriate, the CPC EMS reports submitted pursuant to paragraph 15, as well as the implementation of those programs and, if appropriate, suggest improvements and adjustments to the minimum standards or to meeting the minimum standards.

Secretariat roles and responsibilities

17. The Secretariat should:

- At the request of a CPC and subject to the availability of funding and staff resources, collaborate with the CPCs implementing their EM programs in order to help make their program consistent with these minimum standards, and ensure the quality of the EMS data that will be submitted for inclusion in the IATTC data holdings;
- To the extent information is available, summarize and provide an annual report to the EMWG about the progress of CPCs in implementing their EM programs.
- Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 16, the Secretariat may make recommendations to the Commission, its Scientific Advisory Committee and the EMWG on improvements and adjustments to the minimum standards, as well as to the implementation of the EMS in CPC EM programs.

Periodic review

18. The Commission shall review these minimum interim standards in 2027 and at least every two years thereafter, or until a final set of EMS standards are adopted. The Commission shall evaluate how effectively these standards fulfilled their purpose and, on that basis, consider whether there is the need to revise them, taking into account, *inter alia*, relevant information provided by CPCs on the inception and implementation of their EM programs as well as any new technological or scientific developments.

ANNEX 1

EMS terms and definitions adopted by the Commission through Resolution C-21-03

1. **EM (electronic monitoring):** The use of EM equipment to record a vessel's activities.
2. **EMS (Electronic Monitoring System)**: A system for implementing EM aboard vessels, and for collecting, processing, and analyzing the resulting EM records.
3. **EM standards**: The agreed standards, rules, and procedures governing the establishment and operation of an EMS, applicable to all components of the system as they may be used for specified vessels in a specific area and/or type of fishing activity.
4. **EMS Program**: A national or regional program established for implementing an EMS.
5. **EM equipment**: A network of electronic cameras, sensors and/or data storage devices installed on vessels and used to record these vessels' activities.
6. **EM records**: Images and other data recorded by the EM equipment.
7. **EM data**: Data resulting from analysis of EM records.
8. **EM analysis**: The analysis of EM records to produce EM data.
9. **EM analyst**: A person qualified to analyze EM records and produce EM data.
10. **EM review center**: A facility where EM records are analyzed to produce EM data.
11. **EM coverage:** The proportion of the vessels or fishing activities that is effectively covered by the EMS.
12. **EM review rate**: The proportion of EM records that are analyzed to produce EM data.
13. **EM service provider**: Provider of EM equipment and/or technical and logistical services.

ANNEX 2

Minimum technical requirements, performance standards, camera view of fishing activities under coverage by EMS, and recommended configurations for EM equipment for each vessel type

- The standards need to be purpose and performance oriented, flexible enough and periodically reviewed by the Commission to accommodate technological advances and changes in priorities, as well as the particular requirements of vessels of different sizes, gears, and fishing practices.

EM equipment

- The EM equipment should be protected against onboard power outage, with a backup power system capable to keep operating until the vessel power is restored (e.g., 30 minutes). It should also be capable of saving EM records collected when the vessel power is down for longer periods than the backup system was designed to withstand.
- Digital video is typically preferred for capturing information during the different phases of vessel activity, but still images can also serve as a viable option, especially due to limited storage capacity. An optimal configuration may involve a camera setting, using video for specific areas, cameras, or moments, while utilizing still photos for others.
- EM records shall include, at a minimum, location, date, and time stamps, and to the extent possible, vessel ID, and to integrate with other data collection and monitoring tools (e.g., sensors).
- The onboard interface shall include an on-board screen, or equivalent interface, to allow

verification by the skipper/crew on the correct functioning of the EM equipment.

- The EM provider should ensure that radio frequency interference from EM equipment with other on-board vessel communication, navigation, safety, geolocation devices or fishing equipment is prevented.
- EM Equipment shall be tamper-evident/resistant and record automatic alerts which should be provided to the appropriate EM Coordinator and EM provider in near real-time in cases of malfunctions, manual activation/shutdown, manual data input, external data manipulation, or attempts to tamper with the equipment or EM records. If these recorded automatic alerts cannot be sent in near real-time to the EM program coordinator and EM provider they shall be provided as soon as possible, along with other EM records at the end of the corresponding trip. It should also be possible for data recording to be controlled manually, but only in case the EM equipment fails to start or stop automatically, and any manual activation should trigger an automatic alert. Manual shutdown should not be permitted.

Cameras

- Cameras shall be sufficient in number and quality to meet the data requirements of the EMS, with high-resolution images that allow the identification of species, specific fishing activities and the vessel's surroundings.
- Onboard EM hardware components shall be sufficiently dust and water resistant and durable enough to operate reliably under the range of conditions expected in their location on vessels.
- Cameras shall be capable of recording video and/or still images, as appropriate to the purpose of the individual camera. For cameras used for species identification, video shall have a resolution no less than 720p, with a minimum frame rate of 5-10 FPS. Still images shall have a minimum capture interval of no more than 1 second and with resolution no less than 2MP.
- Placement of cameras shall provide clear and unobstructed views of the areas that are being covered.
- On purse seine vessels, the cameras shall cover, at a minimum, the working deck (both port and starboard sides), the net sack and the brailer, the foredeck or amidships, and (if applicable) the well deck and conveyor belt. Descriptions and image for an example of camera locations in class 2-6 purse-seiners is provided in Table 1 and Figure 1.
- On longliners, the cameras shall provide, at a minimum, a view of all hooked fauna, both those brought aboard the vessel and, when possible, those discarded or released without first bringing them on the vessel. Descriptions and an image for an example of camera locations on longliners that would provide these views is provided in Table 2 and Figure 2.
- Cameras should be able to record activities in low and very bright natural light conditions (low and high contrasts). Nocturnal fishing activities involving species captured should be illuminated with sufficient lighting (e.g., longlines). In these cases, the EM service provider should test the image quality to ensure there is not excessive glare.

Sensors

- EM equipment may also include sensors for recording non-visual data (e.g., vessel movement, hydraulic pressure, environmental information), and also possibly mechanisms

for activating/disactivating cameras so as to focus visual data collection during activities of interest.

- A GPS sensor or equivalent shall be capable of automatically recording the position and, unless the EM equipment uses cameras that will record continuously, the speed and course of the vessel.

Data storage

- EM equipment shall include sufficient capacity to store all required EM records, including GPS (or equivalent) records position date, time, vessel name and sensor information where applicable at a minimum, for the duration of a fishing trip.
- Vessels shall have onboard enough blank data storage devices (preferable solid-state drives) in case these must be replaced at sea. A specially trained crew member may need to replace the devices during a fishing trip if the data storage capacity is exhausted, always in coordination with the EM service provider.
- EM equipment should include separate duplicate backup devices, to ensure that data are not lost if one device fails.

Compatibility

- EM data shall be submitted to the IATTC in a format compatible with IATTC databases and IT resources (e.g., data structure, units, species id/other fishing activity codes, etc.).
- Recorded imagery should be recorded in a widely used and accessible video or image file format, such as MP4 or JPEG.
- All EM Records generated by the EM system shall be compatible with EM analysis software being used by the EM Review Center where EM Records will be sent to generate EM data.

EM equipment maintenance

- At sea, all maintenance, repairs and replacement activities of EM equipment shall be conducted by a designated trained vessel crew member(s), only in coordination and when instructed to do so remotely by the EM service provider.
- On land, all maintenance, repairs and replacement activities of EM equipment shall be conducted a technician in coordination with EM service provider.
- Each vessel shall have a designated crew member responsible for routine camera lenses cleansing, per a specific protocol, to ensure the clarity of EM records, according to a protocol to be developed by IATTC scientific staff. Appropriate cleaning materials must be used to avoid lenses damage and should always be available onboard.

TABLE 1. An example for the location of cameras in class 2-6 purse-seine vessels.

Class-6 vessels with 6 or more rows of wells
• Two panoramic cameras (e.g., 180°) on crow's nest, covering port side (floating object presence/absence for set type determination and FAD interactions, set times) and starboard side (No. speedboats used in the set, FAD deployment, large-sized bycatch identification, discards, set times). • One camera (e.g., 105°) on back of crow's nest, covering the main deck and sack area (catch and bycatch species identification, discards). • One camera (e.g., 105°) on bridge roof, covering the bow (FAD deployments, retrievals). • One camera (e.g., 105°) on boom controls roof, covering the brailing area (total catch estimation, bycatch identification, discards). • Three cameras (e.g., 105°), each covering equal numbers of well rows (catch and bycatch identification and estimation by species, discards).

Class-5 vessels with less than 6 rows of wells
• Two panoramic cameras (e.g., 180°) on crow's nest, covering starboard and port sides. • One camera (e.g., 105°) on back of crow's nest, covering the main deck and sack area (FAD deployments, retrievals). • One camera (e.g., 105°) on boom controls roof, covering the brailing area. • Two cameras (e.g., 105°) covering equal numbers of well rows.
Class-2 vessels with no wet deck access
• One panoramic camera (e.g., 180°) on crow's nest, covering the port side. • One camera (e.g., 105°) on back of crow's nest, covering the main deck. • One camera (e.g., 105°) on bridge roof, covering the bow. • One camera (e.g., 105°) on boom controls roof, covering the brailing area.

TABLE 2. A first example for location of cameras in longliners.

The following are examples of camera installation design, which are based on information gathered from EM service providers and international initiatives (e.g., Carnes *et al.* 2019):

Small-sized longline vessels (<20m LOA)
• One camera (e.g., 105°) on the work deck to identify species. • One camera (e.g., 105°) mounted outside the side rail to cover the fish door, where the catch is brought aboard.
Medium (20-24m LOA) and large-sized longline vessels (> 24m LOA)
• One camera (e.g., 105°) at the stern to record the number of floats, hooks and bait used on the setting. • One camera (e.g., 105°) located amidships, covering the total catch and discards by species, size and fate. • One camera (e.g., 105°) located at the bow, covering the retained catch, by species, size and fate, during the hauling. (Optional, if necessary to achieve the required views) • One camera (e.g., 105°) mounted on boom, outside the rail where the line is hauled, to record catch evasion, line cutting, etc. (optional for 20-24m)

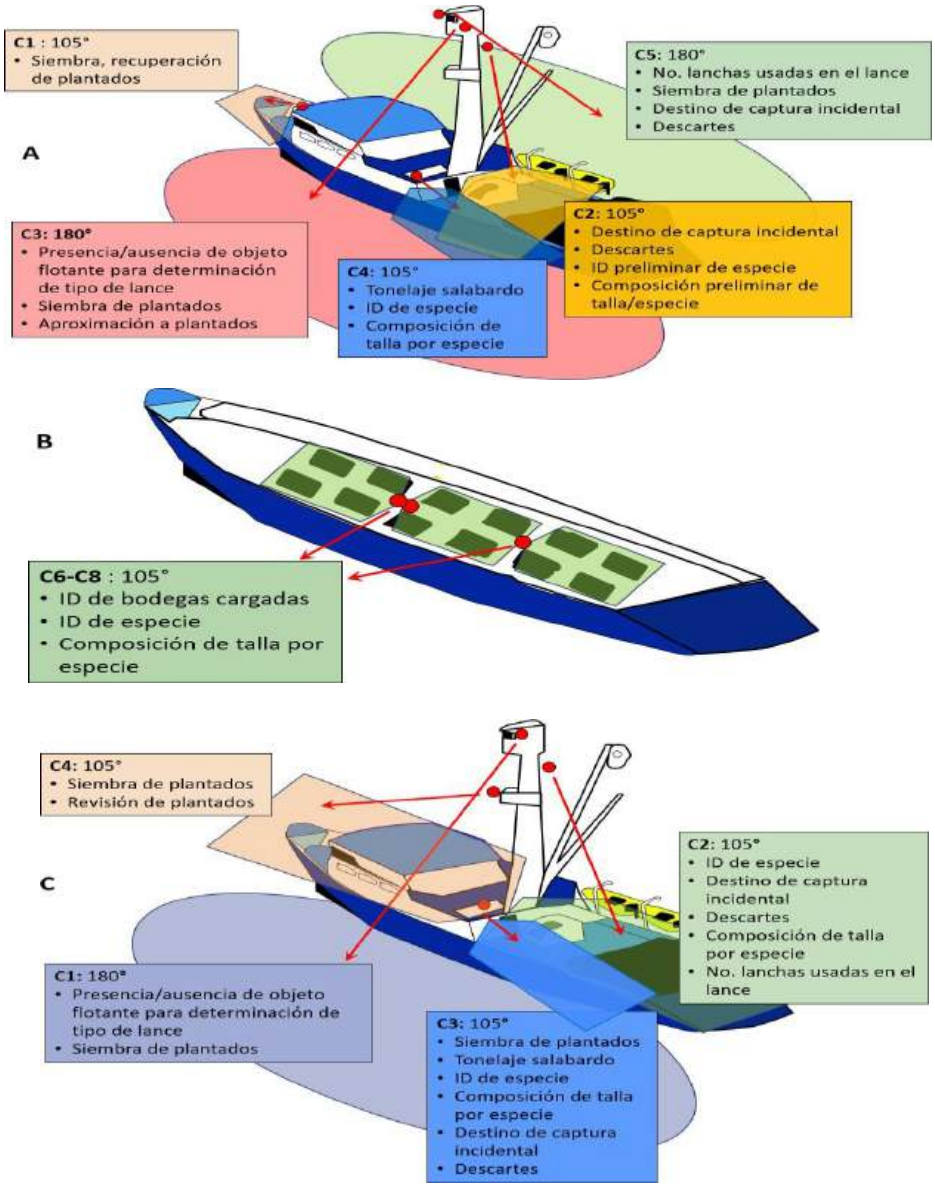


FIGURE 1. Cameras' configuration and fishing activities to record on the main deck (A) and the well deck (B) of the Class-6 tuna purse-seine vessels, and on the Class-2 vessel (C).

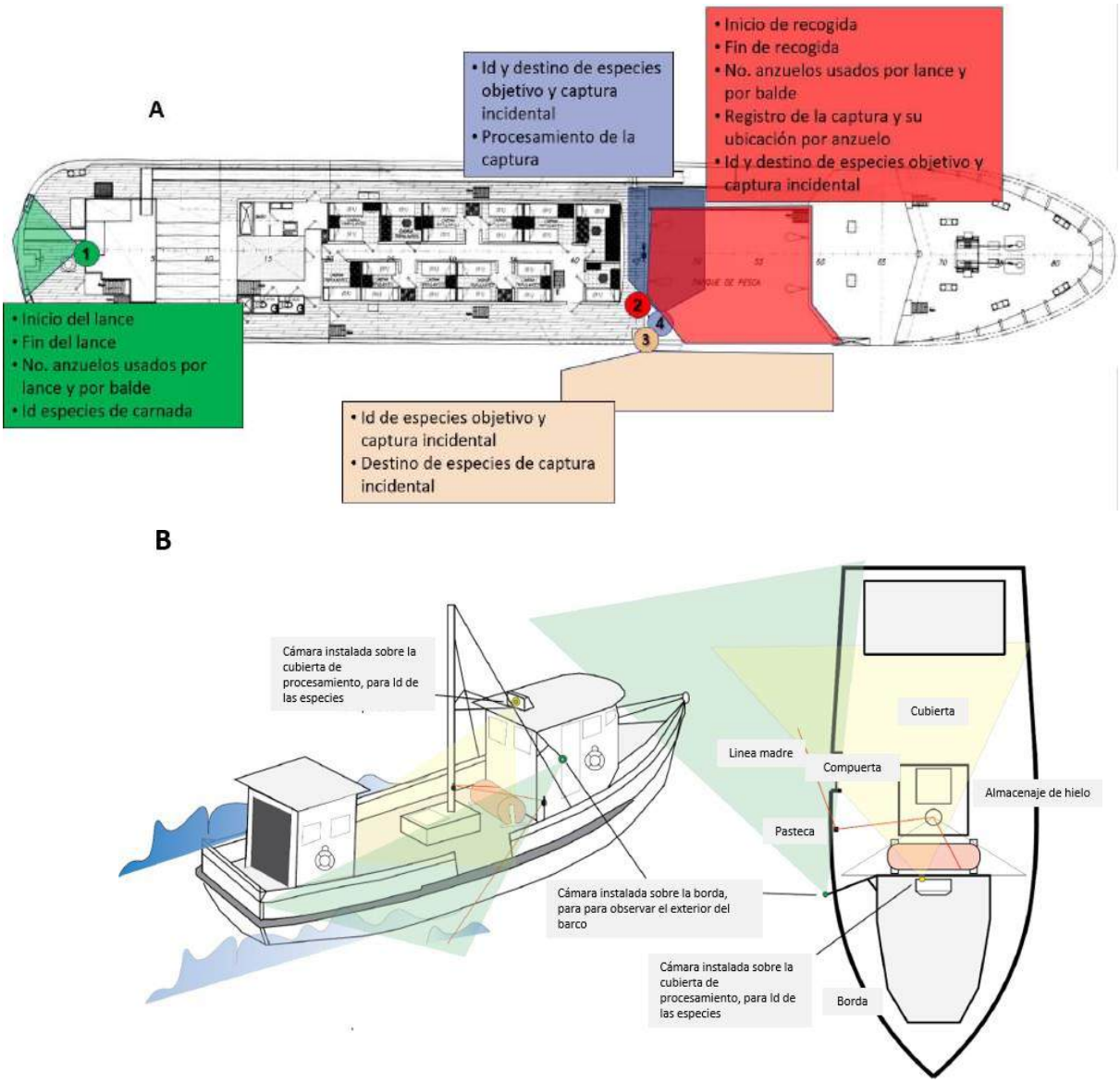


FIGURE 2. Provisional cameras configuration and fishing activities to record on board a large longline vessel (A), and (B) on a small longline vessel EM camera configuration for Hawaii longline vessels. Bottom picture taken from Carnes *et al.* (2019).

ANNEX 3

Minimum data requirements for vessel type

- Minimum data fields for purse-seine activities to be collected and submitted, presented in Table 1.
- Minimum data fields for longline activities to be collected and submitted, presented in Table 2.

Table 1. A first assessment of data fields that should be collected, at a minimum, for the purse-seine fishery.

TRIP INFORMATION		
Depart port	Port name and country, date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).	
Arrival port	Port name and country, date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).	
VESSEL ACTIVITY		
Position and speed	Every 2 seconds (based on some EM equipment capability), but no less than 60 min.	
SET INFORMATION		
	Set type.	
Set start	Date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).	
Rings up	Date/time.	
Set end	Date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).	
Wind speed	Recorded in Beaufort scale.	
Malfunctions	Date/time, description of any major malfunction that stops or delays the setting maneuver.	
CATCH AND DISCARD		
	Target species	**Non-target species**
Species Id.	Total catch and discards, as feasible as EM technology allows. Combined catch may be reported where species identification is not possible.	Sharks, lamnid sharks, whale shark, mobulid rays, billfishes, scombrids, carangids, triggerfishes, sea turtles, sea birds, and marine mammals, where each individual will be identified to the lowest taxonomic resolution possible (i.e., species), as feasible as EM technology allows. In cases where species identification is not possible, the animal may be identified to a broader taxonomic resolution (e.g., genus, family).
Size	Weight categories should be used whenever possible (i.e., small 2.5 kg. - 15 kg).	Wherever possible, individuals shall be measured to the nearest cm as follows: sharks in total length, billfishes in post-orbital fork length, fishes in fork length, rays in disc width, turtles in curved carapace length. In cases where individual measurement is not possible, the animal may be classified by size category (i.e., small, medium, large) following IATTC observer practices.
Condition		When possible, the estimated condition of the individual when caught, brought on deck and released.

Tag		When possible, the tag recovery information recorded.
Fate	Catch retained and discarded, by species, in metric tons.	When possible, the fate of the individual brought on deck (e.g., retained, discarded, etc.)
FLOATING OBJECTS/FADS		
Deployments	Date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).	
Retrievals	Date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).	
Visits	When possible - Date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees)	
Buoy ID	When possible – alphanumeric code of the satellite buoy attached	

Table 2. A first assessment of data fields that should be collected, at a minimum, for the longline fishery.

TRIP INFORMATION	
Depart port	Port name and country, date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).
Arrival port	Port name and country, date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).
VESSEL ACTIVITY	
Position and speed	Date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).
Set end	Date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).
Hauling start	Date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).
Hauling end	Date/time, position (latitude and longitude, in decimal degrees).
Haul direction	Start to end; end to start
Blue-dyed bait used	Yes – No, as feasible as EM technology allows.
Baskets or floats	Total number used in the set.
Hooks	Total number used in the set.
Wire traces on any branch lines	Yes – No, as feasible as EM technology allows.
Shark lines	Number of branch lines running directly off the longline floats or drop lines, as feasible as EM technology allows.
CATCH AND DISCARD OF TARGET AND NON-TARGET SPECIES	
Species id.	The species identification of each individual caught, where each individual will be identified to the lowest taxonomic resolution possible (i.e., species), as feasible as EM technology allows.
Size	Size of each individual caught, using the recommended measurement approach and the appropriate measurement code (standard, furcal, post-orbital, width of the disc, etc.) for the species, as feasible as EM technology allows.
Condition	The estimated condition of the individual when caught, brought on deck and released, where possible.

Fate	Fate of the individual brought on deck (e.g., retained, discarded, etc.)
Tag	Tag recovery information recorded, as feasible as EM technology allows.
Catch interaction	The type of catch interaction (e.g., entangled, hooked internally, hooked externally, interaction with vessel only.)

ANNEX 4

Description of the EM Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP)

The VMP shall meet the following conditions:

1. The VMP shall be developed for each vessel or group of vessels on which EM equipment is to be installed and shall be delivered to the flag CPC competent authorities.
2. The VMP shall be developed in collaboration with the EM service provider, vessel owner and relevant flag CPC fishing authorities.
3. A survey of each vessel or example vessel for a group of vessels intended for EM equipment installation shall be conducted by either the EM provider or flag CPC fishing authorities. During this survey, the following aspects will be considered in the development of the VMP, aimed at ensuring that the system meets the minimum data collection requirements outlined in Annex 2:
    a. Camera placement and settings.
    b. Number of cameras to be installed to ensure optimization of the view of the catch-handling area.
    c. Key areas to be surveyed are catch handling areas for species identification and storage of the individuals and areas of discards or release.
4. The minimum sections to be contained in a VMP shall include:
    a. Contact information: current contact information for the vessel owner, vessel operator and EM service provider as long as the contract lasts.
    b. General vessel information: basic information about the vessel and its fishing activities and operations (e.g., vessel name, registration number, target fishery, fishing areas, fishing gear, LOA, etc.).
    c. Fishing gear type and configuration:
    d. Vessel layout: equipment of the vessel with detailed information, plan of the vessel disposition and different areas (deck, processing, storage -including number of wells, etc.).
    e. EM equipment set up: description of the settings of the EM equipment, such as time running, number of cameras, settings of the cameras (frame rate and resolution), and areas covered, time recording for each of the cameras, number of sensors, where applicable, software used, control box disposition, etc.
    f. Catch handling procedures: description of the crew and their operations.
    g. An example view from each required camera view.
5. Any physical changes to the vessel, , modifications in vessel categorization (fleet segmentation), or adjustments to the catch handling deck, including those result in the vessel no longer belonging to its original group, should be reported to the Flag CPC authorities. Subsequently, the VMP should be updated accordingly before the commencement of the next fishing trip.

6. The VMP shall be signed off by the vessel owner and approved by the Flag CPC competent authority or its designated institutions.
7. The EM equipment shall not compromise vessel stability, posing risks to vessel operations, crew safety, or the environment. Additionally, it shall not hinder the vessel's safe navigation.

An example template of a VMP is presented below. CPCs may choose another format of a VMP as long as it contains the minimum requirements described in paragraph number 4.

EM Vessel Monitoring Plan Part A

(Should be provided by the vessel owner to the competent authority of flag CPC or its designated institutions

1. Information provided by the owner of the vessel

External registration:		Main fishery(es):	
Vessel name:		Gear type(s):	
IATTC vessel register No.:		Crew size:	
IRCS:		May carry an observer:	
Port base:		Owner(s) representative:	
Vessel length (m):		Phone No.:	
Vessel type:		Email:	
Net length (fathoms):		Mainline length (fathoms):	
Net depth (strips):		Hook type:	
Brail capacity (mt):		Branch line material:	

2. Description of the crew fish handling and any other useful details

3. If available, copy or image of the vessel general arrangement plan

4. General layout and handling (not necessarily to scale)

5. General remarks

Part B

(Responsibility of the flag CPC competent authority and to be validated by the flag CPC competent authority)

1. Vessel image
2. EM equipment configuration
    a. System Operation – General Description

Sensor recording, where applicable:	Description of the settings:
Video recording:	Description of the settings:

b. System Components Location

Control box:	User Interface:
Image of location of the control box	
GPS or equivalent:	GPS details:
Image of location of the GPS or equivalent	
Drum Rotation Sensor:	Drum Rotation Sensor details:

Image of location of drum sensor	
Hydraulic Pressure Sensor (HPS):	HPS details:
Image of location of the HPS	
Sensor XX:	XX Sensor details:
Image of location of the XX Sensor	
Sensor XX:	XX Sensor details:
Image of location of the XX Sensor	
Sensor XX:	XX Sensor details:

Image of location of the XX Sensor	
Sensor XX:	XX Sensor details:
Image of location of the XX Sensor	

Camera 1 - Deck Camera	
Image of Location of Camera 1	View and Objectives:
mage of Location of deck camera	Camera settings:
Camera 2 - Retain/General View Camera	
Image of Location of Camera 2	View and Objectives:
Image Retain/General View Camera	Camera settings:
Camera 3 - Sorting Belt Camera	
Image of Location of Camera 3	View and Objectives:
Image Sorting Belt Camera	Camera settings:
Camera 4 - Discard Camera	

Image of Location of Camera 4	View and Objectives:
Image Discard Camera	Camera settings:

Camera XX - XX Camera	
Image of Location of Camera XX	View and Objectives:
Image of XX Camera	Camera settings:
Camera XX - XX Camera	
Image of Location of Camera XX	View and Objectives:
Image of XX Camera	Camera settings:
Camera XX - XX Camera	
Image of Location of Camera XX	View and Objectives:
Image of XX Camera	Camera settings:
Camera XX - XX Camera	
Image of Location of Camera XX	View and Objectives:
Image of XX Camera	Camera settings:

Control Box Setting Summary:	Camera Setting summary:
Main configuration screen	

Sorting Area Measurement Details:

Part C

(To be completed by the EM service provider)

1. EM User Guide
    a. Description on how to retrieve memory devices
    b. Description on how to power up the system
    c. Description on how to do a function test
2. Vessel-specific handling protocols

Description of any special protocols that may apply to the vessel referred in the VMP.

a. Description and diagrams of control points with specific procedures carried out. For each area description, there must be a protocol on how to ensure the catch remains in camera view.

Part D

(To be completed by the EM service provider)

List of EMS service providers contact information:

Name and Last Name	Phone	Email	Office address

Part E

(To be completed by the vessel owner and the EM service provider)

This part should certify that the vessel owner/operators have been trained in and understand the function and operation on the EMS installed on the vessel, and that the operator agrees to comply to the VMP.

Vessel owner/operator	EM service provider
Full name:	Full name:
Signature:	Signature:
Date and time:	Date and time:

ANNEX 5

Logistical and data analysis and reporting standards

Data transfer

- The vessel flag CPC authority shall allow for the recovery and secure transmission of EM Records at the end of each trip.
- A detailed protocol on how to retrieve the data from the vessel to the authorities or to the EM review center should be established and agreed on in the VMP by both the vessel owners and the vessel authority.
- When EMS records are transmitted (via WI-FI, mobile data network or satellite, or hard disk delivery), the transmission of the data should be done at the end of the fishing trip where possible. If not possible the data shall be securely stored and transmitted without delay/at the earliest opportunity.
- Irrespective of the data transfer method used for EM records, and according to the recommendation in Annex 2, the transmission should ensure the information is properly encrypted. Also, an encrypted storage device containing the same EM records information should remain on board as backup. The deletion of records from the vessel's backup devices should only occur once the EM records have been converted to EM data at the EM review center.

Data review

- EM data shall be generated by the program that monitored that trip. Provided that standard protocols and procedures are followed, CPCs may choose whether to contract the work out through a commercial EM review service provider, authorized contractor, or do it themselves.
- EM equipment should include separate backup devices, to ensure that data are not lost if one device fails.

EM data storage and retention

- All information regarding fishing operations of the vessel shall be treated as confidential by the IATTC and subject to IATTC confidentiality rules.
- Procedures for where, how, and how long the EM records will be stored after EM analysis, should be specified by the flag CPC. Storage decisions should be based on the EM program's goals and the staff who will need to access monitoring records, at what frequency, and for what purpose.

Data analysis and reporting standards

Training

- The CPCs should design and organize training courses for EM analysts, with input from IATTC staff, EM service providers and other experts, where necessary.
- EM analyses shall only be conducted by qualified EM analysts, ideally possessing some experience in fishing activities, with skills on how to use the dedicated analysis software and observe and record accurately data to be collected under the program. EM analysts shall not be employees of a fishing vessel company involved in the observed fishery or have other direct conflicts of interest.

Automation

- When feasible, make EM data generation automatic and user-friendly to expedite EM analysis and directly include information in EM data or reports.
- EM records subject to EM analysis shall contain at least the vessel name and vessel ID and trip ID, camera number, geolocation data (date, time (UTC), latitude and longitude), sensor data where applicable, camera recording status and EM equipment system status, where available, and images.

Data quality

- The EM analysis should involve a dedicated software, which shall permit the analysis of all the stored data, images, and sensor data where applicable, in a synchronized way. CPCs shall ensure that data analysis procedures ensure traceability and effective analysis of data and routines to flag potential errors, and digital measuring tools.
- The EM analysis software shall allow reporting the mandatory minimum data fields requirements established in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex 3 (Areas of fishing activities under coverage by EMS and minimum data requirements for vessel type). It may also allow reporting of the voluntary data fields.

Conversion factors

- Standardized species-specific length-weight and weight-number conversion factors, based on peer-reviewed research results and/or empirical data, should be developed by the IATTC Secretariat, endorsed by the SAC and adopted by the Commission, and updated as necessary.

Format

- Standard formats applicable to human observers reporting should be used for generating EM data fields (e.g., dates as DDMMYY, latitude and longitude in decimal units, speeds in knots, weights in kg, lengths in centimeters) and creating resulting EM data files (e.g., csv, accdb, xlsx).

Reporting procedure

- EM data should be submitted via a dedicated cloud-based portal which may be developed by

the IATTC Secretariat, or other appropriate means. The portal should be as user-friendly and automated as possible, and include quality control procedures (e.g., format checking, error flagging), as well as automatic reminders for the timely submission of EM data.

2j. Climate change

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2 – 6 September, 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-10

ON CLIMATE CHANGE (Amendment to Res. C-23-10)

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama on the occasion of its 102nd Meeting:

Committed to the objective of the Antigua Convention to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by the Convention;

Recognizing international initiatives to address climate change and its effects, including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, and the Glasgow Climate Pact;

Acknowledging the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with specific reference to the Sixth Assessment Report (2022);

Aware that, in September 2022 the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) highlighted the need for developing guidance on climate resilient fisheries management including a process to facilitate coordination and cooperation among RFMO/RFBs;

Mindful that climate change is leading to shifts in the distribution and abundance of fisheries, altering ecosystems, affecting livelihoods, and increasing uncertainty in food and economic security worldwide;

Recognizing that the Second World Ocean Assessment within the framework of the United Nations (2021) highlights the need to integrate climate change-related stressors, such as acidification, hypoxia and ocean warming, into fisheries management considerations;

Noting the importance of addressing the impacts of climate change on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem as the target stocks in the Convention Area;

Acknowledging that several regional fisheries management organizations, including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the South Pacific Regional Fishery Management Organization (SPRFMO), the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) have taken action to prepare for the impacts of climate change on the fisheries under their jurisdiction;

Further acknowledging that both the 1st Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch and the 14th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee recommended adding climate change as standing agenda items going forward;

Resolves as follows:

1. The Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG) in 2024 and annually thereafter shall include climate change as an agenda item at their annual meeting. Within this agenda item, the EBWG will evaluate any issue related to climate change and may provide advice to the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Commission regarding amendments to existing resolutions or proposed new resolutions that may be necessary because of climate change impacts on fisheries in the Convention Area.

2. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) since 2024 and annually thereafter shall include climate change as an agenda item at their annual meeting. Within this agenda item, the SAC will highlight and consider the best scientific information available on the relationships between climate change, target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with the target stocks.

3. To the extent feasible, the IATTC scientific staff will take into consideration existing information on climate change when developing stock assessments and management strategy evaluations and will identify information needs to be implemented in the management of the resource. It will also discuss and propose plans for collection of existing information on climate change related variables that alter ocean water conditions relevant to the physiology and behavior of species and that determine species distributions, such as those related to warming, acidification and hypoxia. The SAC shall consider the recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff when formulating its recommendations to the Commission on how existing resolutions and proposed new resolutions can best promote resilience to climate change impacts on fisheries in the Convention Area.

4. The Commission will convene a virtual climate change workshop in the first quarter of 2025 to discuss implementation of the scientific staff's proposed workplan.

5. The Commission since 2024 and annually thereafter shall include climate change as an agenda item at the ordinary annual meeting of the IATTC, considering climate-related SAC and EBWG Recommendations in its deliberations, as well as any other considerations regarding climate change impacts on species under the purview of the Antigua Convention and any related impacts on the economies of CPCs.

6. At the SAC meeting in 2024 and annually thereafter, the Director and Commission shall consider and present options to reduce the environmental and climate impacts of the activities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, such as by providing hybrid options for meetings.

7. The scientific staff shall incorporate in the next edition of the science strategic plan the issue of climate change and its impact on target species, non-target species, and the EPO ecosystem in general.

8. This amendment to Resolution C-23-10 shall be effective on January 1, 2025.

2k. Financing 2025

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2 - 6 September 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-11

FINANCING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of its 102nd Meeting:

Understanding the importance of ensuring sufficient funding for the Commission in a timely manner, so that it may continue to effectively develop and implement the agreed conservation and management program for the living marine resources of the IATTC Convention Area, and conduct the associated data collection and research;

Noting that non-payment of the agreed contributions may impair the Commission's ability to continue its operations;

Aware that the allocation of the costs of supporting the Commission among Members should be transparent, fair and equitable, stable, and predictable, but also should allow for redistribution of costs as new Members join;

Bearing in mind the decision of the Commission to revise Resolution C-15-05, whereby the Commission, at its 89th Meeting, had agreed on a formula for calculating the contributions of the Members to the Commission's budget for the years 2013-2017 and beyond, and without prejudice to new formula to be adopted;

Agreeing on the need to maintain on an exceptional basis the same level and distribution of contributions as for the fiscal year 2024;

Considering the relevant provisions of the Antigua Convention.

Noting that several non-Members derive benefits from catching or utilizing fish covered by the Convention, but do not make contributions to the Commission's budget;

Taking note of the Commission staff's proposals regarding the budget presented in Document CAF-11-01; and

Recognizing the need to seek economies in the operation of the Commission, in order to reduce costs;

Agrees:

1. To adopt a budget of US$ 9,539,427, which includes funding for the Enhanced Monitoring Program of US$ 400,000 for fiscal year (FY) 2025, for which the members will pay the sum of US$ 8,484,677 with the remaining balance of US$ 1,054,750 funded by the cumulative carryover.
2. That the Members shall contribute to the Commission's budget for FY 2025 in accordance with the following schedule:

	FY 2025 (US$)
Belize	46,888
Canada	134,751
China	288,579
Colombia	300,827
Korea	246,931
Costa Rica	153,695
Ecuador	1,813,102
El Salvador	114,568
United States	1,746,553
France	156,870
Guatemala	71,015
Japan	270,074
Kiribati	46,390
Mexico	1,170,899
Nicaragua	92,204
Panama	794,846
Peru	178,794
Chinese Taipei	237,857
European Union	367,673
Vanuatu	53,086
Venezuela	199,077
Total	**8,484,677**

3.Proposals (Not adopted)
3a. A Chair's proposal. Combines proposals A1, A2, A3, and A4 on tuna conservation

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

CHAIR'S DOCUMENT

RESOLUTION C-24-XX

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING [Alt 1: 2025-2027] [Alt 2: 2025] [Alt 3: 2025-2026]

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama for its 102nd 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 mortality (*F*) is above maximum sustainable yield (MSY);

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;

Further recognizing that Resolutions C-23-04 and C-23-05 requires non-entangling and biodegradable materials for fish aggregating devices (FADs) and Resolution C-23-03 encourages initiation of recovery programs;

Agrees:

To apply in the Convention Area, [Alt1: during 2025, 2026 and 2027], 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;

16. These measures are applicable from 00:00 hours on 1 January 2025to 24:00 hours on 31 December [Alt 1: 2027] [Alt 2: 2025] [Alt 3: 2026], except for the second closure period referred to in paragraph 3 [Alt 1: 4], which extends until 24:00 hours on 19 January [Alt 1: 2028] [Alt 2: 2026] [Alt 3: 2027], and except for the additional days of closure that would be added pursuant to paragraph 5 to that second closure period. These measures are applicable to all CPCs' purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes [Alt 1: 5] to 6 ([Alt 1: 273 or more] metric tons carrying capacity), and to all their longline

vessels over 24 meters length overall, that fish for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area.

[Alt 1: 2. The provisions of this resolution shall be reviewed and adjusted during its period of validity, taking into consideration the best available scientific information and the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee, if the annual catches of bigeye tuna by the purse-seine fleet in the preceding year exceed the recommended catch limit for bigeye tuna of [66,906] [77. 013] [xxask the staffxx] tons, or if the results of a new assessment of the tropical tuna stocks covered by this resolution or the analyses of the scientific staff indicate a deterioration in the status of the stocks.

Pole-and-line, troll, and sportfishing vessels, and purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 1-~~3~~ [Alt 1: 4] (~~182~~ [Alt 1: 272] metric tons carrying capacity or less) and longline vessels less than 24 meters length overall, are not subject to these measures, except those related to the management of FADs.

[Alt 3: 2. If the IATTC scientific staff stock assessment or stock status indicators for yellowfin tuna shows that Fmsy (or proxy) has been breached, the provisions of this Resolution shall be re-examined at the upcoming IATTC annual meeting and additional measures for yellowfin tuna shall be adopted by the Commission to reduce F to Fmsy.]

[Alt 1: 3. These measures should be reviewed by the Commission at its 2025 annual meeting on the basis of any new relevant information including the additional scientific information requested by this Reolution under paragraphs 21 and 37.]

MEASURES FOR PURSE-SEINE FLEETS

17. All purse-seine vessels covered by these measures must stop fishing in the Convention Area for a period of [Alt 1: 69] days in each year covered by this Resolution. These closures shall be observed in one of two periods, as follows: from 00:00 hours on 29 July to 24:00 hours on [Alt 1: 5] October, or from 00:00 hours on 9 November to 24:00 hours on [Alt 2: 16] January of the following year.

[Alt 1:]

[Alt 2: 4. During 2025, 2026 and 2027, in addition to the closure stipulated in paragraph 3 of this resolution, CPCs shall ensure that purse-seine vessels flying their flags that have exceeded the bigeye tuna catch thresholds during the years that this measure is in effect shall observe an extended closure under the following terms:

10-day extension of the closure period for vessels whose annual catch exceeds 1,200 tons of bigeye tuna catch,

i. 13-day extension of the closure period for vessels whose annual catch exceeds 1,500 tons of bigeye tuna catch,
ii. 16-day extension of the closure period for vessels whose annual catch exceeds 1,800 tons of bigeye tuna catch,
iii. 19-day extension of the closure period for vessels whose annual catch exceeds 2,100 tons of bigeye tuna catch, and
iv. 22-day extension of the closure period for vessels whose annual catch exceeds 2,400 tons of bigeye catch.

The IATTC Secretariat shall send to the CPCs by 1 March of each year, the names of the vessels that must observe the additional closure, for its pertinent application in the following year, within the period covered by this resolution.

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 October 5 and the second period shall always begin on 9 November of each year.]

[Alt 1. Vessels whose annual catch of bigeye tuna does not exceed 1,200 tons shall cease fishing only in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 above.

][Alt 2: 5. For the year 2025], [Alt 3: The] CPCs shall ensure that vessels that exceeded during the previous year the 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 4 of this resolution.

If during this same period a vessel exceeds 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 the annual catch limit of 2,100 metric tons, it shall increase its closure by 19 days; and if it exceeds 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 4 of this resolution.

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.

The IATTC Secretariat shall send to the CPCs by 1 March 2025 [Alt 3: of each year during the period of application of this measure] the names of the vessels that must observe additional closure days in accordance with this paragraph.

In [Alt 2: 2025], any [Alt 3: any case in which a] vessel in the previous year had to apply the extended closure indicated in this paragraph 5, and in that same period had caught less than 1,200 metric tons of bigeye tuna, shall apply only the closure days indicated in paragraph 4 of this Resolution.

[Alt 4:].

6. [Alt 1:] [Alt 2: Starting 1 January 2022 2025], each CPC shall [Alt 3: continue to] strengthen the monitoring 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.
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 [Alt 1: IATTC] no later than 15 February of the following year.

[Alt 1:.]

[Alt 1: During 2025, 2026, and 2027, the IATTC Secretariat shall continue to implement the Enhanced Monitoring Program initiated on 1 January 2023, and both the Commission and the CPCs shall guarantee the financial resources necessary for its implementation. Each year, the IATTC Secretariat shall provide the CPCs with a report on the effectiveness and performance of the Enhanced Monitoring Program, which shall be used to evaluate the continuity of the program during the years in which this resolution remains in force.]

[Alt 2: Recognizing its scientific value, particularly in improving the accuracy of estimates of tropical tuna catch composition and obtaining data on morphometric relationships, and subject to the availability of funds and budgetary approval by the Commission, the Enhanced Monitoring Program established by paragraph 6 of Resolution C-21-04 shall remain active for one year, during which time

the actions necessary for its transfer to the Commission's own traditional sampling programs shall be carried out. During this period, the Secretariat shall transfer the methodological and operational bases acquired in previous years to the traditional sampling program in order to ensure the continuity of this program. The scientific staff shall evaluate and report to the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2026 on improvements to the traditional port sampling program. The Secretariat shall maintain a minimum level of human resources to advise on enhanced monitoring.]

[Alt 2: In addition, further strengthening shall be provided through the continued implementation of the enhanced monitoring program, started on 1 January 2023consistent with the proposal made by the Secretariat in document IATTC-98-INF B, and the potential implementation scenarios described in document SAC-15 INF-H. The Commission and the CPCs should continue to ensure that all resources needed for the enhanced monitoring plan will be made available in a timely manner. At its annual meeting in 2025 the Commission should assess and approve any additional budgetary funding mechanism for the enhanced monitoring program.]

[Alt 3: In addition, further strengthening shall be maintained through the establishment enhanced monitoring program, as coordinated by the IATTC scientific staff consistent with the proposal made by the Secretariat in document IATTC-98-INF B. The Commission and the CPCs shall ensure that all resources needed for the enhanced monitoring program will be made available in a timely manner to support the programs needed for this Resolution.]

For [Alt 1: the years of application of this measure] [Alt 2: 2025], 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 9.

7. The sampling in port and processing plants may prioritize vessels that have reached an average [Alt 1: annual] catch between the years 2017 to 2019 [Alt 1:2023 to 2024] greater than five hundred (500) tons of bigeye tuna per year, according to the data received by the [Alt 1: IATTC] Secretariat.

   [Alt 1:.]

8. 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 [Alt 1:after the unloading and completion] of grading by size), with copy to the IATTC staff.

   [Alt 1. 8. CPCs shall ensure that the information from processing plants, containing all species caught in the IATTC Convention Area, be transmitted to the fisheries authorities within 10 days from the start of unloading to the end of size grading. This information shall also be sent to the IATTC staff..]

9. The CPCs will be responsible for estimating the catch of bigeye tuna of each vessel flying its flag [Alt 1: for] each trip, to the extent that [Alt 1: the] data sources [Alt 1: (e.g., observer estimates, logbook data, well sampling, cannery data)] are available to the CPC in the days immediately after [Alt 1: following] the conclusion of the trip and discharge (e.g., observer estimates, ship's log data, well sampling, cannery data) [Alt 1:]. The duty to estimate the catch of the vessel will be the responsibility of the flag CPC.

10. 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.

    [Alt 2:.]

11. If the implementation of this measure [Alt 1: results in] positive effects that demonstrate an improvement of the status of the bigeye tuna stock [Alt 1: with respect to the most recent stock assessment], the scientific staff shall analyze the conservation measures in force in order to submit to the Commission for consideration new measures [Alt 1: , including], reducing the number of closure days [Alt 1: , modifying the catch threshholds] or eliminating the "*corralito*."

12. 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.

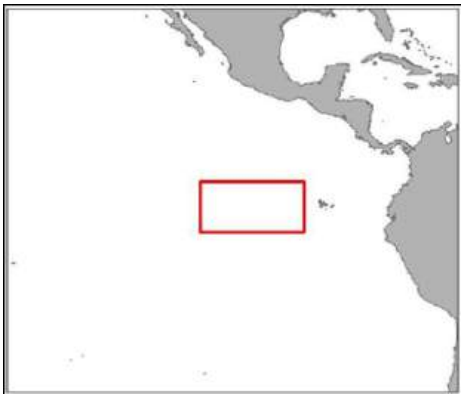


Figure 1. Closure area

a. For each one of the closure periods stipulated in paragraph 3 [Alt 1: 4] of this Resolution, each CPC shall notify the Director, by 1 June [Alt 1: 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 paragraphs 4 and 5 [Alt 1: paragraph 4] [Alt 2:] of this resolution. [Alt 1: For those vessels that must observe additional closure days pursuant to paragraph 5 of this Resolution, each CPC shall notify the Director by 15 June of each year.]

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.

13. a. If a *force majeure*[1] event renders a 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 [Alt 1: 4] and subparagraph ~~[~~Alt 1: 11] [Alt 2: 12]b. If an exemption is granted, the vessel will be required to observe a reduced closure period as outlined below in subparagraph 14e. 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. 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*. This exemption applies to vessels of fleets observing either of the two closure periods prescribed in paragraph 3. In addition to the request for an 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

[1] For the purposes of paragraph 14, 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.

that the facts on which the request for exemption is based were due to *force majeure*.

f. 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.

g. 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.

h. If the request for exemption is accepted:

v. the vessel shall observe a reduced closure period of 40 consecutive days in the same year during which the *force majeure* event occurred, in one of the two periods prescribed in paragraph 3 [Alt 1: 4], to be immediately notified to the Director by the CPC, or

vi. in the event said vessel has already observed a closure period prescribed in paragraph 3 [Alt 1: 4] in the same year during which the *force majeure* event occurred, it shall observe a reduced closure period of 40 consecutive days the following year, in one of the two periods prescribed in paragraph 3 [Alt 1: 4] , to be notified to the Director by the CPC no later than 1 June [Alt 1: 15 July] of that year.

vii. vessels that benefit from the exemption must carry an observer aboard authorized pursuant to the AIDCP.

viii. The exemption shall only apply to the 72[Alt 1: 69]-day closure period stipulated in paragraph 3 [Alt 1: 4] of this Resolution, not to the additional periods stipulated in paragraphs 4 and 5 [Alt 1: paragraph 4] [Alt 2:].

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

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

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

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

h. 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 authorized pursuant to the AIDCP may remain at sea, provided they do not fish 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.

MEASURES FOR THE FISHERY ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES

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

16. CPCs shall ensure that [Alt 1: during the years in which this measure is in effect,] 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: [Alt 1: CPCs shall ensure that the design and construction of any FAD to be deployed or redeployed (i.e., placed in the water) shall comply with the non-entangling requirements in Annex II of Resolution C-23-05 and paragraph 2 in Resolution C-23-04 for 2025 and the biodegradable requirements in paragraph 3 in Resolution C-23-04 for 2026 and beyond]:

For [Alt 1: 2025, 2026 and 2027] [Alt 2: 2025]:

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

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

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

    c. is deployed at sea; and

    d. 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.

19. [Alt 1: Deactivations of a satellite buoy]

    a. Deactivation of a satellite buoy attached to a FAD may only be done in the following circumstances: complete loss of signal reception; beaching; 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.

    [Alt 1. b. For an exemption from FAD limits south of 10° S. in paragraph 17, CPCs shall require vessel owners and operators flying their flag to share location data for satellite buoys on FADs that drift south of 10° S. with FAD recovery programs or other vessels capable of retrieving FADs as identified in Resolution C-23-03. CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, any active buoy location data sharing to the Secretariat using the specific data fields indicated in Annex V.]

20. 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.

21. [Alt 1: At its 2025 meeting, the SAC, in cooperation with the IATTC scientific staff and the Working Group on FAD, should analyse and provide advice on the possible impact of a FAD reduction].

18. 21. [Alt 1: The *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs shall recommend to the SAC, no later than its 2025 meeting, recommendations to promote the use of biodegradable materials in FADs, including criteria and definitions for eco-friendly FADs..

    [Alt 2:.]

    [Alt 3: The *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs shall continue to recommend to the SAC for its consideration at its meeting in 2025 at the latest, advice to further develop the use of biodegradable materials in FADs, including a definition and criteria for biodegradable FADs, or FADs with designs and materials that pose less risk to the environment].

    [Alt 4: The *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs shall recommend to the SAC for its consideration at its meeting in 2025 at the latest, advice to further mitigate stranding events and activation/deactivation data to develop future options for at-sea recovery of FADs. This analysis

should evaluate options including the optimal tail length for FADs to reduce damage from strandings.].

22. 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. These results will also be presented at the 13th [Alt 1: 16th] [Alt 1: in 2027 at the meetings] meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the 99th [Alt 1: 103th] meeting of [Alt 1] the Commission to determine adjustments to the active FAD limits for vessels switching to biodegradable FADs.

    [Alt 2:.]

23. 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 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. [Alt 1:]. [Alt 2: The IATTC scientific staff and Working Group on FADs shall recommend to the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Commission for consideration at its 2025 meeting, a protocol for the use by third parties of the data provided pursuant to this paragraph, in protection of the confidentiality of the data].

    [Alt 1. 25. CPCs shall require fishing companies and buoy providers under their jurisdiction, to submit to the IATTC, all available historical acoustic buoy information to avoid losing data received by original users, including both trajectories and biomass information, which the IATTC scientific staff has stated provides an enormous value for science, and in particular stock assessments. 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 the Annex IV of this Resolution. These data shall be submitted to the Director, by 1 January, 2026.]

24. In order to provide the IATTC scientific staff with valuable information to feed their work, CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report to the IATTC, [Alt 1:], complete VMS data for all vessels required to carry VMS pursuant to Resolution C-23-11. 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 [Alt 1: using the format in Annex V]. 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.

25. 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 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.

26. 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.

27.

    a. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, CPCs shall ensure that the design and deployment of FADs shall be based on the principles set out in Resolution C-23-04.

    b. CPCs, with the support of the Commission and its staff and in consultation with all stakeholders,

as appropriate, shall encourage [Alt 1: implement] the design and use of biodegradable non-entangling FADs [Alt 1: in line with the requirements of Resolution C-23-04].

[Alt 3:]

MEASURES FOR THE LONGLINE FISHERY

28. China, Japan, Korea, United States, and Chinese Taipei undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during 2022, 2023 and 2024 [Alt 1: 2025] [Alt 2: the period of application of this resolution] [Alt 3: 2025, 2026 and 2027] 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

29. 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

    [Alt 1: Furthermore, 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. And it 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.]

    CPCs whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director.

30. A CPC referenced in paragraph 29 [Alt 1: 28] [Alt 2: 27]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 29 [Alt 1: 27], 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.

31. 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.

1. [Alt 1. 33. CPCs shall provide the IATTC scientific staff with historical operational longline logbook data for target and non-target species to enable the implementation of the Scientific Plan with respect to the construction of indices of abundance and useful information for stock assessments of tropical and temperate tunas. These data shall be submitted to the Director no later than 1 January, 2025.

    34. CPCs shall provide the IATTC scientific staff operational set by set level logbook data for target and non-target species from the longline fleet, or at a minimum, data aggregated at a 1 by 1 degree spatial resolution by vessel, month, and hooks per basket/hooks between float lines. CPCs shall provide these data to the Director annually on April 30th.]

OTHER PROVISIONS

32. 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.

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the Director is requested to coordinate workshops with CPCs and technical experts on 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, to determine improvements to current grid models that will serve to recommend the development of experimental projects, 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.

36. 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.

37. The IATTC shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC [Alt 1: Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)] in their goals and effectiveness, 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.[Alt 1: The Commission encourages CPCs and IATTC Staff to participate in WCPFC Science Management Dialogues.]

[Alt 1: 41. The IATTC shall prioritize further research on the stock structure of EPO yellowfin tuna necessary for the development of a benchmark stock assessment and eventual Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) that can examine spatial issues such as the impact of high catches of juvenile yellowfin in the southern floating object fishery.

42. The IATTC shall support the development of management strategies for tropical tunas in the EPO and shall consider a management procedure for bigeye tuna, including reference points, based on the MSE results expected in 2025. The Commission shall hold two workshops prior to the 2025 meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for tropical tuna management strategy evaluation to provide opportunities for IATTC members to engage in focused conversation toward adoption of a harvest strategy for bigeye tuna.

43. The IATTC shall support 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-15 INF-E.b). In addition, the RTTP shall collaborate and coordinate with opportunistic tagging programs conducted by CPCs and relevant stakeholders.]

[Alt 1. 37: The IATTC Secretariat will continue to improve and, in 2025, complete a benchmark assessment for yellowfin tuna and complete the risk analysis for yellowfin and skipjack in view of reducing existing uncertainties and providing the Commission the necessary elements for reviewing this Resolution and taking the necessary measure to ensure the conservation of the tropical tuna stocks.]

[Alt 1: 38. Review, during the year 2025, the weighting process and risk analysis implemented for bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna (see documents SAC-11 INF-F, SAC-11-INF-J, SAC-11-06, and SAC-11-07) with emphasis on the impact on the management advice, and considering documents SAC-15-01 and SAC-15-02, in coordination with the scientific staff and the CPCs.

[Alt 2:]

[Alt 1: 39. Assess, in 2025, the status of bigeye tuna through updated assessments, including the necessary updates to document IATTC-98-INF-B and considering documents SAC-15-01 and SAC-15-02, in coordination with the scientific staff and the CPCs.].

[Alt 2:]

[Alt 3: 38. Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the IATTC scientific staff shall initiate, starting in 2025, 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.]

40. In 2022, 2023, and 2024 [Alt 1: 2025, 2026 and 2027] [Alt 2: 2025] 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 thresholds.

    [Alt 3:]

41. The IATTC shall continue efforts to develop harvest strategies for tropical tunas. The IATTC scientific staff shall 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 SAC, shall then present for the Commission's consideration in 2024 [Alt 1: 2025] candidate harvest strategies for bigeye tuna [Alt 1: tropical tunas as they become available], including candidate management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. [Alt 2: shall finalize, in 2025, the MSE for bigeye based on the new operating models available from the 2024 benchmark assessment.]

    [Alt 1: 44.]

    [Alt 1. 40. The IATTC shall establish a Science-Management Dialogue (SMD) Working Group to strengthen the development of harvest strategies at IATTC. The staff and the SMD WG will organize a series of workshops (fall 2024 virtual and spring 2025 in person) to finalize the MSE for bigeye, and discuss management objectives and revised reference points for the tropical tuna at the IATTC.]

42. Except in cases of *force majeure* prescribed in paragraph 13, no exemptions will be allowed with regard to the closure periods notified to the Director in accordance with paragraph 12a, nor with regard to the fishing effort of the purse-seine fleets of the respective CPCs.

Annex V

CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, any data sharing for a satellite buoy to the Secretariat for the purpose of FAD retrieval as required in paragraph 20 using the following data fields:

- Name of FAD recovery program and/or vessel IMO the location data is shared with,

- FAD location data until the point of recovery,

- 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].

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 D-1

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

EU PROPOSAL ON A RESOLUTION ON MONITORING AND CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY IN THE EPO

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this proposal is to establish the minimum standards for the monitoring and control of Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with paragraph 12 of Resolution C-23-01 on the long-term management framework for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the EPO. To support the management objectives set out by Resolution C-21-05, further measures are needed to monitor the situation of the stock despite slight recent improvements and in view of increasing catch levels.

As to date, there are no monitoring and control measures applicable to the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery in the EPO, in sharp contrast with the substantial number of provisions applicable to the tropical tunas stocks, which overall are in much better shape than the Pacific bluefin tuna.

The current proposal is based on the ICCAT large expertise on bluefin tuna, which has proved very successful in adopting and implementing stringent monitoring and control measures to rebuild bluefin tuna stocks. The proposal establishes a number of minimum provisions to monitor and control the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery including a record of vessels and farms; catch and transhipment reports; general rules on by-catches; identification of designated ports; reporting of catches; and the future establishment of an observer programme and a catch documentation scheme.

In view of the distribution of Pacific bluefin tuna, and to promote consistency in the management of the stock and the applicable and control measures, it would be advisable the adoption of consistent measures across the area of the distribution of the stock. Therefore, similar provisions could also be considered by WCPFC.

Objectives

1. The purpose of this Resolution is to establish a regime for the monitoring and control of the conservation and management of the pacific bluefin tuna fishery in the EPO set out in Resolution C-21-05.

IATTC Vessel Register

2. CPCs shall include in the IATTC Vessel Register their fishing vessels authorised to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery in the EPO. Each flag CPC shall submit each year to the Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity the list of its catching vessels.

3. Fishing vessels not entered into the IATTC Vessel Register are deemed not to be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna.

4. CPCs shall provide each year an Annual report with the list of their flagged fishing vessels that have fished for, or taken as bycatch, pacific bluefin tuna during the previous fishing year.

IATTC record of bluefin tuna farms

5. The Commission shall establish an IATTC Record of farms authorised for the fattening or farming of bluefin tuna. For the purposes of this Recommendation, farms not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorised to be used to fish for, retain, and participate in any operation to catch, transfer, harvest or land bluefin tuna.

6. Each CPC shall submit to the IATTC Secretariat by 1 June every year:

    a. The list of its authorised tuna farms, and

    b. The total number of its 'holding pens' or 'cages'.

Catch reports

7. CPCs shall provide to the IATTC Secretariat the catch information required in Resolution C-03-05. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate to their authorities, during the whole period in which they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna, daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught in the EPO. This communication shall include operations where the catch was zero as well as releases and discards of dead fish.

General rules on by-catches

8. All by-catches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of the flag CPC and reported to IATTC Secretariat.

9. If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the catching vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the IATTC Secretariat who shall make it available to the Scientific Staff.

Use of aerial means

10. The use of any aerial means, including aircraft, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles to search for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited.

Designated ports

11. Each CPC who has been allocated a bluefin tuna quota shall designate ports where landing or transhipping operations of bluefin tuna are authorised. This list shall be communicated to the IATTC Secretariat by 31 December 2024. Any amendment shall be immediately communicated to the IATTC Secretariat.

12. For a port to be determined as a designated port, the port State shall ensure that there is enough inspection means to control all Pacific bluefin tuna landings.

Prior Notification of Landings

13. Prior to entry into any port, masters of fishing vessels or their representatives shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

    a) estimated time of arrival;

    b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board; and

    c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken. If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port of arrival, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

14. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

15. All landings shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a minimum of [5%] shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort.

Reporting of catches from CPCs to the Secretariat

16. CPCs shall send weekly catch reports to the IATTC Secretariat. CPCs shall report to the IATTC Secretariat the dates when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilised. The Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

17. CPCs shall provide in the Annual report indicated in paragraph 4 the following information on Pacific bluefin tuna catches in the IATTC CA for the preceding year:

    a. the total catches of each catching vessel (two weight categories: </> 30kg);

    b. total amount of Pacific bluefin tuna (number and weight) that was caged in pen nets for fattening purposes.

    c. total amount of Pacific bluefin tuna (number and weight) that was harvested from pen nets for fattening purposes.

Transhipments

18. Transhipment at sea of pacific bluefin tuna shall be prohibited.

19. Transhipment operations of bluefin tuna in the EPO shall be allowed only at designated ports defined in paragraph 10.

20. All transhipments in ports shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the designated port CPC authorities.

Regional Observer Programme

21. The IATTC shall develop by 2026 a regional observer programme to ensure proper coverage by observers of the bluefin tuna fishery including vessels and traps for transmission to the Scientific Staff.

22. Where CPCs have national observer programs in place, data and information collected under the national programmes referred to in paragraph 13 shall be provided to the Scientific Staff in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by IATTC Director taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

Monitoring a transfer and caging

23. IATTC shall establish by 31 December 2026 rules, standards and procedures to monitor the transfer and caging activities.

Catch Documentation Scheme CDS

24. IATTC shall establish by 31 December 2026 a catch documentation scheme (CDS) for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the EPO compatible with other CDSs for Pacific bluefin tuna by 2026. This CDS should build on the outcomes of the Joint IATTC/WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group established by Resolution C-16-03.

3c. E-1 Canada. Marine pollution

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 E-1 REV 4

SUBMITTED BY CANADA AND KOREA

RESOLUTION C-24-XX ON THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE POLLUTION

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, at the occasion of its 102nd meeting:

CONCERNED that marine pollution, particularly abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), is increasingly recognized as a significant global problem, with detrimental impacts on ocean and coastal environments, wildlife, economies, and ecosystems; and noting the need to reduce such impacts;

CONVINCED that certain activities associated with fishing may affect the Eastern Pacific marine environment and that these activities could play a notable role in IATTC's efforts to conserve and sustainably manage fish stocks covered by the Convention and minimize incidental mortality of non-target species and impacts on marine ecosystems;

RECALLING the mandate of the Commission under Article VII(1)(f) of the Antigua Convention to adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by this Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened;

FURTHER RECALLING the mandate of the Commission under Article VII of the Antigua Convention to adopt appropriate measures to avoid, reduce and minimize waste, discards, catch by lost or discarded gear, catch of non-target species (both fish and non-fish species), and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species.

NOTING that abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear in the marine environment can damage marine, reef, and coastal habitats, be harmful to marine life through ghost fishing, entanglement, ingestion and acting as habitat for the spread of invasive species, and create a navigation hazard;

RECOGNIZING that Article XXIII of the Antigua Convention requires the Commission to adopt measures to assist developing countries that are members of the Commission, to fulfill their obligations under this Convention.

Adopts the followings:

Definitions:

1. For the purposes of this measure, the following definitions will apply:
    a. E-waste: electrical and electronic equipment used for the normal operation of the vessel or in the accommodation spaces, including all components, subassemblies, and consumables containing materials that are potentially hazardous to human health and/or the environment.
    b. Fishing gear: any physical device or part thereof or combination of items that may be placed on or in the water or on the seabed with the intended purpose of catching, extracting, harvesting, or controlling, for the subsequent catch, extraction, or harvest, of fisheries resources.
    c. Garbage: includes fishing gear, food waste, domestic waste, incinerator ashes, and cooking oil.
        i. Fishing gear released into the water with the intention and capacity for later retrieval such as FADs, traps and static nets are not considered garbage.
    d. Marine pollutants: includes e-waste, garbage, and plastics.
    e. Plastics: a solid material which contains as an essential ingredient one or more high molecular mass polymers, and which is formed during either manufacture of the polymer or the fabrication into a finished product by heat or pressures.
    f. Vessel: means any vessel used or intended for use for the purpose of fishing, including support vessels, carrier vessels and any other vessels directly involved in such fishing operations and is included in the Regional Vessel Register.

Prohibition on Discharge of Marine Plastics

2. CPCs shall prohibit their vessels from discharging marine plastics, unless permitted under applicable international instruments.

3. Paragraph 2 is not applicable if a vessel discharges marine pollutants:

    a. for purposes of securing the safety of a vessel and those on board,
    b. in an effort to save a life at sea, or
    c. due to environmental factors (severe weather conditions, strong tides or currents, underwater snag)

Other Marine Pollutants, including Abandoned, Lost or discarded fishing gear

4. CPCs shall encourage their fishing vessels to avoid discharging other marine pollutants, including e-waste and garbage.

5. CPCs shall encourage their vessels to avoid abandoning or discarding fishing gear, as defined in paragraph 6, as appropriate.

6. If a fishing vessel loses control of its fishing gear, or relinquishes control due to circumstances identified in Paragraph 3, and makes every reasonable effort to retrieve the fishing gear, but it is impossible to retrieve, the fishing gear is considered lost.

7. A fishing vessel is deemed to have abandoned and discarded fishing gear if it loses control of the fishing gear, or relinquishes control due to circumstances identified in Paragraph 3, and does not make every reasonable effort to retrieve the fishing gear.

8. Fishing gear released into the water with the intention and capacity of later retrieval is not considered lost, abandoned or discarded, at the time of release.

Storage, Retention, and Disposal

9. CPCs shall ensure their vessels safely store and retain on board all fishing gear not in use, to the extent practicable.

10. CPCs shall encourage, as appropriate, their vessels to safely store and retain on board all retrieved ALDFG and marine pollutants, until they can be disposed of at a port reception facility.

Reporting Requirements

11. CPCs shall encourage their vessels to notify their competent authority of any lost gear at the end of each fishing trip, including the following information:

a. the name,
b. the type/material of the lost gear;
c. the quantity of lost gear;
d. the date (DD-MM-YYYY) that the gear was lost;
e. the position (longitude/latitude) where the gear was lost;
f. measures taken by the vessel to retrieve the lost gear; and
g. the circumstances, if known, that led to the gear being lost.

12. When their vessels discharge marine plastics or other marine pollutants due to the circumstances identified in paragraph 3, CPCs shall encourage their vessels to report the following information to their competent authorities:

a. the name, IMO number and call sign of the vessel;
b. the quantity and category of pollutants discharged;
c. the date (DD-MM-YYYY) and time (HH:MM and UTC) of the discharge;
d. the position (longitude/latitude) of the discharge; and
e. the circumstances, if known, that led to the discharge.

13. Should any information be received pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 11, CPCs are encouraged to transmit this within 72 hours of receipt to the IATTC Secretariat for its notification to all

CPCs, as appropriate, so that every attempt can be made to retrieve the lost gear and marine pollutants.

14. Should any information be submitted to the Secretariat pursuant to this Resolution, a summary will be presented by the Secretariat staff to the CPCs at that year's annual meeting of the Commission.

Capacity Development, Training, and Research

15. CPCs are encouraged to provide adequate port reception facilities to receive fishing gear and marine pollutants from fishing vessels.

16. CPCs are encouraged to provide capacity building assistance to developing CPCs with identified port facility inadequacies to develop or provide access to adequate port reception facilities to receive and appropriately dispose of fishing gear and marine pollutants.

17. CPCs are encouraged to develop systems to enable the recording and sharing of information on fishing gear loss and marine pollution, to reduce loss and facilitate recovery of fishing gear and assist fishing vessels with their use and implementation in reporting to their flag State, relevant coastal States, and the Commission.

18. CPCs are further encouraged to conduct training and awareness programs for the crew and masters of fishing vessels flying their flag regarding the impacts of marine pollution, operational practices, and safety protocols relating to retrieval of marine pollution.

Review and Implementation

19. This Resolution will be reviewed by the Commission in 2028 to consider strengthening the measure with respect to the elimination of marine pollution caused by fishing vessels.

20. This Resolution shall not supersede the existing requirements in paragraph 4.d.ii of C-04-05.

21. The date of implementation of this measure is 1 January 2025.

3d. F-1 VAR. Administration and finance

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

City of Panama, Panama
2-6 September 2024

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 F-1

SUBMITTED BY
BELIZE, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA, PANAMA AND PERÚ[1]

RESOLUTION C-24-XX

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Paragraph 6 of Resolution 15-05 provides that the Commission's funding formula shall remain in effect unless a Member indicates that the formula is no longer appropriate and requests that a new contribution formula be considered at the following annual meeting of the IATTC. This condition was met at the 101st meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, in 2023. The proposing countries, in accordance with the spirit of this resolution and the need to secure budgetary resources, recognize that the reasons for dissatisfaction with the formula are that the determination of the factor derived from Gross National Income (GNI) is a macroeconomic index that does not reflect the current state of wealth of the contributing sector (fisheries), that the categories indicated in the formula do not adequately distribute the burdens among the contributing parties and that the variations in GNI from one year to the next do not represent a stable wealth reality. A modification of the formula is proposed with variations in (a) broadening the factors by increasing the categories to 7 to ensure an appropriately proportional contribution to the country indexes, (b) revising the figures that determine the limits of the ranges, and (c) using a five-year average of GNI instead of an annual update. In addition, it is proposed that the proportional distribution of the catch and utilization components be revised, with options between brackets, and that Cooperating non-Members enjoying fishing rights contribute to the budget in response to the scientific and management benefits they receive from the Commission. In terms of validity, the measure is assumed to be stable for 3 years with automatic extensions under the same scheme as the measure being amended.

AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION C-15-05 ON *AD HOC* FINANCING FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024-2027 AND BEYOND

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on the occasion of its 89th Meeting:

Recognizing the importance of equity and stability in the calculation of the contributions of Members to the Commission's budget, and of fully funding the work of the Commission so that it may fulfill its duties and responsibilities;

Giving due consideration to the principle that the proportion of the expenses paid by each Member should be equitable, transparent, and related to its proportion of the total catch and utilization of tunas from the

[1] Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua y Panamá within the framework of OSPESCA.

Convention Area and other components of the formula used to calculate the contributions, as well as to the consensus of the Members on other factors that should be considered in determining their proportional contributions; and

Taking into account the relevant provisions of the Antigua Convention;

Resolves as follows:

1. The following elements shall be used in the determination of the contributions of Members and Cooperating non-Members to the IATTC budget until such time as a Member requests review and revision of the contribution formula as provided for in paragraph 6 of this Resolution:

a) Each Member and Cooperating non-Member's contribution shall be calculated as follows: 10% of the total budget, minus any special contribution, divided equally among all the Members and Cooperating non-Member (base contribution); the remaining 90% is shared among the Members and Cooperating non-Member, weighted by Gross National Income (GNI) category as published by the World Bank, as follows:

   i. An operational component (10%);

   ii. The catches by their flag vessels measured in metric tons ([10%] [55] [60] %);;

   iii. The utilization of tuna caught in the Convention Area measured in metric tons ([10] [25] [20]%).

GNI Category	GNI range average of the last five years (US$)
0.5	< 1,499
1	1,500 - 4,499
2	4,500 - 7,4999
3	7,500 - 11,499
4	11,500 - 15,999
5	16,000 -20,999
6	21,000 – 26,499
7	> 26 500

Table 1. GNI categories used for allocating contributions

b) The weighting factors used in calculating contributions shall be the same as the GNI categories described in Table 1.

c) The GNI applicable to each Member or Cooperating non-Member shall be determined on the basis of the average GNI of the last five years, calculated in the year of payment of the contribution.

d) Each Member and Cooperating non-Member's catch contribution shall be based on the annual average of the catches by its flag vessels in the three most recent years for which catch data are available to the Commission.

e) In the determination of a Member or Cooperating non-Member's utilization, 50% of the tuna loins included in the calculation shall be attributed to the Member that exported the loins and 50% to the Member that imported them.

f) In the case of a Member or Cooperating non-Member that is also a member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, only 50% of catches made by its flag vessels in the overlap area between the two Commissions shall be included in the calculation of that Member's contribution based on catch.

2. That the Director shall inform each Member or Cooperating non-Member, at least two months prior to the annual meeting, of its projected contribution for the following fiscal year.

3. That the contributions of any new Member or Cooperating non-Member of the Commission shall be determined on the same basis as the contributions of existing Members, subject to the Commission's financial regulations.

The payment of contributions by Cooperating non-Members of the IATTC shall be a prerequisite for maintaining this status.

4. To invite non-governmental organizations interested in the work of the IATTC to make contributions to the Commission's budget.

5. This *ad hoc* formula shall be used to calculate Members' contributions to the IATTC budget for the years 2025-2027, and indefinitely thereafter, unless a Member indicates that the formula is no longer appropriate and requests that a new contribution formula be considered at the following Annual Meeting of the IATTC. Any Member making a request to reconsider this formula is encouraged to provide an explanation to the Commission of the reasons for its dissatisfaction with it.

6. This resolution replaces Resolution C-15-05.

3e. F-2 CAN. Administration and finance

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 F-2

SUBMITTED BY CANADA

RESOLUTION C-24-XX

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In 2023, there were concerns expressed by several Members related to the application of the current contribution formula in C-15-05 for 2024 as some Members had jumped 2 GNI categories in the space of a year - significantly increasing their annual contribution. There was no consensus in the Committee to support requests for exemptions for those Members, but there was support to freeze Member contributions to 2023 levels, and in accordance with paragraph 6, that the Resolution be reviewed at the next annual meeting of the Commission.

Understanding the financial pressures that significant jumps in contributions from year to year can have on Members, Canada proposes an alternative option to the GNI 'categories' to apply a Member's GNI in the contribution formula - the use of a factor model. The factor model method could mitigate significant increases in Member contributions from year to year, such as those experienced in recent years using the GNI category model.

The factor model plots the GNI categories 1-5 against the middle of the GNI range (US$); the GNI category 0.5 was plotted against a GNI of 1,499, representing the minimum bound and the GNI category 5.5 was plotted against a GNI of 21,000, representing the maximum bound. The expectation is that the current limits be respected, whereby no Member would have a GNI factor less than 0.5 nor more than 5.5. The line of best fit was then applied to the data series (the R2 value, a statistical measure of how well the regression predictions approximate the real data points, is 0.9981). The regression formula associated with the line of best fit was used to determine a GNI factor (a number which includes several decimal places to allow a smooth transition) rather than a discrete category. The factor model is responsive to all fluctuations in a Member's GNI, and therefore, buffers against large fluctuations in Member contributions relative to the existing formula. A visual representation is included in Annex A.

Understanding that any change in the contribution formula will have immediate effects for some Members, the goal is to temper the large fluctuations in Member contributions year over year with a different (but very similar) model.

RESOLUTION C-24-XX (AMENDMENT TO C-15-05) MEMBER CONTRIBUTION CALCULATIONS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in ~~Guayaquil, Ecuador, on the occasion of its 89th Meeting:~~ Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of its 102nd meeting:

Recognizing the importance of equity and stability in the calculation of the contributions of Members to the Commission's budget, and of fully funding the work of the Commission so that it may fulfill its duties and responsibilities;

Giving due consideration to the principle that the proportion of the expenses paid by each Member should be equitable, transparent, and related to its proportion of the total catch of tunas from the Convention Area and other components of the formula used to calculate the contributions, as well as to the consensus of the Members that other factors should be considered in determining their proportional contributions; and

Taking into account the relevant provisions of the Antigua Convention;

Resolves as follows:

~~1.~~ Beginning in 2025, t~~T~~he following elements shall be used ~~in the~~ to determin~~eation~~ IATTC Member contributions ~~of the contributions of Members~~ to the IATTC budget. ~~until such time as a Member requests review and revision of the contribution formula as provided for in paragraph 6 of this Resolution:~~

a. Each Member's contribution shall be calculated as follows:10% of the total budget, minus any special contribution, divided equally among all the Members (base contribution); the remaining 90% is shared among the Members, weighted by Gross National Income (GNI) ~~category~~ factor, as follows:

   i. An operational component (10%);

   ii. The catches by their flag vessels (70%);

   iii. Their utilization of tuna from the Convention Area (10%).

~~GNI Category~~	~~GNI range (US$)~~
~~0.5~~	~~< 1,499~~
~~1~~	~~1,500 - 4,499~~
~~2~~	~~4,500 - 6,499~~
~~3~~	~~6,500 - 10,999~~
~~4~~	~~11,000 - 15,999~~
~~5~~	~~16,000 - 20,999~~
~~5.5~~	~~> 21,000~~

~~Table 1. GNI categories used for allocating contributions~~

b. The weighting factors used in calculating contributions shall be the same as the GNI ~~categories~~ factors. The GNI factors are calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{GNI factor} = -6E\text{-}09\ (GNI)^2 + 0.0004\ (GNI) - 0.0557,\ R^2 = 0.9981$$

The GNI factors will be no less than 0.5 and no more than 5.5 (see Annex A for GNI factor model).

c. Each Member's catch contribution shall be based on the annual average of the catches by its flag vessels in the three most recent years for which catch data are available.
d. In the determination of a Member's utilization, 50% of the tuna loins included in the calculation shall be attributed to the Member that exported the loins and 50% to the Member that imported them.
e. In the case of a Member that is also a member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, only 50% of catches made by its flag vessels in the overlap area between the two Commissions shall be included in the calculation of that Member's contribution based on catch.

2. That the Director shall inform each Member, at least two months prior to the annual meeting, of its projected contribution for the following two fiscal years.

3. That the contributions of any new Member of the Commission shall be determined on the same basis as the contributions of existing Members, subject to the Commission's financial regulations.

4. That all IATTC non-Members which have vessels fishing for fish covered by the Convention, should make, and request their flag vessels to make, voluntary contributions to the Commission, preferably on the same basis as the contributions of existing Members.

5. To invite non-governmental organizations interested in the work of the IATTC to make contributions to the Commission's budget.

6. ~~This ad hoc formula shall be used to calculate Members' contributions to the IATTC budget for the years 2013-2017, and indefinitely thereafter, unless a~~ If a Member believes that the formula is no longer appropriate, it may ~~indicates that the formula is no longer appropriate and~~ request~~s~~ that a new contribution formula be considered at the following Annual Meeting of the IATTC. ~~Any Member making a request to reconsider this formula is encouraged to provide an explanation to the Commission of the reasons for its dissatisfaction with it.~~ A Member requesting revisions to this formula is encouraged to explain to the Commission the reasons for its dissatisfaction with it.

7. This Resolution replaces Resolution ~~C-12-04~~C-15-05.

Annex A

GNI category	GNI range	GNI value used in GNI factor model (see Figure 1)
0.5	<1499	1,499
1	1500-4499	3,000
2	4500-6499	5499.5
3	6500-10999	8749.5
4	11000-15999	13499.5
5	16000-20999	18499.5
5.5	>=21,000	21000

Table 1. GNI categories and ranges previously used for allocating contributions, as well as the GNI values used in the new GNI factor model. GNI values for GNI categories 0.5 and 5.5 represent the lower and upper limits, respectively, and the GNI values for GNI categories 1 to 5 represent the middle of the GNI range.

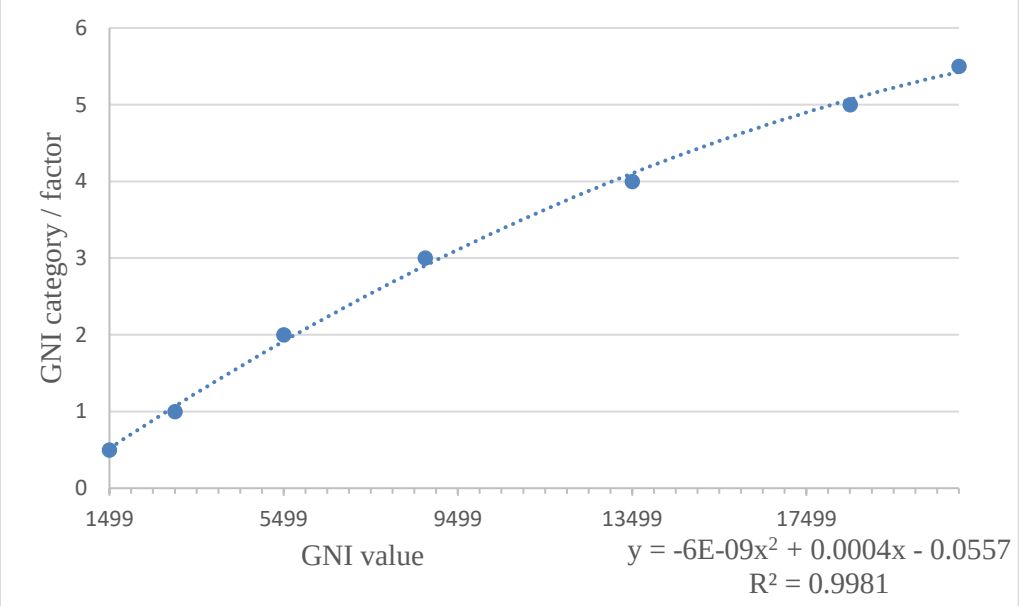


Figure 1. The GNI categories (y axis) plotted against the GNI value (x axis) listed in Table 1. The following formula represents the line of best fit (R^2=0.9981): GNI factor = -6E-09 $(GNI)^2$ + 0.0004 (GNI) - 0.0557

3f. L-1 USA. Labor standards

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama

2-6 September 2024

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 L-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

RESOLUTION ON CREW LABOR STANDARDS ON FISHING VESSELS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) gathered in Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of its 102nd Annual Meeting:

Committed to the responsible conduct of fishing operations in the Antigua Convention area;

Noting with concern the increasing global attention to ongoing instances of poor labor conditions and mistreatment of crew, including instances of human trafficking, servitude, bonded labor, forced labor and child labor that is hazardous and harmful to children's health on board fishing vessels;

Recognizing that Article 6.17 of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries provides that "States should ensure that fishing facilities and equipment as well as all fisheries activities allow for safe, healthy and fair working and living conditions and meet internationally agreed standards adopted by relevant international organizations";

Noting the International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work including "the freedom of association and the right of collective bargaining, elimination of forced or compulsory labor, abolition of child labor, elimination of discrimination at work, and a safe and healthy working environment," and the ILO C188 Work in Fishing Convention and its objective to ensure that fishers have decent conditions of work on board fishing vessels with regard to minimum requirements for work on board, conditions of service, accommodation and food, occupational safety and health protection, medical care and social security;

Recalling, where applicable, the 2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), that outlines fishing vessel standards and includes other regulations designed to protect the safety of crews and observers and to provide a level playing field for industry;

Further noting the important role played by crew members in assisting the conduct of fishing vessel operations in compliance with IATTC resolutions, and the essential role that crew members play in contributing to effective fishing operations;

Acknowledging that exploitative labor practices and unsafe working conditions are serious problems in international fisheries that harm fishing operations and must be condemned and eliminated through effective CPC actions, both collectively and individually;

Recalling efforts that CPCs have made in recent years in improving the conditions and welfare of observers on board fishing vessels, including the adoption of C-18-07, "Resolution on Improving Observer Safety at Sea," and acknowledging the importance of the welfare of crew members;

Further Acknowledging that the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) have all taken action to address labor abuses in fisheries under their jurisdiction;

Resolve as follows:

1. CPCs are encouraged to make every effort to ensure that workplace safety and health requirements fully extend to all crew, including migrant workers, working on vessels flying their flag and operating in fisheries in the Antigua Convention Area.

2. CPCs are encouraged to adopt and maintain measures to ensure fair and decent working conditions on board for all crew working on vessels flying their flag and operating in fisheries in the Antigua Convention Area, including, *inter alia*:

    a. The absence of forced, trafficked, or any other form of involuntary or compulsory labor;

    b. A safe working environment with minimum risk to health and well-being;

    c. Fair terms of employment that are enshrined in a written contract made available to the crew member in a form and language that facilitates the crew member's understanding of the terms and is agreed to by the crew member,

    d. Fair recruitment, including the prohibition of recruitment fees and related costs being charged to fishing crew members;

    e. Decent working and living conditions on board vessels provided by the fishing operator or the owner of the fishing vessel, including access to sufficient potable fresh water and food, occupational safety and health protection, medical care, adequate periods of rest, and acceptable standards of sanitary hygiene;

    f. Access to appropriate safety equipment onboard vessels and safety training before first deployment on a vessel and at appropriate intervals thereafter; such training should be in line with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) safety training standards;

    g. Access to a communication device at no cost or at a reasonable cost, and a designated point of contact in case of concerns related to safety or labor abuses;

    h. Decent and regular remuneration no less favorable than the flag CPCs domestic laws and regulations;

    i. Appropriate insurance covering work-related sickness, injury or death no less favorable than the flag CPC's domestic laws and regulations;

    j. Reasonable opportunities to: disembark, access their identity documents, terminate the contract of employment, communicate with an organization that can render assistance to

the crew, and seek repatriation.

3. CPCs are further encouraged to ensure the adequate enforcement of all relevant laws and regulations, including by identifying and prosecuting violations of relevant national laws relating to the treatment of crew by vessels flying their flag, vessel operators landing fish in their ports, and vessels operating in their waters.

4. CPCs are encouraged to work with any entities involved in recruitment of crew to implement the provisions of this Resolution.

5. CPCs are encouraged to apply and, where appropriate, strengthen effective jurisdiction and control over vessels flying their flag.

6. This Resolution shall be reviewed three years after its adoption, taking into account, *inter alia*, any guidance from FAO on standards related to fisheries observer safety as requested by the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters and/or any other relevant advancements with regard to labor standards, including guidance from relevant international organizations.

7. CPCs should consider ratifying relevant international instruments and discussing how to improve labor standards in the fisheries sector in the relevant international organizations and fora, such as the ILO.

8. CPCs shall share their progress on provisions in this Resolution to the Commission annually by September 1.

9. This Resolution shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

3g. M-1 USA. Sea turtles

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 M-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-19-04

RESOLUTION TO MITIGATE IMPACTS ON SEA TURTLES

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Considering the adverse effects of fishing for tuna and tuna-like species on the populations of sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Recognizing the need for CPCs fishing for species covered by the Convention to take all reasonable steps to prevent interactions with sea turtles;

Deeply concerned about the status of all sea turtle populations in the EPO, including the marked decline in the number of nesting female leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the EPO, and that the Eastern Pacific sub-population is classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as Critically Endangered;

Considering that sea turtle catch is incidental (herein "bycatch") and according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, States should minimize the catch of non-target species;

Guided by recent work that has led to advancements in best practices and technologies to avoid interactions and/or to reduce mortality of sea turtles interacting with fishing gear, including:

- The 2009 FAO *Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations* and their recommended implementation by regional fisheries bodies and management organizations,
- FAO Common Oceans workshops (2016) on the Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness, which identified the need to address sea turtle bycatch in longline fisheries, and
- International scientific studies on the use of circle hooks and whole finfish bait that demonstrate statistically significant reductions in the rates of both bycatch and mortality of sea turtles incidentally caught in longline gear;

Recognizing that the IATTC has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), which can contribute to collaboration in furtherance of the reduction of sea turtle bycatch and the implementation of this measure;

Acknowledging that nearly every IATTC Member has undertaken circle hook trials in their longline fisheries in the last decade;

Recalling the discussions at the 7th, 8th, and 9th meetings of the Bycatch Working Group and the 1st and 2nd Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group and resulting recommendations;

Noting that increasing observer coverage and quality of data on longline vessels would allow for more refined and targeted measures to address sea turtle bycatch; and

Affirming that additional measures should be undertaken to reduce sea turtle bycatch and mortality in IATTC fisheries;

Agrees as follows:

1. IATTC Members and Cooperating Non-Members ("CPCs") shall:
    a. Require owners/operators/vessel crew on vessels targeting species covered by the Convention to promptly release, in a manner that causes the least harm to the extent practicable, all sea turtles, without compromising the safety of any persons.
    b. Ensure that vessel operators and/or at least one crew member on board of vessels targeting species covered by the Convention in fisheries that have reported sea turtle interactions, and particularly those without observers, are trained in techniques for handling and release of sea turtles to improve survival after release.
    c. Strive to implement or enhance observer programs, including with electronic monitoring once standards are adopted by the Commission, for fisheries under the purview of the Commission that may have sea turtle bycatch, taking into consideration economic and practical feasibility.
    d. Continue to participate in and promote research to identify techniques to further reduce sea turtle bycatch in all gear types used in the EPO.
    e. Investigate the use of temporary fishing closures adjacent to nesting beaches or known foraging hotspots to reduce fishing interactions with sea turtles.
2. CPCs with purse-seine vessels fishing for species covered by the IATTC in the Convention Area shall:
    a. Require owners/operators of purse seine vessels to carry on board, and employ when appropriate, safe-handling tools for the release of sea turtles (e.g. dip nets).
    b. Require, in the event a sea turtle is sighted in a purse seine net, that owners/operators/vessel crew of purse seine vessels take all reasonable steps, as appropriate, to ensure its safe release by following handling and release guidelines in the Appendix, and consistent with the "Best practices for sea turtle handling and release" of the FAO *Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations* (2009)
    c. [1]
    d. Require owners/operators/vessel crew of purse seine vessels to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, all sea turtles observed entangled in fish-aggregating devices (FADs).
    e. Record all observed interactions involving sea turtles during purse seine fishing operations and report such information in accordance with paragraph 4.a.ii.
3. CPCs with longline vessels fishing for species covered by the IATTC in the Convention Area shall:
    a. Require owners/operators of longline vessels to carry on board, and employ when appropriate, safe-handling tools for the safe release of sea turtles (e.g. de-hookers, line cutters, and dip nets).
    b. Require that owners/operators/vessel crew of longline vessels take all reasonable steps, as appropriate, to ensure the safe release of any incidentally-caught sea turtles by following handling and release guidelines in the Appendix, and consistent with the FAO "Best practices for sea turtle handling and release."

[1] http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0725e/i0725e.pdf

c. Record all observed interactions involving sea turtles during longline fishing operations and report such information in accordance with paragraph 4.a.ii.

d. Require owners/operators of longline vessels fishing in a shallow-set manner[2] to employ at least one of the following mitigation measures:

   i. Use only large circle hooks[3],
   ii. Use only finfish for bait, OR
   iii. Specific to small-scale fisheries in Central and South America that catch dolphinfish, another mitigation measure to reduce sea turtle bycatch that has been approved by the Commission. This mitigation measure will be developed at the IATTC-sponsored Circle Hook Workshop scheduled for 2025, and a proposal shall be submitted to the Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group in 2025 for review and potential recommendation to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and approval of the Commission, OR
   iv. Another mitigation measure to reduce sea turtle bycatch that has been approved by the Commission. A proposal for such a measure shall be submitted to the Bycatch Working Group at its meeting in the year prior to desired implementation, for review and potential recommendation to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and approval of the Commission.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

a. CPCs shall report to the Director annually, by June 30 , the information in this paragraph in a standardized format, unless it is already submitted in accordance with other requirements, such as observer programs. The IATTC staff shall develop the standardized format for this report and submit it to the 2020 Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting for review and Commission adoption.
   i. Any changes to laws, regulations, and other instruments in place to implement the FAO *Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations* (2009) and this Resolution.
   ii. For observed sea turtle interactions, the following minimum data fields:
      a. date;
      b. location (latitude, longitude);
      c. fishing gear type;
      d. species identification;
      e. size (curved or straight carapace length);
      f. capture and release condition (e.g., live/dead);

      as well as the following details, if available:
      a. anatomical hooking location, if applicable (e.g., flipper, mouth/jaw, swallowed, entangled);
      b. amount of gear left on the animal, if applicable (e.g., estimated length of line);
      c. any associated photographs.
   iii. The mitigation measure(s) that longline vessels fishing in a shallow-set manner (as defined in footnote 2) were required to employ the previous year, pursuant to paragraph 3.d.

b. All standardized CPC reports described under paragraph 4.a shall be made available through a controlled-access portal on the IATTC website for review by other CPCs, and consistent with Resolution C-15-07 on data confidentiality.

[2] For purposes of this Resolution, shallow-set manner, including surface longlines, means the majority of hooks fish at depths shallower than 100 meters.

[3] Large circle hooks are defined as an 18/0 hook with the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank to form a generally circular or oval shape, and the point of the hook not offset more than 10 degrees.

c. The Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group shall prioritize the identification and assessment of new scientific information regarding sea turtle bycatch mitigation and recommend, if needed, additional measures to the Commission that would strengthen this resolution.

d. Based on these CPC reports, the Commission staff shall report to the Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group every three years on the extent of implementation, the level of bycatch reduction that has been achieved since adoption[4], and related recommendations for improvement including amendments to this resolution.

5. Considering the particular situation of coastal developing countries, the special fund established in Resolution C-14-03 should be strengthened through the allocation of funds, from voluntary contributions of CPCs and inclusion of specific budget lines, to facilitate the implementation of this Resolution, including for training fishermen on safe handling and release, providing related equipment, or supporting trials for new mitigation techniques.

This Resolution shall enter into force January 1, 2025 and shall replace Resolution C-19-04, which replaced Resolutions C-07-03 and Resolution C-04-05 (Resolution on Bycatch) para. 4, except paragraph 4.d.ii.

[4] Bycatch reduction will be measured by observed numbers of interactions per hooks fished.

APPENDIX

Safe Handling and Release Guidelines for Sea Turtles

1. PURSE SEINE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE

a. Whenever a sea turtle is sighted in the net, all reasonable efforts should be made to rescue the turtle before it becomes entangled in the net.
b. If a turtle is entangled during net roll, the net should be hauled over the turntable to a height of about 2 meters, the main boom should be moved to starboard or to port (depending on the vessel's direction) and the net should be rolled back, so that the crew can release the turtle from the netting as soon as possible, and return it to the sea over the starboard or port side if it is active. Net roll should not start again until the turtle has been disentangled and released.
c. If, in spite of the measures taken under paragraphs a and b of this section, a sea turtle is accidentally brought on board the vessel and is alive and active, or dead, the sea turtle should be released as quickly as practicable.
d. If a turtle is brought aboard the vessel and is comatose or inactive, resuscitation should be attempted (paragraph 3).

2. LONGLINE SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE

a. When practicable, and when operator or crew on board are trained, comatose sea turtles should be brought on board immediately.
b. If a sea turtle is too large or hooked in such a manner as to preclude safe boarding without causing further damage/injury to the turtle, line clippers should be used to clip the line and remove as much line as possible prior to releasing the turtle.
c. If a sea turtle is observed to be hooked or entangled by longline gear during hauling operations, the vessel operator should immediately cease hauling operations until the turtle has been removed from the longline gear or brought on board the vessel.
d. If hooked externally or hook is fully visible, hooks should be removed from sea turtles as quickly and carefully as possible. If a hook cannot be removed from a turtle (e.g., ingested or in roof of mouth), the line should be cut as close to the hook as possible.
e. Live turtles should be returned to the sea after handling:
    i. By putting the vessel engine in neutral gear so that the propeller is disengaged and the vessel is stopped, and releasing the turtle away from deployed gear; and
    ii. Observing that the turtle is safely away from the vessel before engaging the propeller and continuing operations.
f. If the sea turtle brought aboard the vessel is comatose or inactive, resuscitation should be attempted (paragraph 3).

3. RESUSCITATION FOR A TURTLE ON BOARD

a. When handling a sea turtle, attempts should be made to hold the animal by the shell, avoiding the head and neck region, and flippers.
b. Strive to remove and/or disentangle any foreign items from the sea turtle, such as any plastic items, netting, or embedded hooks, etc.
c. Placing the turtle on its bottom shell (plastron) so that the turtle is right side up and elevating its hindquarters at least 6 inches (15 cm) for a period of 4 up to 24 hours. The amount of the elevation depends on the size of the turtle; greater elevations are needed for larger turtles. Periodically, rock the turtle gently left to right and right to left by holding the outer edge of the shell (carapace) and lifting one side about 3 inches (8 cm) then alternate to the other side. Gently touch the eye and pinch the tail (reflex test) periodically to see if there is a response.
d. Sea turtles being resuscitated should be shaded and kept damp or moist but under no circumstance be placed into a container holding water. A water-soaked towel placed over the head, carapace, and flippers is the most effective method in keeping a turtle moist.
e. Sea turtles that revive and become active should be released over the stern of the boat only

when fishing gear is not in use, when the engine gears are in neutral position, and in areas where they are unlikely to be recaptured or injured by vessels.

f. Sea turtles that fail to respond to the reflex test or fail to move within 4 hours (up to 24, if possible) should be returned to the water in the same manner as that for actively moving turtles.

3h. N-1 USA. Capacity

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 N-1

SUBMITTED BY VENEZUELA

PROPOSAL ON THE REVIEW OF THE VOLUMES OF PURSE-SEINE VESSELS FISHING IN THE IATTC CONVENTION AREA

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

There are indications that there are vessels whose landings are very close to the capacity reported in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. This contradicts the widely recognized and scientifically documented tuna stowage factors. It is important to recall that the stowage factor is the ratio of the occupied volume to the available space in the well (*capacity*). This factor varies based on several circumstances, including the size and shape of the tuna caught, the time and temperature used for freezing the fish, and the spatial arrangement once frozen (*aligned arrangements can optimize space utilization, whereas random arrangements can result in more wasted space*). This stowage factor may range between 0.65 kg/m³ and 0.75 kg/m³, depending on specific conditions; in other words, the well can only be filled to between 65% and 75% of its maximum recorded capacity. This factor should be reviewed by the IATTC staff and should not be calculated individually by the Members, as there may be significant variation between different CPCs.

Assuming that recorded landings is an indicator that is monitored on an ongoing basis, it is highly likely that it could indicate that the actual capacity is greater than the capacity recorded in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. This could result in a significant increase in operational capacity in the Convention Area and, more worryingly, some of this capacity may not be duly justified in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. This situation should be reviewed and the necessary corrective measures should be implemented as soon as possible.

Therefore, it is necessary to clarify whether one or both elements (*stowage factor or capacity registration issues*) are causing the discrepancies in important data for capacity management measures within the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

REVIEW OF THE VOLUMES OF PURSE-SEINE VESSELS FISHING IN THE IATTC CONVENTION AREA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Victoria, Canada, on the occasion of its 101st Meeting:

Taking into account that the Regional Vessel Register should accurately reflect the actual capacity in cubic meters of all vessels registered therein;

Acknowledging that there must be a stowage factor for the Commission that ensures the capacity recorded by the vessels in the Regional Register is consistent with the landings;

Recognizing that, in order to recommend the best measures for capacity management, in accordance with the determinations made by the scientific staff of the Commission based on the IATTC Regional Register, the actual capacity of the purse-seine vessels operating in the Commission Area must be as exact and precise as possible;

Resolves as follows:

1. That the Commission prepare a document outlining the stowage factor that will apply to all Members.
2. That the Commission review the three maximum landings for each vessel and, in cases where the catch exceeds 80% of the capacity recorded in cubic meters in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, promptly require a verification of the well volumes using one of the following methods:
    2.1. Through a certificate issued by an international classification society acknowledged by the flag government
    2.2. Through a certificate granted by a competent governmental authority, supported by a technical study.
    2.3. Through a certificate from duly qualified companies or individuals, endorsed by the flag government and indicating the absence of inconsistencies.
    2.4. Through a report prepared by the IATTC staff based on the vessel's plans, verifying that no inconsistencies were present.
3. That those vessels whose well capacities are found to be greater than reported, the excess cubic meters be sealed, or the country grant the necessary capacity from its reserve or another mechanism.
4. That those vessels whose capacity is found to exceed that of the IATTC Regional Vessel Register pay to the AIDCP the contribution for that difference in capacity that was due since their incorporation into the IATTC Regional Vessel Register and, if prior to the establishment of the AIDCP, since 1999.

3i.G-1 VAR. Amendment to the IATTC rules of procedure

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

City of Panama, Panama
2-6 September 2024

PROPOSAL IATTC-102 G-1

SUBMITTED BY
BELIZE, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA, PANAMA AND PERÚ[1]

RESOLUTION C-24-XX

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The need for all documents that form part of the information necessary to facilitate decision-making to be submitted in both languages of the Commission, in accordance with the principles contained in the Antigua Convention, justifies the amendment of paragraph 53 and the addition of a paragraph 53 bis in the Rules of Procedure. This amendment ensures that documents submitted by organizations, individuals or groups other than the CPCs or Commission staff are available in both official languages, English and Spanish.

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE IATTC

[...]

XV. LANGUAGES

53. English or Spanish may be used during meetings of the Commission, and simultaneous interpretation and translation into the other language will be provided. The reports, minutes, official documents, and official publications of the Commission shall be in both languages. Official correspondence of the Commission, communications, or documents formulated by the CPCs shall be circulated in both languages.

53 bis. The admissibility of physical or digital documents submitted by organizations, individuals or groups of any kind other than the CPCs, for the purpose of making them known to the Commission for informational purposes of any kind or to facilitate analysis in decision-making, is conditioned to their submission in English and Spanish, within the deadlines and under the condition set forth in these Rules of Procedure.

[1] Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua y Panamá within the framework of OSPESCA.

4.Reports
4a.Draft Recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

DOCUMENT IATTC-102-03

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. TROPICAL TUNAS
That the current conservation measures for tropical tunas contemplated in Resolution C-21-04 be extended for a duration and in the conditions to be stipulated by the Commission.
1.1. Bigeye tuna
(a) That the Enhanced Monitoring Program be extended until the IATTC Secretariat transfers the program to the traditional sampling programs, or should the case be, to the CPCs, provided that the quality and reliability of the information are guaranteed, which shall be assessed by the IATTC staff and the SAC. During the period of extension of the Enhanced Monitoring Program, ensure that the IATTC Secretariat transfers, as soon as possible, the methodological and operational bases acquired during previous years to the CPCs, in order to make the continuity of this program viable. Recommends that the IATTC staff evaluate and report to the SAC in 2026 on the improvements to the traditional port sampling program and the requirements for its implementation by CPCs in their national programs. (b) That the IATTC Secretariat maintain the human capital responsible for providing advice to the CPCs on enhanced monitoring. (c) That the Commission assess, based on a report of the scientific staff for the next meeting of the Commission in 2024, the elements included in paragraph 11 of Res. C-21-04.
2. TEMPERATE TUNAS

2.1. North Pacific albacore tuna
(a) Recognizing that the IATTC staff have collaborated with the ISC ALBWG to complete the request to relate fishing intensity into catch and effort, and recognizing the variability of these relationships, that the Commission consider the relationships in document SAC-15 INF-T and their variability, and that the IATTC staff collaborate with the ISC ALBWG to re-evaluate these relationships when necessary. (b) Recognizing that the IATTC staff have collaborated with the ISC ALBWG to complete the request to develop criteria for identifying exceptional circumstances in document SAC-15 INF-S, that the IATTC staff collaborate with the ISC ALBWG to inform the SAC and the Commission when these exceptional circumstances occur.
2.2. South Pacific albacore tuna
(a) Recognizing that for SPALB, catch and effort have increased substantially in recent years, that WCPFC has adopted interim reference points, and that the Commission has not adopted any Resolutions on SPALB, that the Commission consider interim reference points and interim limits on catch and/or effort for SPALB that are compatible with the work of the WCPFC while a harvest strategy is being developed. (b) Recognizing that WCPFC has begun the management strategy evaluation process for SPALB, the SAC recommends that the Commission coordinate with the WCPFC on a joint effort and process to develop and explore a range of harvest strategies for consideration. (c) That the Commission encourage CPCs and the IATTC staff to participate in the upcoming WCPFC Science Management Dialogues to develop a harvest strategy for SPALB throughout the range of the stock.
2.3. South Pacific Swordfish
That CPCs be requested to support the scientific staff on the provision of data on the south Pacific swordfish fishery, aimed at updating the baseline stock assessment to be submitted to the 2026 SAC.
2.4. Pacific Bluefin tuna
(a) That CPCs and IATTC staff collaborate with the ISC to improve monitoring of discards and the recruitment monitoring index for PBF. (b) That the Joint IATTC-WCPFC-NC Working Group and the Commission consider the importance of the adult longline index in any future management measures. (c) Recognizing the Commission adopted an interim harvest strategy to maintain the stock above 20%SSB0, and that the management strategy evaluation (MSE) results are expected in 2025, that the Commission consider a long-term harvest strategy with reference points at that time.
3. MAHI MAHI
(a) That the Commission encourage CPCs to report the catches of mahi mahi and its discards from all their tuna fleets, including classes 1-5 and the longline fleet. (b) Recommends that the IATTC staff continue to provide general guidance and technical advice to CPCs on mahi mahi-related research, as appropriate and within its scope.
4. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE)

That the development of management strategies for tropical tunas in the EPO continue to be supported. That the Commission consider a management procedure for BET, including reference points based on the MSE results expected in 2025-2027.

5. DATA COLLECTION AND PROVISION

(a) That the Commission support the proposed 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-15 INF- E.b).

(b) In coordination with the RTTP, that opportunistic tagging programs be carried out in collaboration with CPCs and relevant stakeholders.

(c) That the Commission notes the importance and need of having operational data from the longline fleet in order for stock assessments of tuna and other associated species covered by the Antigua Convention to be completed.

(d) That CPCs that maintain tuna longline fleets operating in the EPO provide the scientific staff with historical operational data to enable the implementation of the Scientific Plan with respect to the construction of indices of abundance and useful information for stock assessments of tropical and temperate tunas.

6. ECOSYSTEM CONSIDERATIONS

That a program of dialogue be established between scientific staff, managers, fleet managers, and captains of the tuna fleets of the CPCs, with respect to:

(a) Identification and evaluation of changes in fishing strategy triggered by conservation measures and climate change, and

(b) Implementation of new methods on best practices for release of bycatch species that the Commission determines requires follow-up.

6.1. Elasmobranchs (sharks and rays)

(a) In response to paragraph 13 of Resolution C-23-07, that the Commission consider that the 18 shark species listed below comprise the draft list of species under the purview of the Commission and, if adopted, consider prioritizing them for research and management.

Family	Species	Common name
Alopiidae	*Alopias pelagicus*	Pelagic thresher
Alopiidae	*Alopias superciliosus*	Bigeye thresher
Alopiidae	*Alopias vulpinus*	Common thresher
Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus brachyurus*	Copper shark
Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	Silky shark
Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus galapagensis*	Galapagos shark
Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus longimanus*	Oceanic whitetip shark
Carcharhinidae	*Prionace glauca*	Blue shark
Galeocerdonidae	*Galeocerdo cuvier*	Tiger shark
Lamnidae	*Isurus oxyrinchus*	Shortfin mako shark
Lamnidae	*Isurus paucus*	*Longfin mako shark*
Lamnidae	*Lamna ditropis*	Salmon shark
Lamnidae	*Lamna nasus*	Porbeagle shark
Rhincodontidae	*Rhincodon typus*	Whale shark
Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna lewini*	Scalloped hammerhead
Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna mokarran*	Great hammerhead
Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna zygaena*	Smooth hammerhead
Pseudocarchariidae	*Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*	Crocodile shark

(b) Recommends that the IATTC staff develop a draft list of ray and mobulid species under the purview of the IATTC for consideration by the EBWG and the SAC.

6.2. Best Handling and Release Practices (BHRPS)

(a) That the Commission provide a position on the development pathways for the work plan, elaborated by the scientific staff (EB-02-03), on the provision of guidelines or protocols for best handling and release practices (BHRP).

(b) That manta sorting grids, considered in the handling and release guidelines of Resolution C-15-04 Annex 1, point 5, be discussed as an alternative and voluntary mitigation measure by CPCs.

6.3. Sorting grids

(a) That the scientific staff provide an evaluation of the conservation value of sorting grids and conduct a comparative analysis of the catch between sets with and without the use of sorting grids for fish in order to detect changes in the composition of the target and non-target catch.

(b) That a workshop be held in Ecuador with IATTC scientific staff, industry, and fishing technicians in order to:

- Learn about prototype sorting grids used during fishing maneuvers, use, experiences, benefits and problems.

• Analyze the possibility of quantifying the amount of fish that are extracted by this method as well as their survival or condition, by means of the design of an experiment and/or sampling during sets in which the grids are used (e.g., through the use of underwater cameras).
6.4. Climate change
That the IATTC scientific staff continue its work on climate change.

8TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FADS - RECOMMENDATIONS

Consistent with its terms of reference established in Resolution C-19-01, Annex III, **the Ad Hoc Permanent Working Group on FADs**, in reporting to the Scientific Advisory Committee on the results of its 8th meeting, and in the framework of the process of coordination with that Committee and with the scientific staff in the identification and review of feasible FAD management measures, as a preliminary step prior to the presentation of recommendations to the Commission, **wishes to recommend that:**
1. On biodegradable FADs
1.1. The investigation of new more durable materials for the construction of biodegradable FADs be continued, taking into account their economic viability and availability.
1.2. The current FAD designs be modified to reduce the amount and the fraction of synthetic materials used in their construction, before requirements of Resolution C-23-04 enter into force.
1.3. The process of data collection on prototypes of biodegradable FADs be improved, to help in the analysis of the efficiency, duration, and correct classification by category of biodegradable FADs.
1.4. The exchange of information obtained in biodegradable FADs trials among scientists, companies, managers from different fleets, CPCs and RFMOs be promoted, to advance in unison and faster in the objectives of the Commission.
1.5. The scientific staff analyse the potential effect of the transition towards the implementation of 100% biodegradable FADs on possible changes in the fleet fishing strategies.
1.6. Fishing companies in cooperation with IATTC and relevant scientific institutions prepare guides and workshops for the correct handling and use of biodegradable FADs for fishers with the objective to minimize the wear and breakdown of this type of FADs.
1.7. Given the low amount of deployed experimental FADs that are visited, that fleets continue deploying experimental biodegradable FADs on a greater scale, and in a systematic manner, to meet the requirements of the Resolution C-23-04, taking into account the limits established in C-21-04.
1.8. The scientific staff study the working lifespan of conventional and biodegradable FADs to evaluate the real needs of the fleet and the possible effects of the implementation of biodegradable FADs in the fishing operation.
1.9. The scientific staff conduct studies on the working lifetime of conventional and biodegradable FADs at the Pacific Ocean scale, promoting to that end the collaboration among researchers who work in both regions of the Pacific.
2. On data collection
2.1. The IATTC scientific staff analyse in more detail the information of buoy data, such as activations and deactivations, and propose adjustments to the format of the data provided to improve the utility of the data to achieve the conservation objectives of the Commission.

2.2. The IATTC staff provide feedback to CPCs, representatives of their relevant fleets and buoy service providers that are incorrectly providing buoy data so that the issue can be corrected as early as possible and in general terms pedagogy in the information reporting promoted.
2.3. IATTC organize workshops with CPCs, fishing companies, captains, crew and buoy providers to present the correct reporting protocols for buoy data and to clarify the differences between deactivated FADs reported as "signal loss" which may in fact be "temporarily during closure periods; and that these workshops be used also to collect first-hand and direct information on the dynamics of the fishery.
2.4. Regarding the need to submit buoy files per ship, the IATTC consider revising Annex IV of Resolution C-21-04 to specify that the files be generated preferably by vessel.
3. On FAD fishery indicators
3.1. Fishing companies and buoy providers, to the extent possible, make available to the IATTC and CPCs the historical acoustic buoy information to avoid losing data received by original users, including both trajectories and biomass information, of enormous value for science, and in particular stock assessment.
3.2. To the extent possible, data from all buoy providers be incorporated in studies of estimation of indices of abundance, in order to increase the number of observations incorporating a larger number of vessels, FADs and fishing strategies.
3. On the impact of FADs
1. IATTC staff continue to analyse stranding events and activation/deactivation data to develop future options for at-sea recovery of FADs.
1. The Commission adopt the data form in Appendix 4 in FAD-07 INF-A to facilitate reporting on FAD recoveries as described in paragraph 4 of Resolution C-23-03 and the harmonization with the data of the WCPFC to facilitate Pacific-wide collaboration.
3. Vessel owners be encouraged to participate in FAD retrieval programs.
4. Cooperation of coastal communities be promoted in projects to identify, report to IATTC and recover stranded FADs.
5. The utilization of appropriate technologies be considered, such as those described in document FAD-08-08, or similar others, for the development of sensors transmitting the FAD buoys' serial number and other applications related with other fishing activities that require remote and automatic data collection.

2nd EBWG - RECOMMENDATIONS

The EBWG recommends that:	
1.	**Sea Turtles**
1.1.	A second circle hook workshop be conducted that will fulfill the mandate of paragraph 3(d)(i) of Res. C-19-04.
1.2.	Advice be provided by the workshop on the impacts of fishing operations on the form and structure (i.e., longevity and integrity) of circle hooks of various sizes and from different manufacturers.
1.3.	The workshop include development of a third mitigation measure as described in Paragraph 3(d)(iii) of C-19-04 for small coastal multi-species vessel fleets as well as best handling and release practices for sea turtles.
1.	**Mobulid Rays**
2.1.	The use of sorting grids be considered on purse seine vessels to mitigate impacts to Mobulid rays.
2.2.	Captain workshops include training on the use of sorting grids and encourage their voluntary use.
2.3.	The Commission endorse the Best Handling and Release Practices (BHRP) guideline development workplan for rays, and sorting grids be included in handling and release guidelines in resolution C-15-04 Annex 1, point 5 as another alternative for the release of rays.
3.	**Climate Change and EcoCards Workplans**
3.1	The Commission consider further development of the proposed Climate Change and EcoCards Workplans, and encourage that this work be done in collaboration with expertise from other tuna RFMOs.
3.2	Final workplan proposals be submitted to the Commission, along with proposed budgets.

2.	**Hammerhead Sharks** Considering the benefits of understanding the ecology and spatial population structure of target and bycatch species in various assessment efforts, including close-kin mark- recapture (CKMR) and conventional stock assessment, a conceptual model of life history, ecology, and spatial population structure be developed for three hammerhead sharks species *Sphyrna lewini, S. zygaena and S. mokarran* similar to the one described in Talwar et al. (2024; presentation EB-02 5.c.2) for silky shark.
4.	**Fleet Characteristics** The Staff, in coordination with the CPCs, develop and present to the Commission the results of a process to characterize and classify the longline fleets and their fisheries in the Convention Area, distinguishing their dynamics and differentiated impacts, as well as the catchability of species, whether directed, associated or incidental.
5.	**Meeting Process** The SAC and Commission consider that, in the Rules of Procedure, a provision be added to the effect that, while appreciating the improvements introduced in the dynamics of the meetings of the SAC and related working groups, meeting documents and presentations should be made available through posting on the Commission web site at least 2 weeks before the start of the corresponding cycle of meetings, in both Spanish and English
6.	**Seabirds** The below described Seabird Action Plan (see Annex 1) be adopted, with the understanding that an intersessional meeting will be held prior to the third meeting of the EBWG.

7. Shark species list

7.1. For the purposes of Art VII, paragraph f) of the Antigua Convention, the preliminary list of 19 species of sharks presented by the IATTC Staff be adopted [see attached], understanding that this list is based upon species of interest due to their interactions and catchability associated with fisheries under IATTC management.

7.2. The SAC consider the inclusion in the list of:

- the crocodile shark, *Pseudocarcharias kamohari*;
- rays, manta rays and mobulas of interest.

Annex 1
Seabird Action Plan
(with timeline)

2024:

1. IATTC Scientific Staff will conduct a seabird assessment for presentation at the EBWG in 2025, including but not limited to:
   a. Comparison between C-11-02 and mitigation measures in other tRFMOs.
   b. Update of [SAR-7-05b]: spatial distributions of seabird species in the IATTC Convention Area, including any geographic hotspots for these species, overlap with LL fishing effort, and conservation statuses
   c. Overview of mitigation measures in use by CPCs in the IATTC Convention Area as required in paragraph 5 of C-11-02. This should account for all CPCs, including any that may have vessels fishing in areas where bycatch mitigation measures are not required.
   d. Summary of observed and estimated seabird bycatch rates in the IATTC Convention Area, including geographic information where possible, noting that data are limited.

2025:

2. At the 2025 EBWG, the IATTC Scientific Staff will present the results of its assessment for discussion by CPCs.

3. Between EBWG 2025 and the 2025 IATTC plenary, interested CPCs will coordinate intersessionally on a draft proposal updating C-11-02.

4. Proposed sponsors will present the updated seabird proposal for adoption at the 103rd meeting of the IATTC in 2025.

Annex 2
List of shark species

[….].

	Family / Familia	Species / nombre científico	Common name	Nombre común
1	Alopiidae	Alopias pelagicus	Pelagic thresher	Zorro pelágico
2	Alopiidae	*Alopias superciliosus*	Bigeye thresher	Zorro ojón
3	Alopiidae	*Alopias vulpinus*	Common thresher	Tiburón zorro pinto
4	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus brachyurus*	Copper shark	Tiburón cobrizo
5	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	Silky shark	Tiburón sedoso
6	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus galapagensis*	Galapagos shark	Tiburón de Galápagos
7	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus longimanus*	Oceanic whitetip shark	Tiburón punta blanca oceánico
~~8~~	~~Lamnidae~~	~~*Carcharodon carcharias*~~	~~Great white shark~~	~~Jaquetón blanco~~
~~9~~	~~Cetorhinidae~~	~~*Cetorhinus maximus*~~	~~Basking shark~~	~~Peregrino~~
10	Galeocerdonidae	*Galeocerdo cuvier*	Tiger shark	Tintorera tigre
11	Lamnidae	*Isurus oxyrinchus*	Shortfin mako shark	Mako de aleta corta
12	Lamnidae	*Isurus paucus*	Longfin mako shark	Marrajo carite
13	Lamnidae	*Lamna ditropis*	Salmon shark	Marrajo salmón
14	Lamnidae	*Lamna nasus*	Porbeagle shark	Marrajo sardinero
15	Carcharhinidae	*Prionace glauca*	Blue shark	Tiburón azul
16	Rhincodontidae	*Rhincodon typus*	Whale shark	Tiburón ballena
17	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna lewini*	Scalloped hammerhead shark	Cornuda común
18	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna mokarran*	Great hammerhead	Cornuda gigante
19	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna zygaena*	Smooth hammerhead shark	Cornuda cruz
The species below was recommended by 2nd_EBWG			***La siguiente especie fue recomendada por el 2do_EBWG***	
20	Pseudocarchariidae	*Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*	Crocodile shark	Tiburón cocodrilo

4b. Report of the 6th Workshop on an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

6TH WORKSHOP ON AN ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM (EMS) IN THE EPO: STANDARDS FOR AN EMS IN THE EPO

(by videoconference)
13-15 December 2023

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The 6th Workshop on an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO: Logistical and data analysis and reporting standards, was held by videoconference from 13 to 15 December 2023. A list of participants is provided in Appendix 1.

Opening of the meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Brad Wiley of the IATTC Policy and Compliance Division.

There were no comments on the draft agenda.

The 6th EMS workshop was convened within the framework of the terms of reference outlined in Resolution C-21-02 by the Commission. This resolution sets the stage for a series of workshops aimed at elaborating essential aspects of a potential EMS program, awaiting approval from the Members. The goals of these workshops extend beyond drawing conclusions and recommendations on the covered topics; they also include educating participants, fostering communication, and developing a shared understanding among stakeholders on EM matters. Participants were tasked with considering and providing comprehensive commentary on discussion topics, related to the logistical standards, particularly the management, transfer and review of EM records, as well as for the protocols and procedures to be considered in the context of data analysis and reporting standards.

The Chair indicated that over the course of the meeting, IATTC staff would give a presentation corresponding to document EMS-06-01. As with past workshops, discussions took place consistent with the Chatham House Rule, meaning that comments would not be attributed to any individual, government or other affiliation, unless attribution was explicitly requested by the speaker. In addition the staff presentation, four additional talks were given by invited experts from other organizations, providing additional insights and perspectives on the topics under discussion:

Hilario Murua, chair of the IOTC Working Group on the Development of Electronic Monitoring Programme Standards (WGEMS), gave a presentation on the EMS implementation and minimum standards in IOTC. He centered his talk on the EM process and history in the IOTC and the key milestones achieved during this process, particularly on the adoption, through the Resolution 23/08 of the terms and definitions of EMS, the EM Program Standards, and the EMS and Data Standards as per IOTC SC recommendation, that allows CPCs to meet the minimum ROS data requirements under Resolution 22/04 using EMS.

Rui Coelho, chair of ICCAT SCRS Subgroup on EMS, gave a presentation on the Implementation of EMS and minimum standards in ICCAT. He talked about the EMS structure within the ICCAT, the development of the Standing Committee Research and Statistics (SCRS) minimum technical standards recommendations for EMS in longlines and purse-seines (EM equipment, data storage, data collection, data protection and potential privacy issues), and the subsequent adoption of these recommendations as well as other main points agreed by ICCAT during its plenary meeting in November 2023 (PWG_415B/2023).

Eric Gilman, a fisheries scientist with the Safina Center, presented the Status of the Development and

Adoption of Minimum Standards on Fisheries Electronic Monitoring Systems by Intergovernmental Organizations. He provided a review of the EM standards from 15 RFMOs and 4 bodies, in addition to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), which also has provided guidelines on fisheries Electronic Monitoring Systems. The benefits of EM over at-sea observers, and the EM deficits and possible solutions were also covered during his presentation.

Finally, Brett Alger, Brett Alger (NOAA Fisheries), who is chairing the working group of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) for implementing technologies in commercial fisheries (TIFD), presented Developing Standards for EM Programs (NOAA and ICES). He summarized the approaches taken by the US EMS programs to better standardize how data are collected, managed, and analyzed using new technologies (AI, ML) across EM systems, fisheries, and governmental jurisdictions. One example is that many EMS programs are developing templates for vessel monitoring plans (VMPs), which can standardize how each vessel has set up their EM systems, handle fishery catch, etc., to implement performance-based standards and ensure data quality improvement as a program matures. He also described the TIFD working draft data model and specification that could be leveraged by any new EM program to start with a foundation for what EM systems can collect across fisheries and gear types.

Discussion of EMS-06-01, Logistical and data analysis and reporting standards of an EMS in the EPO

Mr. Marlon Roman gave a presentation complementing EMS-06-01, . which contains a number of draft/strawman recommendations submitted by IATTC staff with the goal of stimulating focused discussion on a number of topics.

1.1. Logistical standards

The staff explained that in the context of EMS, "logistics standards" primarily refers to the management of EM records. These standards can vary according to a number of factors, including, *inter alia*, fishery type, vessel based in one or multiple ports, and port accessibility. These considerations, in turn, can have implications in terms of the cost of EMS. The Commission will need to determine how different EM coverage costs will be covered and address security and confidentiality concerns related to the transfer and review of EM records. Regarding confidentiality, the staff mentioned a few different approaches among the continuem of options. One option would be for EM records to be reviewed and transformed into data by the program monitoring the vessel (e.g. national, regional or Commission prorgam), perhaps similar to the way PS observer data is reviewed under the AIDCP. Other options include the possibility of outsourcing EM record handling and/or EM analysis to a approved, certified, external third parties.

Staff Recommendation: ***All EM records must be transferred from the vessel to the EM review center at the end of each trip***.

- One participant expressed concerns on the amount of work and cost implied for CPCs and/or IATTC in order to process so many EM records. The staff explained that this specific recommendation is not that all EM records must be analyzed (i.e. review rate) but rather to the notion that all original EM records should be transferred to a centralized holding location managed by the deploying program or some third party capacity (i.e. cloud storage)assocaited with the review center. EM review center has been defined in the document EMS-01-01 as a "*local, national, or regional facility where EM records are analyzed to produce EM data*".

- Another participant reminded participants that in the context of longline vessels, which are currently observed by national programs, EM data would be supplementary or complimentary to data collected by a human obsevrer deployed on the same vessel-. Therefore, EM records should be received and processed by a national CPC review center within the flag state so that it can be considered in combination with the data derived from human observer records. Then flag state would then communicate the resulting data to the Secretariat. Data submission to the Secretariat in

a manner similar to the current observer data flow under Resolution C-19-08.

- A third attendee also pointed out that an EM records and EM data homologation process would be required to ensure that programs and data are homogeneous. One option would be a certification program which would seek to ensure not only overall data quality, but also that the metrics, units, and other aspects of minimum data fields are interpreted uniformly among programs so that the data from various programs are all equivalent and can be combined for the purposes of scientific investigation. The same participant also stressed the need to ensure that transshipment is included within the scope of IATTC EMS and the need to clarify what other gear types woudl be included. Regarding longliners, they suggested that a trusted actor to retrieve and deliver the EM to the EM review center for vessels fishing for extended periods of time.
- Another also considered that for some longliners it will be difficult to transmit data for each trip, as one trip may last more than a year if trip is defined as ending when the vessel makes port. They suggested that it would make more sense if long-trip longliners would offload EM records periodically during the at-sea transhipment process

Staff Recommendation: ***Irrespective of the data transfer method used for EM records, an encrypted storage device containing the same EM records information must remain on board as backup. The deletion of records from the vessel's backup devices should only occur once the EM records have been converted to EM data at the EM review center***.

- One attendee highlighted the importance of the EM records backup and the need to better define the minimum storage needs. The storage capacity is important because it could have operational and monetary implications (i.e., storage is more expensive the more information you store).
- Another participant doubt as to whether backup and storage of EM records is necessary if the purpose is for scientific data only (the goal and scope of an EPO EMS has not been decided by the Commission yet). Regarding encryption function depends on domestic regulations for privacy and will vary among members, so the participant suggested that there is no need for this to be stipulated at this stage.
- Other participant mentioned that EM records' backups are encrypted in vessels under their country jurisdiction, and thinks that some countries may have a way to encrypt and store backups on land-based offices.

Staff Recommendation: ***EM data should be generated by the program that monitored that trip, whether IATTC or a national program***[1]***. Provided that standard protocols and procedures are followed, CPCs should choose whether to contract the work out through a commercial EM review service provider or do it themselves***.

- One attendee suggested to edit the last sentence of this recommendation with the text "…*or to designate the institution to conduct the review*".
- Another reflected on that the analysis of EM in line with this recommendation would be costly.
- A third one felt that a hybrid system could be a good solution, and that it is also important to have an overview of costs.
- The staff, respecting this recommendation, considered that some of the comments and differences in opinion were a function of the how the CPCs view the purpose of EM regarding scientific or compliance or both.

[1] This would involve expanding existing programs or creating new ones at national, or perhaps regional, level.

1.2. Data analysis and reporting standards

Concerning data analysis and reporting, the staff remarked that regardless of the approach chosen for the EM analysis, it is important that EM data maintain consistency and comparability, following standard protocols, procedures, and training, as well as processes to check and validate data, such as species identifications, catch data (both total and by species), individual measurements, etc., developing standard conversion factors (e.g., length-to-weight, number-to-weight), and establishing a schedule for reporting data to the IATTC by individual EM programs.

Staff Recommendation: ***Design and organize training courses for EM analysts, coordinated by IATTC staff, with input from EM service providers and other experts***.

Staff Recommendation: ***EM analyses should only be conducted by trained EM analysts, ideally possessing some experience at sea***.

- Regarding the training, one participant mentioned that coordination by IATTC staff is not necessary in the case of longline vessels since programs will be national programs, and that training in other languages will be difficult. However, the establishment of standard procedures is not in question. Another attendee agreed with this idea but also mentioned that if the IATTC staff do not participate with the coordination there will be no path to certification, so they advocate for IATTC staff training coordination. The IATTC staff explained that the centralized training would be for reviewers. It will be very important to have a system for auditing various programs so that data standards are met, and data is high quality. The staff also clarified that these recommendations do not mean that IATTC will train everyone, it means that the IATTC staff will help coordinate training of national programs or the development of training material.
- Regarding the resistance to training being exclusively coordinated by IATTC staff, perhaps there is a middle ground where there can be a set of principles or guidelines to assist national programs, which can then be translated by national programs into materials appropriate for their observers.
- Another attendee remarked that IATTC-specific training is important for species ID for EPO specific species, and that they would prefer a senior observer to review the EM data as well. Also agree to have consistency between programs but the agreements should be flexible enough to promote innovation.
- A participant with an EMS implemented in his country expressed support for these two recommendations because they do not think they could carry out good analysis and produce quality data without adequate training. This would be even more important where an EMS would include multiple national programs in addition to, possibly, a centralized Commission program, and where the resulting data is intended to contribute to a single, comprehensive database.
- An attendee added that EM technology is evolving very fast, and that their staff constantly learning, and they may not need to attend a training course. They are not against IATTC training some EM analysts, but they prefer this not to be a condition for them to use EM in the future. The IATTC staff clarified that they don't train everyone in every language and that beyond training for basic competence, the emphasis is on standardization across all programs, regardless of how much knowledge or experience a given EM review center might already have.
- Lastly, a participant mentioned that training and materials prepared by IATTC staff are typically very helpful and of high quality, and thus well-suited to facilitate standardization of requirements and data standards across national programs.

Staff Recommendation: ***Make EM data generation automatic and user-friendly to expedite EM analysis and directly include information in EM data or reports***.

Staff Recommendation: ***Any activity identified by the cameras should automatically include, at a minimum, location, date, and time stamps***.

- A participant said that these recommendations are common sense. However, they think the language is too strong as it is uncertain these could be 100% accomplished, and these would not make much sense in their implementation. The staff recognized that these recommendations could be revised taken the comment into consideration to more flexible.

Staff Recommendation: ***Develop software with built-in error and cross-checking procedures and digital measuring tools, as well as review routines to flag potential errors***.

Staff Recommendation: ***EM data should be consistent and comparable, regardless the EM program or review center that generated it and must be generated and reported using standard protocols and procedures***.

- A participant mentioned these error checking routines should be optional. They already have tests performed and the suppliers have identified bugs and bug identification software. For the second recommendation, the flag state should provide EM data in a standard format, but it is not necessary that databases are compatible especially since analysis will be done by flag state authorities.
- An attendee wondered whether the IATTC is developing a built-in error check software, or are the countries. The staff replied that they are not developing this software, but they make recommendations to the service providers.
- Other expressed that some clarification is needed on what coverage percentage would it be for EM and for human observers, and if there would be a required increase in coverage, the country should decide what is for human observers and how much for EM. Additionally, he said that all EM analyses should be done by CPC's EM review center.
- A participant expressed that the EM data standardization needs to reflect what the Secretariat needs, not what some CPCs want to provide. It also needs to be compatible so as not to overburden Secretariat with work, but provide the staff with usable good quality, standardized EM data, similar to the arrangement with current national observer programs for purse-seine vessels. This remark was seconded by another attendee, who also added that review routines for EM analysis are necessary, and standards need to be defined for providing the EM data information.

Staff Recommendation: ***Standardized species-specific length-weight and weight-number conversion factors, based on peer-reviewed research results and/or empirical data, should be developed and agreed upon, and updated as necessary***.

- There was a general support to this recommendation. Some even noted that this effort goes beyond of the scope of EM and applies to data collected by human observers.
- A participant suggested the recommendation be edited to read: "*Standard factors for conversions should be developed by the staff and approved by Commission*".

Staff Recommendation: ***Standard formats should be used for generating EM data fields (e.g. dates as DDMMYY, latitude and longitude in decimal units) and creating resulting EM data files (e.g. csv, accdb, xlsx)***.

- The only comment offered expressed total support of this recommendation, stressing its importance.

Staff Recommendation: ***EM records should be submitted to the EM review center within 30 days of the end of the corresponding trip***.

- An attendee felt that this recommendation should not specify deadline times here. EM records should be sent to the EM review center as soon as possible, as it gives more flexibility among

members. Additionally, the trip definition for longliners is different among members, so there will be need to clarify this.

- Based on comments received and internal discussion, IATTC staff have revised this draft recommendation to reflect the different situations that may arise regarding transmission of EM records to IATTC. The new draft text reads as follows:

- ***Where the Commission has identified the need for IATTC staff or contractors to review and process of EM records, including their conversion into EM data, these records should be transmitted to the IATTC Secretariat within 30-days following the end of a trip. Flag CPCs should also ensure that owners and operators may provide EM records immediately upon request where the Commission has established the obligation of such provision in the framework of the IATTC EMS program.***

Staff Recommendation: ***EM data should be submitted following a system similar to the AIDCP or other IATTC procedures, where EM programs submit purse-seine and longline data to the IATTC annually, in March and June, respectively, of the following year***.

- A confusion emerged regarding to whether EM data implies that the CPC sends the hard drive with raw information or does CPC have to review the information and then submit it. The staff clarified this inquiry and explained that this recommendation is exclusively for EM data, to be submitted on annual basis: in March and June of the following year for purse-seine and longlines, respectively. There is no need to be sent on hard drives because it is already distilled, analyzed, and encrypted data.

- Another participant mentioned that an annual EM data submission to the IATTC is adequate to ensure compatibility with other Commission data submission procedures, such as those carried out in the AIDCP and other IATTC programs. A second participant, also agreed with this statement.

Staff Recommendation: ***EM records and data should be submitted via a dedicated cloud-based portal. The portal should be as user-friendly and automated as possible, and include quality control (e.g. format checking, error flagging) procedures, as well as automatic reminders for the timely submission of EM data and records***.

- Different opinions were expressed on this recommendation. Some stating that EM data should be submitted through the flag CPCs.

- Another attendee felt that this recommendation would only work for a centralized EMS, but not for EM national programs, they should not send the large amount of data to the Secretariat. Additionally, they suggested to remove the term 'EM records', since uploading such a high volume of information is not only practical, but costly. The staff concurred that this bifurcation is depending on whether there is a centralized repository or if the CPCs are submitting on their own, as well as the final goal and scope of the EPO EMS.

- A third participant wondered what is the type of information requested in this recommendation is about EM records and/or EM data. The staff replied that it could be also EM records (if required) based on the 4th recommendation on the institutional structure), but also clarified that EM data should be only submitted through the cloud, given the current actual costs.

Appendix 1

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4c. Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Working Group

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING

2ND MEETING (RESUMED)

Panama City, Panama
27 August 2024

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

		Documents
1.	Opening of the meeting	
2.	Adoption of the agenda	
3.	Review of the results of the 6th and last Electronic Monitoring (EM) Workshop and of the 1st meeting of the EMS Working Group	
4.	Review of draft minimum standards for EMS in the Antigua Convention area	
5.	Other business	
6.	Venue, format, and timing of next meeting of the EM Working Group	
7.	Adjournment	

APPENDIXES

1.	List of attendees	
	RESOLUTIONS	
2.	Resolution on EMS Interim Minimum Standards	C-24-09

The second meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Electronic Monitoring of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was held in two parts. The first part was held remotely on 23-25 April 2024, and the second part, or resumed session, was held in Panama City, Panama, on 27 August 2024; the meeting was adjourned on 1 September 2024.

Opening of the meeting

The first part of the meeting was chaired by Co-Chairs Mr. Guillermo Morán and Ms. Celia Barroso, and the second part of the meeting was chaired by Mr. Morán and Mr. Colin Brinkman, who replaced Ms. Barroso.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes.

Review of the results of the 6th and last Electronic Monitoring (EM) Workshop and of the 1st meeting of the EMS Working Group

Regarding the 6th Workshop on an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS), Mr. Brad Wiley of the Secretariat of the Commission, in his capacity as Chair of these workshops, informed that this sixth and last workshop was held on 13-15 December by videoconference. The report of the workshop is available on the IATTC website: 6th Workshop of an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS)-Discussion Summary.

With regard to the first meeting of the Electronic Monitoring Working Group (EMWG), the Co-Chairs reported that it had been held in La Jolla, California, on 27 and 28 November 2023. The EMWG agreed that the Co-Chairs would prepare a draft work plan for consideration by the EMWG at future meetings. It also recommended a virtual meeting in April 2024 and an in-person meeting in August 2024, in conjunction with the IATTC annual meeting. It was agreed that the Co-Chairs would provide draft interim minimum standards for consideration by the EMWG at the April 2024 virtual meeting (2nd meeting of the EMWG), where the EMWG would develop draft recommendations on interim minimum standards.

The Co-Chairs also reported that the draft EM minimum standards had been presented in the first part of the second meeting of the EMWG and that progress had been made in their revision and it was expected that the review would be completed at the resumed session.

Review of draft minimum standards for EMS in the Antigua Convention area

The EMWG continued its review of the minimum standards for two days and concluded its review on 1 September and decided to submit the document as a resolution to the 102nd IATTC meeting for final approval.

Finally, the IATTC approved the document as Resolution C-24-09 (Appendix 2).

Other business

No other business was discussed.

Venue, format, and timing of next meeting of the EM Working Group

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. Panama City time on 1 September 2024.

4d. Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch

INTERAMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

2ND MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH

2nd MEETING

La Jolla, California, USA
5- 6 June 2024

BRIEF REPORT OF THE MEETING

The 2nd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch was held in La Jolla, California (USA) on June 5 and 6, 2024. It was co-chaired by Dr. Yonat Swimmer, and Mr. Manuel Correia, in their capacity as co-chairs of the working group. The list of participants is included in Annex 1.

The meeting agenda that was adopted without changes is attached as Annex 2.

The list of documents presented and discussed during the meeting can be consulted on the website of the 8th meeting of the Working Group, as well as the corresponding presentations.

Meeting documents:

- EB-02-01 - Ecosystem considerations
- EB-02-02 - Review of T-RFMO Ecosystem research to inform a workplan on EcoCards for the EPO
- EB-02-03 - Workplan towards the adoption of best handling and release practices for vulnerable species In IATTC fisheries
- SAC-15-09 - Sharks species under the purview of the IATTC
- SAC-15-10 - Shark sampling program
- SAC-15-11 - Best handling and release practice guidelines for sharks
- SAC-15-12 - Climate change workplan for the IATTC

Presentaciones:

- EB-02-01 Ecosystem Considerations EN
- EB-02-02 Review of t-RFMO ecosystem research to inform a workplan on EcoCards EN
- EB-02-03 Workplan towards the adoption of best handling and release practices for vulnerable species In IATTC fisheries EN
- Influence of environmental variability on the distribution of silky sharks EN
- Informing the spatial management of Silky shark EN
- Inputs for Multispecies Fisheries Bycatch MSE EN
- Mobulid ray sorting grids EN
- New Best Release Practice Guidelines PS EN
- Post release survival of mobulid rays in purse seine fisheries EN
- Progress in addressing key research to inform Mobulid ray conservation in the Pacific Ocean EN
- Relative efficacies of branchline weighting designs at mitigating seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries EN
- SAC-15-09 and 10 Development of a Draft list of shark species under the purview of the IATTC EN
- SAC-15-11 Best handling and release practice guidelines for sharks EN

- SAC-15-12 Climate change workplan for the IATTC EN
- Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Experiments EN
- Spatio-temporal distribution of large of large pelagic fishes in the EPO EN

As a result of the group's work, several recommendations were agreed upon and are published on the Working Group meeting website as document EB-02 Recommendations adopted by the working group as well as an Annex 3.

It is expected that the 3rd meeting of the ecosystem and bycatch working group will take place in June 2025 at the time of the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Annex 1
Participants List

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Annex 2

AGENDA

1. **Opening of the meeting**
2. **Adoption of the agenda**
3. **Review of recommendations from the 1st meeting of the Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group (EBWG)**
   a. Brief discussion on circle hook size to resolve C-19-04 (Co-Chairs)
4. **Updates on Ecosystem and Bycatch Activities**
5. **Ecosystem**

a1. Ecosystem considerations report (L. Fuller, IATTC Staff) EB-02-01

a.2 Review of t-RFMO ecosystem research to inform a workplan on EcoCards for the EPO (L. Fuller, IATTC Staff) EB-02-02

a.3. Inputs for holistic bycatch management strategy evaluation (E. Gilman, Blue Ocean Institute)

a.4. Spatio-temporal distribution of the richness of large pelagic fishes in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (Buenfil-Avila, Aura et al, Instituto Politécnico Nacional-CICIMAR, Mexico).

5.b. Climate Change

b.1. A climate change workplan for the IATTC (D. Crear, IATTC Staff) SAC-15-12

5.c. Eslamobranchs

c.1 Lista de especies de tiburones de competencia de la CIAT (re: Res C-23-07) (SAC 15-09, S. Griffiths, personal de la CIAT)

c.2. Modelo conceptual del tiburón sedoso (B. Talwar, The Nature Conservancy y Scripps Institution of Oceanography de UCSD)

c.3 Avances en la conservación de Mobúlidos: un proyecto en colaboración con la flota de EE. UU. (Moreno/Cronin, ISSF)

c.4 Efecto de la variabilidad ambiental en la distribución del tiburón sedoso (Carcharhinus falciformis) capturado en el océano Pacífico oriental. (M. Martinez et al., Instituto Politécnico Nacional-CICIMAR, Mexico)

5.d. Seabirds

d.1. Synthesizing a network of evidence on a seabird bycatch mitigation measure prescribed by regional fisheries management organizations (M. Chaloupka & E. Gilman, Blue Ocean Institute)

d.2. Seabird bycatch mitigation trials in U.S. Pacific Ocean longline fisheries (A. Ishizaki-West Pac Fish Mgt Council, US)

5.e. Best practices

e.1. Best handling and releasing practices: roadmap for vulnerable species (EB 02-03, M. Hutchinson, IATTC Staff) SAC-15-11

e.2. Best handling and release practices for sharks in IATTC fisheries (re: Res C-23-07) (SAC 15-11, M. Hutchinson, IATTC Staff) EB-02-03

e.3. Selective sorting grids for improved best handling and release practices of large mobulid rays in tropical tuna purse seiners (J. Murua, AZTI, ISSF, Duke Univ.)

e.4. Updated best handling and release practice guidelines for vulnerable species in tropical tuna purse seine fisheries (J. Murua, AZTI, ISSF).

e.5. Mobulid post-release survival in purse seine fisheries: Implications for best handling and release practices (J. Stewart, The Manta Trust)

6. **Recommendations to the Scientific Advisory Committee**

7. **Other business**
8. **Adjournment**

Annex 3

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

WORKING GROUP ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH

2ND MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

05-06 June 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP

The EBWG recommends that:

2. Sea Turtles

2.1. A second circle hook workshop be conducted that will fulfill the mandate of paragraph 3(d)(i) of Res. C-19-04.

2.2. Advice be provided by the workshop on the impacts of fishing operations on the form and structure (i.e., longevity and integrity) of circle hooks of various sizes and from different manufacturers.

2.3. The workshop include development of a third mitigation measure as described in Paragraph 3(d)(iii) of C-19-04 for small coastal multi-species vessel fleets as well as best handling and release practices for sea turtles.

2. Mobulid Rays

2.4. The use of sorting grids be considered on purse seine vessels to mitigate impacts to Mobulid rays.

2.5. Captain workshops include training on the use of sorting grids and encourage their voluntary use.

2.6. The Commission endorse the Best Handling and Release Practices (BHRP) guideline development workplan for rays, and sorting grids be included in handling and release guidelines in resolution C-15-04 Annex 1, point 5 as another alternative for the release of rays.

4. Climate Change and EcoCards Workplans

4.1. The SAC and the Commission consider the further development of the proposed Climate Change and EcoCards Workplans, and encourage that this work be done in collaboration with expertise from other tuna RFMOs.

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4.2. Final workplan proposals be submitted to the Commission, along with proposed budgets.

3. Hammerhead Sharks

Considering the benefits of understanding the ecology and spatial population structure of target and bycatch species in various assessment efforts, including close-kin mark- recapture (CKMR) and conventional stock assessment, a conceptual model of life history, ecology, and spatial population structure be developed for three hammerhead sharks species *Sphyrna lewini, S. zygaena and S. mokarran* similar to the one described in Talwar et al. (2024; presentation EB-02 5.c.2) for silky shark.

5. Fleet Characteristics

The Staff, in coordination with the CPCs, develop and present to the Commission the results of a process to characterize and classify the longline fleets and their fisheries in the Convention Area, distinguishing their dynamics and differentiated impacts, as well as the catchability of species, whether directed, associated or incidental.

8. Meeting Process

The SAC and Commission consider that, in the Rules of Procedure, a provision be added to the effect that, while appreciating the improvements introduced in the dynamics of the meetings of the SAC and related working groups, meeting documents and presentations should be made available through posting on the Commission web site at least 2 weeks before the start of the corresponding cycle of meetings, in both Spanish and English

9. Seabirds

The below described Seabird Action Plan (see Annex 1) be adopted, with the understanding that an intersessional meeting will be held prior to the third meeting of the EBWG.

10. Shark species list

8.1. For the purposes of Art VII, paragraph f) of the Antigua Convention, the preliminary list of 19 species of sharks presented by the IATTC Staff be adopted [see attached], understanding that this list is based upon species of interest due to their interactions and catchability associated with fisheries under IATTC management.

8.2. The SAC consider the inclusion in the list of:

- the crocodile shark, *Pseudocarcharias kamohari*;
- rays, manta rays and mobulas of interest.

Annex 1
Seabird Action Plan
(with timeline)

2024:

5. IATTC Scientific Staff will conduct a seabird assessment for presentation at the EBWG in 2025, including but not limited to:
   e. Comparison between C-11-02 and mitigation measures in other tRFMOs.
   f. Update of [SAR-7-05b]: spatial distributions of seabird species in the IATTC Convention Area, including any geographic hotspots for these species, overlap with LL fishing effort, and conservation statuses
   g. Overview of mitigation measures in use by CPCs in the IATTC Convention Area as required in paragraph 5 of C-11-02. This should account for all CPCs, including any that may have vessels fishing in areas where bycatch mitigation measures are not required.
   h. Summary of observed and estimated seabird bycatch rates in the IATTC Convention Area, including geographic information where possible, noting that data are limited.

2025:

6. At the 2025 EBWG, the IATTC Scientific Staff will present the results of its assessment for discussion by CPCs.

7. Between EBWG 2025 and the 2025 IATTC plenary, interested CPCs will coordinate intersessionally on a draft proposal updating C-11-02.

Proposed sponsors will present the updated seabird proposal for adoption at the 103rd meeting of the IATTC in 2025.

Annex 2
List of shark species

	Family / Familia	Species / nombre científico	Common name	Nombre común
1	Alopiidae	Alopias pelagicus	Pelagic thresher	Zorro pelágico
2	Alopiidae	*Alopias superciliosus*	Bigeye thresher	Zorro ojón
3	Alopiidae	*Alopias vulpinus*	Common thresher	Tiburón zorro pinto
4	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus brachyurus*	Copper shark	Tiburón cobrizo
5	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	Silky shark	Tiburón sedoso
6	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus galapagensis*	Galapagos shark	Tiburón de Galápagos
7	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus longimanus*	Oceanic whitetip shark	Tiburón punta blanca oceánico
~~8~~	~~Lamnidae~~	~~*Carcharodon carcharias*~~	~~Great white shark~~	~~Jaquetón blanco~~
~~9~~	~~Cetorhinidae~~	~~*Cetorhinus maximus*~~	~~Basking shark~~	~~Peregrino~~
10	Galeocerdonidae	*Galeocerdo cuvier*	Tiger shark	Tintorera tigre
11	Lamnidae	*Isurus oxyrinchus*	Shortfin mako shark	Mako de aleta corta
12	Lamnidae	*Isurus paucus*	Longfin mako shark	Marrajo carite
13	Lamnidae	*Lamna ditropis*	Salmon shark	Marrajo salmón
14	Lamnidae	*Lamna nasus*	Porbeagle shark	Marrajo sardinero
15	Carcharhinidae	*Prionace glauca*	Blue shark	Tiburón azul
16	Rhincodontidae	*Rhincodon typus*	Whale shark	Tiburón ballena
17	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna lewini*	Scalloped hammerhead shark	Cornuda común
18	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna mokarran*	Great hammerhead	Cornuda gigante
19	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna zygaena*	Smooth hammerhead shark	Cornuda cruz
The species below was recommended by 2nd_EBWG			***La siguiente especie fue recomendada por el 2do_EBWG***	
20	Pseudocarchariidae	*Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*	Crocodile shark	Tiburón cocodrilo

4e. Report of the 8th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs

INTERAMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

8TH MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FADS

8th MEETING

La Jolla, California, USA
7- 8 June 2024

BRIEF REPORT OF THE MEETING

The 8th meeting of the IATTC ad hoc Permanent Working Group on FADs was held in La Jolla, California, USA on June 7 and 8, 2024. It was chaired by Dr. Josu Santiago, in his capacity as president of the working group. The list of participants is included in annex 1.
The meeting agenda that was adopted without changes and is attached as annex 2.

The list of documents presented and discussed during the meeting is included and can be consulted on the website of the 8th meeting of the working group, as well as the corresponding presentations.

Meeting documents:

- FAD-08-01 - Floating object fishery indicators a 2023 report
- FAD-08-02-Echosounder buoy derived tropical tuna biomass indices in the EPO
- FAD-08-03-Exploring technologies for remote identification of FADs-project report

Presentations:

- 1.3 Introduction to 8th working Group on FADs EN
- 4.1 Update on BIODEGRADABLE dFADS EN
- 4.2. Implementation Progress about ECOFADS TUNACONS
- 4.3. Final results of the jelly-FAD performance EN
- 4.4. Transitioning to Bio-FADs Ongoing Trials with Jelly-FADs by fleets in the western and eastern Pacific Ocean EN
- 4.5. Testing of new compostable materials for the construction of dFAD EN
- 4.6. Biodegradable FAD Lifetimes Impacts and Adaptations EN
- 5.1 FAD data reporting established in Resolutions C-21-04 and C-19-01 EN
- 6.2. Echosounder buoy derived tropical tuna biomass indices in the EPO EN
- 7.1. Workshop on FAD retrieval EN
- 7.2. Update on FAD Strandings Data Collection EN
- FAD-08-01 Floating object fishery indicators - 2023 report EN
- FAD-08-02 Echosounder buoy derived tropical tuna biomass indices in the EPO EN
- FAD-08-03 Exploring technologies for remote identification of FADs-project report EN

As a result of the group's work, several recommendations were agreed upon that are published on the website of the Working Group meeting as document FAD-08 Recommendations adopted by the working group and included as Annex 3.

It is expected that the 9th meeting of the FAD working group will be held in June during the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Annex 1
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Annex 2

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Review of recommendations from the 7th meeting of the FAD Working Group
4. Advances on biodegradable FADs in the EPO
5. FAD data reporting established in Resolution C-19-01 and C-21-04
6. FAD fishery indicators
7. Initiatives to reduce impacts of FADs fishing
8. Conclusions and recommendations
9. Other business
10. Adjournment

Annex 3

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

AD-HOC PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FADS

8TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
07-08 June 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP

Consistent with its terms of reference established in Resolution C-19-01, Annex III, **the Ad Hoc Permanent Working Group on FADs**, in reporting to the Scientific Advisory Committee on the results of its 8th meeting, and in the framework of the process of coordination with that Committee and with the scientific staff in the identification and review of feasible FAD management measures, as a preliminary step prior to the presentation of recommendations to the Commission, **wishes to recommend that:**

3. On biodegradable FADs

1.10. The investigation of new more durable materials for the construction of biodegradable FADs be continued, taking into account their economic viability and availability.
1.11. The current FAD designs be modified to reduce the amount and the fraction of synthetic materials used in their construction, before requirements of Resolution C-23-04 enter into force.
1.12. The process of data collection on prototypes of biodegradable FADs be improved, to help in the analysis of the efficiency, duration, and correct classification by category of biodegradable FADs.
1.13. The exchange of information obtained in biodegradable FADs trials among scientists, companies, managers from different fleets, CPCs and RFMOs be promoted, to advance in unison and faster in the objectives of the Commission.
1.14. The scientific staff analyse the potential effect of the transition towards the implementation of 100% biodegradable FADs on possible changes in the fleet fishing strategies.
1.15. Fishing companies in cooperation with IATTC and relevant scientific institutions prepare guides and workshops for the correct handling and use of biodegradable FADs for fishers with the objective to minimize the wear and breakdown of this type of FADs.

1.16. Given the low amount of deployed experimental FADs that are visited, that fleets continue deploying experimental biodegradable FADs on a greater scale, and in a systematic manner, to meet the requirements of the Resolution C-23-04, taking into account the limits established in C-21-04.
1.17. The scientific staff study the working lifespan of conventional and biodegradable FADs to evaluate the real needs of the fleet and the possible effects of the implementation of biodegradable FADs in the fishing operation.
1.18. The scientific staff conduct studies on the working lifetime of conventional and biodegradable FADs at the Pacific Ocean scale, promoting to that end the collaboration among researchers who work in both regions of the Pacific.

4. On data collection

2.5. The IATTC scientific staff analyse in more detail the information of buoy data, such as activations and deactivations, and propose adjustments to the format of the data provided to improve the utility of the data to achieve the conservation objectives of the Commission.

2.6. The IATTC staff provide feedback to CPCs, representatives of their relevant fleets and buoy service providers that are incorrectly providing buoy data so that the issue can be corrected as early as possible and in general terms pedagogy in the information reporting promoted.

2.7. IATTC organize workshops with CPCs, fishing companies, captains, crew and buoy providers to present the correct reporting protocols for buoy data and to clarify the differences between deactivated FADs reported as "signal loss" which may in fact be "temporarily during closure periods; and that these workshops be used also to collect first-hand and direct information on the dynamics of the fishery.

2.8. Regarding the need to submit buoy files per ship, the IATTC consider revising Annex IV of Resolution C-21-04 to specify that the files be generated preferably by vessel.

4. On FAD fishery indicators

3.3. Fishing companies and buoy providers, to the extent possible, make available to the IATTC and CPCs the historical acoustic buoy information to avoid losing data received by original users, including both trajectories and biomass information, of enormous value for science, and in particular stock assessment.

3.4. To the extent possible, data from all buoy providers be incorporated in studies of estimation of indices of abundance, in order to increase the number of observations incorporating a larger number of vessels, FADs and fishing strategies.

4. On the impact of FADs

2. IATTC staff continue to analyse stranding events and activation/deactivation data to develop future options for at-sea recovery of FADs.
2. The Commission adopt the data form in Appendix 4 in FAD-07 INF-A to facilitate reporting on FAD recoveries as described in paragraph 4 of Resolution C-23-03 and the harmonization with the data of the WCPFC to facilitate Pacific-wide collaboration.

4. Vessel owners be encouraged to participate in FAD retrieval programs.

5. Cooperation of coastal communities be promoted in projects to identify, report to IATTC and recover stranded FADs.
6. The utilization of appropriate technologies be considered, such as those described in document FAD-08-08, or similar others, for the development of sensors transmitting the FAD buoys' serial number and other applications related with other fishing activities that require remote and automatic data collection.

4f. Report of the 11th Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

11TH MEETING

Panama City, Panama

28 August 2024

MEETING REPORT

AGENDA

		Documents
1.	Opening of the meeting	
2.	Adoption of the agenda	
3.	Review of the financial audit report	
	3a. Review of the formula for the financial calculation of contributions	
4.	Review of budgets for 2025 and 2026	
5.	Financial contributions of Members:	
	5a. Regular budget (Resolution C-15-05)	
	5b. Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building (Resolution C-14-03)	
	5c. Program to monitor transshipments at sea	
6.	Review and update of the financial regulations of the Commission	
7.	Other business	
8.	Recommendations to the Commission	
9.	Adjournment	

APPENDICES

The 11th meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance was held in Panama City, Panama, on 28 August 2024.

Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Rachael Wadsworth of the United States. She gave the floor to each of the delegations so that they could introduce themselves. Present in the room were Belize, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union, Guatemala, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela.

Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted with the introduction, at Guatemala's request, of a review of the proposed financial formula as item 3a. It was recalled that at the meeting in Victoria, Canada, in 2023, there were requests to change the application of the GNI portion for some countries, given the abrupt changes in contribution for some developing Members, which expressed their objection to the formula as a result of

the fact these requests were unsuccessful. They thus consider that this formula ceased to be in effect from the time of the objection.

Several delegations (Panama, El Salvador and Guatemala) began discussion on the fact that the CAF meeting report should reflect the objections to the funding formula, and the minutes of the 101st meeting of the IATTC should be amended because the objection was raised at that meeting. There was no consensus for the CAF to recommend making amendments to the minutes of the 101st plenary meeting of the IATTC.

These countries recalled that, during the meeting in Victoria, Canada, in 2023, several Members expressed concern over the application of the current contribution formula contained in Resolution C-15-05, as some Members had jumped two GNI categories in one year, significantly increasing their annual contribution.

Review of the financial audit report

The audit results were presented by a consultant from the auditing firm Moss Adams, starting with the governance communication and the financial statements.

Guatemala noted that this was the first time an oral presentation by the consultant of the audit report was provided with an informative letter and asked whether this letter was usually part of the report. In response, it was informed that these documents were standard and this was done every year to report any important matters that should be emphasized. It was mentioned that there was a need to conduct these oral presentations by the consultant in the future highlight any relevant recommendations.

Likewise, the Guatemalan delegation asked if audit of the AIDCP financial statements was carried out separately and inquired as to the suitability of switching to a separate accounting system for proper internal control.

The consultant confirmed that the audit is comprehensive as it is a single entity of which the AIDCP is a part. He also noted that the accounting system is separate and that the same standards are applied to audit the whole entity. He offered advice if Members wished to introduce separate accounting, but this would involve additional work.

Based on the consultant's explanation, Colombia expressed concern about having two separate legal instruments and only one accounting, and also mentioned that there was no clear separation of cash management between the AIDCP and the IATTC.

The consultant explained that there are in fact two separate accountings and noted that, from an audit point of view, it is not easy to extract funds independently without having fund accounting in place.

Guatemala thanked the consultant for his presentation of the audit report, as it was the first time it had been presented at the Finance Committee meeting, and noted that it was very informative and confirmed that the AIDCP is a legal instrument with separate governance and that the Secretariat is required to keep separate accounting.

The consultant proceeded to present the communication on internal control where he pointed out the following deficiencies and recommendations:

- The Senior Administrator has administrator rights to the accounting software and recommend that they be limited so that only IT has administrator rights, and all requests for user access level changes go through written authorization process.
- We recommend management develop a process in which they compare its revenue recognition journal entries to the cumulative balance in contractual revenue, per contract, alongside its tracking of the required match. We understand management has already corrected the matter as of the date of this letter.
- The Commission does not currently have written policies for controls over the key cycles in the financial close and reporting process (Accounting Manual) that document procedures and controls

including the review by the Director of the Commission of the monthly financial statements and bank statements. We recommend that all policies be documented in writing.

- We recommend that the Commission review its current policies and provide any suggested changes to the Commissioners for their review and consideration. We believe it is in the Commission's best interest to formalize its policy covering transactions and relationships that could involve potential conflicts-of-interest. Included should be a policy in which the Commissioners avoid situations where their personal interests could conflict with, or appear to conflict with, the interest of the Commission. The policy should provide for annual statements for Commissioners certifying their compliances with the policy. These annual statements should be reviewed by top-level management and the Commissioners.

Guatemala thanked the consultant for the report and asked about the recommendations presented and whether they were new or had been reported previously; and then asked about the accounting manual and requested an explanation of the type of manual provided.

The consultant replied that several were repetitive, but not considered a material weakness. The auditor noted that the last financial regulations were received in 2008.

Belize also expressed appreciation for the audit report, noting that on page 14 it was stated that there was an outstanding balance of contributions of approximately US$5.6 million, of which, for example, in the case of Venezuela, there was an outstanding balance from 2017, and requested clarification on the updated status of these payments.

The consultant mentioned that the Commission would be the appropriate body to answer this question.

The United States brought to the consultant's attention within the Internal Control Letter within the IT section and requested clarification of the statement *"…In addition, the Commission is a smaller organization with a limited number of transactions which increases the likelihood that unauthorized transactions would go undetected through other mitigating controls such as review of the financial statements…"*

The consultant confirmed that there was an error within the text, noting that the number of transactions would *decrease*, not *increase*, the likelihood of unauthorized transactions would go undetected and would provide the Commission with a corrected version of the report.

Guatemala requested to receive the corrected document.

The Director interceded by stating that management has taken steps toward resolving the recommendations listed within the internal control memo by:

1) Revoking the Senior Administrator's access as an administrator within the accounting system, limiting it to the IT staff.
2) Although a formal written accounting manual is not available, a series of written documentation of accounting procedures to be utilized in compiling the manual.
3) Finally, there is a written conflict of interest policy that we have discussed with our scientists.

The Chair pointed out the necessity and importance of following up on the audit recommendations and the lunch break took place.

Guatemala accepted the auditor's report and mentioned that it wanted to initiate the discussion on the preparation of the financial statements. It also accepted the recommendations in the report on internal controls and proposed that the Committee endorse it, mentioning that the most important thing is to ensure that the IATTC and AIDCP accounts are accounted for separately and that the Director provide an update on the status of the recommendations made by this audit.

Guatemala also asked for clarification on the responsibility of the IATTC in regard to the International

Pension Fund deficit of approximately US$ 2.475 million.

The Director explained that the AIDCP accounting is handled separately but using the same accounting system, and that the bank accounts are kept independently and with different banks.

The Director asked Ms. Roa, Senior Administrator Officer, to explain how the cash is handled and she gave a presentation detailing the various accounts and the staff who handles each one.

She also explained the status of the Pension Fund, presented the actuarial report and indicated that the report prepared by the Chair of the Pension Fund would be translated and sent out after the meetings.

Guatemala noted that it would be positive to follow the progress made by AIDCP members in creating an *Ad Hoc* Working Group, which determined the terms of reference for hiring a specialist and invited the Chair of the AIDCP to convene the CAF to work jointly to strengthen the finances of this organization.

The Chair asked Ms. Roa, Senior Administrator Officer, to present the proposals of the four auditors for consideration by the Members.

Colombia asked to have the information on the proposals from audit firms in both languages and in a comparative table, which was seconded by Guatemala and Ecuador. After a long discussion, the CAF was unable to reach a consensus to continue using the existing auditor, Moss Adams, or to select one of the four auditors based on the proposals provided by the Secretariat. Further information was requested about the cost of a new audit by Moss Adams for 2025, in order to compare this with the other auditors' proposals.

3a. Review of the formula for the financial calculation of contributions

This agenda item began with a presentation by the Director of proposals IATTC-102 F-1(VAR) and IATTC-102 F-2 (CAN).

It was recalled that two proposals had been submitted to amend the existing formula:

Proposal by Canada. This proposal recognizes the financial pressures that significant jumps in contributions from year to year can have on Members and offers an alternative to the GNI "categories" to apply a Member's GNI in the contribution formula: the use of a factor model. The factor model method could mitigate significant increases in Member contributions from year to year, such as those experienced in recent years using the GNI category model.

Proposal by Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru. This proposes a change in the formula with variations in a) broadening the factors, increasing the categories to 7, to ensure an appropriately proportional contribution to the country indexes, b) revising the figures that determine the limits of the ranges, and c) using a five-year average of GNI instead of an annual update. In terms of validity, the measure is assumed to be stable for 3 years with automatic extensions under the same scheme as the measure being amended.

No progress was made in consensus agreements for this formula, so the Committee decided to refer it to the meeting of the Commission.

Various scenarios requested by Members were presented, including the original formula, with examples showing how these proposals would be applied and how they would be reflected in each Member's contributions.

Review of budgets for 2025 and 2026

Senior Administrator Ms. Nora Roa presented the budget for 2025, explaining the accounting system in detail and indicating that all expenses were recorded by category, project, and source of funds. After careful review of the requested budget for 2025, the anticipated necessary budget is **US$ 9,656,897**, reflecting a 1.8% increase over the approved budget for 2024. Similarly, the projected budget for 2026 is US$ 9,257,691.

Mexico and Panama spoke to stress that they were unable to accept contributions greater than those of 2024.

Guatemala asked Mexico if it was unable to increase its contribution with respect to the previous year's amount or the amount resulting from the new formula. Mexico clarified that it could not increase the 2024 amount. The main comments made in this part of the discussion on the budget were as follows:

- An explanation of the pension fund is needed in a clear document.
- Consideration should be given to the possibility of holding mostly virtual meetings to save resources.
- To use the 2024 budget for 2025, plus inflation.
- To clearly identify the items that would be left out of this budget, which would be equivalent to that of 2024, in the implementation of the projects already identified.
- To identify additional funding for the budget.
- The budget proposed by the Secretariat is acceptable, but the problem is seeing how this funding will be raised. It is concerning that the Committee on Administration and Finance has not found another avenue to obtain this funding.
- A request was made to the Secretariat for a monthly exercise or report to track spending.

Considering the above comments, the Chair noted that she had so far recorded support for the requested budget amount, and the pending issue would be to determine how contributions would be split between Members to cover this budget.

After intense discussion and with no agreement reached, the Working Group decided to submit the requested budget amount (**US$ 9,656,897)** for the consideration of the Commission.

5. Financial contributions of Members

a) Regular budget (Resolution C-15-05)

Ms. Nora Roa, of the IATTC staff, reported that as of 31 July 2024, there were outstanding contributions totaling US$ 6,979,201. This amount includes arrears owed by Venezuela (US$ 1,930,325), Panama (US$ 1,811,132), Ecuador (US$ 1,679,744), Mexico (US$ 1,155,833), Colombia (US$ 282,309), Guatemala (US$ 75,356), and Kiribati (US$ 44,452).

Colombia stated that the outstanding payment was the result of a delay due to processing issues and that it would pay soon. Panama indicated that it was in the process of making payments in accordance with the established schedule. Ecuador reported that payment was being processed.

b) Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building (Resolution C-14-03)

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, of the Commission staff, presented Document CAF-11-02, Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building, established by Resolution C-14-03. He reported that the balance of the fund stood at US$ 522,159 as of 31 July 2024.

The activities planned and approved to be carried out with resources from the Fund for 2023 and 2024 were only partially implemented due to workloads and the number of meetings held in 2023 and 2024. For the remainder of 2024 and for 2025, the following activities are planned to be carried out using resources from the Fund:

- Second training workshop: Introduction to methods used in tropical tuna stock assessments. (A first workshop will be carried out following the annual meeting of the IATTC in Panama. Similarly, a second workshop is planned in 2025.)
- Training seminar/workshop on sea turtle mitigation techniques pursuant to Resolution C-19-04.
- Training seminars for port inspections pursuant to Resolution C-21-07.

- Annual IATTC scholarship for scientific capacity building in developing CPCs (three-month visit to the IATTC offices).
- Participation of representatives of developing Members in the annual meeting of the IATTC and its subsidiary bodies.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission the approval of these activities.

c) Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution C-22-03)

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, of the Commission staff, presented the document Regional observer program for transshipments at sea. His presentation was focused on the financial component of the program, since all operational aspects had been presented at the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, while the compliance component would be submitted for the consideration of the Review Committee.

He reported that a budget of US$ 1,000,000 was requested for 2025, to be divided as follows: a contribution of US$ 800,000 payable by the participants in the program and split between them according to the agreed formula; the remainder (US$ 200,000) would be covered with the accumulated surplus, thus maintaining a contingency fund of approximately US$ 400,000.

The Committee agreed to recommend that the IATTC approve the requested budget, with the division of contributions and use of the existing surplus as described.

6. Review and update of the financial regulations of the Commission

This agenda item to review the financial regulations was deferred due to a lack of time to review or discuss the document. The CAF felt that this agenda item was too important to rush for lack of time, so it was deferred.

7. Other business

No other business was discussed.

8. Recommendations to the Commission

The Committee agreed to submit the following recommendations to the Commission:

8. To consider and adopt the recommendations made by the auditing firm Moss Adams, contained in the letters addressed to the Commissioners "Communications on matters related to internal control issues" and "Communications to those charged with governance," both dated 12 August 2024, taking note that the conflict-of-interest recommendation should be applicable to the employees of the Commission and not the Commissioners.
9. To charge the Director with implementing, as the Commission considers feasible and appropriate, the recommendations issued by the auditor, listed in the preceding paragraph, and to report back to the Commissioners and the Chair on progress. When appropriate, call intersessional meetings of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) to analyze these recommendations and related matters and advise the Commission.
10. To instruct the CAF to evaluate, in coordination with the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Financial Strengthening of the AIDCP, the findings and recommendations of the "Consultancy to Evaluate the Budgetary and Financial Instruments, Rules, Tools and Financial, Accountancy and Budgetary Practices Observed in the AIDCP," including the IATTC in the scope of this evaluation and advise the Commission on appropriate actions in response to these findings and recommendations.
11. To request that the Director include, in the Annual Results and Budgets Report to the CAF, the allocation table showing the proportion of Secretariat work time allocated to the AIDCP and IATTC, an explanation of how these allocations were made and how this informed the preparation of the line items for the corresponding budgets for this staff work time.

12. To submit for the consideration of the IATTC a 2025 budget for US$ 9,656,897.
13. On the special fund to support developing countries, it was agreed to recommend implementation of the activities contained in Section 5b) of this report for 2024-2025.
14. With respect to the observer program for transshipments at sea, to adopt for 2025 the budget contained in Section 5c) of this report.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m., Panama City time, on 6 September 2024.

4g.Report of the 25th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FLEET CAPACITY

25th MEETING

Panama City, Panama

29 August 2024

CHAIR'S REPORT

AGENDA

	Documents
11. Opening of the meeting 12. Adoption of the agenda 13. Review of changes in the utilization of fleet capacity in the EPO 14. Report of the Workshop on Management of Fleet Capacity in the Antigua Convention (Santa Marta) 15. Identification and consideration of pending issues related to the management and control of the capacity of the fleet 16. Review of pending capacity claims, disputes, adjustments, and requests according to the list presented at the 89th meeting of the IATTC and referred to in document CAP-17 INF-A REV (14 May 2016) 17. Recommendations to the Commission 18. Other business 19. Adjournment	CAP-25-01

The 25th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity was held in Panama City, Panama, on 29 August 2024.

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Julio César Guevara, opened the meeting and requested the appointment of a rapporteur. Panama offered the support of Ms. María Patricia Diaz, who took on the role of rapporteur. He provided a brief introduction regarding the informal meeting of the Fleet Capacity Working Group, which was held in conjunction with the Capacity Workshop in Santa Marta, Colombia. In that meeting, the participants had the opportunity to review the agenda for the current meeting. It was confirmed that a quorum was present to proceed with the meeting, with 16 Members in attendance. Each of these introduced themselves, along with representatives from various NGOs.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group adopted the agenda, noting that the following matters would be discussed under "Other business":

- Ecuador requested to address the case of a vessel that had not been included in the register in 2002, as well as another that requires an update to the register regarding its well capacity.
- Vanuatu requested the Chair to confirm the receipt of its request for well capacity and to discuss it under agenda item 6.

- Venezuela announced its intention to present a capacity resolution proposal at the plenary meeting of the Commission and requested to share it with the Working Group. Additionally, it asked the Secretariat for a list of vessels (without revealing their names) detailing their cubic meter capacities, metric tonnage, and the maximum landings achieved, which would support its proposal.

The Chair of the Group recalled that this matter was informally addressed during the meeting in Santa Marta, Colombia, at the capacity workshop. The Secretariat said that a graph was available that could be shown at the meeting.

3. Review of changes in the utilization of fleet capacity in the EPO

The Director of the IATTC, Dr. Arnulfo Franco, presented the situation of the capacity of the purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO, as described in Document CAP-25-01 - Review of changes in the utilization of fleet capacity in the EPO. After summarizing its evolution and the stages of its regulation by the resolutions adopted successively by the Commission since 1999, Dr. Franco pointed out that, as of 30 June 2024, the active purse-seine capacity in the Regional Vessel Register (RVR) is 279,071 m³. The capacity of inactive, sunken, or under-construction vessels stands at 9,149 m³, while the available capacity resulting from movements in the RVR is 14,643 m³, leading to a total potential capacity of 302,863 m³.

When Resolution C-02-03 came into effect in June 2002, the active capacity was 218,482 m³. The combined total of active and inactive capacity, including that referenced in paragraph 10 of the resolution, was 273,467 m³. Although the current operational capacity is below that level, this reflects an increase in total potential capacity of 29,396 m³. It is important to note that these figures do not fully account for the capacity requests mentioned in the footnote of the resolution, which were partially utilized by two of the three countries involved, Peru and Colombia, with the Commission's approval. It was indicated that there exists a potential capacity due to claims amounting to 52,667 m³, along with pending matters under dispute regarding administrative capacity management issues, new requests, and those established in accordance with the footnote of Resolution C-02-03.

Guatemala requested a review of the potential capacity mentioned in the previous points to clarify the figures, especially in light of a new request from a Cooperating non-Member. The Chair of the meeting asked the Director to reformulate the existing table concerning pending capacity allocations, distinguishing between those related to claims and other requests. It was stated that this would be ready for the next meeting of the group.

4. Report of the Workshop on Management of Fleet Capacity in the Antigua Convention (Santa Marta)

Dr. Arnulfo Franco reported that from 29 to 31 July 2024, a workshop on capacity management in the EPO was held in Santa Marta, Colombia. During this workshop, attendees had the opportunity to hear Dr. Dale Squires, the consultant, present his plan for fleet capacity management, which can be found on the IATTC website: Plan of Action for Management of Fleet Capacity in the IATTC.

After this brief introduction, the delegations were given the opportunity to share their comments regarding the plan and potential future activities. In this regard, numerous delegations expressed their concerns, which can be generally summarized as follows:

- The plan fundamentally comprises economic elements aimed at enhancing fleet production; however, it lacks provisions for the management of tuna resources and does not guarantee the sustainable management of the fishery.
- The plan suggests that fleet capacity is owned by private industries. Nevertheless, several countries argue that this capacity resides under government authority, which prevents the transfer of fishing rights from one vessel to another as indicated in the plan.
- Countries that currently lack available well volume capacity in accordance with Resolution C-02-03 would be excluded from the opportunity to participate in this plan.

- Current issues regarding requests for new capacity, disputes, or claims regarding capacity would not be resolved under this plan.
- Establishing a pilot program involving certain vessels, while allowing the rest to continue management primarily through the application of closure periods is very challenging. This is because a subset of vessels would be subject to closures while others would not, leading to significant risks for resource conservation and potentially requiring an increase in the number of closure days.
- The planned activities were not carried out, as the consultant's visits to the countries to meet with relevant tuna companies to discuss the viability of the plan and tailor it to the emerging needs and realities did not take place.
- It was noted that the plan has remained in a theoretical stage for several years, making it essential to decide whether to advance to a practical phase or to set it aside for the time being.
- It was pointed out that the work conducted by the consultant did not take into account the fishing rights established in Resolution C-02-03
- Multi-fleet companies may be able to apply and adapt to the system recommended by the consultant; however, those that do not have this status may not be able to do so.

The European Union, which provided financial resources for the study, inquired whether the Committee believed that the plan could progress or if it was time to seek alternative solutions. In this regard, the majority of delegations expressed that, unfortunately, it was difficult to continue the work in the absence of funding to proceed to a practical phase to carry out the exercise requested at the last IATTC meeting in Victoria, Canada.

Vanuatu requested that the issue of capacity be regarded as a national matter, as capacity is about the governance of a public good. The Chair recalled that capacity governance is the responsibility of each country, established through its own legislation.

Throughout the workshop, it was discussed that before supporting the continuation of a second phase of the consultancy, discrepancies must be resolved, new capacities that could entail an additional 50-day closure for the fleet operating in the EPO.

The Director indicated that the plan requires testing to ascertain its potential outcomes. The Working Group asked the scientific staff about the impact of having part of the fleet implement the pilot plan while the rest continue to apply current conservation measures. Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva noted that the scientific staff would continue to assess the resource conditions and, as always, would recommend management measures to ensure the sustainability of the resource.

Ecuador expressed its interest in continuing the work, suggesting that the focus should deepen on the relationship between the state and the industry, expanding the study to enhance insights and data. However, the United States, which had provided resources for the workshop in Colombia, reported that it no longer had funding available to support the continuation of the efforts.

The Chair noted that, with the exception of Ecuador, the remaining delegations believed that the uncertainties outweighed the certainties. Without the necessary adjustments to address the numerous outstanding aspects, there is no consensus to support the continuation of the consultant's work or the initiation of a pilot program, especially in the absence of an established protocol and methodology. Consequently, the Chair indicated that the Working Group's recommendation to the Commission will be that there is insufficient justification to continue with Dr. Dale Squires' study. However, it will await Ecuador's efforts to implement a pilot plan, with the understanding that such a plan will require the Commission's approval to proceed. El Salvador requested that the matter be presented to the Commission separately, clarifying that while the vast majority of Members do not see the feasibility of continuing work

based on Dr. Squires' proposal, Ecuador is interested in pursuing a pilot program that would build upon the study.

Finally, the Chair emphasized that the potential capacity is double the target capacity and urged the CPCs to explore alternative approaches for reducing fleet capacity. Recommendations from the Secretariat are anticipated for the next meeting, with an emphasis on collaborative efforts. The Chair also invited the CPCs to share any ideas that could assist the Secretariat in seeking options for capacity management.

5. Identification and consideration of pending issues related to the management and control of the capacity of the fleet

The Chair provided a verbal summary of an informal meeting held in Santa Marta, Colombia, during the Capacity Management Workshop. It was noted that discussions covered various capacity-related topics.

Venezuela indicated that at the annual IATTC meeting, it would present a resolution proposal addressing issues concerning the capacity of vessels recorded in the register, as well as the maximum amount of tuna landings, in order to assess their consistency and identify an appropriate stowage factor.

The Chair addressed the review of the current regulations, noting that some vessels utilize tunnels as freezing areas. Additionally, he raised concerns regarding sealed wells, emphasizing that these spaces should not be used for storing fish. He ultimately suggested developing a protocol to manage the increase in active capacity.

The United States requested that the Secretariat provide a list of vessels using freezing tunnels for fish storage. The Director stated that no such document currently exists, but indicated that it could be presented at the next meeting.

The European Union requested clarity in this information regarding the various uses of freezing tunnels for fish storage, including distinctions between sealed wells and the use of tunnels as storage areas, as well as the number of vessels involved in this matter.

The Director emphasized the need for the Secretariat to establish clear protocols and regulations for sealing wells, as well as for measuring the capacity of vessels when modifications are made in order to update their capacity in the Regional Register.

6. Review of pending capacity claims, disputes, adjustments, and requests according to the list presented at the 89th meeting of the IATTC and referred to in document CAP-17 INF-A REV (14 May 2016) and in document CAP-24-01

The Chair introduced this agenda item by noting that these are recurring matters. Therefore, it was suggested that discussions commence by alternating the topics addressed in each meeting. In previous meetings, the topics were discussed in the same order as shown in the table from the 89th meeting of the IATTC, held in June-July 2015. This time, however, the discussion will begin with the topics related to new requests.

It was noted that, under the argument for recognizing their special needs and requirements as developing States, there were requests in the aforementioned table from El Salvador (2,105 m³), Nicaragua (4,200 m³), Honduras (3,000 m³), Guatemala (9,000 m³), and Mexico (2,000 m³). Additionally, there was a request from Bolivia for 5,000 m³, which, unlike the previous ones, did not appear on the list presented at the 89th meeting of the IATTC.

Belize expressed its interest in securing 2,638 cubic meters, which was not included in the table presented by the Secretariat. Vanuatu conveyed its desire for an allocation of 12,500 m³ to support the development of a tuna purse-seine fleet and to address food production needs and job creation in Vanuatu, similar to efforts in other countries. They read their request, which is detailed in **Appendix X** of this report. Regarding the capacity of 1,358 m³ noted in the table, they indicated there had been procedural errors that would eventually be resolved, and they hope a solution to their claim will be found by that time.

Peru recalled that it had been assigned 5,000 cubic meters in 2014, and the allocation of the remaining amount from the total cited in the footnote of Resolution C-02-03 (14,406 m³) was still pending.

The Working Group took note of these requests along with others indicated in the table resulting from the 89th meeting of the IATTC, recalling the previous agreement to consider these requests once a capacity management plan for the EPO was in place to offset any new capacity that might enter the Regional Register. It was also reiterated that the previously noted cases from the table derived from the 89th meeting would be recognized as the final requests, and no further requests would be added. The Director reminded that the 5,000 cubic meters requested by Bolivia, as well as Belize's request, did not appear in the aforementioned table, due to the Commission's decision not to register new requests, which must instead go through the Commission for documentation. The Director stated he would seek support for this guideline of not registering new capacity requests by the CPCs for presentation at the next meeting.

Guatemala requested a review of the current status of disputes, noting that the Antigua Convention lacks designated mechanisms for resolving capacity-related issues, and therefore, such matters should not continue to be treated in this manner. It emphasized that this is a procedural issue and suggested that it be stated as such. Additionally, at Colombia's request, it was agreed that in the future, requests deemed to be in dispute between two countries would not be considered in terms of dispute settlement, but rather as *resolution of cases arising from administrative problems*, a stance supported by the Committee.

7. Other business

Under this agenda item, a couple of topics were presented concerning two Ecuadorian vessels regarding their inclusion in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register.

The first was the case of the vessel **Victoria A** (ex Cabrillo). Ecuador reported that this vessel engaged in fishing activities prior to the establishment of the Regional Register in 2002, which is the sole requirement outlined in the Resolution for registration. Additionally, the vessel contributed to the IATTC observer program and had an observer on board, demonstrating its operations in the eastern Pacific Ocean. However, due to an oversight, it was not included in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. The Chair inquired whether this case would be forwarded to the Commission for approval to be added to the Regional Vessel Register (RVR). The European Union, supported by Japan and the United States, stated that although the case holds merit, they could not agree to forward it to the Commission for inclusion in the RVR until a comprehensive capacity management plan is established.

The second case involved the vessel **Diana María**, which has been in the RVR since 2002. Repair activities were carried out that required the replacement of the well wall coverings with thicker materials, resulting in a measured capacity reduction of 3 cubic meters. Consequently, an update to the vessel's well volume (7.9 m³) was requested in the Regional Register.

The Director emphasized the importance of the recommendations from this Working Group on these matters for the Secretariat's work. It was advised that no changes be made to the RVR record for this vessel, and the matter will be revisited in the next meeting, with the hope of gaining a clearer understanding of how to proceed with this case and others that are currently reducing their capacity volumes.

The Chair recalled Resolution C-15-02, *Interpretation of Paragraph 6 of Resolution C-02-03*, stating that as of 1 January 2017, the capacity recorded is to be regarded as the confirmed capacity of vessels in the Regional Register.

Ecuador requested that its request be recorded in the minutes and urged the Director to progress these matters through correspondence.

8. Recommendations to the Commission

The Working Group adopted the following recommendations:

f. Inform the Commission that the consultancy study regarding a fleet capacity management plan developed by Dr. Dale Squires will not be pursued, as the group deems it impractical. It was agreed to thank the consultant for the work undertaken over several years.

g. Inform the Commission of Ecuador's request to develop a theoretical pilot program for capacity management, based on the perspective presented by Dr. Dale Squires and taking into account the need to circulate the implementation plan of the pilot program well in advance of the next meeting of this Working Group, prior to its implementation. In addition, provide the CPCs with information on the potential positive or negative impacts of the program in order to proceed with the consideration of the possible implementation of the theoretical pilot by the Commission.

h. Recommend that the Commission schedule a meeting of this Group dedicated solely to discuss issues related to the freezing tunnels, the temporary sealing of wells for fuel transport, the management of remaining or available cubic meters, the permanent or temporary nature of structural adjustments to fish storage wells, and the stowage factor (conversion).

i. Review the two requests from Ecuador concerning the vessels Victoria A (ex Cabrillo) and Diana María. In this regard, several Members stated that they could not support the inclusion of new capacity in the RVR until a comprehensive capacity management plan is adopted in the EPO.

j. Amend the table of pending capacity issues stemming from the 89th meeting by replacing the designation concerning capacity disputes between two countries with an indication that these are *issues arising from administrative problems*.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m. on 29 August 2024 in Panama City, Panama.

Capacity issues recorded during the 89th meeting of the IATTC.

Country	m^3	Details
a. Requests based on footnote in Resolution C-02-03		
Peru	5,851	Part of 14,046 m^3 in footnote to Resolution C-02-03. Already granted 5,000 m^3 in 2014.
Costa Rica	7,058	Part of 16,422 m^3 in footnote to Resolution C-02-03.
Colombia	4,772	Part of 14,046 m^3 in footnote to Resolution C-02-03. Already granted 2,014 m^3 in 2013.
SUBTOTAL	**17,681**	
b. Capacity claims arising from administrative issues		
Bolivia	5,830	Capacity which was allegedly transferred to Colombia without Bolivia's approval.
Vanuatu	1,358	For the vessel *Esmeralda C*, which was allegedly transferred to Panama without Vanuatu's approval.
Venezuela	3,805	From vessels *Jane IV* (1,250 m^3), *Baraka* (1,287 m^3) and *Templario I* (1,268 m^3) request still pending for the future if the status of the tuna stocks allows it. All these vessels are on Regional Register under Panamanian flag.
SUBTOTAL	**10,993**	
c. New Requests		
El Salvador	2,105	Special needs and requirements of developing coastal countries
Nicaragua	4,200	" " " " " "
Honduras	3,000	" " " " " "
Guatemala	9,000	" " " " " "
Mexico	2,000	" " " " " "
SUBTOTAL	**20,305**	
d. Other cases		
Ecuador	220	*Eli*
	176	*Ljubica M.*
	908	*Monteneme*
	1,534	*Isabel IV* (never on the Regional Register)
	850	*Victoria A.* (never on the Regional Register)
SUBTOTAL	**3,688**	
TOTAL	**52,667**	

Requests submitted during the 25th meeting of the Working Group in Panama - 29 August 2024.

Country	m^3	Details
Requests submitted after the decision to close the list at the 89th meeting of the IATTC		
Belize	2,638	As a developing country to create a fleet.
Bolivia	5,000	In addition to a dispute over administrative issues.
Vanuatu	12,500	As a developing country to create a fleet.
SUBTOTAL	**20,138**	

4h. Report of the 15th Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission ("Review Committee")

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

15th MEETING

Panama City, Panama
30-31 August 2024

MEETING REPORT

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Recommendations of the 14th meeting of the Committee: progress report	COR-15-01
4. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2023: 4a. Report by the staff on compliance 4b. Review of the questionnaires and additional information submitted by CPCs in compliance with Resolution C-22-02	
5. Review of the provisional IUU vessels list	
6. Cooperating non-Members	COR-15-03
7. Other business	
8. Election of Chair of the Committee	
9. Recommendations for the Commission	
10. Adjournment	

The 15th meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (Review Committee, COR) was held on 30 and 31 August 2024 in Panama City, Panama. The meeting was suspended and then resumed on 5 September 2024 in order to resolve pending issues from the agenda. The list of attendees is included as **Appendix 1**.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Luis Molledo, of the European Union. He noted that this was the second time that the Committee was meeting following the improvements agreed in the resolution and that the 1st Special Biennial Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission should take place. The Chair highlighted the relevance of the work and invited members to participate actively in the discussions.

In addition, he clarified that two documents would emerge from the meeting after approval by the Committee: the first, containing the recommendations made for the Commission's consideration; the second, the preliminary Compliance Report, which would be considered the final report once endorsed by the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

Recommendations of the 14th meeting of the Committee: progress report

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, of the IATTC staff, presented Document COR-15-01 - Recommendations of the 14th meeting of the Committee - progress report, which provided a summary of the progress made regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the 14th meeting of the Committee as adopted by the Commission. Mr. Belmontes highlighted that, in general, the level of compliance with these recommendations was high, as almost all of them had been implemented as indicated in the document. He noted that the timely submission of the compliance questionnaires filled in by the CPCs should be improved, as well as the responses to possible infractions identified for the CPCs.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the report, noted the improvement in the presentation of the report in recent years and expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of its recommendations. The Committee requested the Secretariat to respect the deadlines for the submission of documents to the Committee as set out in resolution C-22-02.

3. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2023:

4a. Report by the staff on compliance

The United States delegation indicated that it had sent a note to the Secretariat requesting that the names of the vessels not be shown on the screen during the presentation and consideration of cases of possible infractions, since the meeting was held in a hybrid format, i.e., in person and remotely, so that when it was transmitted remotely, there was no control over who had access to the information, which meant that the principle of confidentiality was not respected. Some delegations stated that this did not comply with the provisions of Resolution C-22-05, which states that the Secretariat must present the list of vessels with cases of possible non-compliance. After several comments on this matter, the Committee decided, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent for subsequent meetings of the Committee, that vessel names would not be displayed on the screen, but would be available in the working documents published on the IATTC website in the compliance section and which require credentials for access.

Mr. Belmontes presented Document COR-15-02 - Provisional Compliance Overview (published on the website with restricted access), which provides a report on compliance with IATTC measures in 2023, in particular with regard to the performance of the tuna fleet operating in the EPO, as well as with regard to the various data submission and reporting obligations established by the various resolutions adopted by the Commission.

He noted that, year after year, there has been both an improvement in compliance and an increase in the number of responses from CPCs to reported possible infractions, as shown in the document entitled *Provisional Compliance Overview* (previously called Compliance Report), which shows the trends over the last five years, as well as the increasing number of areas where no possible infractions are reported.

Following this presentation, in addition to the expressions of satisfaction with the progress made in compliance and also in the work of the Committee, several interventions were made aimed at further deepening this process. They emphasized certain specific aspects of compliance by CPCs, but also procedural and operational aspects of the Committee, including the preparatory phase of the Secretariat's preparation of the Compliance Report and its subsequent submission.

With regard to a comment to having information on 100% of the Class-6 purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO thanks to the on-board observer program, while in the longline fishery there is only a maximum of 5% of on-board observers from national programs, Japan mentioned that this information should consider purse-seine vessels smaller than Class-6 that do not carry an observer and the coverage of longliners of different lengths by national programs.

As a result of the discussions, the Committee approved a set of recommendations that are included in item 8 of this report.

4b. Review of the questionnaires and additional information submitted by CPCs in compliance with Resolution C-22-02

In accordance with the new methodology explained by the Chair of the Committee in his opening remarks, this review was conducted resolution by resolution, for the 2022 fishing year, based on the document prepared by the Secretariat called "*Draft Provisional Compliance Report"* (previously known as Compendium). Each CPC identified in the document with a possible infraction or non-compliance with a given resolution had the opportunity to comment and clarify what actions it had or had not taken in this regard.

The Committee noted the advantages of this method in terms of both time and substance, particularly in terms of greater participation by its members and greater formulation of concrete proposals to promote compliance, which is undoubtedly the primary objective of this subsidiary body of the IATTC.

As a result of the Committee's work under this agenda item, the *Draft Provisional Compliance Report* to be submitted to the IATTC for its eventual adoption as the ***final Compliance Report*** was reviewed and approved. This revised version, as approved by the Committee, is available on the IATTC website to comply with confidentiality rules. The cases that could not be resolved at this meeting of the Committee are identified in the report, and will be reconsidered at the 16th meeting of the Committee in 2025.

The Committee noted that Kiribati was again absent from the meeting, and it was noted that Kiribati had failed to submit the Compliance Questionnaire for several years and that this constituted a serious non-compliance and should be brought to the attention of that country so that it could comply with its obligations under the Antigua Convention, despite the fact that it had no vessels on the IATTC regional register. In response to this matter, the Committee requested the Chair and the Secretariat to take steps to contact the CPC and request further information from the WCPFC on the activity of Kiribati vessels in the IATTC area.

In addition, as a result of the discussions, the Committee approved a set of recommendations to clarify and improve the process, which are included in item 8 of this report.

6. Review of the provisional IUU Vessels List

The IATTC staff presented Document COR-15-04 - IUU Vessel List 2024-2025, which contains information on the provisional IUU Vessel List that the Committee must analyze and make a recommendation to the IATTC. It was reported that, on this occasion, the provisional IUU Vessel List included the nomination by Colombia of the vessel Mar Aral from the European Union to the draft list.

Both delegations reported that, following the discussions that had taken place to resolve the issue, Colombia considered the matter closed for the current meeting. Likewise, both delegations called on the Committee to follow up on the matter during the annual meeting in 2025 **and accordingly they will report on the case in the next COR meeting.**

In addition, it was informed that, since 2021, the IUU list has been published cross-referenced with the information from the other RMFOs identified in Resolution C-19-02, pursuant to the procedures established in paragraphs 19-24 of said resolution, and that, in accordance with that resolution, the CPCs would be given a 30-day period in which to indicate any objections or comments they may have regarding changes to the cross-referenced list prior to its publication.

7. Cooperating non-Members

The Chair recalled that there was a working document published on the IATTC website, COR-15-03 - Cooperating Non-Members, which reported that the current five IATTC Cooperating non-Members—Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia—had submitted their respective requests for renewal of this status, and that all of them had met the requirements set out in Resolution C-07-02 Cooperating non-party status, as shown in the table in the document.

The Committee decided to recommend to the Commission the renewal of the status of Cooperating non-Member for Bolivia, Honduras, Indonesia, and Liberia, who participated in the meeting in person. The Committee decided to leave the case of Chile, including the need to clarify the outstanding issues discussed during the review of the questionnaires, for consideration and decision by the plenary of the Commission, when this delegation would be present at the meeting.

Other business

No other business was discussed.

Election of Chair of the Committee

The Committee elected Mr. Antonio Vásquez, of El Salvador, as the new Chair of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission for a two-year term, as provided for in the IATTC Rules of Procedure.

Recommendations for the Commission

The Committee adopted the following recommendations:

Recommendations to the Secretariat

20. To conduct a review of the questions of the Compliance questionnaire to avoid leading, unclear or repetitive questions.
21. To include in the heading of the compliance questionnaire a reminder to CPCs to provide explanations of reasons for NA designations.
22. To provide to CPCs an instruction sheet on the process for filling out the compliance questionnaire in a complete manner.
23. To, where appropriate, develop templates to be used by CPCs to comply with the reporting obligations set out in the Resolutions adopted by the Commission to be implemented as provided by each of them. This includes, but it is not limited to, data provision in Resolution C-03-05.
24. On the information and graphs contained in the *Provisional Compliance Overview* and the slides to be presented at the meetings of the COR:
    - When the Secretariat presents slides on compliance with observer coverage requirements, specify the required level and the scope of the requirement (e.g. longliners greater than 20m in length or class-6 tuna purse-seiners). Also, in a complimentary manner for information purposes, a breakdown by all classes of tuna purse-seiners and longliners over and under 20m in length should be presented in order to understand the situation of observer coverage in the context of the entire tuna fleet.
    - When the Secretariat present slides or tables containing the overall number of infractions include alleged and confirmed as separate categories;
    - In table on CPCs that submitted observer reports and coverage, to show in red those CPCs who are not compliant with the minimum 5% observer coverage, including those with 0% coverage.
25. To reflect the repeal Resolution C-05-03 as provided by Resolution C-23-07.
26. To ensure that the *Draft Provisional Compliance Overview* and the *Draft Provisional Compliance Report* provides information on the implementation by CPCs of obligations in relation to recreational catch of PBF by all CPCs (as currently stipulated in paragraph 3).
27. To systematically include in the *Provisional Compliance Overview* a table with the unresolved cases from the previous 5 years, and to consistently show the past years covered across all relevant documents.

28. To move all cases related to late data submission to a separate category of late, with information on the date received, noting that late submissions compromise the ability of the Secretariat to do its work.
29. To maintain for review by the COR in the following year/s those recommendations from previous meetings of the COR that have not been completed.
30. To identify the actions to be recommended by the Committee in case of very serious non-compliance cases, including the systematic and repeated failure to provide the Compliance questionnaire.
31. To develop guidance for the Secretariat to facilitate the identification of non-compliance cases, versus other cases that cannot be qualified as non-compliance because they do not meet those criteria.
32. To develop a practices and guidance to ensure the efficient assessment by the COR of the *Draft Provisional Compliance Report* and the *Provisional Compliance Overview*, including to avoid the repetition of discussions of cases contained in both documents.
33. At the next COR meeting to follow-up on any development related to the case of the vessel Mar Aral.

Recommendations to CPCs

34. To reiterate the COR recommendation from 2023 to highlight the obligation that the minimum percentage in observer coverage in longliners is met and that the corresponding operational data is submitted.
35. To underscore the utmost importance of complying with the financial obligations of CPCs, notably the payment of the contributions to the budget.
36. To recall the obligation to comply with the individual reporting obligations for each report set out in the IATTC Resolutions.
37. To take note of the format proposed by the Secretariat for reporting on VMS of purse-seiners (Resolution C-21-04) containing five fields: vessel ID; lat; long; date (UTC), time (UTC), speed; and course.

Recommendations to the Commission

38. The Commission should seek a mechanism to allow for Venezuela to submit pending payments.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on 5 September 2024 at 1 p.m., Panama City time.

Appendix 1

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4i.Report of the 1st Special Biennial Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

1ST SPECIAL BIENNIAL MEETING FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

Panama City, Panama
31 August 2024

MEETING REPORT

AGENDA

1) Opening of the meeting
2) Adoption of the agenda
3) Strengths and weaknesses of the current review process
4) Priority elements of a draft work plan
5) Recommendations to the Commission on proposed improvements to the compliance process
6) Other business
7) Adjournment

The 1st Special Biennial Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (Review Committee, COR) was held on 31 August 2024 in Panama City, Panama. It was adjourned on 5 September when the document entitled *Priority Elements of a Draft Work Plan* was reviewed. The list of attendees is included as **Appendix 1**

9. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Luis Molledo, opened the meeting. He noted that the 1st Special Biennial Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission was being held in response to one of the recommendations emanating from the 14th meeting of the Committee held in Victoria, Canada, in August 2023, as well as in response to section four of Resolution C-22-02 on the follow-up of the Committee's work.

The Chair underlined the importance of the work and invited members to participate actively in the discussions. He mentioned that he would try to have a brainstorming session at the meeting to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the compliance process through the work of the Committee and to identify essential elements for the formulation of a possible future compliance plan.

He noted that he hoped that, as a result of this meeting, and as a result of the elements identified for the formulation of a compliance action plan, a document containing those elements could be available for review and approval by the Committee for presentation as a recommendation to the IATTC meeting for possible approval and implementation.

10. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

Strengths and weaknesses of the current review process

From the discussion in the Committee, the following main strengths and weaknesses in the work of the Committee were identified, including the following:

Strengths

- Having an on-board observer program for the Class-6 purse-seine fleet with 100% coverage.
- Having a staff that is experienced and provides timely reports and data.
- The recent outreach to delegations to hold bilateral meetings with the Secretariat to review possible infractions and, to the extent possible, to clean up documents in order to discuss relevant cases in the Committee.
- Greater agility has been achieved in the review of possible cases of non-compliance in the Committee thanks to the actions taken by the Chair through the relevant resolution.
- The number of possible infractions has been significantly reduced.
- There is a large body of resolutions that have allowed the fleet to improve its performance in several areas, both in target catch and bycatch.

Weaknesses

- Better data is needed to improve the quality of the process.
- There is no online system for submitting compliance questionnaires and reports.
- Inadequate follow-up on cases of potential infractions identified in the past.
- Timely submission by all CPCs to the Secretariat of information on investigations of possible cases of non-compliance. There should be no unresolved cases.
- The number of resolutions to be reviewed for compliance is large and increasing annually; therefore, the Secretariat's compliance area needs to be strengthened.
- Work should be undertaken with other RFMOs to benefit from their experience in automating compliance processes.

11. Priority elements of a draft work plan

The Chair gave the opportunity to Ms. Holly Koehler, ISSF Vice President of Policy and Outreach, to present the document entitled "*Recommended Approaches and Tools to Evaluate and Strengthen RFMO Compliance Processes and Performance*", which was formulated by an Expert Review Group based on the outcomes from three Virtual Expert Workshops on Best Practices in Compliance in RFMOs, convened by The Pew Charitable Trusts, in collaboration with the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), with the support of a Steering Committee. Based on the results of the three workshops, they identified a set of key areas for RFMOs to consider when evaluating and strengthening compliance assessment processes.

Some countries expressed the wish that regional participation be considered in this type of study and that government representatives, especially from Latin America, be invited to participate in the work.

A discussion was held on the requirements and benefits of having a system of compliance observers as opposed to scientific observers. Some CPCs insisted on the need to strengthen the minimum criteria that current IATTC observers should meet in order to take into account the information contained in observer

reports for use in discussions on compliance and verification of infractions. Other CPCs stressed that the current system was adequate and that they did not consider any changes to be appropriate.

Based on the discussion of strengths and weaknesses, as well as ideas for identifying elements of a draft work plan, the Chair of the Committee presented a draft proposal containing the above elements, which was reviewed and approved by the Committee for consideration by the Commission. The identified elements are as follows:

a. Automatization of the compliance process

The automatization of the compliance process is expected to result in a more efficient organisation of the works of the COR. The automatization should cover standard processes, templates, and standing agenda items, as applicable, for the collection and management of the data necessary for the preparation, revision and updates of the compliance report by the IATTC Secretariat, and its assessment and discussion by the COR and the Commission, with the objective of ensuring that all procedural elements of C-22-02 are implemented effectively and efficiently.

Action: The COR recommended the following actions:

a. The IATTC Secretariat to prepare a draft plan of action on automatization with options for updating the compliance review process, from the drafting of the draft provisional compliance report (and the draft compliance review) to the endorsement of the compliance report by the Commission in an automated manner, including an online system for filling out the form and submitting reports.

b. The draft plan of action should consider as much as possible on experiences from the automated processes already established in other RFMOs such as ICCAT, WCFPC and others.

c. The IATTC Secretariat will liaise with the Secretariats of those RFMOs to obtain information necessary for the process.

d. To receive updates from the IATTC Secretariat under a new standing agenda item of the COR on the implementation of the priority elements of the draft work plan of the COR.

Timeline: Mid-term/long-term (3-6 years) for the overall process.

Short term: (1-2) years for the standardization of online reporting formats.

b. Follow-up of previous infractions

The COR attached great importance to the follow-up of cases of possible infractions from previous years to ensure that the Committee undertakes the appropriate follow-up of the possible infractions not resolved.

Action: The COR recommended the following actions:

a. To add the follow-up of possible infractions from previous years as a standing point on the agenda of the COR.

b. To fully implement paragraph 7 of Resolution C-22-02 on the letters to be sent to CPCs with possible cases of possible infractions not resolved, and the information to be provided by those CPCs as a follow-up.

c. To task the Secretariat with the preparation of an annual document for consideration by the COR collating information on unresolved cases of possible infractions from previous years.

Timeline: Short term (1-2 years)

c. Categorization of non-compliance status and the follow-up action

The COR agreed that the categorization of infractions would facilitate the identification of priority areas, streamline the compliance discussions and contribute to the process of automatization mentioned in priority 1 above.

Actions: The COR recommended that in the categorization of the non-compliance status and follow-up action the following three steps approach is taken by the COR:

a. First, to define different level of non-compliance in view of its seriousness (e.g., level 1, level 2, level 3).

b. Secondly, each category of status should be precisely defined with more clear criteria to guide CPCs, COR and the Commission on the decision regarding the applicable status.

c. Finally, the COR should improve the identification of the specific follow-up action applicable to each status and level of seriousness, which would apply automatically. This will include the notification letters and the setting of corrective actions.

The COR took note of the willingness from the USA and Canada Delegations, in consultation with other interested CPCs, to provide a document at the meeting of the COR in 2025 developing the categorization of non-compliance status at the CPC-level and the follow-up action for consideration by the COR.

Timeline: Short term (1-2 years)

d. Priority areas of possible non-compliance

The identification of priority areas of work for the COR would allow the COR to focus its works on matters of additional importance, including areas/resolutions where there are a larger number of cases of possible non-compliance or areas/resolutions regarding very serious cases of non-compliance.

Actions: The COR recommended the following actions:

a. To task the IATTC Secretariat to prepare a document for the meeting of the COR in 2025 to identify trends of specific, thematic areas or resolutions related to cases of very serious non-compliance; or indicating frequent cases of non-compliance. The document will consider, as appropriate, for information and possible guidance in the works of the COR, thematic priority areas identified by other RFMOs.

b. To discuss this matter under the standing agenda item of the COR on the implementation of the priority elements of the draft work plan of the COR.

Timeline: Short term (1 year)

e. Human and financial resources

The COR recommended the following actions regarding the identification of the human financial resources needed to accompany the implementation of the priority elements of the work plan:

a. The IATTC Secretariat will prepare a document with provisions regarding human resources and financial implications necessary for the implementation of the priority elements of the draft Work Plan as a whole.

b. The IATTC Secretariat will identify, when necessary, possible sources of financing other than the budget of the Commission (e.g., WB, voluntary contributions, etc.).

c. To discuss this matter under the standing agenda item of the COR on the implementation of the priority elements of the draft work plan of the COR.

Timeline: Mid-term (3 years)

f. Capacity building and technical assistance

Capacity building was identified by the COR as one of the priority elements of the Work Plan.

Actions: The COR recommended the following actions:

a. The IATTC Secretariat to develop by 1 June 2025 a template for CPCs to submit requests related to capacity building and technical assistance support for evaluation by the committee.

b. To discuss this matter under the standing agenda item of the COR on the implementation of the priority elements of the draft work plan of the COR.

Timeline: Mid-term (3 years)

5. Recommendations to the Commission on proposed improvements to the compliance process

- Approve the priority elements of a draft work plan for the COR identified by the members of the Committee.

6. Other business

No other business was discussed.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Panama City time on 31 August 2024.

Appendix 1

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5.Other
5a. Bolivia's statement

Ministerio de Defensa
Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia

Statement of the Plurinational State of Bolivia before the 102nd meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

[Informal Translation]

The Plurinational State of Bolivia, participating in the 102nd Meeting of the Commission, hereby declares:

First: To reaffirm before the distinguished Members of the Commission its claim, sustained since 2004, for the amount of 5,830 m3 of well volume that was transferred to another state without its authorization;

Second: To refine its proposal to agree to a temporary compromise solution, with the immediate activation of a smaller fraction of the capacity requested, reduced to 2,000 m3, a demonstration of Bolivia's patience and flexibility, in order to provide partial satisfaction, leaving the balance of the total amount requested pending;

Third: To insist on its request for 5,000 m3 submitted for the first time in 2019 as one of the so-called "new requests" for capacity. Request to be added to the list of similar requests from other CPCs.

Bolivia's requests are made in the most genuine spirit of equity, which pursues an essentially fair solution, as provided for in the aforementioned international instruments, jurisprudence and doctrine, through the redress of an unfortunate situation that has lasted for two decades, which has interrupted Bolivia's maritime and fishing development, and which is the oldest claim that has yet to be resolved. For the other CPCs and their national fleets, giving partial satisfaction to Bolivia at this time would imply a sacrifice of two additional days of closure, an otherwise tolerable burden. They also rely on previous IATTC solutions successfully employed to settle similar cases. They are consistent with international law, which requires that the special interests and needs of developing States, whether coastal or landlocked, be taken into account. They also correspond to its legitimate, long-standing and significant interest in the tropical tuna purse seine fisheries. Finally, they are consistent with the uniqueness of Bolivia, which was not always a landlocked State and which, despite its geographical and legal situation, and despite not having a fishing or support fleet, participates responsibly in two regional fisheries management organizations and in an international program.

Declaration made in order to obtain the effects recognized by International Law and to comply with the undeniable constitutional and legal obligations of the Bolivian legal system, to be included in the minutes of the 102nd Meeting.

In the City of Panama, Republic of Panama, on the sixth day of September of the year two thousand and twenty-four.

5b. China's statement/comments on the USA proposal on labor standards (L-1)

Comments of China on Proposed Resolution of Crew Labor Standards on Fishing Vessels
Sep. 2024

Thanks, Chair:

With the proposal on establishing a binding measure of Labor Standards in IATTC Fisheries, this delegation cannot go along with the proposal. Now, I would like to express the reasons for above position:

1. Labor issue should be the responsibility of the relevant authorities, and the relevant issues should be resolved by the relevant authorities through domestic legislation, bilateral consultation or discussion in the relevant international organizations. In fact, the ILO and IMO already have relevant rules, and we do have related domestic law and regulations, particularly, the three authorities of China, namely Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Immigration Administration jointly issued a *Notification on Strengthening the Management and Service of Foreign Crew Members in Distant Water Fisheries*.

2. Crew employment is a commercial activity of enterprise, that is the main body of business. Crew employment should be conducted under the management of relevant international rules and domestic laws, and in accordance with commercial contracts. Violators shall be held liable in accordance with the above-mentioned international rules, domestic law and contracts.

3. IATTC is not an organization to deal with labor issue, and labor issue is very complicated issue. The fishery sector should focus on resource conservation and management, otherwise main duty of this organization will be affected. It is our view that IATTC also lacks mandate to deal with labors issue in a compulsory manner based on Antigua Convention.

4. As far as this delegation knows, ICCAT, NPFC, SPRFMO and WCPFC established non-binding decision on labor issues in the respective fisheries, China is a member of the above RFMOs. However, each RFMO has its own situation that is different with others, especially the decision-making mechanism. For IATTC, the decision needs consensus, and majority of our stakeholders disagree the delegation to keep quiet while we discuss the proposal of labor issue, regardless it is in a form of binding or non-binding. Therefore, this delegation has to object the proposal, even if it changes its form as non-binding decision.

Thank you.