

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

PROPOSAL IATTC-90 D-1

SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PERMISSIBILITY OF DISCARDS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in la Jolla, California (USA) on the occasion of the 90th Meeting:

Considering that FAO published in January 2011 the International Guidelines on By Catch Management and Reduction of Discards, advising the RFMOs to recognise the importance of resolving the problems related to bycatches and to collaborate with the other RFMOs to address matters of common interest;

Aware that in many cases the size of the fish caught is less than the minimum catch sizes and that their capture implies an effect within the cycle of maturity of the species of tunas that are fished in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Aware that if the catch of juvenile tunas persists, the renovation of the resources will not occur given the biological period that these species share;

Aware that during the catching of tunas they become entangled in the parts of the net that have webbing of more than 5 inches mesh size, which influences the quantity of the volume that goes into the wells;

Recognising the importance of the recommendations by ICCAT [Rec. 11-10], on the collection of information and the harmonisation of data on bycatches and discards in ICCAT fisheries for the stocks of tunas in the region and the stocks of highly migratory tunas;

Recognising that the catch of species of a size unsuitable for the market, implies going against the managements measures established for monitoring the biological process of the resources.

Responding to the recommendations of the CPCs, which includes the need for all CPCs to collect and facilitate to the Director data on discards or bycatches;

RESOLVES:

1. To establish a system for collecting information on fishing activities, generated in sets made on FADs by purse-seine fishing vessels, data that must be related to discards of tunas, which shall be sent to the Scientific Advisory Committee for their respective analysis.
2. The on-board observers who cover trips by fishing vessels should describe the status and condition of the discarded fish, information that shall be evaluated by the Scientific Staff of the Commission.
3. In 2017 the results will be presented to the Scientific Advisory Committee, which will allow a permissible discard limit to be established.
4. Suspend temporarily the application of paragraph 17 of Resolution C-13-01, for which 0.5% to 1% of discards per trip made will be allowed until the annual 2017 meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee.