

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

93RD MEETING

**San Diego, California (USA)
24, 27 – 30 August 2018**

PROPOSAL IATTC-93 I-1

SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA

**ESTABLISHMENT OF AN *AD HOC* WORKING GROUP FOR THE
STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF THE FISHERIES ON THE JUVENILE
TROPICAL TUNA STOCKS**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA) on the occasion of its 93rd Meeting:

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

Bearing in mind that all fishing gear has an impact on stocks and the pelagic eco-system in the EPO, and that the Members of the Commission should fully understand these effects;

Noting that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its 8th Meeting recommended to assess the impact of the fishing mortality of juveniles on future spawning biomass of yellowfin and bigeye tunas;

Recognizing the concern expressed by several Members regarding the possible negative impact resulting from the increased capture of juveniles of yellowfin and bigeye;

Agrees:

1. To establish the *Ad Hoc* Virtual Working Group to study the impact of the catch of juveniles on the long-term sustainability fishery (Working Group on Juvenile Tunas);
2. The functions of the Working Group referred to in paragraph 1 shall be the following:
 - a. To clearly define the concept of juveniles for tropical tuna species;
 - b. To analyze the impact of the purse-seine fishery on the catch of juvenile tropical tunas;
 - c. To analyze the effect of the catch of juveniles on the maximum sustainable yield and F multiplier of yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna;
 - d. If necessary, to develop management proposals focused on minimizing the impact of the catch of juveniles on the sustainability of the tropical tuna fishery;
 - e. To submit a progress report to the Scientific Advisory Committee at its annual meeting in 2019 and a final report at the annual meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2020.
3. The Working Group will be chaired by the person chosen by the Commission.
4. The Working Group will be multisectoral, with the participation of various stakeholders, such as scientists, fisheries managers, representatives of the fishing industry, administrators, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and fishermen. Expressions of interest in participating in the group will be communicated to the Director, who will inform the CPCs and the Chair of the Working Group on Juvenile Tunas.

5. The Chair of the Working Group, with the support of the Secretariat and considering the contributions provided by the Members, will establish the format, periodicity and content of the virtual meetings required for the performance of its functions, which will be carried out during the intersessional periods in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.
6. The Commission may review, at its annual meetings in 2019 or 2020, the need or not to extend and/or broaden the mandate of the Group.