

Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission



# Actividades de investigación – Research activities (IATTC-100-02a)

100<sup>a</sup> Reunión de la CIAT – 100<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IATTC  
1-5 de agosto de 2022, 1-5 August 2022 Phoenix, Arizona EE.UU-USA

# Temario - Outline

- *Informe de actividades* (IATTC-100-02a)
- Proyectos seleccionados (por *Tema*):
- Planes de trabajo:
  - Evaluaciones de Estrategias de Ordenación (EEO) para los atunes tropicales
  - Monitoreo electrónico
  - Tiburones
- Proyectos no financiados (IATTC-100-02b)

- *Staff Activities Report* (IATTC-100-02a)
- Selected projects (by *Theme*):
- Work plans:
  - Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for tropical tunas
  - Electronic monitoring
  - Sharks
- Unfunded projects (IATTC-100-02b)

# Estructura del Informe de actividades del personal (IATTC-100-02a)

## Structure of Staff Activities Report (IATTC-100-02a)

<b>PROJECT A.3.b: Develop databases of biological and fisheries parameters to support Ecological Risk Assessment and ecosystem models</b>	
<b>THEME:</b> Data Collection	
<b>GOAL:</b> A. Database maintenance, preservation, and access	
<b>TARGET:</b> A.3. Standardize and automate data submissions	
<b>EXECUTION:</b> Data Collection and Database Program, Biology and Ecosystem Program	
Objectives	Develop a comprehensive database of best-available biological and fisheries data to provide key parameters for Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) and ecosystem models
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <a href="#">Antigua Convention</a> requires the IATTC to ensure the sustainability of target, associated, and dependent species affected by EPO tuna fisheries, and the ecosystem to which they belong.</li><li>• ERA and ecosystem models, used by IATTC staff to assess the ecological impacts of tuna fisheries in the EPO, require information on biological, physiological and trophodynamic characteristics of thousands of species in the EPO ecosystem.</li><li>• A database with the most up-to-date information for impacted species is required to expedite the initial parameterization, or updating, of future models.</li></ul>
Relevance for management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The database will contain data needed for ERAs and ecosystem models, used to identify and prioritize data collection, mitigation, and/or management measures for vulnerable species.</li><li>• The databases could be shared with scientists of CPCs.</li></ul>
Duration	48 months
Workplan and status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jan–Apr 18: Create a basic database structure ready to be populated with biological parameters and associated literature sources.</li><li>• Ongoing: Conduct biological and ecological literature searches for species that interact with EPO fisheries</li><li>• Ongoing: Conduct literature searches for species that interact with EPO fisheries, identify fishery-related susceptibility parameters for bycatch species, create database</li></ul>
External collaborators	Scientists from CPCs interested in contributing to and/or using the databases
Deliverables	Comprehensive life history and susceptibility information that can be shared with IATTC ( for a particular region and/or fishery.

## Informe de avances del proyecto (segunda página) Project progress report (second page)

<b>PROJECT A.3.b: Develop databases of biological and fisheries parameters to support Ecological Risk Assessment and ecosystem models</b>
<b>Updated:</b> March 2019
<b>Progress summary for the reporting period</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Life history database is in development for all species reported to have interacted with purse-seine and large-scale longline fisheries</li><li>• Values for fisheries-related susceptibility parameters have been obtained for many of the bycatch species</li></ul>
<b>Challenges and key lessons learnt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Database development will be ongoing and parameter values will be updated as new literature and improved data becomes available</li></ul>
<b>Reports/publications/presentations</b> <p>Two manuscripts that use this life history and susceptibility data have been submitted to scientific journals</p>
<b>Comments:</b>

## Descripción del proyecto (primera página) Project description (first page)



# Uso de la nueva página web de la CIAT para buscar proyectos del PCE

## Use new IATTC website to browse the SSP for projects

CIAT IATTC

MEETINGS PUBLICATIONS NEWS RESOLUTIONS CONTACT

ESPAÑOL

ABOUT US SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AIDCP DATA MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

Home / Research / Research projects

### Research projects

DESCRIPTION PROJECTS

Q Search

1. Theme: 2. Goal: 3. Target:

4-Ecological impacts of fishing: assessment and mi

Programs: Search title: Date from: Date to: Completed: Any Yes No Ongoing

1 2 >

14 PROJECT(S)

**L.1.a - Develop habitat models for bycatch species caught in the EPO to support ecological risk assessments (ERAs)**  
01 Jun 2018 - 01 Jun 2019 **Funded**  
**Objectives:**

- To use presence-only catch data to develop habitat models for all bycatch species caught in EPO tuna fisheries to facilitate mapping of their geographic range.
- To make distribution maps available in a format suitable for use as base

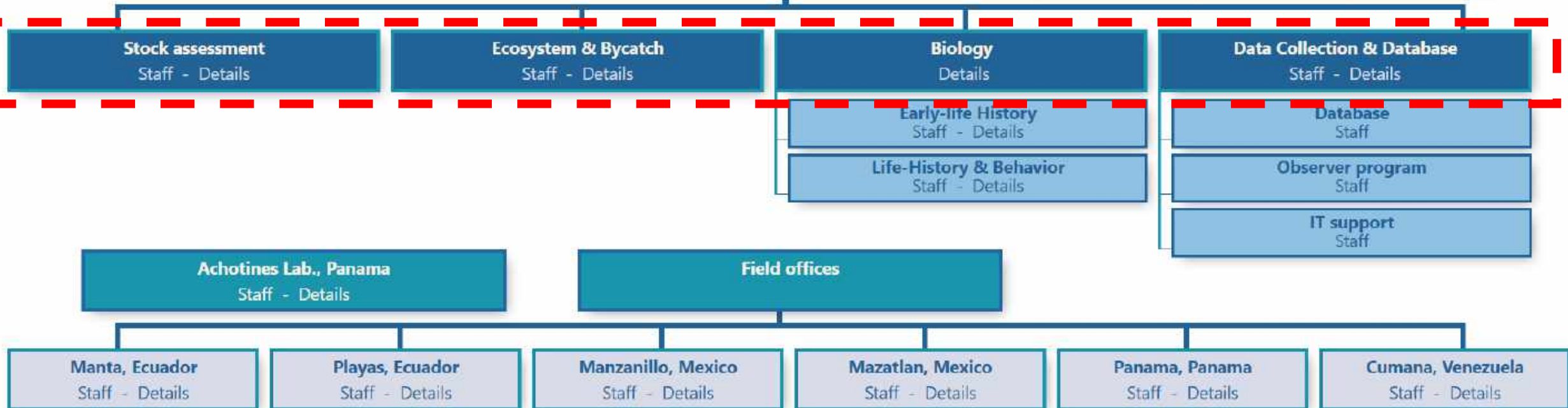
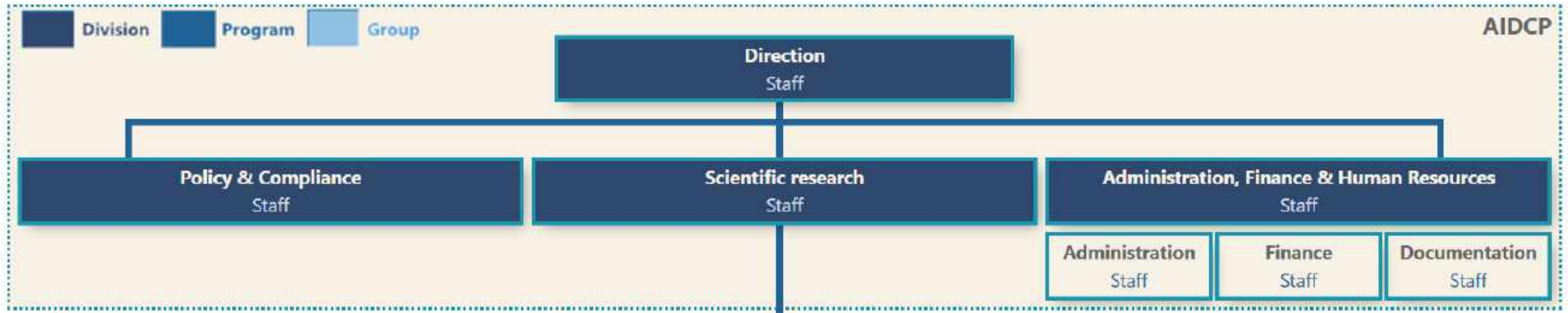
**L.1.b - Develop a flexible spatially-explicit ERA approach for quantifying the cumulative impact of tuna fisheries on data-limited bycatch species in the EPO**  
01 Jan 2018 - 31 Dec 2021 **Funded**  
**Objectives:**

- To develop a spatially-explicit model for quantifying the cumulative impact of multiple fisheries on data-limited bycatch species in the EPO
- To use the model to prioritize potentially vulnerable species for further



# Organigrama de la CIAT

## IATTC organigram



# Temas - Themes



Recolección de datos en apoyo científico de la ordenación

Data collection for scientific support of management

Estudios del ciclo vital en apoyo científico de la ordenación

Life-history studies for scientific support of management

Pesquerías sostenibles

Sustainable fisheries

Impactos ecológicos de la pesca: evaluación y mitigación

Ecological impacts of fisheries: assessment and mitigation

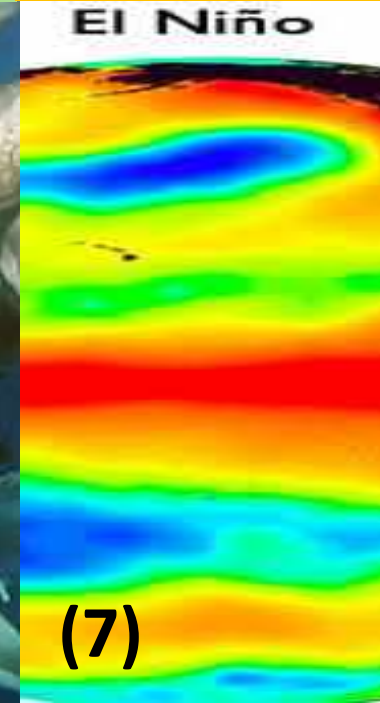
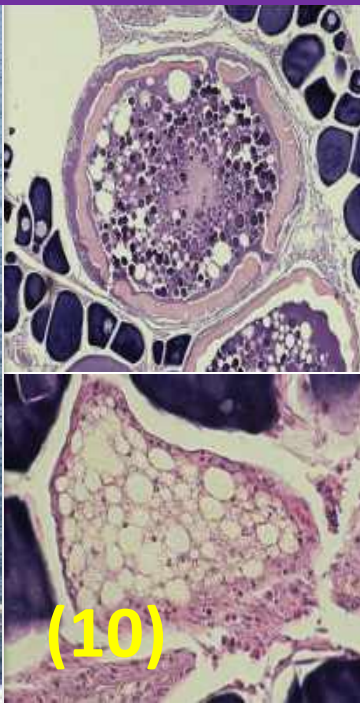
Interacciones entre el medio ambiente, el ecosistema, y la pesca

Interactions among the environment, the ecosystem and fisheries

Transferencia de conocimientos y fomento de capacidad

Knowledge transfer and capacity building

Excelencia científica  
Scientific excellence



# Recolección de datos en apoyo científico de la ordenación

## Data collection for scientific support of management



1

### 1. DATA COLLECTION FOR SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT OF MANAGEMENT

**A.1.a:** Database and Observer Data Collection Program Regular Activities

**A.3.a:** Conversion of all remaining Visual Basic 6 (VB6) computer programs to Visual Basic Net (VB.net).

**A.3.b:** Develop databases of biological and fisheries parameters to support Ecological Risk

**B.1.a (new):** Improving smart species identification tools

**B.3.a (new):** Individual Vessel Limit pilot study

**C.1.a:** Investigation of purse-seine catch composition bias associated to the COVID-19 pandemic

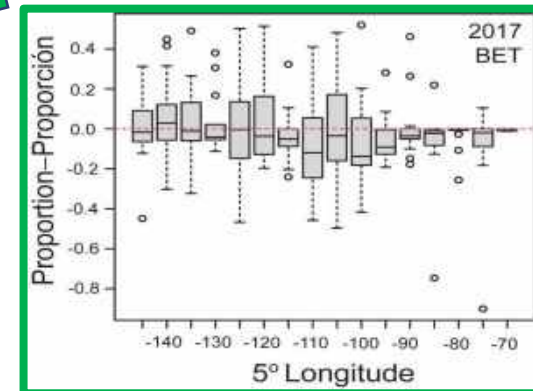
**C.2.b:** Pilot study of electronic monitoring (EM) of the activities and catches of longline vessels



SAC-13 INF-E



SAC-13 INF-D



SAC-13-05



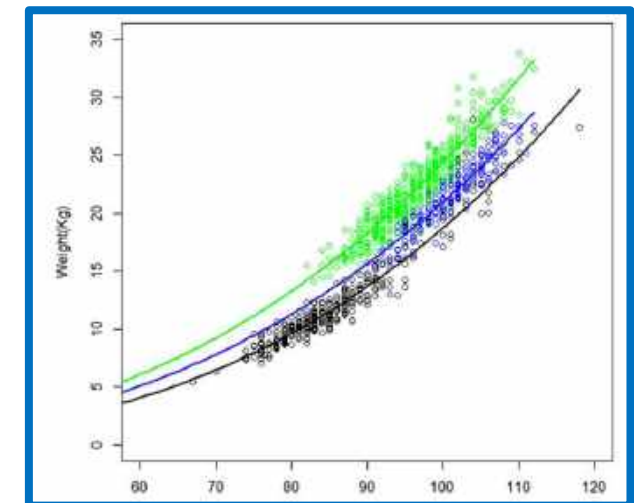
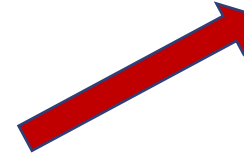
# Estudios del ciclo vital en apoyo científico de la ordenación

## Life-history studies for scientific support of management



2

2. LIFE-HISTORY STUDIES FOR SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT OF MANAGEMENT	
E.2.a:	Investigate spatiotemporal variability in the age, growth, maturity, and fecundity of yellowfin tuna in the EPO
E.3.a:	Investigate geographic variation in the movements, behavior, and habitat utilization of yellowfin tuna in the EPO
E.4.a:	IATTC Regional Tuna Tagging Program (RTTP) - EPO
E.5.a:	Evaluate the Pacific-wide population structure of bigeye and skipjack tunas, using genetic analyses
E.5.b:	Investigate the spawning ecology of captive yellowfin tuna, using genetic analyses
F.2.a:	Investigate the movements, behavior, and habitat utilization of silky sharks in the EPO
F3.a:	Feasibility study to develop a sampling program for updating morphometric relationships and collecting biological samples for priority species in EPO tuna fisheries: Phase 1
G.1.a:	Studies of pre-recruit survival and growth of yellowfin tuna, including expanding studies of early-juvenile life stages
G.2.a:	Develop comparative models of pre-recruit survival and reproductive patterns of Pacific tunas
G.3.a:	Develop a larval growth index to forecast yellowfin recruitment

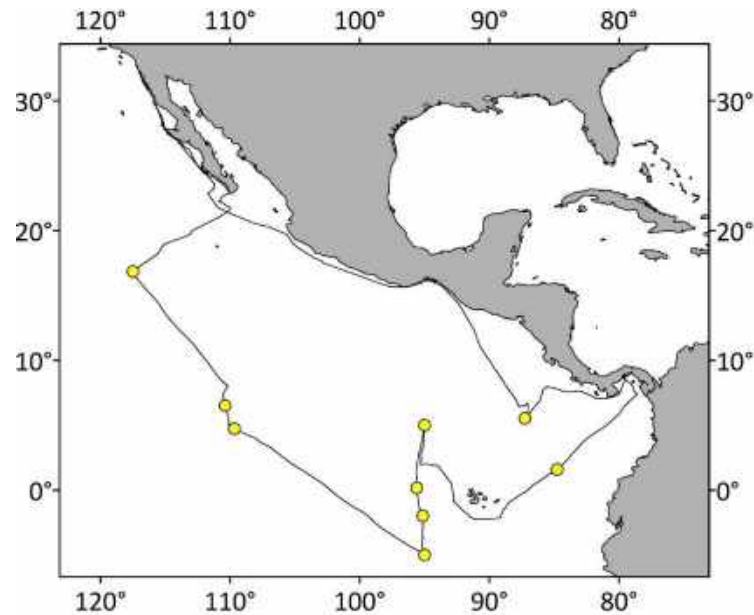




# IATTC Regional Tuna Tagging Program - Results

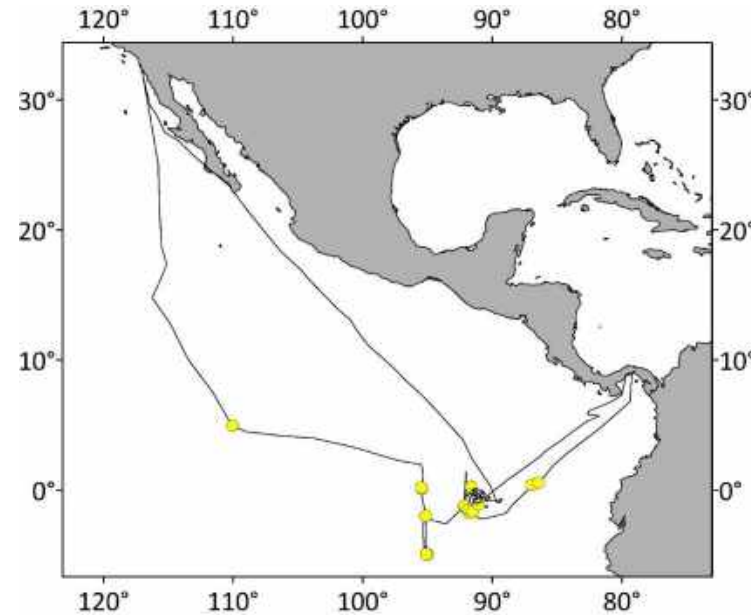
## Cruise 1

6 March to 30 April 2019



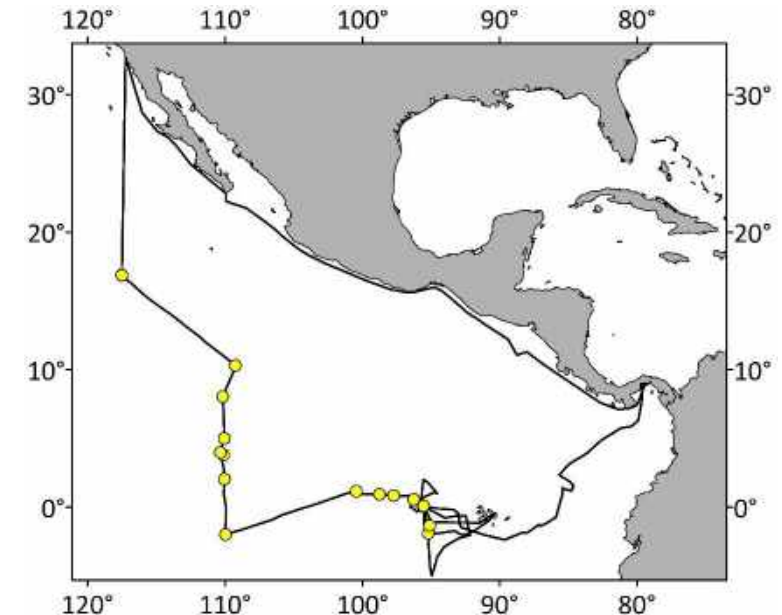
## Cruise 2

1 February to 30 April 2020



## Cruise 3

1 March 2020 to 20 May 2022



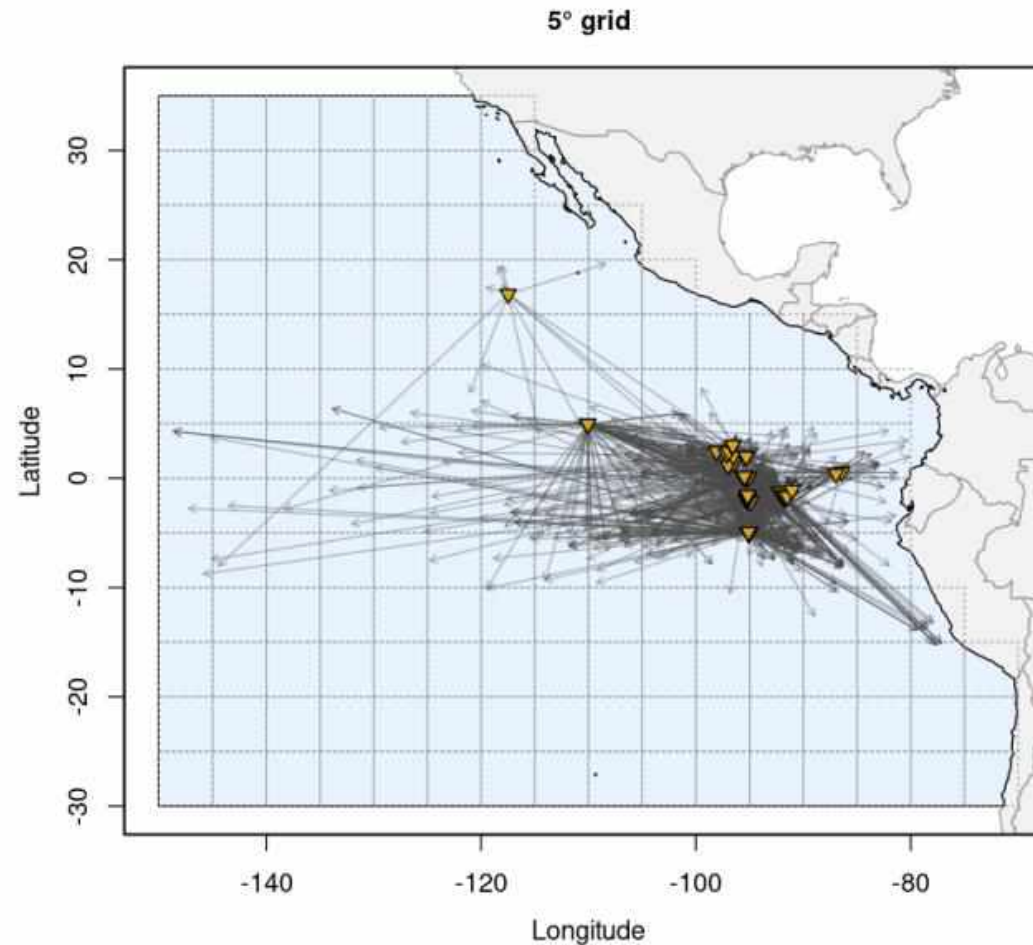
The yellow dots are where tagging events occurred

# IATTC Regional Tuna Tagging Program – summary results

Year	Tag Type	SKJ	YFT	BET	Total
2019	Plastic Dart	177	804	143	1,124
	Archival	43	242	46	331
2020	Plastic Dart	5,854	265	8	6,127
	Archival	185	9	-	194
2022	Plastic Dart	135	611	114	860
	Archival	26	218	11	255
Total	Plastic Dart	6,166	1,680	265	8,111
	Archival	254	469	57	780



# SKJ spatiotemporal modeling – preliminary results



SAC-13-08

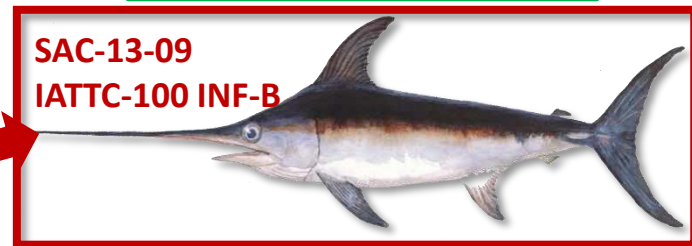
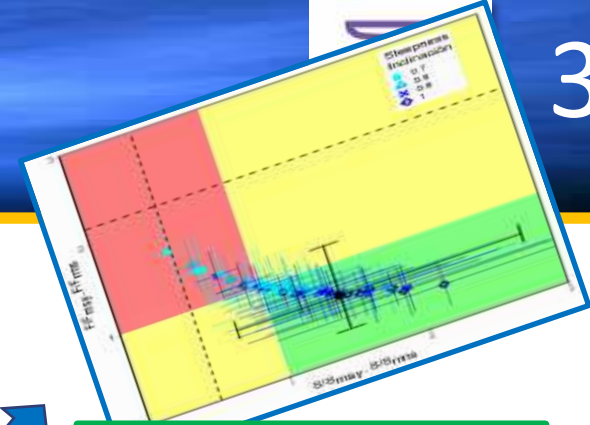
**FIGURE 4.** Skipjack tuna linear displacements ( $n = 700$ ) for fish at liberty greater than 30 d shown as dots, color coded for six distinct release locations, shown as squares. Fish were tagged under the IATTC Regional Tuna Tagging Program (RTTP) in the EPO (1999-2020).

**FIGURA 4.** Los desplazamientos lineales del atún barrilete ( $n = 700$ ) para peces en libertad mayor a 30 d se muestran como puntos, codificados por colores para seis lugares distintos de liberación, se muestran como cuadrados. Los peces fueron marcados bajo el Programa Regional de Marcado de Atunes (PRMA) de la CIAT en el OPO (1999-2020).

# Pesquerías sostenibles

## Sustainable fisheries

3. SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES	
H.1.a:	Improve the bigeye tuna stock assessment phase 2
H.1.b:	Improve the yellowfin tuna stock assessment phase 2: Explore alternative hypotheses of stock structure and life-history for YFT in exploratory stock assessment models
H.1.c:	Investigate potential changes in the selectivity of the longline fleet resulting from changes in gear configuration
H.1.d:	Improve indices of abundance based on longline CPUE data
H.1.e:	Construct indices of abundance and composition data for longline fleets
H.1.f:	Improving the methodology of the risk analysis
H.3.a:	Analysis of recent skipjack tagging data
H.3.b:	Skipjack Stock assessment
H.3.c:	Estimate skipjack growth rates from recent tagging data
H.4.a:	Conduct routine stock assessments of tropical tunas
H.6.a:	Participate in assessments of shared species by the International Scientific Committee (ISC)
H.7.b:	South Pacific swordfish assessment
H.7.c:	Participate in south Pacific albacore assessment
H.8.b:	Second trial dolphin survey
H.8.c:	Cow-calf separation
I.1.a:	Conduct a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for tropical tunas in the EPO
J.2.a:	Quantify the relationship between v and mortality
J.2.b (new):	Identifying operational characteristics of the longline fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean
J.3.a:	Developing alternative buoy-derived tuna biomass indexes
K.1.a:	POSEIDON project



# IATTC Staff Activities and Research Plan (REVISED)

## Actividades y Plan de Trabajo del Personal de la CIAT (REVISADO)

### MSE tropical tunas – EEO atunes tropicales

[DOCUMENT SAC-13-INF-C link](#)

**GREEN:** COMPLETED; **BLUE:** FUNDED; **RED:** UNFUNDED, Text ~~struck through~~ indicates completed or terminated projects

SSP ref.	Target/Project	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
		1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
	<b>1. SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES</b>														
	<b>Goal I: Test harvest strategies using Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)</b>														
I.1.	Conduct a comprehensive MSE for bigeye tuna and plan MSEs for the other tropical tuna species														
I.1.a	1. Stakeholder and technical MSE workshops														
	a. Technical meetings to agree on overall/revised MSE Plan by IATTC staff and collaborators														
	b. Stakeholder workshops on training and communication on MSE development and results														
	2. Technical development of MSE, HCR, MP, outputs														
	<del>a. Improve the bigeye assessment for use as spatial-OM</del>														
	<del>b. Run preliminary simulations with spatial-OM</del>														
	a. Run preliminary MSE based on initial input from managers and stakeholders														
	b. Run final MSE based on revised input from managers and stakeholders														
	c. Present evaluated HCR/MP to Commission, plan work for other tropical tunas														

Transition of MSE work to other tropical species (YFT, SKJ) after 2024 to be outlined in the new IATTC Strategic Science Plan (planned in 2023)

*Transición a EEO de otros atunes tropicales (YFT, SKJ) en 2024 detallado en el nuevo Plan Estratégico Científico de la CIAT (planeado en 2013)*

**Funds?**  
**¿Fondos?**  
(see IATTC-100-2b, proposal I.1.b)

# Cronograma de evaluaciones – atunes tropicales

## Stock assessment schedule – tropical tuna



### *New triennial assessment and management cycle (2022-2024)*

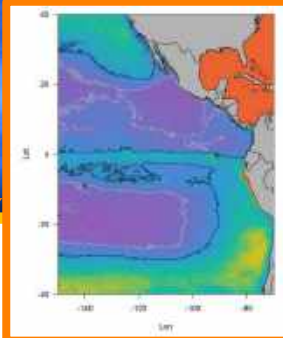
SPECIES	2021	2022	2023	2024
Tropical Tunas	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
SKJ	Review of assessment methods	Interim SKJ assessment Initial results of tagging analysis; External review		Benchmark assessment
YFT		WS on longline data; WS on improving spatio-temporal methods for CPUE and L-F standardization (Project H.1.f)	Exploratory assessment; External review (Nov-Jan)	Benchmark assessment
BET		WS on longline data; WS on improving spatio-temporal methods for CPUE and L-F standardization (Project H.1.f)	Exploratory assessment; External review (Nov-Jan)	Benchmark assessment
Risk analysis		WS to improve metrics and scoring in risk analysis (Proposal H.1.g)		Risk analysis
MSE process	MSE WS, Tech. Work	MSE WS, Prelim. results	MSE WS, Prelim. results	MSE WS, BET HS, Future Work

# Impactos ecológicos de la pesca: evaluación y mitigación

## Ecological impacts of fisheries: assessment and mitigation



4. ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF FISHERIES: ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION	
L.1.a:	Develop habitat models for bycatch species caught in the EPO to support ecological risk assessments (ERAs)
L.2.b (new):	Vulnerability assessment of shark bycatch in EPO tuna fisheries using the EASI-Fish approach
species in the EPO	
L.2.d (new):	Pacific-wide vulnerability assessment of pelagic shark species caught as bycatch in tuna fisheries
L.2.e (new):	Vulnerability assessment and efficacy of potential conservation measures for the east Pacific leatherback turtle stock
M.1.b:	Test sorting grids
M.1.c:	Acoustic discrimination to avoid purse seine catches of undersized yellowfin tuna
M.1.d:	Developing and testing bycatch release devices in tuna purse seiners
M.2.b:	Evaluate best handling practices for maximizing post-release survival of silky sharks in longline fisheries, and identification of silky shark pupping areas for bycatch mitigation
M.2.c:	Manta and devil ray post-release survival, movement ecology, and genetic population
M.3.b:	Spatial and temporal closures and the tradeoff between bycatch and target catches
M.5.a:	Develop and test non-entangling and biodegradable FADs
M.5.c:	Definition of guidelines to reduce the impact of lost and abandoned FADs on marine turtles



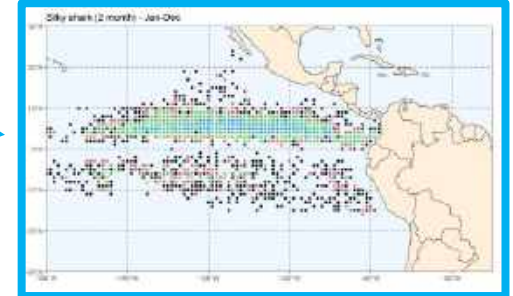
BYC-11-01



SAC-13-11



BYC-11-02



BYC-11-04



FAD-06-02

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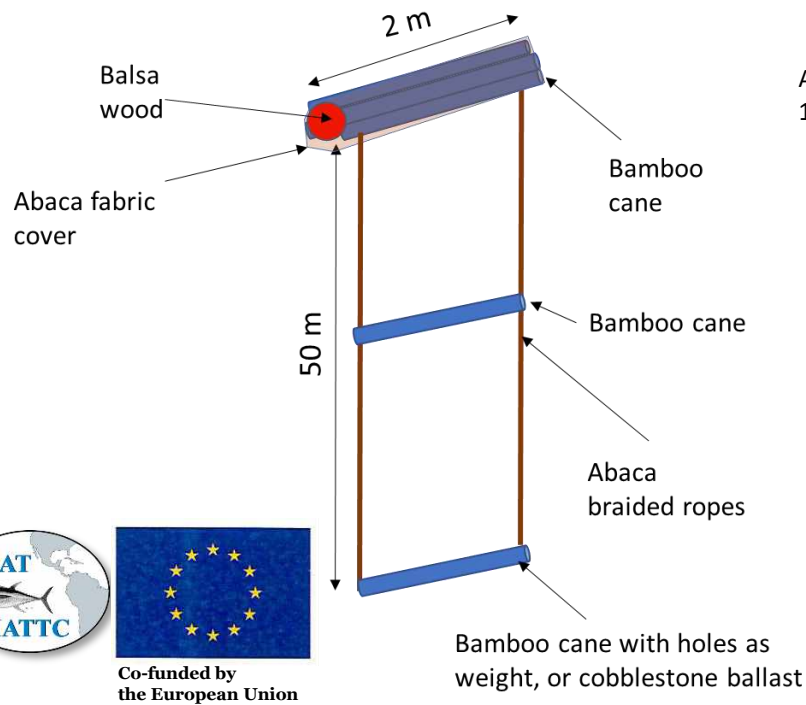
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# Prototypes tested in the project (n = 730; 45 participant vessels)

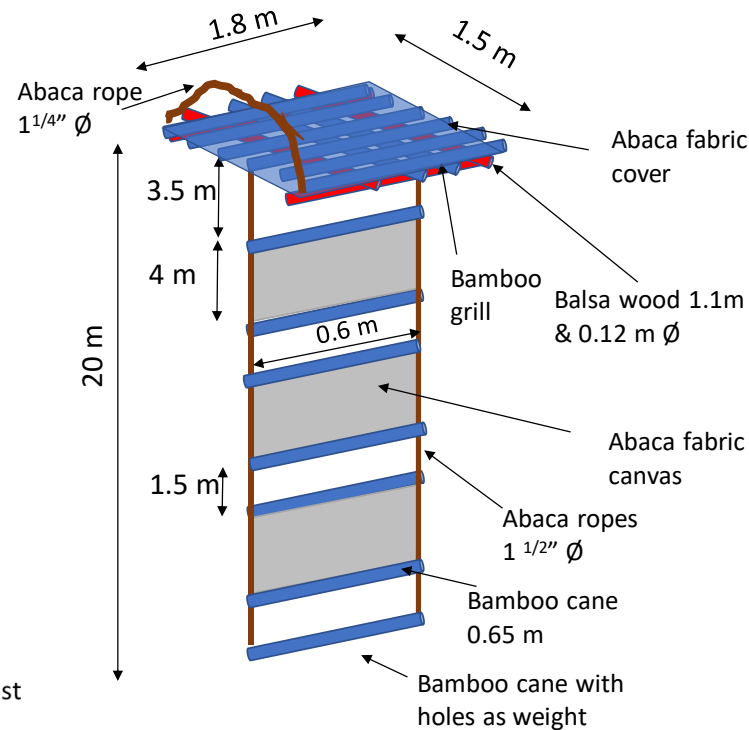
## Prototype 1

- **Abaca** as main vegetal fiber component
- Sausage-like bamboo/balsa as floating component
- Two ropes as submerged component



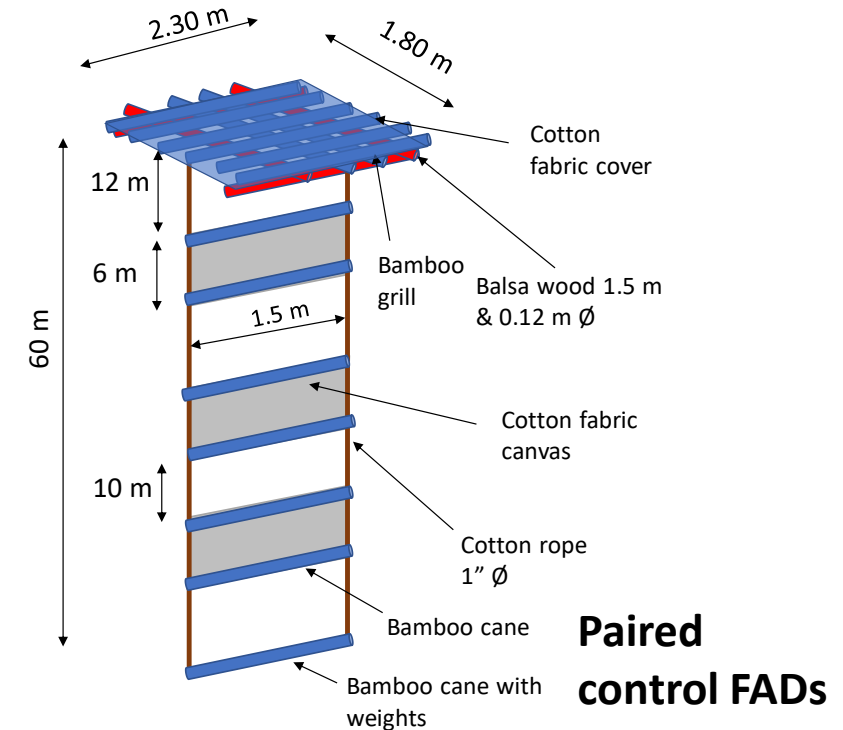
## Prototype 2

- **Abaca** as main vegetal fiber component
- Gridded-like bamboo/balsa as floating component
- Three abaca fabric canvas as submerged component



## Prototype 3

- **Cotton** as main vegetal fiber component
- Gridded-like bamboo/balsa as floating component
- Three cotton fabric canvas as submerged component



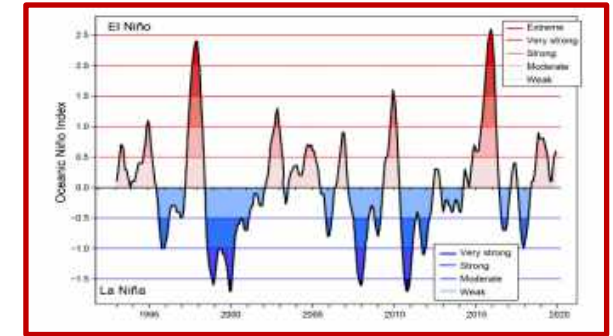
**Paired control FADs**

Deployments	114	392	224	720
Visits	5	73	8	106
Sets	8	46	2	134
Catch per set	61	29.2	38	31.2

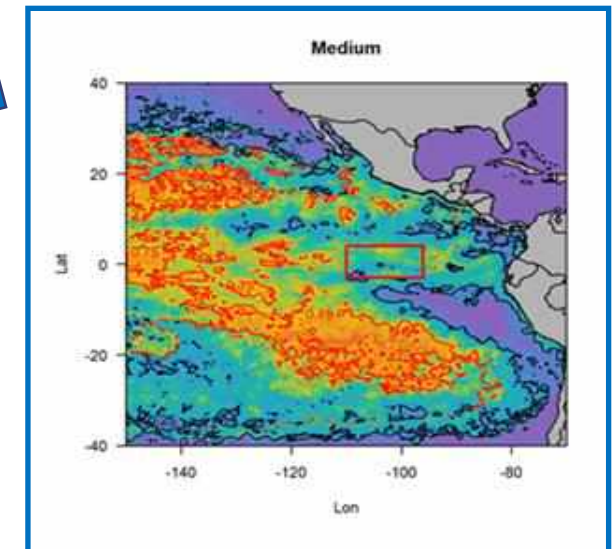


Co-funded by the European Union





SAC-13-10



<b>5. INTERACTIONS AMONG THE ENVIRONMENT, THE ECOSYSTEM, AND FISHERIES</b>
<b>N.1.b:</b> Investigate the effects of wind-induced microturbulence on yellowfin larval survival
<b>N.1.c:</b> Developing dynamic species distributions models to inform conservation and management of non-target species and communities in the eastern Pacific Ocean
<b>N.2.a.</b> Develop models of the effects of climate change on pre-recruit life stages of tropical tunas
<b>N.2.b:</b> Supporting climate-ready and sustainable fisheries: using satellite data to conserve and manage life in the ocean and support sustainable fisheries under climate change
<b>O.2.a:</b> Develop and implement analytical tools for understanding the trophic ecology of apex predators
<b>O.2.b:</b> An updated ecosystem model of the tropical EPO for providing standardized ecological indicators for monitoring of ecosystem integrity
<b>O.2.c:</b> Temporal network analysis of bycatch communities caught in purse-seine fisheries





**6. KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

**P.1.a:** Fulfil requests for development of database and data processing applications for entities outside the IATTC

**P.1.b:** Respond to requests for scientific analyses

**Q.1.a:** Acnotines Laboratory support of Yale University's Environmental Leadership Training Initiative (ELTI) in Panama

## 7. SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

### U.1.a: Long-term plan to strengthen research at the Achotines Laboratory



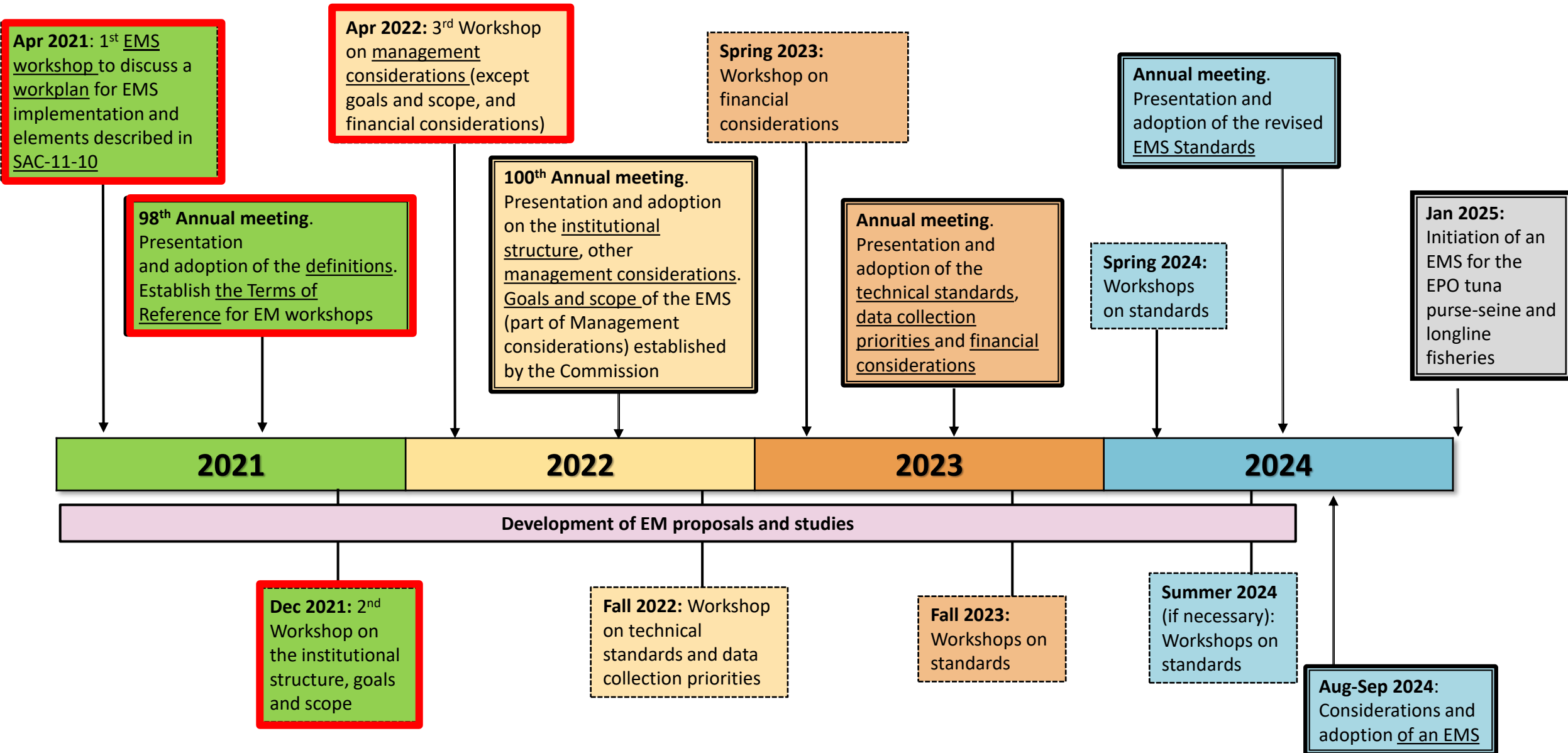
# Temario - Outline

- *Informe de actividades* (IATTC-100-02a)
- *Proyectos seleccionados (por Tema)*
- **Planes de trabajo:**
  - Evaluaciones de Estrategias de Ordenación (EEO) para los atunes tropicales
  - Monitoreo electrónico
  - Tiburones
- *Proyectos no financiados* (IATTC-100-02b)

- *Staff Activities Report* (IATTC-100-02a)
- *Selected projects (by Theme)*
- **Work plans:**
  - Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for tropical tunas
  - Electronic monitoring
  - Sharks
- *Unfunded projects* (IATTC-100-02b)

# Plan de trabajo del SME para la pesquería atunera en el OPO

## Workplan of the EMS for the tuna fisheries in the EPO



# Establecimiento de un grupo de trabajo *ad hoc* y futura adopción de un 'paquete'

## Establishment of an *ad hoc* working group and future adoption of a package

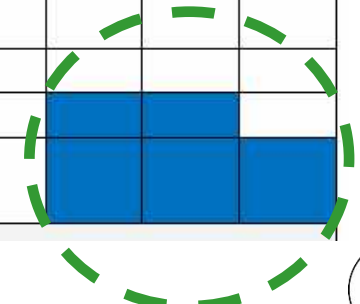
- El proceso ha demostrado que la Comisión probablemente debería considerar ahora el establecimiento de un Grupo de Trabajo *Ad Hoc* que complemente el proceso de los talleres, tal y como se establece en el plan de trabajo que fue aprobado, sin duplicarlo.
- Ofrecer a los Miembros un foro para discutir sobre los asuntos en consideración y llegar a conclusiones y eventuales recomendaciones que no podrían resultar de los talleres técnicos e informales.

- The process has demonstrated that the Commission should most probably consider now the establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Working Group which would complement the process of the workshops, as set in the approved workplan, without duplicating it
- Offer to Members a forum to discuss issues and reach conclusions and eventual recommendations that cannot be resulting from technical and informal workshops.

# Plan de trabajo para los tiburones

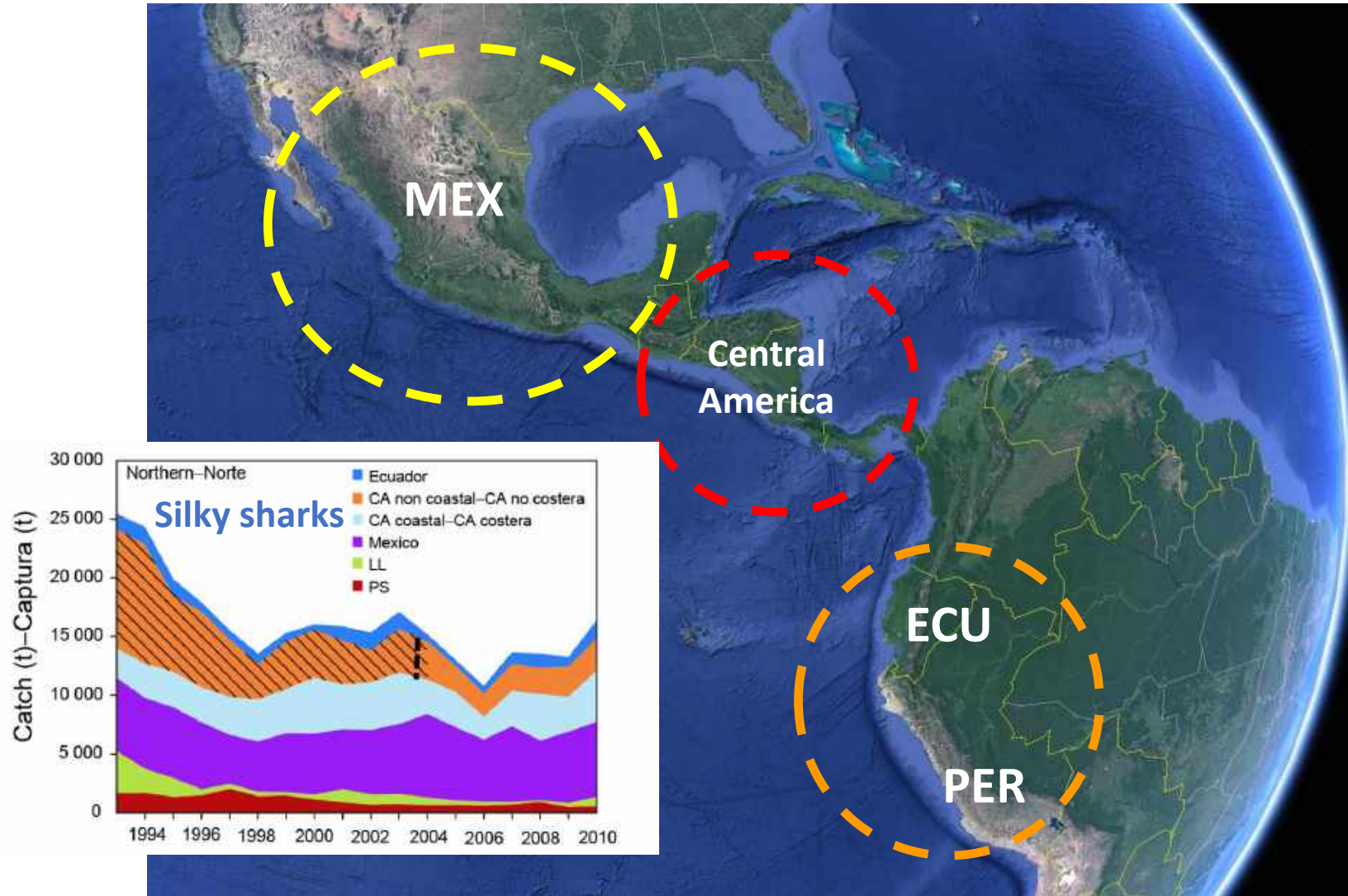
## Shark workplan

SSP ref.	Target/Project	Timeframe & status					
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Goal D:</b> Investigate the use of new technologies to improve data quality							
D.2.a	Pilot study of electronic monitoring of the activities and catches of purse-seine vessels	■	■	■	■		
<b>LIFE HISTORY DATA</b>							
F.2.a	Investigate the movements, behavior, and habitat utilization of silky sharks in the EPO	■	■	■	■	■	
<b>MONITORING POPULATION STATUS AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE</b>							
<b>Goal H:</b> Improve and implement stock assessments, based on the best available science							
H.5	Undertake the research necessary to develop and conduct data-limited assessments for prioritized species (Assessments of silky and hammerhead sharks in the EPO)					<del>■</del>	<del>■</del>
H.5.a	Revise trend estimation methods for purse-seine silky shark indices for the EPO	■	■				
<b>Goal L:</b> Evaluate the ecological impacts of tuna fisheries							
J.2.b	Identifying operational characteristics associated with mobulid bycatch in the eastern Pacific Ocean					■	■
L.1.a	Develop habitat models for bycatch species caught in the EPO to support ecological risk assessments (ERAs)	■	■				
L.1.b	Develop a flexible spatially-explicit ERA approach for quantifying the cumulative impact of tuna fisheries on data-limited bycatch species in the EPO	■	■				
L.2.a	Develop and update Productivity-Susceptibility Analyses (PSAs) of tuna fisheries in the EPO	■	■				
L.2.b	Vulnerability assessment of shark bycatch in EPO tuna fisheries using the EASI-Fish approach				■	■	
L.2.c	Assessing the efficacy of potential management options for highly vulnerable shark species in the EPO				■	■	■



# Tiburones: mejoras en la recopilación de datos para las pesquerías artesanales

## Sharks – data collection improvements for artisanal fisheries





**2015-2017**

Activities in Central America

CIAT- FAO/GEF ABNJ Project

Actividades en Centroamérica



Metadata  
(SAC-07-06b (ii))

Challenge and Recommendations to improvement SAC-07-06b(iii)

Capacity building

**2018-2019**

Pilot study for shark sampling program  
(SAC-11-13)



Mapping shark landing sites

Landing sites characterization

Catch and effort survey

Order-of-magnitude estimates

Catch sampling designs

**2020-2021**

Long-term Shark sampling Program



Catch and Effort

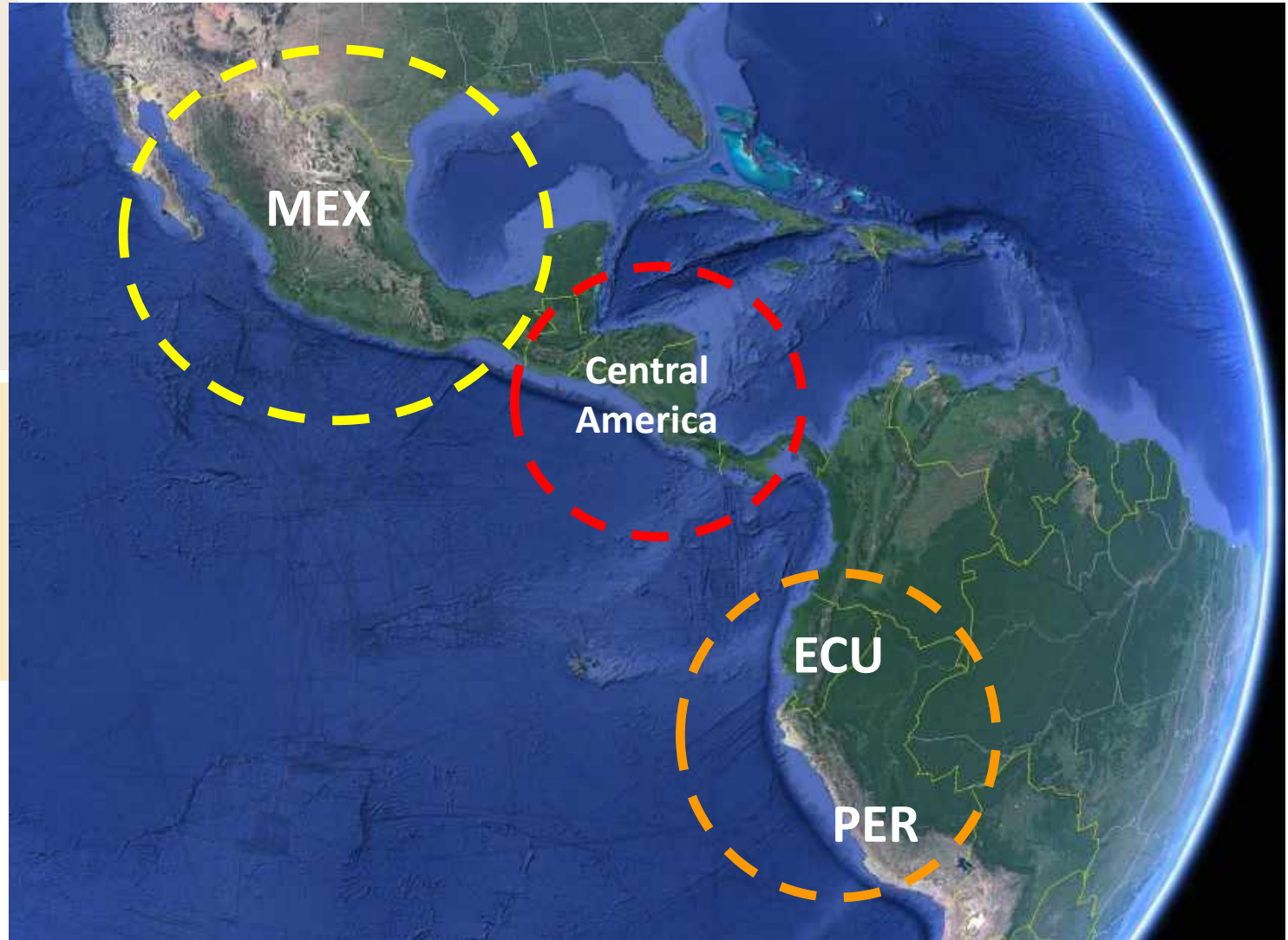
Catch sampling design for artesanal fleet

Catch sampling design for median and advance fleet

Pilot tissue sampling (Mobulidae)

- Mejorar la recolección de datos para las pesquerías tiburonerías en México, Ecuador y Perú (ABNJ 2)
- Mantener esfuerzos mínimos de muestreo y recolectar datos biológicos en Centroamérica para apoyar el proyecto ABNJ 2.
- Improve data collection for shark fisheries in Mexico, Ecuador and Peru (ABNJ 2)
- Maintain minimum sampling efforts and collect biological data from Central America to support the ABNJ 2.

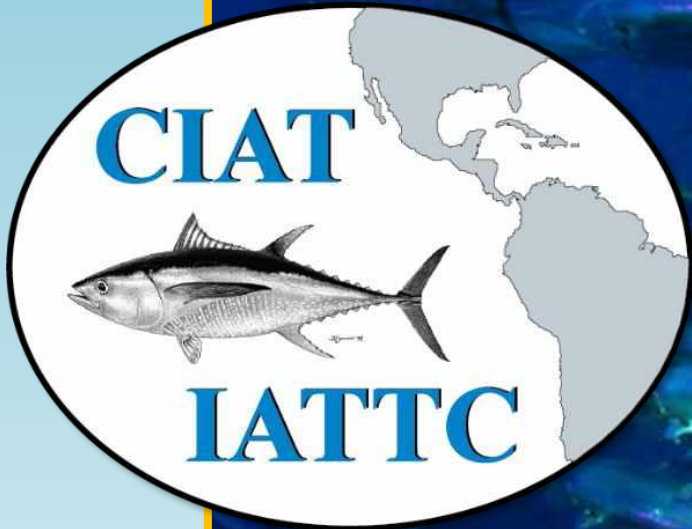
**See Proposals and C.4.c  
H.7.f (IATTC-100-02b)**



# Propuestas no financiadas por tema (IATTC-100b)

## Unfunded proposals by theme (IATTC-100-02b)

<b>1. DATA COLLECTION FOR SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT OF MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>C.1.b:</b> Sampling design development for the Best Scientific Estimate of tropical tuna catch composition
<b>C.4.c:</b> Strengthening shark data collection for artisanal fisheries in EPO coastal States: supplementary support for the IATTC ABNJ project
<b>2. LIFE-HISTORY STUDIES FOR SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT OF MANAGEMENT</b>
-
<b>3. SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES</b>
<b>H.7.f:</b> Feasibility and sampling design for close-kin mark-recapture analysis of silky and hammerhead sharks in the EPO
<b>I.1.b:</b> Development, <u>communication</u> and evaluation of management strategies (MSE) for tropical tuna fisheries in the EPO involving managers, industry, scientists and other stakeholders
<b>I.3.b:</b> Strengthening research for the management of dorado in the EPO
<b>4. ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF FISHERIES: ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION</b>
-
<b>5. INTERACTIONS AMONG THE ENVIRONMENT, THE ECOSYSTEM, AND FISHERIES</b>
-
<b>6. KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND CAPACITY BUILDING</b>
-
<b>7. SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE</b>
<b>T.1.a:</b> External review of bigeye tuna assessment
<b>T.1.b:</b> External review of yellowfin tuna assessment



¿Preguntas?  
Questions?

