

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

*(by videoconference)*

**16-20 May 2022**

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION**

**1. TROPICAL TUNAS (YELLOWFIN, BIGEYE, AND SKIPJACK):**

**1.1.1. Management strategy evaluation (MSE):** Recognizing the importance of the ongoing MSE process for tropical tunas:

- (a) that the Commission provide the appropriate resources, considering the proposal of the staff to be submitted at the next regular meeting of the Commission, in order to continue and complete the MSE process, including dialogue between scientists, managers, and other relevant stakeholders.

**1.2. Landings and processing plants sampling scheme:**

- (a) That the work of the pilot project coordinated by the IATTC staff to strengthen the sampling of landings in port, referred to in paragraph 6 of Resolution C-21-04, initially focused upon Class-6 vessels and gradually applicable to other classes within the framework of the pilot program and its extension to all relevant ports, be carried out subject to the availability of economic resources and sampling personnel as well as prior coordination with the CPCs of the ports involved.
- (b) That the IATTC staff endeavor to minimize any possible negative effects of sampling on the unloading operations of tuna vessels and on the unloaded product quality.
- (c) That, within the framework of the pilot program, the staff consider whether the enhanced sampling program can be carried out at the processing plants, and report back to the SAC on this matter in 2023.

**1.3. Skipjack tuna:**

- (a) While recognizing the interim nature of the first skipjack stock assessment, which was conducted by the scientific staff, who was congratulated for it by the SAC, that the Commission take into account the results of this assessment as well as the management advice issued by the staff.
- (b) Given that more time was requested by the staff to integrate the tagging information and complete the assessment of skipjack tuna in the EPO and given that all three species of tropical tuna are managed together, that the staff conduct the skipjack tuna assessment in 2024, together with the bigeye and yellowfin tuna assessments.

**2. TEMPERATE TUNAS:**

**2.1. Swordfish:**

- (a) That the IATTC staff publish on the IATTC website, within 2 months, the benchmark assessment of the swordfish stock in the EPO with its respective recommendations.

(b) That the staff also maintain in its scientific research plan periodic assessments on this species.

**2.2. North Pacific Albacore Tuna:** That the Commission use the results of the concluded MSE process to establish reference points and harvest control rules for the North Pacific albacore tuna.

**2.3. South Pacific Albacore Tuna:**

(a) That CPCs provide the fisheries information as recommended by the scientific staff, for the purpose of improving the stock assessment of South Pacific albacore tuna in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

(b) That the staff also maintain in its scientific research plan periodic assessments on this species.

### **3. DATA COLLECTION:**

**3.1. Data collection for sharks:** That the Commission provide adequate resources to establish or strengthen the data collection programs for shark species in the EPO, especially for fisheries carried out by EPO artisanal fisheries and for vulnerable species, including taking into account the proposal made by the IATTC staff in document IATTC-98-02(c) and the upcoming work under ABNJ Phase II (SAC-13-12).

**3.2. Electronic monitoring system (EMS):**

Recognizing the importance of implementing an electronic monitoring system in the EPO for the conservation and management of the fish stocks covered by the Antigua Convention:

(a) that the Commission provide the appropriate resources to continue and complete the work plan;

(b) that an EM Working Group be established in parallel with the EM Workshops.

**4. WORKING GROUP ON BYCATCH:**

(a) that the Commission replace the Bycatch Working Group with an Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group;

(b) that the Commission adopt clear Terms of Reference for the Working Group.