

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT)
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)


MEMORANDUM

22 November 2020

Ref.: 0511-410

Para: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation

c.c. Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia and Nigeria

De: Jean-François Pulvenis, Director *ad interim* 

Re: 1st Technical Workshop on Swordfish in the Southern EPO

Please find attached for your information and consideration a copy of the meeting notice on First Technical Workshop on Swordfish in the Southern EPO, which will be held by videoconference from 15 to 17 December 2020 and preceded by an online forum from 16 November to 14 December 2020.

All Members and Cooperating Non-Members are encouraged to be represented in that important workshop through the participation of their scientists, as described in the notice, which is also posted in the meetings website of the Commission.

Annex: as indicated.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

1ST TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON SWORDFISH IN THE SOUTHERN EPO

Review current state of knowledge, identify available data sources, review stock assessment assumptions for swordfish in the southern EPO

Online forum (16 November-14 December 2020);
Meeting by videoconference (15-17 December 2020; 1300-1600 h
PST); using Zoom and Basecamp platforms

Scope and objectives

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) mandate is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna and tuna -like species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO, which it achieves through promoting, coordinating and conducting scientific research, and adopting conservation and management measures). This includes swordfish, which is in the EPO a target of both high-seas longline fisheries and coastal and recreational fisheries.

The IATTC staff last assessed the southern EPO swordfish stock in 2011, using an integrated stock assessment model fitted to a longline-based index of abundance and length-frequency data. The species is included in the staff's research workplan ([SAC-09-02a](#), [SAC-11-01a](#)), and a benchmark assessment is scheduled for 2021.

This workshop, which will establish the foundations for the assessment, aims to promote collaboration between the IATTC staff, the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), and scientists from IATTC Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs).

The workshop, and its preparatory work, will bring together scientists interested in contributing to this regional effort. The objectives are to: 1) promote a regional investigation of swordfish in the southern EPO; 2) review the current state of knowledge of the stock; 3) construct a conceptual model of the population and fishery; 4) identify and understand data sets available from different fisheries/regions that can be used in the assessment; and 5) plan the next steps for the stock assessment process.

Topics

Participants are encouraged to present research covering the following topics:

1. Background on swordfish issues in the EPO
2. Previous IATTC Stock Synthesis model for swordfish: description and analysis
3. Stock structure

4. Conceptual model
5. Biology:
 - a. Growth
 - b. Natural mortality
 - c. Reproduction (maturity, fecundity, frequency)
6. Fisheries definitions
7. Review of data sources:
 - a. Catch by gear and area
 - b. Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE)
 - c. Other data (*e.g.* tagging)
 - d. Composition (age, length, weight, sex composition, length-weight relationship, dressed weight-full weight relationship)
8. Modeling

Work schedule

Due to time limitations, individual presentations will be pre-recorded, and will be made available to participants on a secure channel in advance of the workshop. Participants interested in recording a presentation should first submit a written abstract to the Chair. The staff will moderate an online forum of topics of interest prior to the workshop, and prepare a summary literature review; the conclusions from the submitted work and online discussion by topic will be presented during the meeting by videoconference as a basis for further discussion and decisions. The meeting by videoconference, which will be held on the Zoom platform, will consist of three daily sessions, each three hours long, dedicated to discussion of the topics.

- a. Submit pre-recorded presentations: 16 November-4 December
- b. Online forum open: 16 November-14 December
- c. Videoconference meeting: 15-17 December, 1300-1600 h PST (2100-0000 h UTC)

Minimum products

- a. Reviewed and updated assumptions/hypotheses for model improvement
- b. Workplan for model improvement

Contacts

Chair: [Carolina Minte-Vera](#)

Registration: [Monica Galván](#) / [Marisol Aguilar](#)