

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102ND MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2 – 6 September, 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-10

ON CLIMATE CHANGE (Amendment to Res. C-23-10)

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama on the occasion of its 102nd Meeting:

Committed to the objective of the Antigua Convention to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by the Convention;

Recognizing international initiatives to address climate change and its effects, including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, and the Glasgow Climate Pact;

Acknowledging the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with specific reference to the Sixth Assessment Report (2022);

Aware that, in September 2022 the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) highlighted the need for developing guidance on climate resilient fisheries management including a process to facilitate coordination and cooperation among RFMO/RFBs;

Mindful that climate change is leading to shifts in the distribution and abundance of fisheries, altering ecosystems, affecting livelihoods, and increasing uncertainty in food and economic security worldwide;

Recognizing that the Second World Ocean Assessment within the framework of the United Nations (2021) highlights the need to integrate climate change-related stressors, such as acidification, hypoxia and ocean warming, into fisheries management considerations;

Noting the importance of addressing the impacts of climate change on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem as the target stocks in the Convention Area;

Acknowledging that several regional fisheries management organizations, including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the South Pacific Regional Fishery Management Organization (SPRFMO), the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) have taken action to prepare for the impacts of climate change on the fisheries under their jurisdiction;

Further acknowledging that both the 1st Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch and the 14th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee recommended adding climate change as standing agenda items going forward;

Resolves as follows:

1. The Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG) in 2024 and annually thereafter shall include climate change as an agenda item at their annual meeting. Within this agenda item, the EBWG will evaluate any issue related to climate change and may provide advice to the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Commission regarding amendments to existing resolutions or proposed new resolutions that may be necessary because of climate change impacts on fisheries in the Convention Area.
2. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) since 2024 and annually thereafter shall include climate change as an agenda item at their annual meeting. Within this agenda item, the SAC will highlight and consider the best scientific information available on the relationships between climate change, target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with the target stocks.
3. To the extent feasible, the IATTC scientific staff will take into consideration existing information on climate change when developing stock assessments and management strategy evaluations and will identify information needs to be implemented in the management of the resource. It will also discuss and propose plans for collection of existing information on climate change related variables that alter ocean water conditions relevant to the physiology and behavior of species and that determine species distributions, such as those related to warming, acidification and hypoxia. The SAC shall consider the recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff when formulating its recommendations to the Commission on how existing resolutions and proposed new resolutions can best promote resilience to climate change impacts on fisheries in the Convention Area.
4. The Commission will convene a virtual climate change workshop in the first quarter of 2025 to discuss implementation of the scientific staff's proposed workplan.
5. The Commission since 2024 and annually thereafter shall include climate change as an agenda item at the ordinary annual meeting of the IATTC, considering climate-related SAC and EBWG Recommendations in its deliberations, as well as any other considerations regarding climate change impacts on species under the purview of the Antigua Convention and any related impacts on the economies of CPCs.
6. At the SAC meeting in 2024 and annually thereafter, the Director and Commission shall consider and present options to reduce the environmental and climate impacts of the activities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, such as by providing hybrid options for meetings.
7. The scientific staff shall incorporate in the next edition of the science strategic plan the issue of climate change and its impact on target species, non-target species, and the EPO ecosystem in general.
8. This amendment to Resolution C-23-10 shall be effective on January 1, 2025.