INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

104TH MEETING

Lisbon, Portugal

August 31 - September 4, 2026

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

FINAL DRAFT(*)

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. General presentation of the proposed resolutions and other proposals submitted by the Members
4. Recommendations to the Commission
    a. The fishery in 2025 and the condition of tuna stocks and recommendations from Commission staff for their conservation and management
    b. Other recommendations from Commission staff
    c. Report and recommendations of the 17th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee
5. Review of research programs by Commission staff: Strategic Scientific Plan (2026-2030)
6. Reports from subsidiary bodies and working groups
    a. 4th Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring
    b. 4th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch
    c. 10th Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on FADs
    d. 13th Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance
    e. 27th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity
    f. 17th meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission
    g. 11th Meeting of the IATTC-WCPFC/NC Joint Working Group on the management of Pacific bluefin tuna
7. Discussion of the resolutions and recommendations
8. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission
9. Election of the Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies and working groups
10. Other business
11. Date and place of next meeting
12. Adjournment

ANNEXES

1.		List of attendees
2.		**RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
Annex	**Code**	**Name of the resolution or recommendation**
2a	C-26-01	Interim management procedure for Pacific bluefin tuna

(*) Article 47 – IATTC Rules of Procedure

2b	C-26-02	Measures for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean
2c	C-26-03	Exchange of information and establishment of provisional reference points for swordfish in the South Pacific within the IATTC area
2d	C-26-04	Resolution to mitigate the impact on seabirds by fishing for species covered by the IATTC
2e	C-26-05	South Pacific Albacore Tuna
2f	C-26-06	Research for management of dorado (*Coryphaena hippurus*)
2g	C-26-07	Resolution on scientific observers on longline vessels
2h	C-26-08	Resolution on the progress for implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM)
2i	C-26-09	Resolution on a work plan for billfish in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
2j	C-26-10	Recommendation for coordination and cooperation between the IATTC and the processes related to the BBNJ Agreement
2k	C-26-11	Conservation measures for the protection and sustainable management of sharks
2l	C-26-12	Financing for fiscal year 2027

3. Proposals (Not adopted)

Annex	Code	Proposal name and proponents
3a	A1 to A6/	**COL; EUR; CHN; VAR; USA:** several proposed amendments to the text of Resolution C-25-01.
3b	F-1	**CAN.** Proposal to amend resolution C-15-05 using a curve formula to calculate the GNI factor instead of the GNI categorization. **Withdrawn**.
3c	G-1/Rev.2	**CAN.** Regional Vessel Registry **Withdrawn**.
3D	I-1	**VAR (*7 Central American countries*).** Draft amendment to Resolution C-19-02 amending Resolution C-15-01 to establish a list of vessels allegedly involved in IUU fishing activities
3e	K-1	**VAR (*7 Central American countries*).** Draft amendment to Resolution C-22-02 - Paragraphs 7 bis, 7 ter, and 7 quater are added, paragraph 8 is amended, and an element is added to Annex 2. **Withdrawn**
3f	L-1	**VAR (*7 Central American countries*)** Amends paragraph 5c of Resolution C-11-11 […] (*Capacity building fund*).
3g	N-1	**USA.** Resolution on data provision.
3h	O-1 Rev.	**KOR.** Resolution on the protection of cetaceans.
3i	R-1	**VAR (*7 Central American countries*).** Rules for the determination and collection of contributions for participation by non-governmental organizations that participate as observers in the meetings of the commission and its subsidiary bodies
3j	T-1	**USA;** Provisional management procedure for tropical tunas (yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, and skipjack tuna) in the Eastern Pacific Ocean for the period 2027-2032
	T-2	**ECU**. Management procedure for tropical tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean
3k	U-1	**Chair** Establishment and financing of the IATTC Contingency Fund
3l	V-1	**VAR (*7 Central American countries*).** Creation of an Ad Hoc Working Group for legal assistance of the Commission and the Secretariat **Withdrawn**.

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3m	W-1	**VAR (*7 Central American countries*).** IATTC guidelines for establishing cooperation and collaboration frameworks with other organizations, frameworks, and instruments related to the exploitation, trade, conservation, and sustainable use of marine biodiversity
3n	X-1	**VAR (*7 Central American countries*).** Establishment and beginning of the coastal EPO Scientific Program as a component of IATTC's scientific work
4.	**REPORTS**	
4a	Recommendations from the 17th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee.	
4b	Report of the 4th meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Electronic Monitoring.	
4c	Report of the 4th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch	
4d	Report of the 10th meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on FADs.	
4e	Report of the 13th meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance.	
4f	Report of the 27th Meeting on the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity	
4g	Report of the 17th meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission and special report of the Committee.	
4h	Report of the 11th Meeting of the IATTC-WCPFC/NC Joint Working Group on the management of Pacific bluefin tuna.	
4i	Report of the Group on Dialogue on the Evaluation of Planning Strategies.	
5.	**OTHERS**	
5a	Joint opening declaration by Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.	
5b	Bolivia's declaration on capacity.	
5c	Vanuatu's Declaration on Capacity (Case of the *Emerald Sea* Vessel).	
5d	Venezuela's statement on outstanding financial contributions.	
5e	Declaration of Colombia on exceptional circumstances of force majeure.	

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1. Opening of the meeting

The 104th meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was held in Lisbon, Portugal, from August 31 to September 4, 2026, at the kind invitation of the European Union and Portugal as the host country. The Chair of the Commission, Mr. Andrés Arens, from Ecuador, opened the meeting and welcomed the Commissioners, delegations, observers, industry representatives, the Secretariat, and the scientific staff.

The Portuguese Minister of Agriculture and the Sea, Mr. José Manuel Fernándes, greeted the participants on behalf of Portugal and the European Union, highlighting the importance of multilateral cooperation and the role of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) in translating science and shared responsibility into concrete conservation measures, and the need to balance sustainability, competitiveness, and social cohesion. He also recalled the historical links of Portuguese fishing communities with the development of tuna fishing in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).

Mr. Fernando Andresen Guimaraes, Director for International Ocean Governance and Fisheries of the European Community noted that the meeting faced an exceptionally heavy workload (more than 30 proposals under consideration) and identified four priorities: (i) recommendations from the scientific staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) on the management of tropical tunas, including the eventual use of the management strategy evaluation (MSE) results; (ii) tangible progress in fleet capacity management; (iii) continued development

of the ecosystem approach; and (iv) a sustainable and transparent budget, along with combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The Director of the IATTC, Dr. Arnulfo Franco, thanked the European Union and Portugal for hosting the meeting and the historical contribution of Portuguese fishing communities, several of which settled in Point Loma, to the development of the tuna fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean. He recalled that both the Commission's membership and its mandate were much broader than its name might suggest and pointed to the internal and external challenges that must be faced to ensure full implementation of the Antigua Convention, which is reflected in the unusually high number of draft resolutions submitted.

Following the customary introduction of the delegations, the Chair invited those delegations that wished to do so to make general opening statements.

Guatemala, also speaking on behalf of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, took the floor to point out, among other things, that the favorable scientific condition of the yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna stocks opens space for broader and more equitable participation, especially from developing states. He proposed establishing a balance between reducing the fishing closure and addressing pending capacity requests (which together amount to approximately 76,000 m³). Another important point in this statement was the expression of concern about the Commission's budget. For its part, Panama took the floor to reiterate its request for 3,000 m³ of capacity and its interest in developing a sustainable Pacific bluefin tuna fishery. Peru reaffirmed its commitment to conservation and prioritized the recognition of its pending capacity application. Vanuatu noted that the favorable condition of tropical tuna stocks allows for discussion of the recognition of additional purse seine capacity along with a reduction in closure days

Canada highlighted, among other things, its commitment to the management of shared stocks, compliance with the Commission's measures and decisions, and the work still needed regarding the Commission's finances. Honduras, participating as a Cooperating Non-Member, described several advances made in its regulatory and institutional framework and requested the renewal of its status as a cooperating non-member for 2026-2027.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Under this agenda item, Vanuatu requested that an issue arising from the previous process of the Capacity Working Group be addressed under item 7, which was accepted. Venezuela requested permission to make a brief intervention after point 5. Canada noted that, pursuant to paragraph 5 of Resolution C-24-10, the issue of climate change should be a permanent item on the agenda; the Chair responded that it would be addressed under agenda items 4 b. and c. China requested that in future meetings, in addition to the provisional agenda, an annotated agenda be published. Bolivia announced that, under item 10 of the agenda (Other business), they would make a statement regarding their request for capacity to be included in the minutes and reproduced as an annex thereto. With these comments, the agenda was adopted without modifications.

3. General presentation of the proposed resolutions and other proposals submitted by the Members

Before the round of presentations began, China objected that some proposals had been distributed after the established deadline and that at least one text was not available in both official languages. The Secretariat confirmed that all proposals had been received on time, but acknowledged that, as a result of the unusual number of proposals submitted for this meeting, there were delays in their translation and effective publication; it was agreed that in the future, the date of receipt of proposals in addition to the date of their publication would be indicated on the Commission's website. Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama stressed that these delays should not deprive the proponents of their right to present their proposals at the meeting, which was not objected to.

In total, **39 proposals** were presented to the Commission, distributed into different categories that were briefly introduced by their proponents:

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- **Tropical tunas (A-1 to A-6):** Colombia (A-1), the European Union (A-2), China (A-3), Guatemala on behalf of 7 Central American countries (A-4), Ecuador (A-5), and the United States (A-6) presented their different proposals, but all aimed at amending several provisions of Resolution C-25-01, (purse seine fishing closure, longline limits, capacity, and sampling, etc.).
- **Swordfish, sharks, and seabirds (B-1, C-1 to C-3, D-1):** Ecuador submitted B-1 on provisional benchmarks for the South Pacific swordfish; the European Union (C-1), Ecuador (C-2), and the United States (C-3) submitted proposals on sharks (naturally attached fins policy, silky and hammerhead shark research plan, good handling and release practices); China submitted D-1 on mitigating seabird bycatch.
- **South Pacific albacore (E-1):** China proposed a multi-year plan for research and scientific cooperation with the WCPFC/SPC.
- **Finance and vessel registration (F-1, G-1):** Canada submitted F-1 on the financial contributions formula (later withdrawn) and G-1/Rev.1 on strengthening of the Regional Vessel Register (later amended as Rev. 2 and withdrawn as well).
- **Pacific bluefin tuna (H-1, H-2):** Japan, the United States, and Mexico submitted H-1 Rev., the management procedure agreed upon by the IATTC-WCPFC Joint Working Group, and H-2, the implementation and allocation measure for the EPO.
- **IUU vessels and dorado (I-1, J-1, J-2):** Seven Central American countries submitted I-1 (amendment to Resolution C-19-02 on the IUU vessel list) and J-1 (update of the dorado measure); Ecuador submitted J-2 with similar objectives on dorado.
- **Compliance, participation fund, and data (K-1, L-1, M-1, M-2, N-1):** The seven Central American countries submitted K-1 (formal category of non-compliance status with a remediation plan) and L-1 (expansion of the capacity-building fund); Ecuador submitted M-1, and the United States submitted M-2, both on observer coverage and electronic monitoring (EM) in the longline fleet; the United States submitted N-1 to modernize the data requirements of Resolution C-03-05.
- **Cetaceans, ecosystem approach, billfish, NGO quotas, and BBNJ (O-1, P-1, Q-1, R-1, S-1):** Korea submitted O-1 on marine mammals; the seven Central American countries submitted P-1 (institutional roadmap for the ecosystem approach) and, together with other proponents, Q-1 (consultative mechanism on billfish); a group of proponents submitted R-1 on NGO observer quotas; Mexico submitted S-1 on institutional coordination with the BBNJ Agreement.
- **Interim procedure, contingency fund, legal assistance, and external cooperation (T-1, T-2, U-1, V-1, W-1, X-1):** The United States (T-1) and Ecuador (T-2) presented interim management procedures for tropical tunas; the Chair presented his proposal U-1 for the creation of a permanent contingency fund; the seven Central American countries presented V-1 (legal assistance working group, strictly consultative), W-1 (institutional framework for cooperation with other international organizations), and X-1 (coastal EPO science program).

4. Recommendations to the Commission

a. The fishery in 2025 and the condition of tuna stocks and recommendations from the Commission staff for their conservation and management

Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva, Coordinator of Scientific Research, gave a general presentation on the status of the fishery during the previous year, as well as on the status of the stocks and recommendations from the staff for their conservation. The average retained catch over the last ten years in the EPO is approximately 785,000 t (46% skipjack, 33% yellowfin, and 11% bigeye); the preliminary catch for 2025 was estimated at about 995,000 t, following the historic record of 2024 (more than one million tons). The purse seine capacity at sea remained close to the historical maximum, with just over 30,000 sets; non-associated sets decreased compared to 2024, while sets on floating objects (FADs) increased moderately. Bigeye catches in recent years were the lowest since the expansion of fisheries over fish aggregating devices (FADs), coinciding with the implementation of the individual vessel threshold (IVT).

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Japan, Mexico, Ecuador, and Venezuela made questions and comments on the differentiated impact of purse seine and longline fisheries on bigeye tuna, the attribution of Pacific bluefin catches, the timely publication of presentations, and the recent trend of yellowfin catches on FADs. Dr. Aires-da-Silva and the scientific staff confirmed that the three tropical tuna stocks are in **healthy conditions** regarding the target reference points, with a low risk of exceeding them, and virtually no risk of exceeding the limit reference points, a conclusion valid under the different stock structure hypotheses examined for yellowfin tuna. For bigeye tuna, with the implementation of IVT, a reduction of approximately one-third of the catch compared to previous levels, and the updated assessment estimated a reduction of nearly 50% in fishing mortality, with a recovering biomass.

b. **Other recommendations from Commission staff.**

The staff indicated that the direct application of the current interim harvest control rule would imply extremely large reductions—in some cases mathematically less than zero days—of the closure for purse seine fishing and therefore recommended that any easing be implemented in a way that is **gradual and within a procedural management framework**. It recommended the harvest control rule of **F30S20** as a preferred interim rule, with a fishing closure of **50 days for the first cycle (2027-2029)**, maintaining the current limits for longline catches, and incorporating a mechanism for exceptional circumstances (exceeding a limit reference point, unexpectedly high fishing mortality, unexpected drop in bigeye longline CPUE, among other criteria). It also recommended maintaining the IVT and the integrated port sampling program (IPSP), as well as scheduling updated assessments for 2029.

Regarding non-target species, the staff presented 37 recommendations (27 with support from the SAC and/or the Ecosystem/Bycatch and FADs Working Groups), relating to sharks (funding of the silky shark assessment, conceptual model of hammerhead shark, best handling and release practices), seabirds (update of Resolution C-11-02), longline data (higher reporting resolution), observer/EM coverage (target of at least 20% in large longliners) and other areas of research and environmental monitoring.

c. Report and recommendations of the 17th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

The Director reported on the 17th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and presented his recommendations (Annex 4a). He noted that in general terms, these recommendations were not focused on strengthening previous ones: for tropical tuna, continuity of scientific data platforms (IVT, integrated port sampling); for Pacific bluefin tuna, consider a harvest strategy that incorporates the "Newport Beach" proposal and the ISC's exceptional circumstances protocol; for North Pacific albacore, implement the allocation rule associated with the adopted catch strategy; for FADs, incentives for Category I biodegradable materials and a technical group for uniform interpretation of the design resolution; for sharks and rays, funding for the silky shark assessment and possible incorporation of best handling practices into Resolution C-25-08; for dorado and swordfish, continuity of the technical processes towards the 2027 assessment; and a new external performance review of the staff and SAC, subject to resource availability.

Mexico and Guatemala expressed concern about the proliferation of channels—staff, SAC, FADs Group, Ecosystem and Bycatch Group —through which recommendations reach the Commission, and requested that, as a rule, the recommendations of the working groups first go through the SAC. The Secretariat clarified that the resolution creating the Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group contemplates an exception for direct referral when the SAC has not been able to consider them or the Commission requests it. Canada reiterated the priority of an external performance review and its willingness to make a voluntary contribution. The European Union recalled that the Commission's decisions must be formally notified to all Members. **The Commission adopted the recommendations of SAC-17**, recording the previous positions and comments made.

5. Review of research programs by Commission staff: Strategic Scientific Plan (2026-2030)

At the request of several Members, the staff presented an abridged version of the Strategic Science Plan, concentrating on work on climate change and on the development and presentation of a project related to the BBNJ Agreement for funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The European Union noted the absence of a

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document summarizing the status of the Plan's implementation and its budgetary implications and requested that a concise written note (progress, changes, and pending issues) be presented with necessary advance notice before annual meetings.

Dr. Jon López, from the IATTC staff, presented the work on climate and environmental vulnerability focused on three tools —vulnerability assessment, scenario planning, and risk assessment of current conservation measures—, with external funding of approximately US$50,000 already secured for the scenario component. Four preparatory seminars and an in-person workshop on co-production of scenarios are planned. Canada, invoking paragraph 5 of Resolution C-24-10, requested that climate change be a permanent item on the Commission's agenda.

In this regard, the United States stated that it disagreed with the generalized attribution of social, economic, and environmental effects to climate change and did not support the general reference to climate change in the decisions and work plans of the IATTC as a policy issue or as a fundamental cause of threats to fisheries.

They stressed that the IATTC should focus on specific environmental threats, such as ocean acidification, shifts in stock distribution areas, or the decline of forage fish.

They added that considering management and policy options considering observable changes is an important next step in the long-term management of resilient and productive fisheries.

Regarding the project linked to the BBNJ Agreement, progress was reported on the preparation of the project to be submitted for financing by GEF, in coordination with the FAO as the implementing agency, with IATTC as the executing agency, as well as on the consultations already carried out and underway with the eligible CPCs, taking into account the need to adjust the timelines to correspond to GEF's process of defining priorities for submitting a final proposal.

Under this agenda item, Canada highlighted the performance review of the IATTC conducted approximately ten years ago and the need for a new, updated review that includes the scientific program. Canada also expressed its support for the process and indicated that it might be in a position to make a financial contribution to it.

6. Reports from subsidiary bodies and working groups

a. Ad hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring

The Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring, Mr. Colin Brinkman, from the United States, and Mr. Guillermo Moran, from Ecuador, presented their report on the 4th meeting of the Group (**Annex 4b)**. They pointed out that during the meeting, the work on harmonizing standards with ISSF, electronic monitoring (EM) trials on longliners in Ecuador and Costa Rica, and the relationship between this work and Proposals M-1 and M-2 had been reviewed. The Group recommended the preparation of an information document on hosting, accreditation, auditing, coverage, and review, with their financial implications; standardized EM data templates; and the possibility of funding an intersessional meeting before the next annual meeting.

The Commission approved the report and its recommendations.

b. Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch

Mr. Manuel Correia, from Venezuela, Co-Chair of this working group, presented the report of its 4th meeting (**Annex 4c**). He presented a summary on the work done on ecosystem indicators (EcoCard), standardization of shark reporting, implementation of the shark research plan, mitigation and reporting of seabird bycatch, and best handling and release practices, with possible use of the special capacity-building fund for training.

The Commission adopted the report and its recommendations.

c. Ad hoc Working Group on FADs

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The Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs, Mr. Jefferson Murua, from the European Union, and Mr. Andrés Arens, from Ecuador, presented the report of the 10th meeting, which had been chaired on an interim basis by Dr. Jon López, of the Commission staff (**Annex 4d**). The report includes recommendations on standardized buoy notification; harmonization with the WCPFC/SPC on stranding, recovery, and definitions; access to historical buoy trajectories and acoustic biomass data; annual indicators by biodegradable aggregation category; examination of the effects on non-sensitive sea beds by sinking FADs; a technical group for the consistent interpretation of Resolution C-23-04; and greater support for the recovery of lost or abandoned FADs, including collaboration with industry initiatives such as the Ocean FAD Recovery Alliance.

The Commission approved the report and its recommendations without further comment.

d. Committee on Administration and Finance

The Chair of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF), Ms. Rachael Wadsworth, from the United States, presented her report on the 13th meeting of the Committee and on the intersessional meeting held on June 15 and 16, 2026, as well as on the informal videoconference consultation between the FAC and ad hoc the Working Group on the financial strengthening of the AIDCP (**Annex 4e).** She stated that follow-up was made on the recommendations from the 2025 meeting and from the 2026 intersessional meeting, noting with concern that several requests for information remained incomplete. Guatemala requested clarification that, at this stage, the Commission only "received" the CAF report, without approving all its recommendations, which are considered individually under the corresponding agenda item.

Ms. Wadsworth noted that the Committee had examined the historical practice whereby the IATTC's ordinary budget covers 30% of the costs of the purse seiner observer program, without that percentage being expressly set out in any resolution. During the discussion, a divergence of opinions was observed, ranging from those who consider this percentage reasonable to those who argued that the IATTC should cover a higher percentage of the costs, in addition to those who consider the current 30% to be excessive. Guatemala argued that the presentation of the IATTC budget should conform to the provisions of Article XIV, paragraph 3, of the Antigua Convention, with an indication of the total cost of the services provided by the IATTC to the AIDCP —including the costs of the observer program— along with a compensatory item for the income collected from AIDCP. He emphasized that the document and its presentation should indicate the total cost of the project as well as the observer program, instead of only showing the 30% paid by the IATTC.

China proposed that the Commission decide that for the following three years (2027-2029) the amount of the payment made by the IATTC to the observer program should remain fixed. There was no consensus on this proposal.

IATTC general budget for FY 2027 Under this agenda item, the Director and the Commission staff presented a revised budget proposal, reduced from US$9,103,000 to US$**8,975,974** (including the Integrated Port Sampling Program) that is a decrease of about US$128,000 compared to the proposal initially submitted to the CAF. Among other things, the Director reported the implementation of laws in effect in Ecuador generated an additional expense. A similar legal situation might occur with other persons in the field offices; Guatemala and Vanuatu asked how many employees could be affected and requested that any budget approval recognizes the possibility of an additional, yet unquantified, adjustment. Regarding the costs of the annual meeting, the Director highlighted that this year the Commission had benefited from the support of the European Union and the host country, whereas, as had been repeatedly pointed out on previous occasions, meetings at the Commission's headquarters or nearby locations in the United States are usually more expensive, with the exception of the savings represented by the absence of the need to move staff and simultaneous interpretation team, which can work remotely. He stressed the need to avoid reducing the projected allocation for the annual meeting below a level that would jeopardize the ability to provide the required services.

Regarding the amount of Members' contributions to the Commission's budget and considering that negotiations on a new formula for calculating these contributions were still pending, the Director proposed that a pragmatic ad hoc solution be adopted for fiscal year 2027. This solution consists of using the same percentage structure of

contributions for that year as for 2023, without prejudging the outcome of the pending negotiations on the new formula.

Venezuela submitted, for inclusion in the minutes, a detailed financial statement: based on figures from the Secretariat as of June 9, 2026, its outstanding contributions amounted to US$2,328,444 (US$2,129,402 from previous years, including 2025, plus US$199,042 from 2026); they explained that their arrears did not reflect a refusal to pay, proposed a progressive payment arrangement similar to one previously agreed for Panama, and requested that, while such arrangement is being formalized, their effective participation in the discussion and decisions not be restricted, invoking Article XV(4) of the Antigua Convention.

During the discussion, Mexico suggested that resources from the payment of arrears and debts—including any future payments from Venezuela—could help finance the integrated port sampling program, although the Director cautioned that uncertain future payments cannot serve as a basis for approving the corresponding budget.

Ecuador supported the budget and particularly what it means in terms of scientific investment. They mentioned that the delay in their payment for 2026 was a consequence of an internal restructuring of their government, but that their payment would be made effective the following week. Guatemala supported the one-year ad hoc solution presented by the Director but insisted on the need for a deep structural review of the financial process, as well as the definition of a stable contribution formula, so that the CAF should focus on a considerably more intensive work plan for 2027. Peru and the United States also supported the Director's proposal, as well as what was pointed out regarding the negotiation and adoption of a lasting formula.

Regarding the Integrated Port Sampling Program, Nicaragua objected to its being considered automatically permanent, although it did not oppose its funding as proposed for 2027. Vanuatu requested that the importance of continuing this Program be noted, and the Director confirmed that the full corresponding amount was included in the budget.

In conclusion and in the absence of any objections, the Chair declared the 2027 budget and the corresponding table of contributions approved by consensus.

High Seas Transshipment Observer Program. The Director reported that the observer services provider (MRAG) agreed to reduce the threshold from 1,800 days to 1,600 days to lower the daily fee from US$450 to US$380, allowing for an estimated budget amount for 2027 of US$999,020. It was noted that the budget would be sufficient if carrier vessels request observers well in advance or without keeping them in port waiting for departure, if planned days are respected, and if delays in departures are avoided.

Integrated Port Sampling Program (unloading monitoring). The Secretariat explained the cost structure of this program, which was initially linked to IVT monitoring, but evolved into a broader scientific platform (catch, size, and morphometry composition of all tropical tuna species at the fleet level), with a protocol already reviewed and approved by the SAC. The Secretariat estimated in **US$478,000** the amount needed by 2027 to cover the minimum scientific staff and operations of the program. Costa Rica and Ecuador supported its continuation due to its scientific value; Nicaragua, without opposing the program, reiterated the call for austerity, noting that its projected cost should be progressively reduced, and Vanuatu asked that the importance of continuing it at its full amount be noted.

Like Nicaragua, Guatemala called for austerity in the administration of the program, including identifying potential savings. Highlight where the program's savings are being made. In this regard, even though they stated that the program should continue and agreed with the United States on the importance of scientific work undertaken, but insisted that it is up to the Director, according to the Antigua Convention, to determine the necessary personnel and organization, and that the role of the Commission should be to demand justification, efficiency, and reasonable costs, without micromanaging individual staff decisions. Vanuatu reiterated their request that the importance of the program be reflected in the full allocation of resources.

Special fund for capacity building. The Secretariat presented the table of expenditures for the special fund for the promotion of institutional capacities for 2027, incorporating China for the first time among developing members for the purposes of this calculation, with 11 days of coverage of the annual meeting and an option of 6 days for the SAC meeting; coverage of the CAF meeting was withdrawn from the proposal, while support for participation in other relevant bodies and a climate change scenario planning workshop was maintained. Costa Rica inquired about the coverage of participation in the technical groups prior to the SAC, emphasizing the value of in-person or hybrid modality for the technical work that takes place there; Ecuador backed extending support to the entire sequence prior to the SAC, and Guatemala emphasized on the importance of allowing the participation of delegates from developing countries in those preparatory meetings. The Secretariat indicated that the current budget scenario assumes virtual meetings for these technical groups, and that an in-person format would require a decision from the Commission and the corresponding budget adjustment. The table of expenditures for the capacity building fund for 2027 was approved.

On the other hand, Guatemala reminded about the proposal presented by seven Central American countries to amend the resolution to strengthen support for the participation of representatives from developing countries and allow the Fund to finance Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies when they come from developing countries. China, for its part, had circulated a counterproposal aimed at specifying the number of representatives thus financed and establishing clearer internationally recognized criteria to determine which members qualify as developing countries. As input to facilitate the discussion, the Director presented an illustrative exercise based on three internationally recognized criteria under which a member could be considered developing if at least one of the three criteria classified it as such; the exercise revealed special cases —including the European Union, Chinese Taipei, and France with its overseas territories— that do not fit simply into standard country classifications, and the Director cautioned that under the application of such criteria, China qualifies as a developing country. However, China stated that it would refrain from requesting that resources from the Fund be used for its own purposes.

e. Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity

The Chairman of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity, Mr. Bernald Pacheco, from Costa Rica, presented the report of the 27th meeting of the Group **(Annex 4f)** . He reported that during the meeting, document CAP-27-01 was presented with figures for the utilization of capacity in 2025: operational capacity (vessels with at least one set with catch) of 263,955 m³, authorized active capacity of approximately 290,570 m³, and potential capacity of 302,863 m³, leaving only about 6,328 m³ available through existing capacity movements.

He indicated that a presentation by the scientific staff (CAP-27-02) shows that the three tropical tuna stocks are in healthy conditions and at low or minimal risk of exceeding the target or limit reference points; hence, there is biological space for some increase in fishing mortality while taking note of several considerations noted by the staff in CAP-27-02; he noted that the historical target of 158,000 m³ is outdated, with optimal capacity estimates close to or above 300,000 m³ depending on the stock and target reference point considered (i.e. Fmsy or F30%_, and that the historical reference ratio (approximately 1,000 m³ per day of closure) has been updated to about 910 m³ per day, with a non-linear relationship between both variables.

Finally, he reported that the Working Group was not able to reach consensus on a general increase in capacity or on the long-standing pending requests from Panama (3,000 m³, linked to a fishing port project in Puerto Armuelles, Chiriquí), Venezuela (3,805 m³), Colombia (4,772 m³), Peru (5,851 m³), Costa Rica (7,058 m³, linked to the development of Puntarenas, investment, employment, and food security, with a supporting video presented by that delegation), El Salvador (2,105 m³) and Bolivia (5,830 m³, including an immediate activation of 2,000 m³, plus a separate 2019 request for an additional 5,000 m³, invoking its status as a landlocked developing state). There was no agreement on the specific case of the Ecuadorian vessel. *Joselito* (Class 6), for which Ecuador requested to update the registered well volume after structural modifications, arguing that it did not constitute new capacity but volume already covered; the legal discussion on what constitutes a "well restructuring" and its possible implications for similar previously denied cases remained unresolved, and the Working Group postponed the case.

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In the subsequent plenary discussion, Guatemala (with its own request for 9,000 m³) argued that there is a unique window of opportunity, without a scientific prohibition for a moderate increase, with the ban acting as a dynamic stabilizer, and warned of the risk of inequity and loss of trust if the current capacity allocation is maintained indefinitely; the United States agreed that there is a management opportunity, but expressed a preference for shorter bans within an adopted management procedure, rather than permanent capacity increases, and was not in a position to approve an increase.

Costa Rica, Peru, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela reiterated their historical requests invoking their status as coastal and/or developing states; Colombia requested priority and differentiated treatment of already recognized historical claims, for reasons of equity and legal certainty, before considering new requests. Nicaragua rejected a mechanism that only reduces closure days without considering capacity, arguing that it disproportionately benefits larger fleets, and joined forces with Guatemala, Panama, and El Salvador; El Salvador asked the Commission not to postpone its request any longer given the good state of the resources. The European Union and the United States reiterated that capacity increases are permanent and difficult to reverse —unlike a ban, which can be adjusted in each cycle— and rejected the characterization of the current situation as discriminatory, calling instead for a modern capacity management plan, after almost a decade of failed attempts in that direction.

Bolivia submitted an updated version of its 2025 capacity report, incorporating the results of the 2026 SAC, and requested that its full intervention be recorded in the minutes of IATTC-104 meeting and as an annex 5b.

The case of reinstatement of capacity for the vessel *Emerald Sea* (Vanuatu, 1,358 m³), which the Working Group had favorably recommended and which the 103rd meeting acknowledged as pending, was resubmitted by Vanuatu as a small request, which would not require withdrawing capacity from any other CPC nor materially affect the management of tropical tunas; Vanuatu requested an operational text confirming the matter as definitively settled, granting the 1,358 m³ available for allocation in 2027 without the need for a new Commission decision, and instructing the Director to update the relevant records. Guatemala acknowledged the merit of the request but interpreted that the prior commitment to "address" the case did not require an immediate affirmative resolution; Venezuela supported Vanuatu and requested that its own case also be reflected as favorable for future activation. Vanuatu initially conditioned their willingness to join the consensus on the final package of proposals on a clear solution to their case; however, after a recess in consultations, they agreed not to block consensus on the proposals they had already supported (seabirds, sharks, vessel registry), nor did they oppose keeping consensus on the other proposals when adopted.

Guatemala pointed out that all this discussion had taken place in the Commission and not in the Working Group, so any new decision should be registered as a decision of the Commission.

But, at the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair could only note that the Commission had not been able to reach consensus on a general increase in capacity, nor on the individual requests of the CPCs that had reiterated them.

There was general agreement on the desirability and necessity of an intersessional meeting of the Working Group, preferably in person, an option that existed as highlighted by Panama and Venezuela. The question of the place and dates of that meeting remained unresolved. In this regard, the Director proposed that it be held in Santa Marta, Colombia, at the beginning of February 2027, together with a workshop whose program had already been approved. For its part, the European Union asked that other options be explored, preferably in the second half of April. The United States indicated that, despite agreeing in principle with holding this meeting, the lack of clarity regarding the agenda, possible dates, and logistical and budgetary arrangements prevented them from joining the consensus at this time.

f. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission

Mr. Antonio Vasquez, from El Salvador, Chairman of the Committee, presented his report on the 17th meeting of the COR, which was able to conclude thanks to additional sessions on the sidelines of the Commission's plenary session, and reported on the Committee's second special biennial meeting **(Annex 4g)**). He added that the comments

and recommendations submitted by Canada, Guatemala, the United States, and Venezuela had been incorporated into the document prepared by the Presidency/Secretariat.

He presented the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its 17th session and at its second special biennial meeting as follows:

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 17TH MEETING OF THE COR

1. To carry out work aimed at improving the calculation of active FADs, to avoid generating false positives of cases of possible non-compliance, and to recommend actions that can contribute to improving the monitoring of active FAD limits. IATTC staff will present an update on this work at the FADs Working Group meeting in 2027.

2. To circulate to the CPCs, for their review, the draft public summary of the Final Compliance Report within 30 days following the conclusion of the Commission meeting. The public summary of the Final Compliance Report shall be published on the meeting's public website within 90 days of the conclusion of the Commission meeting.

3. To prepare and submit a plan for the implementation of the use of electronic tablets by IATTC observers on board purse seine vessels, to expedite data processing and improve the accuracy of cases identified as possible non-compliances. This plan must also include a financial analysis of costs and savings, which will be presented to the CAF in 2027.

4. To prepare a supporting document detailing the current process by which IATTC staff collect, review, and amend purse seine observer reports, to inform the Committee in its deliberations about the Commission's usual practice of authorizing corrections to observer documents.

5. To include in the document "Review of unresolved cases of possible non-compliance" a column indicating the year in which the possible non-compliance was resolved.

6. To implement the following in relation to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the production of COR documents:

- Include the following warning text about the use of AI: “IATTC staff used generative artificial intelligence (AI; Anthropic Claude) to support the initial drafting of the following sections of this analysis: [INSERT]. All generative AI results that were incorporated were reviewed for accuracy and edited by IATTC staff specialists to ensure the ongoing accuracy and consistency of IATTC compliance information. IATTC staff retain full responsibility for the content of this analysis.”
- To ensure strict adherence to the confidentiality rules and privacy and protection provisions applicable to IATTC compliance data when using AI.

7. To allocate sufficient time in future sessions to review Recommendations from previous meetings, to assess the progress made with respect to past recommendations and consider priority areas.

8. To consider cases of possible non-compliance involving data or documents that may have been falsified or altered as cases of special importance.

9. To continue to improve the justification of answers in the *Standard Compliance Questionnaire*, indicating what specific alternatives or management measures are being applied when a Resolution (including, among others, Resolutions C-11-02, C-19-04, and C-25-08) offers options to CPCs.

10. To consider a case of noncompliance by a vessel as resolved only when the CPC has concluded an investigation, adopted corrective measures with respect to the vessel, and informed the COR of such follow-up corrective measures (e.g., crew or captain training, fines, etc.).

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11. To consider implementing pilot programs for electronic monitoring on board transshipment vessels, to reduce discrepancies between the catch calculated by transshipment observers and that declared in transshipment declarations.

12. That matters relating to compliance with obligations regarding membership fees and debts be considered and evaluated by the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF).

13. To consider amending Resolution C-18-07, as appropriate, to include criteria that can be used by the Secretariat, CPCs, observer providers, and other entities to determine that a vessel is "unobservable," to ensure that observers are not exposed to risks by being embarked on vessels that raise concerns.

14. That, in recognition of the increasing workload and the expanded mandates conferred by the Commission, the interest in ensuring adequate progress in the work plan, and in order to guarantee that documents related to the COR are circulated in a timely manner, the Secretariat should assess whether there are sufficient resources dedicated to compliance matters.

15. To favorably consider the applications for renewal of the Cooperating Non-Member status of Bolivia, Chile, Indonesia, and Liberia, and to recommend that the renewal of Honduras be considered, considering any response to the outstanding issues submitted to COR-17 and the absence of Honduras from the COR.

16. That future COR meetings have a minimum duration of 2.5 days, and at least 3 days in the years in which the Special Biennial Meeting is held.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2ND SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COR

1. To include in the document corresponding to Element 5 of the COR Work Plan a description of the human and financial resources needed to implement the priority elements of the work plan. In doing so, the Secretariat shall provide cost estimates for hiring additional staff dedicated to compliance work and analyze the feasibility of reassigning existing staff to support compliance work, particularly its automation priorities, as well as the effect such reassignment would have on other functions of the Secretariat.

2. To prioritize the development of standardized templates and present a detailed plan for the implementation of the automated system, duly considering, among other aspects, the budget, limitations, and stages of a phased implementation approach. To that end, the Secretariat shall prepare and circulate a draft plan during the intersessional period, for consideration at the COR-18 meeting.

3. To continue consideration of the categorization framework based on the Phase 5 Working Document prepared by the COR Chair. The Chair, in collaboration with the Secretariat, will direct the intersessional work, taking into account the views expressed at the 2nd Special Biennial Meeting, with the aim of submitting a proposed amendment to Resolution C-22-02, consistent with Recommendation 22 of COR-16, for consideration at a dedicated session of the Committee (of no less than one day) to be held during the annual meeting cycle, and its possible adoption by the Commission in 2027.

The Commission approved the report of the 17th meeting of the COR and the report of the special biennial meeting of the Committee, with their respective recommendations, as well as, without objection, the renewal of the status of Non-Cooperating Member of Honduras for 2027, in addition to that of Bolivia, Chile, Indonesia, and Liberia.

g. IATTC-WCPFC/NC Joint Working Group on the management of Pacific bluefin tuna

Mr. Josh Madeira, Co-Chair on behalf of the IATTC of the Joint Working Group, reported that the abundance of Pacific bluefin tuna has significantly increased since 2012, reaching the second stock rebuilding target in 2021, more than a decade ahead of schedule. After six meetings of the Group in just over 18 months —including an intersessional meeting in Newport Beach in March, with direct input from the commercial and recreational fleets of Mexico, the United States, and Japan— and a second session of the 11th Joint Working Group (JWG 11) in August, consensus was reached on a long-term catch strategy based on harvest control rule HCR 17, applicable to

the convention areas of the WCPFC and the IATTC, with a gradual shift of the fishing impact from an 80/20 distribution to 78/22 (west-east) in successive cycles, biennial measures with consistent provisions on overfishing and trawling, inclusion of the EPO sport fishery in the process of determining the total allowable catch limit, and an interim duration of three biennial cycles (six years). The Group is also making progress on a system for documenting catches, evaluating whether to develop it independently or jointly with the WCPFC. These recommendations were reflected in Proposals H-1 and H-2, considered under point 7. The Commission accepted the report of the Joint Working Group and its recommendations.

Additionally, the Commission received reports from two other groups;

First, from Dr. Juan Carlos Quiroz, Co-Chair of **Dialogue Group on the Evaluation of Planning Strategies** on the progress made by the Group at its second, third, and fourth meetings during the intersessional period, particularly with regard to the identification of six management objectives for tropical tunas and the review of the management procedure proposals submitted by Ecuador, the United States, and the European Union.

Second, by Dr. Guillermo Morán, from Ecuador, Co-Chair on behalf of the IATTC of the IATTC-WCPFC Joint Working Group on South Pacific albacore, on the first dialogue (March 2026), in which it was agreed to move towards a pan-Pacific assessment in 2027 and, through a gradual approach, towards compatibility among the measures adopted by both commissions.

The Commission approved both reports and their recommendations.

7. Discussion of the resolutions and recommendations

Given the considerable number of proposals, this agenda item occupied most of the meeting time. Before the discussion began, the Chair encouraged the proponents to consolidate the proposals submitted on identical or similar topics. At the end of the meeting, eleven resolutions and one recommendation were adopted; the rest of the proposals did not achieve the necessary consensus for their adoption or were withdrawn.

a. Approved resolutions and recommendations approved

The resolutions and recommendations adopted during the 104th IATTC meeting are as follows:

Resolution or recommendation number	Name
C-26-01	Interim management procedure for Pacific bluefin tuna
C-26-02	Measures for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean
C-26-03	Exchange of information and establishment of provisional reference points for swordfish in the South Pacific within the IATTC area
C-26-04	Resolution for the mitigation of the impact on seabirds by fishing for species covered by the IATTC
C-26-05	South Pacific Albacore Tuna
C-26-06	Research for the ordering of dorado (*Coryphaena hippurus*)
C-26-07	Resolution on scientific observers on longline vessels
C-26-08	Resolution on the progress of implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM)
C-26-09	Resolution on a work plan for billfish in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
C-26-10	Recommendation on the coordination and cooperation between the IATTC and processes related to the BBNJ Agreement Progress of implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM)

C-26-11	Conservation measures for the protection and sustainable management of sharks
C-26-12	Financing for fiscal year 2027

During the meeting, several proposals relating to the conservation of tropical tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean were presented and discussed, but the Commission was unable to reach a consensus on any of them. Consequently, in the absence of a new measure adopted, Resolution C-25-01 will continue to apply for the next few years, as originally planned, until 2028, unless the Commission decides otherwise at a later meeting.

c. Proposals submitted, but not approved

Code	Proposal and proponents	Reasons for non-approval / withdrawal
A-1 - A-6 /	COL; EUR; CHN; VAR; USA: several proposed amendments to the text of Resolution C-25-01.	No consensus was reached despite intensive consultations; differences persisted regarding conservation measures, the management procedure and its relationship to capacity issues, and therefore these measures remained unadopted; it is expected that the negotiations will be able to continue during the intersessional period
F-1	CAN. Proposal to amend resolution C-15-05 by using a curve formula to calculate the GNI factor instead of the GNI categorization	The proposing CPC concluded that it was not possible to reach consensus and withdrew it, urging to resume the work in the Committee on Administration and Finance with clear negotiating mandates for 2027.
G-1 Rev.2	CAN Regional Vessel Registry	After successive rounds of negotiations with subsequent revisions to the text of the original proposal, including some in relation to references to small-scale fleets and transitional provisions, the proposing CPC preferred to withdraw its proposal and present a new version at a future meeting.
I-1	VAR (7 Central American countries). Draft amendment to Resolution C-19-02 amending Resolution C-15-01 to establish a list of vessels allegedly involved in IUU fishing activities	It failed to reach a consensus due to reservations from some CPCs regarding the proposed provisions and the extension of nomination deadlines, as well as the suspension of the multilateral inclusion process.
K-1	VAR (7 Central American countries). Draft amendment to Resolution C-22-02 - Paragraphs 7 bis, 7 ter, and 7 quater are added, paragraph 8 is amended, and an element is added to Annex 2.	This proposal, which, among other things, introduced a new category of non-compliance, achieved partial support from participants, but was considered premature in relation to several of its provisions. Due to the lack of consensus, the proponents withdrew it, requesting that the Director coordinate with the Chairman of the COR for its possible reintroduction in 2027.
L-1	**VAR (*7 Central American countries*)** Amends paragraph 5c of Resolution C-11-11 […] (*Capacity building fund*).	Discussion and negotiations allowed identifying possible avenues for compromise (developing country criteria, financing for Chairs/Vice Chairs, safeguards against exclusions for late payments), but the final version of the text could not be adopted because one CPC could not join the consensus due to lack of certainty about the financial impact and the availability of resources from the fund.

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Code	Proposal and proponents	Reasons for non-approval / withdrawal
N-1	USA. Resolution on data provision.	This proposal, intended to update and supplement the provisions of resolution C-03-05, failed to achieve the necessary consensus for its adoption due to reservations from two CPCs regarding its scope and practical feasibility; the proponent decided not to seek a decision from the Commission but instead requested that the SAC consider it at its next meeting
O-1	KOR. Resolution on the protection of cetaceans.	The reservations of three CPCs that highlighted their potential overlap and duplication with the AIDCP, and another CPC that emphasized the need for prior scientific review by the SAC, made it impossible to adopt this proposal, which remained pending.
R-1	VAR (7 Central American countries). Draft amendment to Resolution C-22-02 - Paragraphs 7 bis, 7 ter, and 7 quater are added, paragraph 8 is amended, and an element is added to Annex 2.	It failed to reach a consensus: two CPCs requested a more rigorous cost analysis (possibly within the framework on the Committee on Administration and Finance), while observer organizations warned about the risk that this type of proposal might reduce the participation of small organizations. It was left pending.
T-1 **T-2**	USA; Interim management procedure for tropical tunas (yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, and skipjack tuna) in the Eastern Pacific Ocean for 2027-2032 ECU. Management procedure for tropical tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean	Like proposals A-1 – A-6, these two proposals failed to achieve the necessary consensus for their adoption.
U-1	Chair Establishment and financing of the IATTC Contingency Fund	It failed to achieve the necessary consensus as one CPC maintained its position of objecting to the creation of a new fund before the Commission's ordinary budget is secured.
V-1	VAR (*7 Central American countries*). Creation of an Ad Hoc Working Group for the Legal Assistance to the Commission and the Secretariat	The proponents acknowledged that the issue required a deeper analysis, regarding structural implications and withdrew it, intending to resubmit it in 2027.
W-1	VAR (*7 Central American countries*). IATTC guidelines for establishing cooperation and collaboration frameworks and instruments related to the exploitation, trade, conservation, and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.	It did not reach the necessary consensus due to concerns expressed by a CPC regarding the late publication of its text. This situation at least allowed the Commission to agree on the following procedure: when a document is submitted in one of the two working languages and its translation is pending, it will be published or circulated in its original language, stating that the pending translation into the other language is in process.

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Code	Proposal and proponents	Reasons for non-approval / withdrawal
X-1	VAR (*7 Central American countries*). Establishment and beginning of the Coastal EPO Scientific Program as a component of the IATTC'S scientific work	It failed to reach consensus on the request from a CPC that it be thoroughly reviewed first by the SAC.

8. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission

The Commission noted that the Chair, Mr. Andrés Arens, and the Vice-Chair, Mr. Julio Guevara, had been re-elected at the 103rd meeting for a period of two years, so it was not appropriate to hold a new election at this meeting but simply to ratify the decision previously taken.

9. Election of the Chairs of subsidiary bodies and working groups

Likewise, the Commission took note of the elections already held in the previous year for the chairs of its subsidiary bodies and working groups, also for a period of two years (2025-2027). They also took note of the re-election by the COR of its current Chair, for an additional two-year period (2026-2028). The Secretariat recalled that Ms. Shana Miller had submitted her resignation as co-chair of the Dialogue Group on the Evaluation of Planning Strategies; in accordance with its terms of reference, which empower the Commission to directly select that co-chair. Guatemala nominated Dr. Julio Guevara, who was elected by consensus to fill this vacancy. Ecuador nominated Ms. Valeria Palau, from their delegation, as the new co-chair of the ad hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring, replacing Mr. Guillermo Morán; the change was accepted without objection.

In accordance with the above, the chairs of the IATTC Committees and Working Groups are as follows:

Working Group or Committee	Chair(s)
Administration and Finance	Rachael Wadsworth
Review Committee	Antonio Vásquez
Fleet Capacity in the EPO	Bernald Pacheco
Ad hoc Working Group on FADs	Jefferson Murua and Andrés Arens
Ecosystem and Bycatch	Yonat Swimmer and Manuel Correia
Electronic Monitoring	Colin Brinkman and Valeria Palau
Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)	Juan Carlos Quiroz and Julio Guevara
IATTC-WCPFC on Southern Albacore	Guillermo Morán
IATTC_NC/WCPFC on Pacific bluefin tuna	Josh Madeira

10. Other business

a) During the lunch break on September 3, an industry-led alliance—comprised of ATUNEC, FIPESCA, AGAC, and the American Tuna Boat Association, with a foundation established in Panama—presented to the members of the Commission an update on its initiative to fund recovery programs for driftnets (like

FADWatch) in sensitive areas such as the Palmyra Atoll, French Polynesia, the Cook Islands, Galapagos, and American Samoa, inviting broader participation from the tuna supply chain.

b) In response to an inquiry from the European Union, Chile clarified that the proposal it is promoting in the South Pacific regional fisheries management organization, regarding the closure of fishing in the Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges does not currently seek to extend the measure to highly migratory species regulated by the IATTC; should it decide to do so in the future, it would first take the matter to the IATTC scientific processes and to the Commission. Guatemala reserved its position against any attempt to regulate species covered by the Antigua Convention outside the institutional framework of the IATTC.

c) Colombia raised an exceptional situation affecting four of its vessels, which have had extended inactivity due to administrative circumstances beyond the control of the owners and of the flag State; hence, they requested treatment comparable to force majeure. As a practical solution, without modifying the current definition of force majeure or prejudging individual decisions, it was agreed that the Secretariat could circulate this type of request for consideration by the Members in a generic and anonymized manner, with the flag State providing the relevant documentation and each CPC retaining full discretion to accept or reject each case.

d) Costa Rica noted that it would soon host a training course on inspection for the implementation of port state measures, organized by the IATTC Secretariat in coordination with FAO, and invited interested CPCs to participate.

e) Given the lateness of the hour, Bolivia requested to submit a written statement regarding its request for capacity to be incorporated into the Minutes of the meeting as an annex thereto (Annex 5b).

11. Date and place of next meeting

It was agreed that, in principle, the 105th meeting of the Commission would take place during the first week of September 2027. Chile stated it was exploring the possibility of hosting the Commission meeting, potentially in Valparaíso, subject to consultations with its authorities; Costa Rica also expressed interest in being considered as a possible host, even for 2028, if possible. **The final location was pending confirmation.**

It was also agreed that the intersessional meeting of the Fleet Capability Working Group would be held in **Costa Rica**, in a three-day in-person meeting during the week beginning on **April 19, 2027**, in a location yet to be determined.

12. Adjournment

After proceeding, at the request of Bolivia, to a recounting of the resolutions and recommendations adopted during the meeting, the Chair acknowledged that several important issues reflected in various proposals that could not be adopted — in particular, the issue of conservation and management measures for tropical tunas and the issue of fleet capacity management — remained pending. He emphasized that the Commission had established roadmaps for intersessional work to address these issues before its 105th meeting.

During his closing remarks, the Chair described the meeting as "complex but productive" and thanked the European Union and the Portuguese authorities for their hospitality and logistics support, as well as the Director of the Commission, the Commission staff (including the scientific staff), the interpretation team, the observers, and all the participating delegations from the CPCs.

With that, the 104th Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission was adjourned at 7:48 pm, Lisbon time, on September 4, 2026.

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Annex 1

104th MEETING OF THE IATTC / 104ª REUNIÓN DE LA CIAT

Lisbon, Portugal — 31 August - 4 September 2026 / Lisboa, Portugal — 31 de agosto - 4 de septiembre de 2026

ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES	
MIEMBROS - MEMBERS	
BELICE - BELIZE	
DELICE PINKARD* Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit **ROBERT ROBINSON** Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit	**GENE WALLACE** Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit
CANADÁ - CANADA	
AMBER LINDSTEDT* Fisheries and Oceans Canada **KRISTEN COTE** Fisheries and Oceans Canada **PATRICIA DEMILLE** Fisheries and Oceans Canada	**SARAH HAWKSHAW** Fisheries and Oceans Canada **MARY THIESS** Fisheries and Oceans Canada
CHINA	
JIANGFENG ZHU* Shanghai Ocean University **XIAOBING LIU** Shanghai Ocean University **YURU HE** Shanghai Ocean University **QINQIN LIN** Shanghai Ocean University **SHU SU** Shanghai Ocean University **FENG WU** Shanghai Ocean University	**YAN LI** China Overseas Fisheries Association **CE LIU** China Overseas Fisheries Association **KAIRUI ZHANG** China Overseas Fisheries Association **XIAOJUN CHEN** Pingtairong Ocean Fishery Group CO., LTD. **ZHAO CONG** Pingtairong Ocean Fishery Group Co., Ltd.
COLOMBIA	
SANDRA EMILIA MUÑOZ TORRES* Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural **JOSE LUIS COTES ANGEL** Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores **LEONEL ARTURO BORHÓRQUEZ RUEDA** Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores **JAVIER GARCIA** Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo **CARMEN LÓPEZ** Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible **CRISTHIAN MARRUGO** Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural **DIANA MARCELA ALVAREZ ROJAS** Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca (AUNAP)	**WILBERTO ANGULO VIVEROS** Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca (AUNAP) **LUISA FERNANDA MALDONADO MORALES** Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca (AUNAP) **GERMÁN FONSECA** Programa Nacional de Observadores **DIEGO CANELOS** Seatech International **ENRIQUE DE LA VEGA** Seatech International **CARLOS RODRIGUEZ** Grupo Alimentario del Atlántico Gralco SA
COREA - KOREA	
SEONHYE KIM*	**JIWON KIM**

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Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries **GEUNHO JANG** Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries **MIKYUNG LEE** National Institute of Fisheries Sciences	KOFA - Korea Overseas Fisheries Association **SOOMIN KIM** Korea Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Center **SUNGJUN KANG** Dong Won Fisheries CO., LTD
COSTA RICA	
NELSON PEÑA* Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura **CARLOS ANDRÉS ROBLES OBANDO** Ministerio de Costas, Mares y Pesca **JUAN GABRIEL RAMÍREZ GUILLÉN** Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería **JOSÉ MIGUEL CARVAJAL RODRIGUEZ** Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura **MAURICIO GÓMEZ SALAS** Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura	**MARLIN LEÓN ARIAS** Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura **BERNALD PACHECO CHAVES** Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura **MAURICIO GONZALEZ** FEDENAP **ANA I. CARVAJAL XATRUCH** **FRANCISCO MEDRANO GONZÁLEZ** **ANA VICTORIA PANIAGUA PRADO**
ECUADOR	
HENRY MERO* Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros **ENRIQUE BLACIO** Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros **LUIS EDUARDO GOMEZ** Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros **ANDRES HOLGUIN** Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura **GIANSANDRO PEROTTI** Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura **JOSTYN SÁNCHEZ VINUEZA** Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros **HUGO VERA SERRANO** Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros **EDUARDO ESTEBAN ELÍAS MÉNDEZ** Instituto Público de Investigación de Acuicultura y Pesca (IPIAP) **JORGE COSTAIN** Cámara Nacional de Pesquería **BRUNO LEONE** Cámara Nacional de Pesquería **FRANCISCO LEONE** Cámara Nacional de Pesquería **MIGUEL MOLINA** Cámara Nacional de Pesquería **RAFAEL TRUJILLO** Cámara Nacional de Pesquería **ELISEO VILLAR LOUREIRO** Cámara Nacional de Pesquería **CARMELO ZABALA** Cámara Nacional de Pesquería **ANDRES ALARCON** IASA	**PABLO CAPARROS** NAUTICAL **JAVIER CARDOSO** Apolo Abogados Apolexsa **CARLOS CEBALLOS** Buehs Bowen Daniel Roberto **ANDRES CESPEDES CAMARGO** Asiservy S.A. **GUILLERMO MORAN** Tuna Conservation Group **VALERIA PALAU** Tuna Conservation Group **GEORGE PINTO LÓPEZ** Asociación de Producción Pesquera de Armadores de Manta **MARYELI VELEZ** Buehs Bowen Daniel Roberto **JIMMY VILLAVICENCIO** Villavicencio & Asociados **JORGE VILLAVICENCIO MENDOZA** Asociación de Atuneros del Ecuador **LISSETH CEDEÑO** **PABLO COMESAÑA** **DANIELA PAREDES** **EDGAR PINZÓN** **FERNANDO VELASTEGUI**
EL SALVADOR	
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