INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

104th MEETING

Lisbon, Portugal, 31 August - 4 September 2025

PROPOSAL IATTC-104 P-1

SUBMITTED BY BELIZE, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND PANAMA

RESOLUTION ON THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTING AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (EAFM)

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), meeting in the city of Lisbon, Portugal, on its 104th 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 and to give particular consideration to the adoption, as needed, of conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and affected by, dependent on, or associated with the harvest of the fish stocks covered by this Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring the populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may be seriously threatened;

Recognizing the provisions of International Law, which obliges States to ensure the conservation of living resources and to maintain or restore stocks of harvested species at sustainable levels, and requires consideration of an ecosystem approach when managing stocks of straddling and highly migratory fish;

Considering the need for cooperation among regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and other instruments, frameworks, and treaties related to fisheries and biodiversity;

Mindful of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which urges States and RFMOs to adopt the precautionary approach and ecosystem considerations in fisheries management;

Taking note of the increasing impacts of climate change, pollution, and habitat degradation on marine biodiversity and fisheries productivity;

Recognizing the progress made by the IATTC in data collection, stock assessment, and bycatch mitigation, and the need to build on these efforts to incorporate broader ecosystem considerations;

Recalling IATTC Resolutions C-23-10 and C-24-10 on Climate Change, which recognize the need to address the impacts of climate change on fisheries and to incorporate climate considerations into the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies;

Considering the recommendation by IATTC staff to adopt the EcoCard work plan, including its objectives, to facilitate the operationalization of the Ecosystem Approach into Fisheries Management by improving ecosystem-scientific advice for management through the development and application of meaningful and effective communication tools and products;

Recognizing that climate change, ocean acidification, and other anthropogenic pressures not conditioned by fishing are altering the distribution and abundance of tuna and associated species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), this should be considered through IATTC Resolutions on climate

change together with ecosystem considerations, so that productive fisheries are based on resilient resources;

Desiring to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna stocks and associated ecosystems in the EPO by adopting an ecosystem approach to fisheries management;

Resolves the following:

1. The Commission will progressively implement an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in the EPO and will support the proposed conceptual framework for implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAFM) developed by IATTC staff, including research to incorporate, to the extent possible, social and economic impact elements and indicators, which should be defined as soon as possible.

2. In formulating recommendations pursuant to Article VII.1 of the Antigua Convention, particularly in the development of Conservation and Management Measures, the Commission shall consider including Ecosystem considerations towards the application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM).

3. The Commission will support, in accordance with budgetary capabilities, further research to consider ecosystem considerations, including the relationship between IATTC species and fisheries, associated species, and ecosystems, and to the greatest extent possible, socio-economic research on fisheries of interest to report potential measures to mitigate and/or adapt to ecosystem considerations.

4. The Commission, with the support of relevant staff and subsidiary bodies, will develop an operational definition of the EAFM in the context of the IATTC, and its constituent elements for the implementation of the EAFM. Staff will provide a review of the degree of implementation of these elements, including those that have already been part of the Commission's previous work (e.g., bycatch mitigation, ecosystem studies) and will develop an implementation plan for the EAFM.

5. Based on the results and recommendations of this evaluation, the IATTC scientific staff is requested to develop a comprehensive EAFM implementation plan in collaboration with the relevant subsidiary bodies,

6. In addition, the staff is requested to present the results and recommendations of this evaluation to the Commission in 2027.

7. To promote regional cooperation with other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and relevant scientific bodies to harmonize EAFM practices and share best practices.

FUNCTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

8. The SAC will include, as a permanent agenda item, the assessment of the impacts of fishing and other anthropogenic, environmental, and oceanographic factors on target and non-target species closely related to them and their ecosystems.

a) The SAC will consider ecosystem considerations that move towards management advice based on the ecosystem approach when providing its management advice, including recommendations on minimizing negative impacts on marine ecosystems and providing information that may contribute to the good health of fish stocks.

b) To the extent possible, the IATTC scientific staff will endeavor to take ecosystem analyses into consideration when providing scientific advice for management. As a result of these discussions, the SAC will be required to make recommendations to the Commission on how

existing resolutions and proposed new resolutions can better incorporate ecosystem considerations in the Convention Area.

c) The SAC should identify knowledge gaps and prioritize research to improve understanding of ecosystem dynamics, the impacts of climate change, and the socio-economic implications for fishing-dependent communities.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION

9. From 2027 onwards, the Commission will include ecosystem considerations as a permanent item on the agenda of its regular meeting. For these purposes, it will consider the relevant recommendations made by its subsidiary bodies, as well as any other matter related to ecosystem impacts that is relevant under the Antigua Convention.

10. The Commission will incorporate ecosystem considerations into the development and adoption of conservation and management measures, where possible, ensuring their contribution to the long-term sustainability of fisheries and ecosystems in the EPO.

11. The Commission, through the Executive Director and the Chair of the IATTC, will promote cooperation and coordination with other RFMOs, frameworks, instruments, and relevant international organizations to contribute to an integrated, ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management in all oceans.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND COOPERATION

12. The Commission, with the support of its scientific staff, will develop and implement ecosystem considerations capacity-building programs to help CPCs implement the ecosystem approach, considering climate change and other oceanographic phenomena.

13. The Commission, with the support of its scientific staff, will seek collaboration with other tuna RFMOs, the FAO, and other relevant organizations to mobilize technical and financial support for these initiatives.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

14. Annually, the Commission will review the progress in the implementation of the EAFM, including the treatment of the impacts of climate change.

15. The Commission will review this Resolution and its implementation no later than three years after its adoption, and periodically thereafter, to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.

APPLICATION

16. This Resolution shall enter into force on [DATE] and shall remain in force unless amended or replaced by the Commission.