COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

104~~1~~a REUNIÓN

~~Victoria~~Lisboa, ~~B.C., Canadá~~Portugal

~~7-1~~31 de agosto - 4 de setiembre de 202~~63~~

RESOLUTION 26-XX
TO AMEND RESOLUTION C-23-09

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

RESEARCH FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF DOLPHIN FISH (*Coryphaena hippurus*)

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC),), in Lisboa, Portugal, for its 104th Meeting:

Recognizing that the fish stocks covered by the Convention are understood to be the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

Bearing in mind that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f) of the Antigua Convention establishes that the Commission shall *"adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by this Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened";*

Reaffirming the obligations contained in the Antigua Convention, Article VII 1 (a) and (i), the Commission shall adopt, "*standards for collection, verification, and timely exchange and reporting of data concerning the fisheries for fish stocks covered by this Convention*" and shall establish *"a comprehensive program for data collection";*

Recognizing that Dolphin Fish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) is a species targeted by artisanal and industrial longline fisheries by several CPCs amounting to 98% of the catches in the EPO; and incidentally caught by vessels using purse-seine gear operating in the Convention Area estimated at 2% of total catches of this species; and is within the fish stocks of interest to the Commission;

Noting that four technical meetings on dolphin fish have been held, in October 2014, October 2015, October 2016, and March 2026, with the objectives of promoting synergy among IATTC Members for regional dolphin fish research; review the current status of dolphin fish knowledge and identify available datasets in regional fisheries, and formulate a roadmap for future research, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and based on its technical recommendations to ensure its scientific support;

Recalling that Resolution C-23-09, adopted at the 101st Meeting of the Commission (Victoria, B.C., Canada, 2023), adopted measures to strengthen research for the management of dolphin fish (Coryphaena hippurus), including data collection and submission by CPCs, and the commitment of scientific staff to update the dolphin fish population assessment;

Recalling that by Resolution C-25-05, adopted at the 103rd Meeting of the Commission (Panama City, 2025), the Commission established the Multisectoral Working Group on Dolphin Fish (WGDF), with the objectives, inter alia, of systematizing existing information on the dolphin fish fishery, identifying critical information gaps, collaborating with the assessment of the status of the stock, and conducting regional technical-scientific workshops leading to the update of this assessment.

Acknowledging that under the framework of the WGDF, progress has been made in fulfilling its mandate, including the 4th Technical Meeting on Dolphin fish, Review of the Conceptual Model and Available Data for the Dolphin fish Stock Assessment in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (DOR-04), held from 10 to 12 March 2026 in San José, Costa Rica, in which a roadmap and a work plan for the evaluation of the dolphin fish stock were agreed.

Taking into account the recommendations of the 17th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (document IATTC-104-02), whereby the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) recommended that the Commission manage the implementation of this roadmap and update the date of assessment of the status of dolphin fish for 2027, and provide the necessary support to the scientific staff to conclude in 2027 the update of the assessment of the dolphin fish stock pursuant to Resolution C-23-09, presenting its results at the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Commission during that year;

Acknowledging that, within the framework of this work plan, the IATTC formally requested CPCs, through memorandum Ref. 0348-410 of June 18, 2026, to submit biological, catch, and fishing effort data for dolphin fish, with a view to updating the conceptual model and assumptions on the structure of the stock;

Emphasizing that it is necessary to amend Resolution C-23-09 to reflect the establishment of the Working Group on Dolphin fish through Resolution C-25-05, to update the timeline for the assessment of the dolphin fish stock in accordance with the recommendations of the SAC, and to clarify the requirements for data collection and submission by CPCs;

~~*Recalling* that collaborative research with the IATTC in 2014-2016 showed that the data available for the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) south were sufficient to conduct an exploratory assessment of the core Dolphin Fish stock and management strategies, however, information from the EPO north was found to be limited;~~

~~*Recalling* that the IATTC has provided the opportunity for collaborative research, including three technical meetings on the *Coryphaena hippurus* resource between 2014 and 2016; the development of an exploratory assessment of the *C. hippurus* stock in the "core" region; an exploratory management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the EPO south; and an evaluation of potential reference points and harvest control rules for *C. hippurus* in the EPO;~~

~~*Taking into account that*, in its 10th meeting, the Scientific Advisory Committee recommended that the IATTC staff continue working with CPCs on research in relation to the stock status of Dolphin Fish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the Convention Area;~~

~~*Further noting* that, at the 12th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, the SAC recommended that the Commission encourage Members participating directly or indirectly, as flag States or coastal States, in the Dolphin Fish fishery to consider assessing and managing the Dolphin Fish stock.~~

~~*Recalling* that, in document IATTC-100-02b *Staff Activities and Research Plan*, the IATTC scientific staff presented the need for future research to improve the analysis of the stock assessment of *C. hippurus* (Dolphin Fish) in the Convention Area;~~

~~*Emphasizing* that the objective of the Convention is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks in the Convention Area, and that both collaborative studies and exploratory research conducted by the Scientific Advisory Committee show a need for better data to assess the stock of~~

~~*Coryphaena hippurus* in the Convention Area and research to improve the analysis and assessment of this fish stock.~~

Resolves as follows:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs)

CPCs shall collect and submit to the IATTC biological, catch and interaction data, as well as fishing effort data relating to Dolphin Fish from their fishing fleets. This shall include, subject to availability, the following:

a) monthly catches and data disaggregated by fleet type;

b) composition of sizes and/or weights by sex, monthly and by type of fleet;

c) catch and effort per set, with georeferenced information when available; and the operation, by type of fleet, for the elaboration of abundance indices;

d) studies of reproductive and/or growth biology; and

e) any other information relevant to the updating of the conceptual model and the assumptions about the structure of the stock.

CPCs are encouraged to collect and submit data from other fleets, when available. This information shall be submitted by 30 June of each year as part of the annual catch reports in accordance with resolution C-03-05.

CPCs will designate researchers from their national scientific authorities as focal points to address inquiries and collaborate with IATTC technical and scientific staff in the submission of this information.

~~whose catch of this species constitutes more than 5% of their entire annual catch. CPCs are encouraged to collect and submit data from other fleets, where available. This information shall be submitted by 30 June (beginning in 2024) as part of annual catch reporting in accordance with Resolution C-03-05. Artisanal and recreational fleet data may be reported as total annual catches without data on fishing effort in accordance with Resolution C-03-05.~~

2. IATTC scientific staff

~~a) The IATTC scientific staff will develop a proposal to standardize the format for data reporting and present it at the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2024. This format will be used by the CPCs to submit the information according to paragraph 1.~~ The IATTC scientific staff will maintain and update, as necessary, the mechanism for the timely delivery of data by CPCs by incorporating the data scheme outlined in paragraph 1 of this resolution

b) Based on the data received from the CPCs and considering the human and financial resources available, the IATTC scientific staff will:

i. Update, based on the revised conceptual model and data submitted pursuant to paragraph 1, the update of the dolphin fish stock assessment. To be presented at the SAC meeting in 2027 ~~to the extent possible, the stock assessment for Dolphin Fish that was conducted by IATTC staff between 2012 and 2016 and presented it to the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2026.~~

ii. As appropriate, update the recommendations for CPCs on harvest control rules for the Dolphin Fish longline fishery, during the 2026 Scientific Advisory Committee.

c) The IATTC scientific staff will work in coordination with the Working Group on Dolphin fish (WGDF) for the implementation of the roadmap developed at the 4th Technical Workshop of the

WGDF (DOR-04) and any other work plans and/or recommendations that are updated under the framework of the WGDF.

3. Working Group on Dolphin fish (WGDF)

It is recognized that the WGDF, established by Resolution C-25-05, complies with the coordination body provided for in paragraph 3 of Resolution C-23-09. Accordingly, the WGDF:

a) shall continue the implementation of the roadmap developed at its 4th Technical Workshop (DOR-04) and/or new recommendations or work plans arising from it;

b) shall support the scientific staff of the IATTC in the systematization and analysis of the data submitted by the CPCs pursuant to paragraph 1 of this resolution; y

c) shall submit progress reports to the SAC and the Commission, pursuant to the provisions of Resolution C-25-05.

This resolution amends and replaces Resolution C-23-09.

~~e) Review~~

~~In 2024, SAC should consider and recommend the Commission as appropriate, the creation of a voluntary group to identify the information available on the Dolphin Fish (Coryphaena hippurus) resource in the various fisheries of interest to the IATTC. It should also identify information gaps that must be solved to know the status of this resource, either as target or byeatch, and possibly recommend management measures.~~

~~This Resolution shall be reviewed by the scientific staff and at the meeting of the SAC in 2026, to evaluate the adequacy of the measures of this Resolution and provide a recommendation to the Commission.~~