

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

12TH MEETING

(by videoconference)

10-14 May 2021

DOCUMENT SAC-12-02

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE PREVIOUS SAC MEETING: PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES

At its annual meetings, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) makes recommendations to the Commission, many of which involve actions by the staff. This document lists the recommendations currently requiring action by the staff and/or the Commission, and their current status: **green**: completed; **yellow**: in progress, incomplete; **orange**: planned, but pending funding; **red**: no action. For the full recommendations made by SAC-11, see [here](#).

	Recommendation, SAC-11	Status (15 April 2021)	
A. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)			
1. Conservation and management			
A. TROPICAL TUNAS			
1.	The SAC recommends the establishment of a triennial assessment and management cycle for the tropical tuna fishery in the EPO. This cycle would start on the date decided by the Commission. This cycle does not prejudice the possibility for the Commission to review and revise on a yearly basis the conservation and management measures that it has adopted, taking into account their effect on the stocks and the monitoring of the status of the stocks.	A triennial cycle was not established in 2021. In 2021, the staff is recommending a triennial assessment and management cycle for 2022-2024 . The staff is also recommending the implementation of an operational rule which will allow for adjustments of the management measure within the triennial cycle, if needed.	
2.	The SAC recommends that the provisions of the current resolution (C-17-02) be maintained for 2021 and that, as appropriate, those provisions be reviewed and updated by the Commission, in particular those related to FADs.	Resolution C-20-05 was adopted to extend the validity of the measures established in C-17-02 for the year of 2021, recorded as Resolution C-20-06 . According to C-20-05, the management measures for 2022 and beyond are to be reviewed no later than the annual meeting of 2021, with a view to ensuring long-term conservation of fish stocks in the Convention Area.	
3.	The SAC agrees on the need to explore further actions to limit fishing mortality at appropriate levels and in particular to avoid increases of fishing mortality beyond the status quo conditions.	In 2021, the staff is presenting the following additional elements as support for this discussion: - Scientific evidence of a positive and statistically significant relationship between fishing mortality (F)	

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	Without prejudice to the conclusions and decisions that the Commission may adopt, the SAC recommends that the IATTC staff and the Commission consider, discuss and/or prioritize appropriate options based on the best available information.	for bigeye and the number of floating-object sets (FAD-05 INF-D); - A review of alternative conservation measures (SAC-12 INF-B) which could be considered as additional measures for the tropical tuna in the EPO; - A document on additional precautionary measures for the floating object-fishery (SAC-12-08), providing rationale for the staff's recommended measures and technical details for the operational rule associated with their implementation.
B. TEMPERATE TUNAS		
a. Pacific bluefin tuna		
1.	Extend the provisions of Resolution C-18-01 through 2021.	Resolution C-20-02 was adopted which establishes measures for conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the EPO in 2021.
b. North Pacific albacore tuna		
1.	The SAC recommends that CPCs continue to implement Resolutions C-05-02, C-13-03, C-18-03, presently in force.	This recommendation was adopted by the Commission.
2.	The SAC recommends that the Commission endorse the management objectives for North Pacific albacore tuna developed and agreed by the ISC MSE process, ensuring their prioritizing, ranking and weighting in the context of that ongoing process.	This recommendation was adopted by the Commission.
2. Research		
A. TROPICAL TUNAS		
1.	Environment: The SAC, considering that the environment is a likely driver of changes in the dynamics of tropical tunas, recommends to further study the relationships between tropical tuna stocks and fishery variables and oceanographic conditions and supports the activities of the staff already undertaken or programed in this respect.	Projects investigating the relationship between environmental and operational factors for tropical tuna (J.2.a) and sensitive bycatch species (N.1.c) are currently being conducted by the staff with input from external collaborators.
2.	Risk analysis: In collaboration with CPCs and relevant stakeholders, continue improving stock assessments and risk analysis for tropical tunas.	The staff has developed workplans to continue improving the stock assessments of yellowfin and bigeye tuna, as well as the risk analysis (SAC-12-01). A new workplan to produce a benchmark assessment for skipjack was prepared. A document describing the staff's proposed methodology for the skipjack assessment which relies on recent tagging data is available (SAC-12-06).

	Recommendation, SAC-11	Status (15 April 2021)	
3.	Management strategy evaluation: In collaboration with CPCs and relevant stakeholders, continue support for MSE for tropical tunas, following guidelines from C-16-02 and C-19-07.	The 2 nd IATTC MSE Workshop for tropical tunas was conducted in May 2021. The MSE workplan was updated, reflecting a revised timeline and European Union funding for its continuation during 2021 to 2023 (SAC-12-01).	
B. TEMPERATE TUNAS			
	The SAC recommends that the IATTC collaborate with the ISC on an assessment of Swordfish in the EPO, north of the Equator.	The IATTC staff has participated in the ISC Billfish Working Group (BILL WG) meeting (March 2021) and presented a summary on the discussions from the 1st IATTC Technical Workshop on South EPO swordfish with emphasis on stock structure. The staff presented a proposal to include the area north of 10°N in the upcoming ISC swordfish assessment based on recent tagging studies. The ISC BILL WG supported the staff's proposal. The staff will collaborate with the ISC BILL WG in the assessment planned for 2021.	