

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**102<sup>ND</sup> MEETING**

**Panama City, Panama  
2-6 September 2024**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-102 E-1 REV 2**

**SUBMITTED BY CANADA**

**RESOLUTION C-24-XX ON THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE POLLUTION**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, at the occasion of its 102<sup>nd</sup> meeting:

CONCERNED that marine pollution, particularly abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), is increasingly recognized as a significant global problem, with detrimental impacts on ocean and coastal environments, wildlife, economies, and ecosystems; and noting the need to reduce such impacts;

~~RECALLING that the need to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds was affirmed at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 through the adoption of paragraph 13(g) of the ‘Our ocean, our future: call for action’ declaration;~~

CONVINCED that certain activities associated with fishing may affect the Eastern Pacific marine environment and that these activities could play a notable role in IATTC’s efforts to conserve and sustainably manage fish stocks covered by the Convention and minimize incidental mortality of non-target species and impacts on marine ecosystems;

RECALLING the mandate of the Commission under Article VII(1)(f) of the Antigua Convention to 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;

FURTHER RECALLING the mandate of the Commission under Article VII of the Antigua Convention to adopt appropriate measures to avoid, reduce and minimize waste, discards, catch by lost or discarded gear, catch of non-target species (both fish and non-fish species), and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species.

NOTING that abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear in the marine environment can damage marine, reef, and coastal habitats, be harmful to marine life through ghost fishing, entanglement, ingestion and acting as habitat for the spread of invasive species, and create a navigation hazard;

~~FURTHER NOTING that the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) seeks to eliminate and reduce the amount of pollutants being discharged into the environment from ships.~~

RECOGNIZING that Article XXIII of the Antigua Convention requires the Commission to adopt measures to assist developing countries that are members of the Commission, to fulfill their obligations under this Convention.

*Adopts the followings:*

**Definitions:**

1. For the purposes of this measure, the following definitions will apply:
  - a. E-waste: electrical and electronic equipment used for the normal operation of the vessel or in the accommodation spaces, including all components, subassemblies, and consumables, which are part of the equipment at the time of discarding, with the presence of material potentially hazardous to human health and/or the environment.
  - b. Fishing gear: any physical device or part thereof or combination of items that may be placed on or in the water or on the seabed with the intended purpose of catching, extracting, harvesting, or controlling, for the subsequent catch, extraction, or harvest, of fisheries resources.
  - c. Garbage: includes but is not limited to fishing gear, food waste including avian products (poultry parts such as eggshells), domestic waste, incinerator ashes, clinkers, cooking oil, floating dunnage, lining and packing materials, bags, paper, rags, glass, metal bottles, crockery and similar refuse.
    - i. Fishing gear released into the water with the intention and capacity for later retrieval such as traps and static nets are not considered garbage.
  - d. Marine pollutants: includes but is not limited to e-waste, garbage, and plastics.
  - ~~e. Open burning: uncontrolled combustion of marine pollutants or other garbage without emissions control.~~
  - f. Plastics: a solid material which contains as an essential ingredient one or more high molecular mass polymers, and which is formed during either manufacture of the polymer or the fabrication into a finished product by heat or pressures.
  - g. Vessel: means any vessel used or intended for use for the purpose of fishing, including support vessels, carrier vessels and any other vessels directly involved in such fishing operations and is included in the Regional Vessel Register.

**General Provisions**

~~2. CPCs are encouraged to consider ratifying, accepting, approving, or acceding to relevant international agreements aimed at strengthening obligations relating to marine pollution.~~

~~3. The IATTC Secretariat and Staff is encouraged to engage with the Secretariats of other international organizations, including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, to discuss~~

~~shared challenges and identify potential pathways for cooperation on addressing marine pollution from fisheries.~~

### **Prohibition on Marine ~~Pollution~~ Pollutants**

2. CPCs shall prohibit their vessels from ~~discharging~~ ~~abandoning or discarding fishing gear and~~ marine pollutants, unless permitted under applicable international instruments.

3. ~~Paragraph 2 is not applicable~~ if a vessel ~~discharges~~ ~~releases its fishing gear or~~ marine pollutants:

- a. for purposes of securing the safety of a vessel and those on board,
- b. **in an effort to** save a life at sea, or
- c. due to environmental factors (~~severe~~ ~~adverse~~ weather conditions, strong tides or ~~strong~~ current, underwater snag)

~~despite taking every reasonable precaution to prevent such loss, and makes every reasonable effort to retrieve it, including having capacity and a dedicated means for retrieval, but retrieval is not possible, these are the fishing gear or marine pollutant is considered lost.~~

~~4. Fishing gear and Marine pollutants released due to any reason other than the circumstances identified in paragraph 3 are considered abandoned or discarded.~~

### **Abandoned, **Lost** or discarded fishing gear**

4. CPCs shall encourage their vessels to avoid abandoning or discarding fishing gear, as defined in paragraph 6.

5. If a fishing vessel loses control of its fishing gear, or relinquishes control due to circumstances identified in Paragraph 3, and makes every reasonable effort to retrieve the fishing gear, but it is impossible to retrieve, the fishing gear is considered lost.

6. A fishing vessel is deemed to have abandoned and discarded fishing gear if it loses control of the fishing gear, or relinquishes control due to circumstances identified in Paragraph 3, and does not make every reasonable effort to retrieve the fishing gear.

7. Fishing gear released into the water with the intention and capacity of later retrieval is not considered lost, abandoned or discarded, at the time of release.

~~8. CPCs shall prohibit their vessels from the uncontrolled/open burning of fishing gear and marine pollutants.~~

### **Retrieval**

~~9. CPCs should encourage their vessels to initiate marine pollution retrieval programs., in the same spirit as what is currently in place for fish aggregating devices in paragraph 3 of Resolution C-23-03.~~

### **Storage, Retention, and Disposal**

~~10. Paragraphs 13-16 shall not apply to vessels under 12 m in length.~~

8. CPCs shall ensure their vessels safely store and retain on board all fishing gear not in use.

9. CPCs shall ~~encourage-ensure~~ their vessels **to** safely store and retain on board all retrieved ALDFG ~~FADs,~~ and marine pollutants, until they can be disposed of at a port reception facility., ~~as identified by CPCs, pursuant to Paragraph 22.~~

~~13. CPCs shall ensure encourage their vessel masters develop, carry, and implement a Garbage Management Plan, which includes information on where garbage is being stored on the vessel. Vessels flagged to CPCs who are signatories to MARPOL Annex V, can use Garbage Management Plan to satisfy this requirement.~~

~~14. CPCs shall also ensure their vessel masters develop, carry, and maintain a Marine Pollutant Record Book, to record instances of garbage and fishing gear discards, consistent with the template in Annex 1. The vessel master should obtain from the operator of port reception facilities, or from the vessel master receiving the garbage and fishing gear, a receipt or certificate specifying the estimated amount of marine pollutants and fishing gear transferred. The receipts or certificates must be kept on board the vessel with the Garbage Record Book for two years. Vessels flagged to CPCs who are signatories to MARPOL Annex V can use the Garbage Record Book with the addition of a fishing gear category, to satisfy this requirement.~~

### **Reporting Requirements**

10. CPCs shall **encourage ensure** ~~that~~ their vessels **to** notify their competent authority (~~fishing authority, environmental authority, or other as deemed relevant~~) of **any lost** gear at the end of each fishing trip, **including the following information:**

- d. the name, IMO number, flag State, and call sign of the vessel;
- e. the type/material of the lost gear;
- f. the quantity of lost gear;
- g. the date (DD-MM-YYYY) and time (HH:MM and UTC) that the gear was lost;
- h. the position (longitude/latitude) where the gear was lost;
- i. measures taken by the vessel to retrieve the lost gear;
- j. the circumstances, if known, that led to the gear being lost.

~~16. CPCs shall ensure that their vessels notify its competent authority (fishing authority, environmental authority, or other as deemed relevant) when they retrieve ALDFG at the end of each fishing trip.~~

- a. ~~the name, IMO number, flag State, and call sign of the vessel that has retrieved the gear;~~
- b. ~~the name, IMO number, flag State, and call sign of the vessel that abandoned, lost, or discarded the gear (if known);~~
- e. ~~the type/material of gear retrieved;~~
- d. ~~the quantity of gear retrieved;~~
- e. ~~The date (DD-MM-YYYY) and time (HH:MM and UTC) that when the gear was retrieved;~~
- f. ~~the position (longitude/latitude) where the gear was retrieved and,~~
- g. ~~if possible, photographs of the gear retrieved.~~

11. ~~CPCs shall ensure that~~ When their vessels ~~lose fishing gear or~~ discharge marine pollutants due to the circumstances identified in paragraph 3, CPCs shall **encourage their vessels to report: it must report** the following information to their competent authorities (~~fishing authority, environmental authority, or other as deemed relevant~~)

- a. the name, IMO number and call sign of the vessel;
- b. the quantity and category of ~~gear or~~ pollutants **discharged abandoned or discarded;**
- c. the date (DD-MM-YYYY) and time (HH:MM and UTC) of the **discharge abandonment or discard;**
- d. the position (longitude/latitude) of the **discharge abandonment or discard;** and
- e. the circumstances, if known, that led to the **discharge abandonment or discard.**

12. **Should any information be received pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 11,** CPCs shall transmit **this** ~~it the information received pursuant to paragraphs X~~ within ~~48~~**72** hours of **receipt receiving** ~~this information from the vessel~~ to the IATTC Secretariat for its notification to all CPCs, so ~~that~~ every attempt can be made to retrieve the lost gear and marine pollutants.

~~19. The IATTC Secretariat shall develop a reporting template for CPCs to report on their compliance with the obligations in paragraphs [7-11], to be endorsed by the Commission in 20267.~~

13. CPCs shall **report on their implementation of this Resolution use the reporting template developed by the Secretariat as part of the annual IATTC Compliance Questionnaire** starting in 2025.

~~21. Starting in 2028, the IATTC Secretariat shall create and present an annual summary report to the Commission on ALDFG related data using the information provided in the annual IATTC Compliance Questionnaire and the information submitted pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 11.~~

14. **Should any information be submitted to the Secretariat pursuant to this Resolution, a summary will be presented by the Secretariat staff to the CPCs at that year's annual meeting of the Commission.**

## **Capacity Development, Training, and Research**

~~22. CPCs are encouraged to communicate to the IATTC Director which of their designated port facilities are adequate or not, and any changes to said ports, for the receiving fishing gear and marine pollutants from fishing vessels to the extent possible to identify capacity issues for developing countries.~~

~~23. The IATTC Director shall establish and maintain a register based on the list submitted by the CPCs in accordance with Paragraph 22. The register and any subsequent changes shall be published annually on the IATTC website.~~

15. CPCs are encouraged to provide adequate port reception facilities to receive fishing gear and marine pollutants from fishing vessels.

16.4. CPCs are encouraged to provide capacity building assistance to developing CPCs **with identified** ~~that have identified~~ port facility inadequacies ~~in accordance with Paragraph 22~~, to develop or provide access to adequate port reception facilities to receive and appropriately dispose of fishing gear and marine pollutants.

~~25. The IATTC Scientific Staff shall undertake research on fisheries related marine pollution in the IATTC Convention Area, this shall include an analysis of the impacts of open burning on the marine environment and shall submit information derived from such efforts to the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Compliance Committee, to inform further developments and refinements to this measure.~~

17~~5~~. CPCs are encouraged to develop systems to enable the recording and sharing of information on fishing gear loss and marine pollution, to reduce loss and facilitate recovery of fishing gear and assist fishing vessels with their use and implementation in reporting to their flag State, relevant coastal States, and the Commission.

18. CPCs are **further** encouraged to conduct training and awareness programs for the crew and masters of fishing vessels flying their flag regarding the impacts of marine pollution, operational practices, and safety protocols relating to retrieval of marine pollution.

### **Review and Implementation**

19. This Resolution will be reviewed by the Commission in 2028 to consider strengthening the measure with respect to the elimination of marine pollution caused by fishing vessels.

20. **This Resolution shall not supersede the existing requirements in paragraph 4.d.ii of C-04-05.**

21. The date of implementation of this measure is 1 January 2025.

## **ANNEX 1—Marine Pollutant Record Book**

### **Logistical information**

Name of vessel: \_\_\_\_\_

IMO No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of trip (Days): \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Port of Discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Description of marine pollutants**

Marine pollutants are to be grouped into categories for the purposes of this record book as follows:

- 1 Plastics
- 2 Food waste
- 3 Domestic waste
- 4 Cooking oil
- 5 Incinerator ashes
- 6 Operational wastes
- 7 Animal carcasses
- 8 Fishing gear
- 9 E-waste

### **Entries in the Marine Pollutant Record Book**

Entries in the Marine Pollutant Record Book shall be made on each of the following occasions:

- (a) When marine pollutants are discharged into the sea:
  - (i) Date and time of discharge
  - (ii) Position of the vessel (latitude and longitude).

- - (iii) ~~Category of marine pollutants discharged~~
- - (iv) ~~Estimated amount discharged for each category in cubic meters~~
- - (v) ~~Signature of the officer in charge of the operation.~~
- (b) ~~When marine pollutants is discharged to reception facilities ashore or to other vessels:~~
  - - (i) ~~Date and time of discharge~~
  - - (ii) ~~Port or facility, or name of vessel~~
  - - (iii) ~~Category of marine pollutants discharged~~
  - - (iv) ~~Estimated amount discharged for each category in cubic meters~~
  - - (v) ~~Signature of officer in charge of the operation.~~
- (c) ~~When marine pollutant is incinerated:~~
  - - (i) ~~Date and time of start and stop of incineration~~
  - - (ii) ~~Position of the vessel (latitude and longitude)~~
  - - (iii) ~~Estimated amount incinerated in cubic meters~~
  - - (iv) ~~Signature of the officer in charge of the operation.~~
- (d) ~~Accidental or other exceptional discharges of marine pollutants~~
  - - (i) ~~Time of occurrence~~
  - - (ii) ~~Port or position of the vessel at time of occurrence~~
  - - (iii) ~~Estimated amount and category of marine pollutants~~
  - - (iv) ~~Circumstances of disposal, escape or loss, the reason therefore and general remarks.~~