

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

104th MEETING

**Lisbon, Portugal
31 August – 4 September 2026**

RESOLUTION C-26-05

SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Lisbon, Portugal, on the occasion of its 104th Meeting:

Recalling its responsibility, established in the Antigua Convention, for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area and for the formulation of recommendations in this regard to its Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs);

Observing that south Pacific albacore tuna (SPALB) supports diverse fisheries in areas under national jurisdiction, as well as in areas beyond national jurisdiction, across the breadth of the Pacific Ocean south of the equator, encompassing the convention areas of the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

Emphasizing the importance of regional and global cooperation to ensure the effective conservation and protection of living aquatic resources throughout their range of distribution, as encouraged in paragraph 12 of Article 6 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

Recognizing the need for the IATTC to strengthen scientific research on SPALB and to develop an explicit research plan in cooperation with the WCPFC and the Pacific Community (SPC);

Thus recognizing the importance of working with the WCPFC, as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, to manage SPALB fisheries throughout the migratory range of the stock in the Pacific Ocean south of the equator;

Recalling further paragraph 4 of Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Encouraged by recent collaborations in this regard between the scientific staff of the IATTC Secretariat and the Secretariat of the SPC through which a Pacific-wide stock assessment of SPALB was conducted;

Observing that fishing controls for SPALB are in effect exclusively in the waters of the WCPFC Convention Area south of 20°S and that there are currently no legally binding control measures in effect in the IATTC Convention Area outside the overlap area;

Noting that the 2024 Pacific-wide benchmark stock assessment indicated that the SPALB stock was neither overfished nor subject to overfishing, while recognizing the uncertainties and data limitations identified in the assessment, particularly in the eastern Pacific Ocean;

Noting further that the WCPFC adopted a management procedure for SPALB at its 22nd Regular Session of the Commission in 2025;

Recalling that longline fishing vessels greater than 24 meters length overall (LSTLFVs) are highly mobile and can easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, so they have a high potential to operate

between IATTC and WCPFC convention areas;

Recalling Resolution C-11-05 on the establishment of a list of longline fishing vessels over 24 meters (LSTLFVs) authorized to operate in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Finally, taking into account Article IV of the Antigua Convention, which states that “[t]he members of the Commission, directly and through the Commission, shall apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct and/or the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by this Convention”;

The IATTC therefore resolves that:

1. At the annual meeting in 2027, management objectives and reference points that are compatible with the work of the WCPFC, as recommended by the IATTC scientific staff in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall be proposed and considered.
2. The IATTC-WCPFC Joint Working Group on south Pacific albacore tuna (SPAJWG) shall fully consider the differences in the management contexts of the IATTC and the WCPFC Convention areas when developing compatible management measures while recognizing SPALB's status as a highly migratory stock and the need for regional cooperation across the Pacific Ocean.
3. The Commission shall consider increasing support for scientific research on SPALB, including support for the work of the IATTC scientific staff and for relevant collaborative research activities.
4. The IATTC scientific staff shall develop a multi-year scientific work plan for SPALB for consideration by the SAC and the Commission in 2027. The work plan should identify priority research activities, expected outputs, timelines, data requirements, staffing needs and estimated costs.
5. Recognizing the importance of compatible management approaches across the Pacific Ocean, the IATTC scientific staff should ensure that activities undertaken pursuant to this workplan are complementary to, and informed by, relevant work conducted within the WCPFC and the SPAWG. Efforts should be made to maximize efficiencies, make use of existing technical work, and avoid unnecessary duplication or delays in the development of jointly supported outcomes.
6. CPCs and IATTC scientific staff are encouraged to collaborate with the WCPFC and SPC to investigate and improve understanding of the stock structure and status of SPALB, contribute to the 2027 Pacific-wide benchmark stock assessment, and actively participate in the SPAWG and other relevant scientific, management, and science-management dialogue processes to support the development of compatible management measures and a harvest strategy throughout the stock's range.
7. CPCs should submit operational-level logbook data for longline vessels and, when available, length composition data, for SPALB in the IATTC Convention Area by June 30 of each year.
8. This measure shall replace Resolution C-24-04 and may be reviewed annually by the IATTC scientific staff and the SAC for their respective recommendations to the Commission.