

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, Canada

7-11 August 2023

PROPOSAL IATTC-101 A-3 REV 1

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-21-04

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Resolution C-21-04, Conservation Measures for Tropical Tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean during 2022-2024, established a robust scheme of control measures for the conservation of these species. Among these measures were rules for the activation and deactivation of buoys associated with Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and a gradual reduction in the number of active FADs per vessel. However, the development of the conditions for buoy deactivation did not include the necessary provision to allow such deactivation when the number of active FADs per vessel must be reduced in compliance with the Commission's provisions.

The current provisions recognize that each vessel is allowed to maintain a maximum number of active FADs in the corresponding year, but the same resolution requires an abrupt reduction of this number upon the change of the fiscal year, which is not possible without facilitating deactivation. While it is recognized that the reduction could be phased over a reasonably short period of time, the introduction of this amendment would allow the satellite service provider, the vessel owner and the flag State to immediately comply with the reduction requirement by means of an instruction that can be implemented in the first second of the fiscal year in which the reduction must take place.

This proposal seeks to correct that omission by including, in paragraph 20 of the resolution, a provision allowing for the remote deactivation of buoys to comply with the reduction of active FADs per vessel set by the Commission.

**CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS IN THE
EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2022-2024**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC),

Bearing in mind the obligations contracted by the IATTC CPCs under the framework of the provisions of the Antigua Convention, and in particular Resolution C-21-04, CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2022-2024,

Determined to ensure and clarify the conditions for compliance with this measure,

Agrees:

1. To amend paragraph 20 of Resolution C-21-04, *Conservation Measures for Tropical Tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean during 2022-2024*, to read as follows:

“20. Deactivation of a satellite buoy attached to a FAD may only be done in the following circumstances: a) complete loss of signal reception; b) beaching; c) appropriation of a FAD by a third party; d) temporarily during a selected closure period; e) for being outside of:

- the area between the meridians 150° W and 100° W, and the parallels 8° N and 10°S;
- the area between the meridian 100° W and the coast of the American continent and the parallels 5° N and 15°S;

g) transfer of ownership.

h) *During the last two weeks of December of each year, and provided that a reduction in the number of active buoys applies in accordance with the provisions set forth in paragraph 17, by instruction of the corresponding vessel owner, with the objective of adjusting the number of active buoys to the maximum number allowed. Buoys deactivated pursuant to this subparagraph ~~in this case~~ shall not be reactivated remotely.*

~~or transfer of ownership.~~ *CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, deactivations to the Secretariat using the specific data fields indicated in Annex II. The reports shall be submitted at monthly intervals with a time delay of at least 60 days, but no longer than 90 days after the deactivation. The FAD Working Group, based on advice from the IATTC scientific staff, shall provide to the SAC and the Commission advice on any required adjustments.”*

2. This amendment shall enter into force in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the IATTC and, if approved, the date shall be recorded by means of a footnote in the amended resolution.

Annex II

CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, any deactivation of a satellite buoy to the Secretariat using the following data fields of the first communication of the buoy after being activated: ...

reason of deactivation: signal loss, stolen FAD, beaching, temporarily during closure periods, transferred ownership, **for a required reduction in the number of active FADs**, FAD outside the areas specified in paragraph 20 of this resolution, other (specify).