



**Position statement from AGAC for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
(IATTC Annual Meeting, August 7–11, 2023)**

Madrid, July 17th, 2023

AGAC is a fishers' association representing the interests of 19 tuna purse seiners operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. AGAC is deeply compromised with tuna fisheries improvement activities in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: the [yellowfin tuna component of the fishery is MSC-certified, the skipjack component is being fully assessed for certification](#), and there is also a [comprehensive FIP ongoing for both the skipjack and the bigeye stocks](#).

AGAC has identified the following priority issues:

- 1. Ensure continued support, and secure funding, for all target tunas MSE**
- 2. Adopt interim reference points for skipjack tuna**
- 3. Evaluate the impact of Resolution C-21-04 on the stocks of bigeye and skipjack tuna**
- 4. Guarantee that the bigeye stock is assessed in 2024, incorporating alternative CPUEs**
- 5. Develop and adopt a recovery plan for oceanic white tip sharks**
- 6. Establish a work plan with timelines to further strengthen the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures' procedures and outcomes, including developing by 2024 a hierarchy of infractions and a scheme of responses to improve compliance**

AGAC works closely with several stakeholders which share the collective mission to undertake science-based initiatives for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna stocks, reducing bycatch and promoting ecosystem health, through advocacy, applied science and direct action. We thus urge the IATTC to act on our identified priorities at its upcoming meeting. AGAC looks forward to the continued leadership of all IATTC CPCs in the EPO.