

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

Memorandum

August 26, 1991
Ref: 0569-900

FROM - DE:

Dr. James Joseph, Director



TO - PARA:

Commissioners and Participants
of the 49th Meeting of the Commission

SUBJECT - ASUNTO: Minutes of the 49th Meeting

Enclosed please find a copy of the minutes of the 49th meeting of the Commission held in Tokyo, Japan, June 18-20, 1991.

Enclosure
As above

JJ:bj



INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
La Jolla, California, U.S.A.

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE 49TH MEETING

June 18-20, 1991

Tokyo, Japan

Chairman: Mr. Koji Imamura



1. Opening of the Meeting

The 49th Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission was called to order on June 18, 1991, at 10:30 a.m., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo, Japan, by the Chairman, Commissioner Koji Imamura.

After welcoming all of the attendees, the Chairman introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. Kyoya, Director-General of the Fisheries Agency of Japan. Mr. Kyoya's speech is attached (Appendix I).

The meeting was attended by representatives of all member countries of the Commission, as well as by representatives of observer governments, international governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. The heads of the delegations were asked by the Chairman to introduce themselves and the members of their delegations. A list of the attendees is attached (Appendix II).

2. Adoption of Agenda

After noting that the provisional agenda had been sent to the Commissioners before the meeting, the Chairman called for suggestions for modifications or for approval of the provisional agenda. There being no suggested changes, the agenda was approved as presented.

3. Review of Current Tuna Research

Moving on to Agenda Item 3, the Chairman explained that it was the customary practice for the Commissioners to be briefed on the Commission's research program and progress during the preceding year. He called up on the Director, Dr. Joseph, to present this review for 1990.

The Director began his discussion by explaining that a review of the Commission's research program and accomplishments was important because it provided an opportunity for the Commissioners to ask questions and make suggestions concerning the staff's research. He next made a short statement describing the staff's obligations and duties, as mandated by the Convention establishing the IATTC. To put the eastern Pacific fishery into perspective, a number of figures showing trends in world tuna catches, by ocean and species, for the 1964-1989 period were displayed. The world catches of tunas increased fairly steadily at about 6 percent per year during the 1960s and 1970s. Since 1982 the catches have accelerated. The catch of tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean comprises nearly 20 percent of the world total.

Dr. Joseph next gave a comprehensive review of the staff's work on the early life history of tunas being conducted at the Commission's Achotines Laboratory in Panama, followed by a description of the program to use meristic and morphometric characteristics to describe the stock structure of yellowfin tuna in the Pacific Ocean. He noted that there was not enough time to review all of the research projects underway at the Commission, but he mentioned that there were about 20 different projects dealing with adult tunas and 3 others dealing with billfishes.

After the completion of Dr. Joseph's review, the Chairman opened the discussion to questions from the floor.

Commissioner Silvestre of France commented that the figures depicting trends in world tuna production were most interesting and useful, and asked that copies of them be appended to the minutes of the meeting.

Dr. Joseph responded affirmatively to this request; the figures are attached as Appendix III. Following this discussion, the Chairman declared a recess for lunch at 12:35 p.m.

4 and 5. The 1990 Fishing Year and Status of Tuna Stocks

Upon reconvening the meeting at 2:35 p.m., the Chairman stated that the two next Agenda Items, 4 and 5, would be considered together. He called upon Dr. Joseph to give this review.

Dr. Joseph began by stating that the surface catch of all tunas combined in the eastern Pacific Ocean during 1990, about 403 thousand tons, was the fourth greatest in the history of the fishery. The catch of yellowfin, 302 thousand tons, was the third greatest catch in the history of the fishery. The size of the fleet operating in the eastern Pacific during 1991 to date has been about 10 to 15 percent less than that of 1990. Most of this decrease was due to a decrease in the size of the U.S. fleet.

Dr. Joseph pointed out that from 1966 through 1978 the nations participating in the fishery implemented a conservation program, recommended by the IATTC staff, to limit the harvest of yellowfin from the Commission's Yellowfin Regulatory Area (CYRA), and that the program succeeded in maintaining the stock at levels of abundance capable of producing maximum, or near-maximum yields. Political differences among the nations of the region led to the abandonment of the program in 1979; the stock was soon overfished, and the catches began to decline. Many vessels transferred their operations to other ocean areas, and then the low vulnerability of the fish to capture in 1982 and 1983, caused by El Niño conditions in those years, led to many more vessels leaving the eastern Pacific or staying in port. Studies made by the IATTC staff in 1983 indicated that the stock was growing rapidly during this period of low fishing effort, and that by 1985 it would be at a high level of abundance. During late 1984 and early 1985 some vessels began returning to the area, and by 1986 the size of the fleet was the same as it was in 1990. The fishing was even better than the staff had predicted; this was attributed to a better-than-average recruitment beginning in 1983, and a favorable age-specific fishing mortality. In the mid- to late 1970s the average size of yellowfin caught in the CYRA was about 12 pounds (5.4 kg), but in recent years it had been closer to 30 pounds (13.6 kg); this resulted in an increase of about 35 percent in the yield per recruit, and the increased recruitment has accounted for a further 35-percent increase in yield in recent years. The result has been an average catch from the CYRA of nearly 300 thousand short tons in recent years, compared to an average of about 175 thousand tons during the 1970s. Dr. Joseph said that the catches during the next few years could probably be maintained at about that level, provided the recruitment stayed high and the age-specific fishing mortality did not change. However, because the fishing effort had declined by 10 to 15 percent during 1991, the 1991 catch should be less than that of 1990. If the age-specific fishing mortality and recruitment do not change, the catch in the CYRA should be about 225 to 235 thousand tons and the catch in the eastern Pacific east of 150°W should be about 260 to 280 thousand tons.

Dr. Joseph indicated, however, that there is considerable uncertainty regarding these numbers, owing to the issue of "dolphin-safe" tuna. If fishing for tunas in association with dolphins is abandoned and no alternative methods are developed to capture large tuna, the catch of yellowfin in the eastern Pacific could be reduced by about 30 to 50 percent. This would be due to a reduction in the yield per recruitment

resulting from a decrease in the average size of the fish taken in the fishery. At present fish not taken in association with dolphins average about 9 to 10 pounds (4.1 to 4.5 kg). He noted further that if no fishing for tunas associated with dolphins took place after July 1, 1991, the catch of yellowfin from the CYRA by the end of the year would be about 205 to 215 thousand tons while that from east of 150°W would be about 215 to 225 thousand tons.

Dr. Joseph suggested a quota for the 1991 fishing year similar to that for 1990, with a high degree of flexibility owing to the uncertainty concerning the mode of fishing during the remainder of the year. Specifically, the quota for the CYRA would be 210 thousand short tons, with up to four increments of 20 thousand tons, each to be implemented on the basis of current conditions in the fishery.

Dr. Joseph next presented information on the status of the stocks of skipjack, bluefin, and bigeye, described in Background Papers 4 and 5.

He noted that skipjack tuna migrate into the eastern Pacific from the central and western Pacific; they spend only a few months of their lives in the region, and are generally caught at small sizes. The catches have fluctuated between about 35 and 180 thousand tons, and there does not appear to be any relationship between the catches in successive years. Dr. Joseph said that, given the high natural mortality rate of skipjack, their high rate of emigration from the area, and the fact that they are available mostly at relatively small sizes, the best fishing strategy is to harvest them at any size at which they are available, since they often leave the area and do not return, and are not caught in substantial numbers elsewhere.

Dr. Joseph next discussed the bluefin fishery of the eastern Pacific, explaining that fish inhabiting the eastern and western Pacific belong to a single stock. The catches in the eastern Pacific have declined considerably in recent years, and this decline is cause for concern. After reviewing various possibilities that could be accounting for this decline, Dr. Joseph stated that the most likely explanation was a natural variability in the proportion of the stock which migrates to the eastern Pacific, but that further research to test this hypothesis is needed.

Dr. Joseph noted that bigeye tuna in the eastern Pacific are taken mostly in the longline fishery at relatively large sizes, and that lesser quantities of smaller bigeye are taken in the surface fishery. The total catches have fluctuated a great deal over the last several decades, but seem to be related to the level of fishing effort in the longline fishery. Based on yield-per-recruit analyses, the average size of fish in the longline catch appears to be near the optimum size for the observed levels of effort.

When Dr. Joseph concluded his presentation the Chairman opened the discussion to questions from the floor.

Commissioner Silvestre of France asked Dr. Joseph to clarify the rationale for the lower limit of 210 thousand tons.

Dr. Joseph replied that there was some uncertainty as to whether the fleet would continue fishing in the same manner during the second semester of the year as it did during the first. If fishing for tunas associated with dolphins is discontinued during the second semester, and if the number of vessels fishing remains constant, the catch from the CYRA would probably not exceed 210 thousand tons by the end of 1991. However, if more boats enter the fishery, and fishing for tunas associated with dolphins is

discontinued, the average size of the fish in the catch and the yield per recruit would fall below a level at which catches of 210 thousand tons could be sustained, *i.e.* growth overfishing would accelerate. To protect against further growth overfishing the lower limit of 210 thousand tons was suggested.

Mr. Sarró of Spain referred to Dr. Joseph's earlier remarks that both yellowfin and skipjack production on a world scale had accelerated since the early 1980s, accounting for an increase of more than 300 thousand tons in 1989 over what would have been predicted from the rate of increase in the catches during the 1960s and 1970s. He commented that the suggestion of Dr. Joseph that these exceptionally high catches on a world scale had had an impact on the market for tuna was not accurate. Mr. Sarró stated that the declining price of tuna was a result of the "dolphin safe" policy of U.S. canners, which has resulted in unusually large quantities of tuna being marketed in Europe and elsewhere. He stated that as the prices decrease the catches per vessel must increase to maintain profitability, thereby further exacerbating the demand, supply, and price problems. He stated that if the present situation continues there should be deep concern on the part of governments over the future of the tuna industry. He asked what is going to happen to the tuna industry.

Commissioner Silvestre asked the U.S. delegation if anyone would comment on the sharp reduction in the U.S. fleet in the EPO between 1990 and 1991 indicated in the figures shown by Dr. Joseph.

Commissioner Beasley of the United States replied that a number of vessels in the U.S. fleet had moved to other ocean areas and others had been sold. Mr. Beasley asked Dr. Joseph that if an El Niño develops during 1991-1992, as the temperature data suggest, will it affect the tuna fishery in the eastern Pacific, and if so, how?

Dr. Joseph replied that, based on past experience, there is no reason to expect that every El Niño condition affects tuna distribution and abundance in the same way. For some El Niño episodes, such as that of 1982-1983, the catchability of the fish was decreased by a deepening of the upper mixed layer. In others, the distribution of both yellowfin and skipjack has expanded poleward as higher temperatures expand poleward. He noted that it is impossible to predict with accuracy the effect of the forthcoming El Niño if, indeed, it does develop.

Commissioner Silvestre, referring to Mr. Sarró's comments, called attention to the fact that landings of tunas from the eastern Pacific in Spain and Italy had increased sharply, and that this had probably caused the prices to fall. He next commented on Dr. Joseph's remarks concerning the status of bluefin tuna in the north Pacific. He noted that the bluefin population extends across the Pacific Ocean and that the IATTC's responsibility is confined to the eastern Pacific. This being the case, had any thought been given as to how management would be applied on a Pacific-wide basis if and when the need arises? He asked if there are other bodies which have jurisdiction in the western portion of the bluefin range. If so, what are they and how would they cooperate with the IATTC?

Dr. Joseph replied that the staff has given priority to the scientific study of bluefin and, since most of the catch of this species is taken by two Commission members, the United States and Japan, they have been able to cooperate in studying the biology of the fish and the dynamics of the fishery. If and when the scientists suggest to the High Contracting Parties that conservation measures should be taken to protect northern Pacific bluefin, the institutional problems will have to be dealt with.

The Chairman instructed Dr. Joseph to prepare a draft resolution on the recommended conservation quotas for yellowfin tuna and to distribute it to the delegations on the following day.

It being 5:40 p.m., and there being no further questions, the Chairman adjourned the meeting until the following day.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:15 a.m., June 19, 1991, by Chairman Imamura, who called upon Dr. Joseph to present Agenda Item 6.

6. Review of the Tuna-Dolphin Program

Dr. Joseph said that the objectives of the IATTC's tuna-dolphin program, which was established in 1976, are maintenance of a high level of tuna production and maintenance of dolphin stocks at or above levels that assure their survival in perpetuity, with every reasonable effort being made to avoid needless or careless killing of dolphins. He noted that the program began in late 1979, but was not fully operational until 1986. The Director then introduced Dr. Martin Hall, Chief Scientist of the Tuna-Dolphin Program, to review the activities of the program during 1990.

Dr. Hall started his review by describing the IATTC's international observer program, which achieved a coverage level of 48.8 percent of all trips by purse seiners of over 400 tons in the eastern Pacific Ocean in 1990. A total number of trips made with observers aboard was 291. In 1991, following the agreement reached at the Intergovernmental Meeting in La Jolla in January of that year, the coverage for several countries has been increased to 100 percent.

Estimates of the incidental dolphin mortality inflicted by the international fleet in 1990, computed using the mortality-per-set and the mortality-per-ton-of-yellowfin-caught ratios, were 52,531 and 55,892, respectively. These represent a decline of 45 to 46 percent relative to the 1989 values. Eighty percent of this decline is due to improvements in performance by the fishermen, which has resulted in reductions from 1989 levels of 36 percent in the average mortality per set and 38 percent in the mortality per ton. The rest of the decline is due mainly to a reduction in the number of sets on dolphin-associated tunas made by U.S. vessels, many of which have left the eastern Pacific.

The data collected for 1991, up to June, show considerable further improvement in the mortality ratios; if these levels are maintained for the rest of the year, they could result in a total mortality for 1991 of about half the 1990 values, or approximately 25,000 animals. Dr. Hall showed figures illustrating the steady decline in mortality rates observed from 1986 to the present, and emphasized that the results had been achieved due to the cooperation of the governments of the various countries and to the vessel captains, fleet managers, and other personnel of the companies operating in the region. He emphasized that the fishermen were the main protagonists of the changes. He also mentioned the important role of the IATTC staff in La Jolla and at the various field stations, and described the various activities that they carry out to reduce dolphin mortality. These include: (1) seminars for captains and crew members; to date some 260 individuals have attended these, among them the vast majority of the captains who fish in the area; (2) net alignments and inspections of the dolphin-saving equipment aboard vessels; (3) detailed reports on individual trips; and (4) analyses of the performance of the captains. These actions, coordinated with the national mortality reduction programs of the nations involved, provide the scientific and technical support needed to turn motivation and good intentions into real achievements. At the La Jolla meeting of January

1991, two short-term goals were discussed: (1) reducing the international fleet's incidental mortality rate to the average level for the U.S. fleet at that time; and (2) bringing all captains up to the performance levels of the best five. The first goal is being achieved much more rapidly than anticipated; if the second goal is also achieved, the mortalities will be reduced to less than 10,000 animals per year. While these objectives are being pursued, a research program is needed to provide technological aids to improve the current fishing methods and to develop alternative methods of fishing.

Dr. Hall went on to describe the Fish-Aggregating Device (FAD) project that the IATTC staff is carrying out jointly with the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and the Mexican Navy Research Division, with funding from Bumble Bee Seafoods, Inc. The basic information for the designs and locations of the FADs comes from studies initiated in 1987 by the Tuna-Dolphin Program on the nature of the association of tunas with floating objects and with dolphins. In a first phase of the project 30 FADs will be deployed in an offshore area where dolphin-associated tunas are caught (8°-12°N-120°-140°W) in the hope of attracting large yellowfin tuna which can then be caught without setting on dolphins. The vessels operating in the area are expected to cooperate in furnishing data on their catches near the FADs and their observations on the FADs' performance. He also announced that the IATTC is organizing an international workshop, to take place in La Jolla in February 1992, for the comparative study of the fisheries on floating objects in all oceans where they occur. The information obtained will be used to help design future FADs.

Finally, Dr. Hall presented the latest results on the studies of the trends in dolphin abundance. A new method, which has several advantages over the previous one, was developed to test for these trends. Adding the relative abundance data for 1990 confirms the previous conclusions: some stocks experienced statistically-significant declines during the late 1970s, but during the 1980s they seem to have stabilized, and there have not been any statistically-significant trends in recent years. The northern stock of common dolphins, which had appeared to be declining in recent years, now seems to be levelling off, since relative stock sizes have been similar for the last four years.

The Chairman then declared a recess for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened by the Chairman at 2:40 p.m. He called upon Dr. Joseph to review events that had taken place concerning the tuna-dolphin situation since the 47th meeting of the IATTC, held in Washington, D.C., in June 1990. Dr. Joseph said that an Intergovernmental Meeting was held in San José, Costa Rica, in September 1990, and that all the participating governments approved a resolution recommending a dolphin conservation program which included the following objectives: (1) in the short term, a significant reduction in mortality of dolphins due to fishing; (2) over the long term, to make every effort to reduce these mortalities to insignificant levels approaching zero. The international program would include the following: (1) limits on dolphin mortality; (2) 100-percent coverage of the fleet by observers; (3) research to improve existing fishing gear and techniques and to develop alternative methods of catching tunas which did not involve setting on dolphins, with the goal of eliminating dolphin mortality due to fishing; and (4) training programs to achieve high standards of performance in avoiding dolphin mortalities. The IATTC was identified as the most appropriate organization to coordinate the technical aspects of the program. Immediately following the Intergovernmental Meeting, the member governments of the IATTC approved a resolution accepting the role suggested for them by the Intergovernmental Meeting. Dr. Joseph went on to explain that this resolution also called for a similar meeting to be held before February, 1991, and that this led to the meeting held in January 1991 in La Jolla, California, U.S.A. At this meeting, all the

participating governments but one adopted a new resolution, which recognized the initiative of the San José Resolution and called for a dolphin conservation program entailing the following objectives: (1) a 100-percent observer program, to be funded by governments and/or industry and administered by the IATTC; (2) research to improve existing technology and to develop alternatives to catching tunas associated with dolphins; (3) a 50-percent reduction between 1989 and 1991 in mortality due to fishing; and (4) a continuation of such programs beyond 1992.

At the conclusion of his review, Dr. Joseph distributed a draft resolution to the Commissioners for their consideration. The resolution dealt with the international dolphin conservation program, and the IATTC's duties and responsibilities respecting the program.

At the termination of the tuna-dolphin review the Chairman opened the meeting for questions from the floor.

Mr. Goto of Japan congratulated Dr. Hall on his comprehensive review of the IATTC program to evaluate the potential of using FADs to attract large tunas as an alternative to fishing for tunas associated with dolphins. He commented, though, that since tunas and dolphins swim together they must be feeding on the same food items. If this is true, then why would FADs be expected to attract tunas away from dolphins? Mr. Goto posed a second question concerning the usefulness of commercial fishing vessel data, rather than research vessel data, to estimate dolphin abundance. He stated that because commercial vessels do not follow pre-planned tracks, data collected on those vessels concerning dolphin abundance must be biased.

Dr. Hall, responding to the second question first, stated that dedicated research vessels are extremely costly and that the IATTC does not have adequate funds to undertake such research. He said, however, that the NMFS had conducted such research surveys between 1986 and 1990. Because the IATTC places observers on a large sample of commercial fishing vessels, about 40 to 50 times as much data is collected as on research vessels. Careful statistical analysis applied to the tuna vessel data eliminates much of the inherent bias, and the final results obtained from research vessel data and tuna vessel data are quite similar. Work is currently underway to investigate the possibility of improving overall results by combining data from both sources.

With respect to Mr. Goto's first question, Dr. Hall indicated that there were several lines of evidence that made him optimistic that the FAD experiments will prove successful. First, in some areas of the fishery during certain seasons, there is a tendency for larger tunas to associate with naturally occurring-drifting logs. Second, research indicates that tunas and dolphins exhibit different diurnal feeding behavior, suggesting the possibility that they may separate at night. Third, FADs are being deployed that extend well below the surface of the water. Around the Philippines and in other parts of the western Pacific larger tunas appear to be more frequently found at greater depths around the FADs.

Commissioner Nanne of Costa Rica wanted to know whether consideration had been given to using aircraft to survey dolphin populations, especially considering the fact that the IATTC staff had been involved earlier in this type of research.

Dr. Hall stated that the main shortcoming of aircraft was their limited range. He noted, however, that the IATTC staff had been holding discussions with an aircraft company over the possibility of using

unmanned "drone" aircraft. Although the technology for the aircraft is quite advanced, the system for detecting dolphin herds is not.

Commissioner Silvestre of France referred to the pie charts shown by Dr. Hall which showed that about 40 percent of the sets in the Indian Ocean were made on floating objects, and noted that the remaining 60 percent were not identified as to type. He wished to make it clear that that percentage did not include sets made on fish associated with dolphins, as tunas are not captured in association with dolphins in the Indian Ocean. He next commented that the IATTC's tuna-dolphin program was quite successful, in that over the short term the mortality of dolphins caused by fishing for tunas had been reduced significantly and, even though there are less vessels operating in the fishery, the productivity of individual vessels has increased and the mortalities of dolphins per set have decreased.

Dr. Hall commented that the IATTC staff was pleased with the progress the international fleet has made in reducing dolphin mortality, and that he was optimistic that it would continue to improve.

He made some further comments about the international workshop on fishing for tunas associated with floating objects. One of the purposes of the workshop will be to attempt to understand why there were such large differences in modes of fishing in different ocean areas. For example, why are only about 2 percent of the sets in the Caribbean Sea made on floating objects, while more than 40 percent of the sets in the Indian Ocean are of this type? And why are more than 70 percent of all sets in the eastern Pacific made on dolphins, while in the eastern Atlantic Ocean less than 2 percent of all sets are reported to be on dolphins? An understanding of these mechanisms may be useful in developing alternatives to fishing for yellowfin associated with dolphins.

Commissioner Beasley noted that the United States shared Mr. Silvestre's view that a voluntary reduction in dolphin mortality had been achieved, and that this was a great credit on everyone involved. He asked Dr. Hall whether his belief that dolphin mortality associated with the fishery for tunas in the eastern Pacific could be reduced to about 10 thousand animals per year depended on a research program to improve current fishing technology.

Dr. Hall replied that it did, noting that with adequate research, it was not unreasonable to expect that the mortality could be reduced to one animal per set.

Mr. Herrera of Venezuela, after being recognized by the Chairman, made a statement concerning the tuna-dolphin situation, which he asked to be appended, in its entirety, to this report (Appendix IV).

The representative of Colombia, remarking that his government had applied for membership to IATTC and would probably soon become a member, said that the situation regarding the tuna-dolphin issue was of critical importance. The fishing nations have, as demonstrated by the data presented by the IATTC staff, made significant reductions in dolphin mortality, but they are still being subjected to embargoes by the government of the United States. If this situation continues the result may be more harm than good to the dolphins. He said that those concerned must look very carefully at what can be accomplished within the framework of the IATTC to resolve this problem and must find a solution that continues to protect dolphins but permits large catches of tunas.

Commissioner Nanne indicated that there were two matters that he would like to comment on. First, he stated that Costa Rica, as a founding government of the Commission, was extremely concerned about the future of the IATTC. The Commission's scientific work, and its accomplishments concerning the conservation of the tuna resources, have been of great importance to the member governments. However, because of the tuna-dolphin issue and the situation with the embargoes, the viability of the tuna fishery is threatened. The IATTC has been a valuable asset to its members and to society in general, but if the current situation of embargoes and retaliations continues, the member nations are going to question the value of continuing their membership in the IATTC and the value of the organization for any purpose. This would be a catastrophe. The IATTC has proven effective as a scientific and conservation body, and it would be a tragedy if it were lost. Commissioner Nanne appealed to all nations to consider this grave situation and to take the necessary action to resolve this issue and ensure the survival of the IATTC, an organization with a proven record of success.

Second, Mr. Nanne called attention to the fact that it would probably be desirable if the IATTC staff, through its observer program, could provide certificates to vessel owners documenting the fact, when appropriate, that the vessels were participating in the IATTC's tuna-dolphin program and utilizing gear and procedures recommended by the IATTC staff to reduce dolphin mortality.

Dr. Joseph replied that the staff was already providing certificates to vessels fishing in a "dolphin-safe" mode, and he saw no problem in providing certificates such as those suggested by Commissioner Nanne. He indicated that the staff would draft such a certificate and he would circulate it to the Commissioners for their approval.

Commissioner Silvestre commented that the closing of the U.S. market for tunas from the eastern Pacific through the use of embargoes and the refusal of canneries to accept fish caught in association with dolphins had accelerated a decrease in price for tuna in the international market, which was causing a decrease in the profitability of fishing. As the price decreases, the catches must increase to maintain profitability. This has been the case in the eastern Pacific--fewer vessels and greater catches per vessel for those remaining in the fishery. This could result in problems in instituting conservation measures for tunas and have a deleterious effect on tuna conservation measures not only in the area covered by the IATTC, but in other areas as well. For example, the possible transfer of a number of tuna vessels from the EPO to the Atlantic Ocean, together with the need for the vessels of the current Atlantic fleet to increase their catches due to the low level of world yellowfin prices, may lead to the size limits for yellowfin, set within the framework of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), not being respected. The tuna-dolphin issue is a serious one. Attempts at complete protection of one group of animals (dolphins), while ignoring the conservation of another (tunas), could destroy the IATTC and its programs for tuna and dolphin conservation, which are currently working so well. Furthermore, if that were to happen, it could adversely affect other international fishery commissions. France therefore expresses great concern over the way things are developing in the eastern Pacific concerning the tuna-dolphin situation.

Commissioner Kato of Japan called attention to the preamble of the Convention establishing the IATTC, where the Commission's role is clearly defined to be conservation of the tuna stocks, and stated that the nations must comply with the intent of that preamble. Japan, like the other nations is expressing its concern over the impact that the tuna-dolphin situation may have on the future of the IATTC. It is unfortunate that the issue of embargoes has occupied so much of the time of this meeting. It appears all

nations agree that they should be concerned with the conservation of both tunas and dolphins, but that the way to accomplish this is through scientific research and international cooperation such as outlined in the preamble of the Convention, rather than through unilateral action. Action must not be taken that will adversely affect other international bodies. International order must be maintained.

Commissioner Beasley, commenting that the tuna-dolphin issue is indeed a sensitive one, noted that since 1976 one of the IATTC's objectives has been elimination of the needless and careless killing of dolphins in the fishery. U.S. fishermen have been subject to rigorous regulations to protect dolphins for a number of years. The United States recognizes the concerns expressed by the other nations and the need for international cooperation. This approach is expressed in the Resolutions of San José and La Jolla--both subscribed to by the United States. Information on dolphin mortalities presented at this meeting is encouraging. The United States takes very seriously its commitment to seek amendment to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as indicated in the La Jolla meeting. Mr. Beasley then called on Mr. Brian Hallman of the U.S. Department of State to comment on progress concerning this "initiative."

Mr. Hallman commented that an agreed-to text for the proposed legislation is in the process of being presented to the U.S Congress by the Administration. The proposed bill reflects what was agreed to during the La Jolla Meeting, which is that nations participating in good faith in a meaningful effort to reduce dolphin mortality should not be subject to embargoes. Mr. Hallman went on to define the criteria that would be used by the United States to judge that a nation should not be subject to embargo, as follows:

1. Participation in an international dolphin conservation program in which the United States also participates.
2. Participation in research to find alternative ways of capturing large yellowfin tuna without setting on dolphins.
3. Participation in the 100-percent observer program of the IATTC or a comparable program in which the United States participates.
4. Achievement of a meaningful reduction in dolphin mortality, which for the purposes of the U.S. proposal would be defined as a 50-percent reduction in dolphin mortality between 1989 and 1991 and a 60-percent reduction between 1989 and 1992.

Mr. Hallman noted that these provisions could be considered as interim measures until the MMPA comes up for reauthorization in about two years. At that time there would likely be full-scale deliberation within Congress on this issue. He also noted that, even though this proposed bill represents Administration policy, it will be an uphill battle to get it passed through Congress, and even if it passes it is unclear as to what its practical effect will be, owing to the "dolphin-safe" policy of the U.S. canners.

Mr. Hallman concluded by noting that a unilateral approach is not the best way to solve this problem. The best way is to proceed through international cooperation. He noted that the U.S. shares Commissioner Nanne's concern about the fate of the Commission and, even though these are difficult times for the IATTC, all nations concerned should reaffirm their support for the international approach and for the work of the Commission.

Mr. Lara of Mexico, noting his nation's observer status, commented on the valuable contribution of the IATTC to the scientific understanding of the resources of the region and reaffirmed his nation's intention to continue its cooperation with IATTC on a technical level. He commented on the efforts made by his nation

to protect dolphins in the eastern Pacific by the establishment of regulations and through cooperation in the international programs of the IATTC. He expressed Mexico's agreement with the views expressed by Colombia and Venezuela, and noted that this problem could not be resolved through unilateral efforts, but must be approached by international good will and cooperation. He also noted that Mexico had proposed at previous intergovernmental meetings that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Organización Latinoamericana de Desarrollo Pesquero should be involved in these efforts to resolve the problem.

Commissioner Carpenter of Vanuatu noted his nation's commitment to reducing dolphin mortality by passing national legislation to protect dolphins, 100-percent participation in the IATTC's observer program, participation in training courses and gear inspections, and the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to evaluate skipper performance. He noted that all costs for this program were borne by Vanuat and that, even with all of these efforts, his nation's tuna products had been embargoed. He noted that the threat of an embargo is a greater deterrent than an actual embargo. The threat is gone, and the embargo is in place. Unless a solution is found, there will be no choice but to consider withdrawal from the IATTC and its program. The survival of the IATTC is at stake, and it is urgent that this message be carried back to the United States.

The Chairman summarized the comments and urged the U.S. Government to make every effort to solve this problem.

There being no further comments on Agenda Item 6, the Chairman indicated that Agenda Item 7 would be deferred until the next day, and Agenda Items 8 and 9 would be discussed during the time remaining.

8. Recommended Research Program and Budget for FY 1992-1993

The Chairman asked Dr. Joseph to present Agenda Item 8. Dr. Joseph reviewed the budget, which was for almost exactly the same amount as that of the previous year, and stated that it had been sent to the Commissioners two months previously. The Chairman called for comments and/or approval.

Commissioner Beasley of the United States proposed acceptance of the budget as presented. This was seconded by Commissioner Kato of Japan and unanimously approved.

9. Status of Protocol to the Convention Establishing the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Moving to the next agenda item, Chairman Imamura asked Dr. Joseph to review the status of a protocol to the Convention, presented at an earlier meeting of the Commission. Dr. Joseph began by noting that during the 46th Meeting of the Commission, held in May 1989, the subject of a protocol to streamline the adherence of new members to the IATTC was discussed. At that meeting a representative of the European Economic Community (EEC) expressed interest in having the protocol amended to allow membership by international organizations for regional economic integration. During the 47th Meeting of the Commission, held in June 1990, a background paper was distributed which presented several options for facilitating the adherence of nations to the IATTC Convention. At the 48th Meeting of the Commission, held in September 1990, a resolution including a draft protocol was presented. It was approved by all the

Commissioners except those of Japan, who indicated that they would respond to the resolution after consulting with their government.

After this brief review, Commissioner Kato of Japan said that his government understood that, for the IATTC to function properly, it should facilitate the adherence of new members, and in that sense Japan is now ready to join the work for the amendment of the Convention. He then stated that there were two points to be considered, one to do with the procedures and the other with the substance. With regard to the first point, the IATTC itself is not empowered or equipped to amend the Convention. Therefore, it may not be appropriate to agree upon a Protocol at the IATTC meeting. The proper procedure should be taken through diplomatic channels, and a diplomatic meeting among Contracting Governments should be held to adopt the Protocol. The second point concerns the matter of adherence by intergovernmental economic integration organizations such as the EEC. Commissioner Kato then distributed a draft resolution inviting the Depositary Government (the United States) to take the necessary steps to initiate formal procedures to amend the Convention.

There then followed a lengthy discussion between the representatives of Japan and France concerning the adherence of the EEC. Commissioner Kato pointed out several questions concerning the relations and demarcations between the competence of the EEC and that of its member countries. He indicated that such questions should be clarified before adopting a Protocol.

Commissioner Silvestre was emphatic in stating that there is no doubt concerning France's continued adherence to the IATTC Convention. According to the Treaty of Rome, the EEC does not have competence respecting the overseas territories of member states. This means specifically that, should the EEC become a contracting party to the IATTC, France would remain a contracting party because of its overseas territories with coastlines bordering the Convention area (Clipperton Island). This situation is well known, and applies to other fisheries commissions, such as the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the North Atlantic Salmon Commission (NASCO). The EEC is a member of both these organizations. Denmark, an EEC member, is also a member of both NAFO and NASCO because its overseas territory, Greenland, is situated in the waters covered by the Conventions of both these organizations.

At 5:40 p.m. the Chairman adjourned the meeting until the following day.

The meeting was reconvened on June 20, 1991, at 10:35 a.m. The Chairman commented that drafts of three resolutions had been distributed to the participants the previous day. After a brief discussion of some aspects of the draft resolutions, the Chairman established a working group of all member governments, plus Colombia and Venezuela, to prepare draft resolutions that would be acceptable to all member governments.

The plenary session was recessed from 10:55 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. After reconvening, the Chairman continued with Agenda Item 9. The Japanese resolution, as modified by the working group, was presented and approved by all member governments, and is attached as Appendix V.

7. Recommendations

The Chairman then opened Agenda Item 7, which had previously been postponed, to discussion.

The two resolutions dealing with the tuna-dolphin conservation program and the yellowfin quota, as modified by the working group, were presented and approved (Appendices VI and VII).

10. Place and Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman called on Dr. Joseph to discuss this matter. Dr. Joseph explained that the site of the meeting generally rotates among the member governments, but during the last few years it has been customary to hold a meeting periodically at the IATTC headquarters in La Jolla. This gives the Commissioners and their advisors an opportunity to visit the IATTC headquarters and more staff members a chance to participate in the meetings. Dr. Joseph therefore recommended that the next meeting be hosted by the IATTC staff and held in La Jolla. All delegations agreed. The exact dates of the meeting, which will be in late May or in June, would be fixed at a later date by the Director.

11. Election of Officers

The Chairman then called for nominations for the office of Chairman. Mr. Goto of Japan nominated Commissioner Herbert Nanne of Costa Rica. This was unanimously approved.

Mr. Nanne thanked Mr. Goto for the nomination and the other delegations for their support, indicating that it is a great honor for his country.

The Chairman suggested that the office of Secretary should remain with Nicaragua. Everyone agreed to this suggestion.

12. Other Business

All of the delegations joined the United States and Costa Rica in thanking Japan for the superb job it had done in hosting and chairing the meeting.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.



Appendix I.

OPENING ADDRESS

by

Mr. Kyoya

Director-General
Fisheries Agency of Japan

Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to Japan on behalf of the Japanese Government on the occasion of the 49th Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Meeting.

This meeting is held in Tokyo for the first time in six years. I would like to extend my hearty welcome to delegates, observers and the secretariat who came from far away to Japan to attend this meeting.

This Commission celebrated its 40th anniversary last year and is one of the oldest Commission among international fisheries commissions. We note that this Commission is the sole international treaty organization to manage tuna in the Pacific Ocean, and has greatly contributed to research and management of tuna stock, particularly yellowfin and skipjack tuna stock, in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

The Secretariat of the Commission is a unique organization in the international fisheries community, which has a number of excellent scientists. We note that the research system of the Commission is well established. Last year was the 20th anniversary for Japan as a member of the Commission. Japan has been contributing to Commission's research activities by sending its scientists, and would like to continue to support Commission's activities in the future.

Currently the subject of "environmental conservation and sustainable development in fisheries" is discussed worldwide. We believe that the "Tuna-Dolphin Programme", which is designed to ensure the maximum sustained catch of yellowfin tuna while conserving dolphin stocks, is along with this concept.

Recently, extreme discussion has been made for protection of marine mammals by some countries and there has been a tendency to deny the continuation of fisheries which incidentally catch marine mammals inevitably. However, Japan has the view that, as long as proper conservation and management measures for animals incidentally caught be taken, the operations of such fisheries should be allowed.

Fishery utilizes marine living resources, which is renewable resources and is one of the most friendly industries to the global environment. I believe that human being has the wisdom to utilize these resources perpetually. I do hope that the IATTC will continue its activities along with its objectives in the future.

I hope that you will discuss thoroughly based on the tradition of cooperative spirit and that fruitful results will come out.

Finally, I wish that your stay in Japan would be a pleasant one.

Thank you.

Appendix II.

ATTENDEES

MEMBER COUNTRIES

COSTA RICA

Herbert Nanne Echandi
Antonio Robles Oreamuno
Ana Lucía Nassar Soto

Dirección General de Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura
Ambassador of Costa Rica to Japan
Ministro Consejero, Embassy of Costa Rica

FRANCE

Daniel Silvestre
Michel Dion

Direction des Pêches, Secrétariat d'Etat à la Mer
Syndicat National des Armateurs de Thoniers-Congelateurs

JAPAN

Koji Imamura
Sigenobu Kato
Yamato Ueda

Councillor, Oceanic Fisheries Department, Fisheries Agency
Director, Fishery Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
President, Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative
Association

Yasuo Takase
Yutaka Aoki
Akima Umezawa
Arata Fujii

Deputy Director, Fishery Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Fishery Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Fishery Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Assistant Director, International Convention Division, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Satoru Goto
Katsuma Hanafusa
Takashi Mori
Akinobu Komata
Hiromi Isa
Hidehiro Kato

Counsellor, Oceanic Fisheries Department, Fisheries Agency
Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency
International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency
International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency
Far Seas Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency
Large Cetacean Section, National Research Institute of Far Seas
Fisheries

Hideki Nakano
Tokio Ono

National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries
Managing Director, Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-
operative Association

Tsutomu Watanabe

Executive Director, Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative
Association

Akira Suda

Technical Adviser, Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative
Association

Asao Nagamine

Manager, International Division, Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries
Co-operative Association

Eiko Ozaki

Section Chief, International Division, Federation of Japan Tuna
Fisheries Co-operative Association

NICARAGUA

Salvador E. Stadthagen

Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Nicaragua

PANAMA

Marianela Díaz

Attaché, Embassy of Panamá

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Izadore Barrett
Henry Beasley
August Felando
Charles Fullerton
William J. Gillis, Jr.

National Marine Fisheries Service
National Marine Fisheries Service
American Tunaboat Association
National Marine Fisheries Service
American Tuna Sales Association

S. Hakoda
Brian S. Hallman
Robert C. Macdonald
Michael McGowan
Yoshio Nasaka
Carlos M. Sánchez
R. Byron Sigel

Van Camp Seafood Co., Inc.
Department of State
Commissioner
Bumble Bee Seafoods, Inc.
Economic (Fisheries) Specialist, U.S. Embassy
Starkist Seafood Company
Second Secretary, Economic Section, U.S. Embassy

VANUATU

Richard Carpenter

Commissioner of Maritime Affairs

NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

CHILE

Jaime Allende

Second Secretary, Embassy of Chile

COLOMBIA

Carlos A. Morales L.
Antonio Correa Rincón

First Secretary, Embassy of Colombia
Vikingos de Colombia, S.A.; Indupesca, S.A.

ECUADOR

Cristian Espinosa C.

Third Secretary, Embassy of Ecuador

MEXICO

José Luis Romero
Salvador de Lara Rangel
Eugenio Gómez Roch
Francisco Santoyo

Economic Counsellor, Embassy of México
Secretaría de Pesca
Compañía Mexicana de Túnidos
Compañía Mexicana de Túnidos

PERU

Rubén Espinoza Raymondi

Third Secretary, Embassy of Perú

SENEGAL

Mamadou Diarra

Embassy of the Republic of Senegal

SPAIN

Javier Ariz Tellería
Rafael Cavestany
Gabriel Sarró Iparraguirre

Instituto Español de Oceanografía
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Organización de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros
Congeladores (O.P.A.G.A.C.)

U.R.S.S.

Valery Tsukalov
Victor Solodovnik
Sergei Leontiev

Guenriku Kaizer

Commercial Department, Ministry of Fisheries
Ministry of Fisheries
All-Union Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography
(VNIRO)
Vladivostok Trawl and Refrigerator Fleet

VENEZUELA

Francisco Herrera Terán

Efraín Vivas
Juan José Oropeza Garza
Félix Gastón Alcalá

Dirección Gral. Sectorial de Pesca y Acuicultura, Ministerio de
Agricultura y Cría
Embassy of Venezuela
Avatun, C.A.; Alimentos Margarita, C.A.
Alimentos Margarita, C.A.; Cámara Nacional de Enlatadores de la
Pesca

TAIWAN

C.H. Chou
Robert C. Lin

Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Boatowner and Exporters Association
Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Boatowner and Exporters Association

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Philipp Muller
Albrecht Rothacher
Yoko Sugiki
Junko Shimizu
Izadore Barrett

Forum Fisheries Agency
European Economic Community
European Economic Community
European Economic Community
International Whaling Commission

NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Traci Romine
Juan Carlos Cárdenas

Greenpeace International
Greenpeace Latin America

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

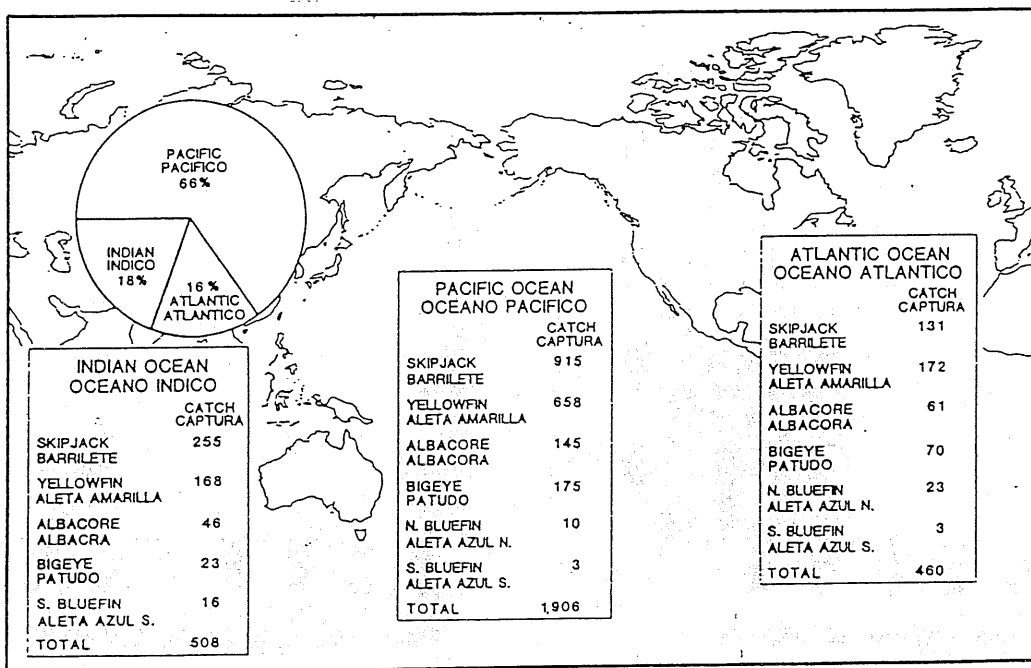
James Joseph
Martin Hall
Berta Juárez

Interpreters

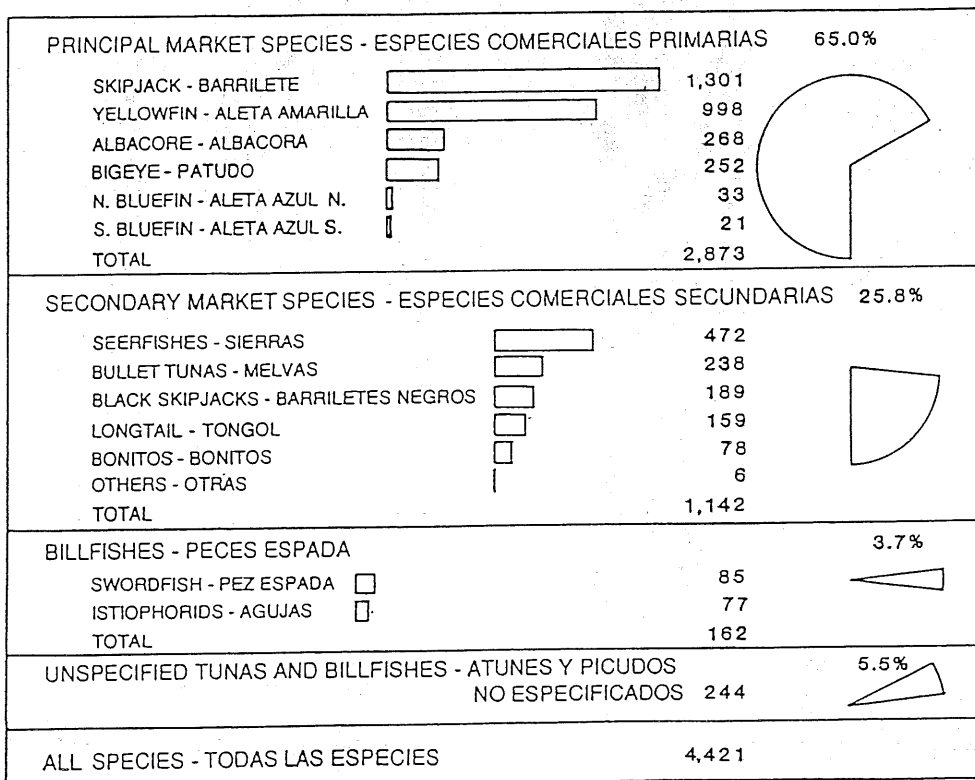
Carlos Diez
Yoshiko Soeda
Midori Ota
Isako Yamazaki

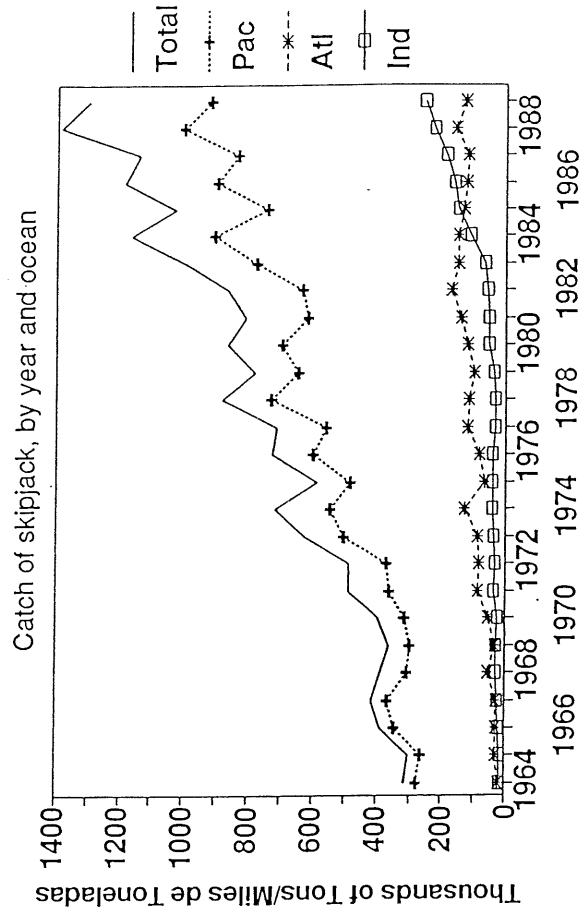
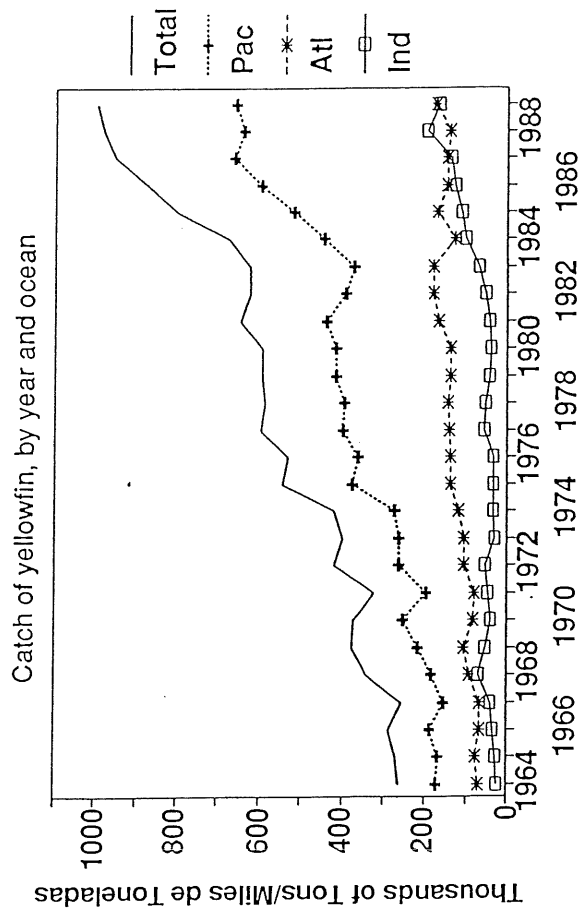
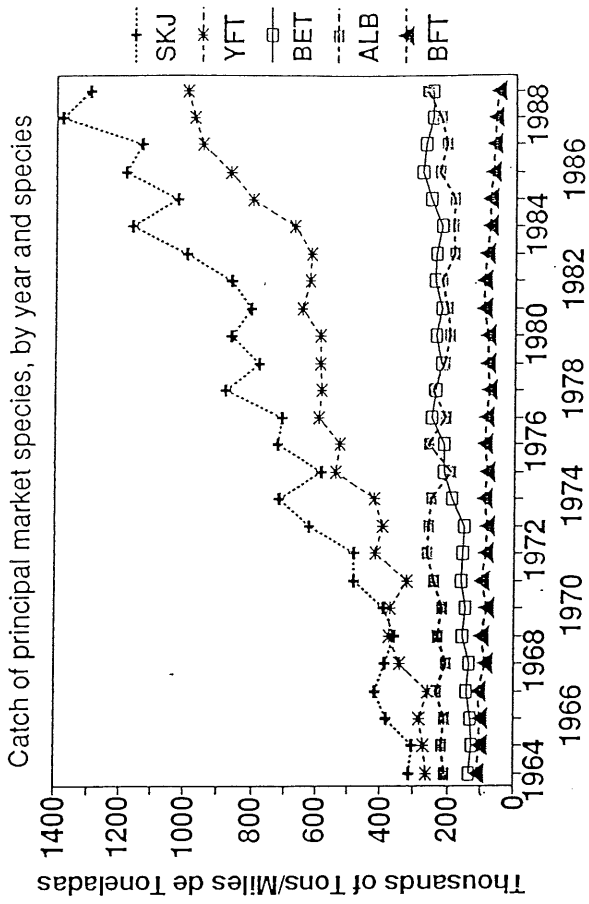
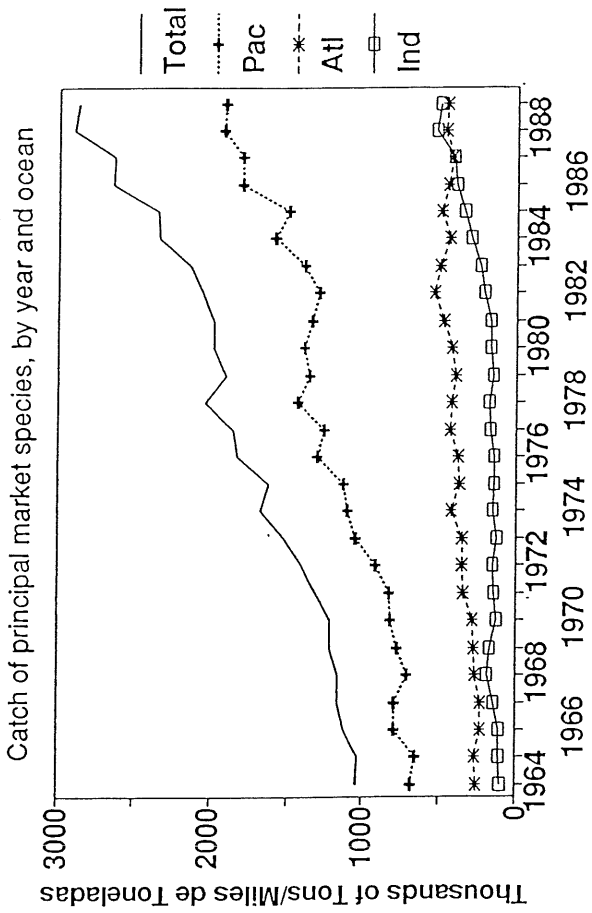
Appendix III.

World catches of principal market species in 1989, in thousands of short tons, by ocean

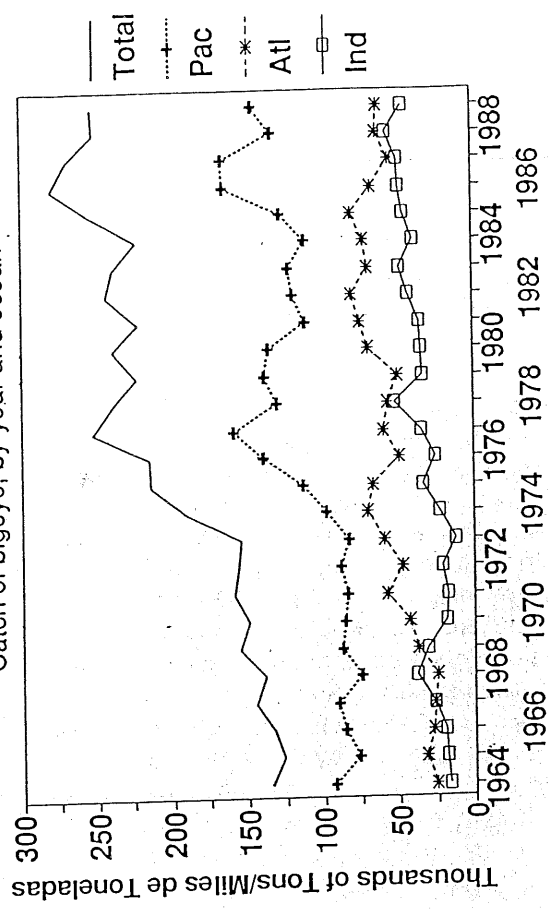


World catches of tunas and billfish in 1989, in thousands of short tons, by species

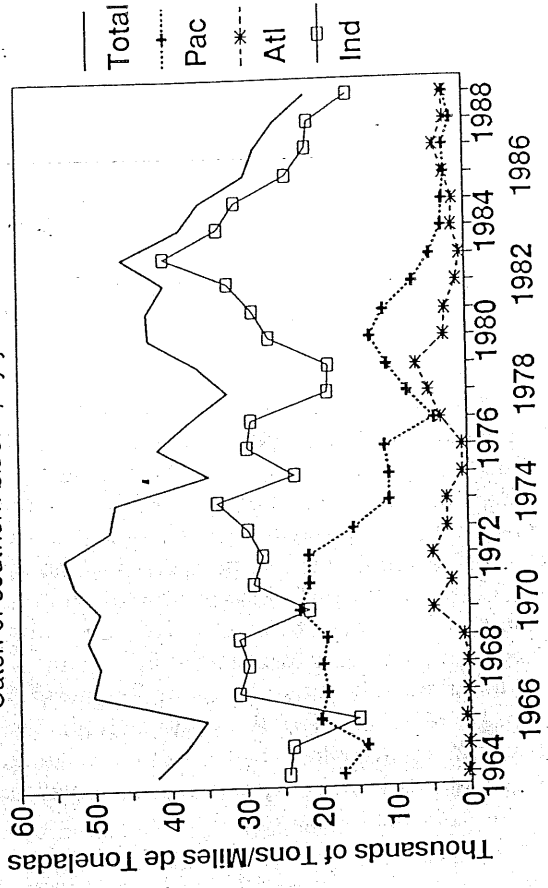




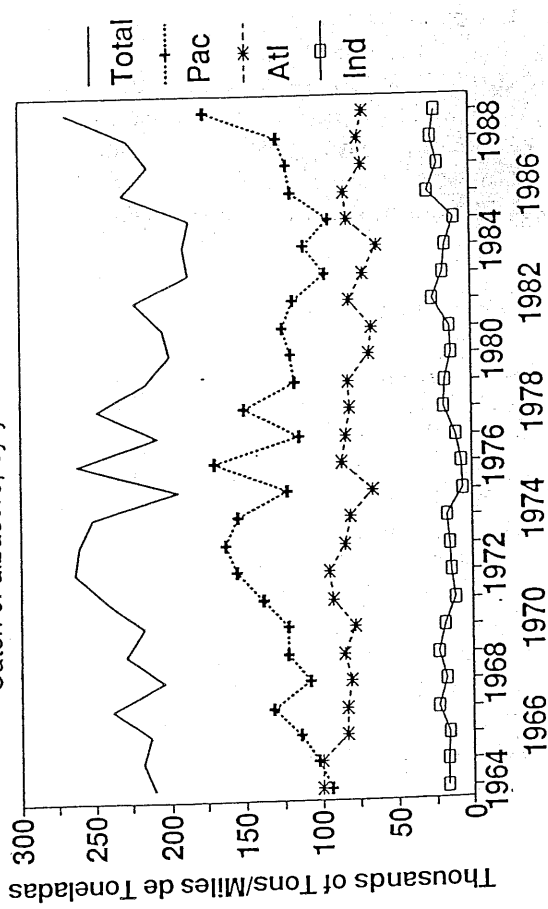
Catch of bigeye, by year and ocean



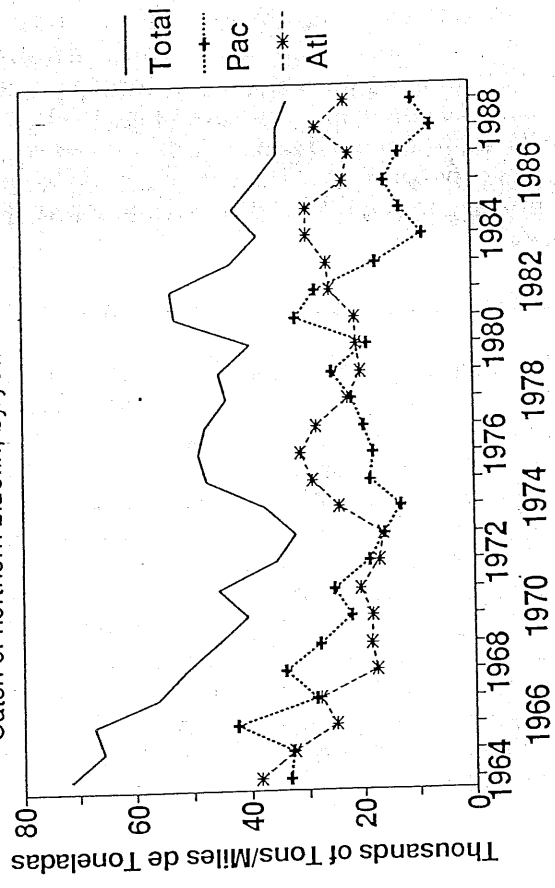
Catch of southern bluefin, by year and ocean



Catch of albacore, by year and ocean



Catch of northern bluefin, by year and ocean



Appendix IV.

Remarks by Lic. Francisco Herrera Terán
Divisional Director-General of Fisheries and Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Venezuela

First of all, I would like to make clear to this meeting the official position of my country's Ministry of Agriculture with regard to the subject under discussion, the incidental mortality of dolphins in the Pacific Ocean.

The government and people of Venezuela have always shown their sensitivity to environmental problems which are the subject of discussion and analysis on a world scale. Because of this, the tuna-dolphin problem has received more than mere attention. In fact, the Ministry of Agriculture firmly believes that, radical conservationist postures aside, the incidental mortality of dolphins should be reduced to zero. Our interest in reducing this mortality is made evident by our participation in the IATTC's program and in our efforts to find a solution to the problem through technology (this has been formally proposed in the 19th world meeting of the FAO Fisheries Committee, in Rome); furthermore, Venezuela has applied for membership in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and this awaits only ratification by our Congress; Venezuela has two ministerial resolutions requiring the installation aboard tuna vessels of all the equipment and mechanisms necessary for saving dolphins; as I mentioned before, Venezuela forms part of the International Program for the Protection and Rescue of Dolphins of the Eastern Pacific, supervised - by intergovernmental mandate - by the IATTC; coverage of the Venezuelan tuna fleet by observers is currently at 36%, 3% above the U.S. government's initial requirements and the IATTC's recommendations, but an increase to 100% coverage has been agreed; furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has attended all fora, meetings, and seminars organized by the United States or by the IATTC. In short, Venezuela has, by its own efforts, been reducing the incidental mortality of dolphins with actions, not words. The United States is still responsible for the mortality of some 5,000 dolphins in the area under consideration, quite apart from an unknown number outside the "area" with a minimum number of observers, even with its internal quota of 20,500 dolphins. On the other hand, the "dolphin-safe" policy, created by U.S. industrial groups, seeks to confuse and deceive the consumer with "dolphin-safe" tuna, when in fact catching it could have involved a higher mortality than that of the U.S. fleet. When Venezuela suggested creating the category of "dolphin friendly" as an alternative for those nations which, like Venezuela, adhere to the standards of the IATTC's International Program for the Protection and Rescue of Dolphins, we were turned down. At present we are still, unjustly, lumped together with those countries that kill dolphins deliberately. The U.S. canners' "dolphin-safe" policy attempts to be "holier than the Pope," since **nothing in the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits fishing for tunas associated with dolphins.**

Why does U.S. law not expressly prohibit catching tunas associated with dolphins?

It is well known that adult tunas swim in the company of dolphins. This phenomenon makes dolphins a kind of "hunting dog" for the tuna vessels, since their presence indicates that there are tunas nearby. For this reason, it is absurd to think that a "hunter" will deliberately kill the "dog" which shows him where his quarry is. The IATTC and the U.S. Fisheries Service have evaluated the populations of dolphins in the area in question and have determined that these populations, which may, we acknowledge, have been affected at some point, have regained their normal levels, and in general - although there is evidence and scientific reports which indicate an increase - the international scientific community agrees that the populations in general have also returned to normal. From all these studies, it has also been established that fishing on other floating objects near the coast results only in the capture of juvenile tunas. This really caught the attention of serious scientists and ecologists, since, if avoiding a "minimal" mortality of dolphins means fishing for juvenile tunas, this could lead in the medium term to the exhaustion of the tuna in the area. Several scientific organizations with long and wide track records have said as much. If that were to happen, it would mean the collapse of a tuna industry which stretches from Mexico to Peru and which means food, foreign exchange, and jobs.

The Venezuelan tuna fleet, in spite of having initiated dolphin monitoring and rescue programs voluntarily at the beginning of the 1980s and compulsorily in 1986, has in five years succeeded in reducing the incidental mortality to levels and percentages similar to those of the U.S. fleet, which has had a program for 20 years. From 1986 to 1990 the mortality caused by the Latin American fleet has declined by about 75%. The tuna embargo is happening because the current U.S. legislation is guilty of illegalities and technicalities when it says that the tuna fleets of other nations operating in the eastern Pacific, must have a mortality similar to that of the national fleet, during **the same calendar year**. How can Venezuela or any other country predict the U.S. mortality? It is a race in a dark room: nobody knows who won. Venezuela reduced its mortality by 52% between 1989 and 1990, but was embargoed nonetheless. This absurd legislation applies only to the eastern tropical Pacific (ETP), denying the possibility of or its competence with regard to the mortality of marine mammals in other oceans of the world. For this reason, the U.S. fleet chose to withdraw outside this "red zone." For this reason, there are no parameters which the Venezuelan fleet can use as yardsticks and, therefore, we are automatically in breach of the law - in spite of the measures taken - and subject to embargoes. This injustice and illegality is what has moved the National Executive, together with Mexico, to file a suit under GATT against the United States. On the other hand, U.S. conservationist groups have annual budgets of over 100 million dollars - the result of donations from U.S. industrial groups and the consuming public - but not a single dollar has been dedicated to research, to the search for new technologies, or to the International Program for Dolphin Rescue. These same groups have said, publicly and repeatedly, that they will not accept the so-called "minimum mortality." For them there is no "acceptable" mortality, nor do they recognize the efforts of governments and industries toward reducing that mortality. We are also concerned that the deception of the "dolphin-safe" labels has not been denounced to international public opinion, in light of the evidence of cetacean mortality in other oceans of the world.

The Venezuelan Ministry of Agriculture works closely with the IATTC and FAO, and thinks it unjust that the U.S. Government, which is still fishing on dolphins both in and outside the eastern Pacific, seeks to impose on Venezuela restrictions which it does not apply to its own fleet, but which do affect our regional economy and our national sovereignty. The Government of Venezuela recognizes the need to continue the search for viable solutions to this problem, and it is for that reason that it maintains a dialogue in multinational fora or organizations, such as the IATTC, ICCAT, FAO, and OLDEPESCA, but cannot accept that it should have unnecessary and damaging sanctions imposed upon it unilaterally. It is no longer dolphins that are endangered, but rather the thousands of Venezuelans who may end up on the street, however much like a cliché that may sound. Avoiding the unnecessary mortality of dolphins requires technology and research, not million-dollar press and television campaigns which do not relate to the current reality of the situation.

Finally, my country's delegation will take the liberty of alerting the U.S. Government, canneries, and conservationist groups to the following thought: If the U.S. Government insists on punishing with primary and secondary embargoes without stopping to consider the statistics herein presented; if the canneries cling to their "dolphin-safe" policy, creating a commercial boycott and changing the international tuna-pricing system; and the conservationist groups do not reconsider their position and allow their government and the canneries to be more flexible in their policies; inevitably they will see all the nations of the region withdraw from national and international programs for monitoring and rescuing dolphins, since these statistics are being used against us and, decidedly, the successes we have achieved have only served for punishment. What would the U.S. Government, canneries, or conservationist groups achieve if this massive withdrawal were to happen? Would we have achieved the objective of saving dolphins? My delegation, although currently still part of the IATTC's program, wishes merely to alert the delegates to an alarming and entirely possible situation.

If it has been proven that the reduction of the mortality has been achieved by everyone's efforts, involving technology and training, I think that the implementation of commercial embargoes or unilateral populist policies will not help at all toward finding a solution to the problem. Quite the opposite: they risk the success of the program and the economies of the region.

Appendix V.

RESOLUTION

Noting that the procedure for adherence to the Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Convention") set forth in Article V, paragraph 3 thereof has been giving rise to difficulties to the efforts of eligible governments desiring to adhere to the Convention;

Noting that Intergovernmental Economic Integration Organizations may have transferred to them by their member states competence over the matters governed by the Convention;

Desiring that Article V, paragraph 3 of the Convention be amended, in particular, to facilitate the adherence of eligible governments to the Convention and to enable such eligible organizations mentioned in paragraph 2 above to adhere to the Convention;

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, therefore, resolves to invite the Depositary Government of the Convention to take the necessary steps as appropriate to initiate formal procedures necessary to amend the relevant Articles of the Convention.

Appendix VI.

RESOLUTION

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, having responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like fishes of the eastern Pacific Ocean, and for the formulation of recommendation to the High Contracting Parties with regard to these resources, and having maintained since 1950 a continuing scientific program directed toward the study of those resources,

Notes that the yellowfin tuna resource of the eastern Pacific supports one of the most important surface fisheries for tunas in the world, and

Recognizes, based on past experience in the fishery, that the potential production from the resource can be reduced by excessive fishing effort, and

Recalls that from 1966 through 1979 the implementation of a successful conservation program maintained the yellowfin stock at high levels of abundance, and

Notes that from 1980 through 1990, excepting 1987, although no conservation programs were implemented, conservation measures were nevertheless recommended to the Commissioners by the scientific staff, and in turn such measures were approved by the Commissioners for recommendation to their respective governments, and

Observes that, at current levels of abundance and at current fleet capacity, the stock of yellowfin can be over-exploited,

Concludes that a limitation on the catch of yellowfin tuna should be implemented during 1991.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission therefore recommends to the High Contracting Parties that an annual quota of 210,000 short tons should be established for the 1991 calendar year on the total catch of yellowfin tuna from the CYRA (as defined in the resolution adopted by the Commission on May 17, 1962), and that the Director should be authorized to increase this limit by no more than four successive increments of 20,000 short tons each if he concludes from examination of available data that such increases will offer no substantial danger to the stocks, and

Finally recommends that all member states and other interested states work diligently to achieve the implementation of such a yellowfin conservation program for 1991.

Appendix VII.

RESOLUTION

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, at its 49th Meeting, held in Tokyo, Japan, on June 18-20, 1991.

Noting the resolution from the Intergovernmental Meeting held in San José, Costa Rica, in September 1990, calling for the establishment of an international program to reduce dolphin mortality caused by the tuna purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean to insignificant levels approaching zero, coupled with research to improve the efficiency of existing fishing gear and techniques in reducing dolphin mortality and develop alternative fishing methods which do not involve intentional setting on dolphins, and identifying the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission as the most appropriate entity to coordinate the technical aspects of the program;

Further noting the resolution from the Intergovernmental Meeting held in La Jolla, California, on January 16-18, 1991, expressing the willingness of governments to reduce dolphin mortality in 1991 to approximately 50 percent of that in 1989, to increase the coverage of the international fleet by observers to 100 percent, to support this increased coverage by contributing funds to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, to invite governments to support research programs to develop technology to reduce or eliminate dolphin mortality in the fishery, and to call on the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission to invite the tuna-processing and marketing industry and governmental and non-governmental entities, including environmental organizations, to participate in the funding and implementation of the research programs;

Further noting that some funds for the purposes of attaining the objectives of the La Jolla Resolution have already been received by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission from the tuna-processing and marketing industry;

Further noting that the expansion of the international observer program to 100 percent, called for in the La Jolla Resolution, is being implemented, and funding is being provided by the tuna industry in support of this expansion;

Recognizing the importance of the international program, as defined in the resolution adopted by the Intergovernmental Meetings held in San José, Costa Rica, on September 18-19, 1990 and in La Jolla, California on January 16-18, 1991.

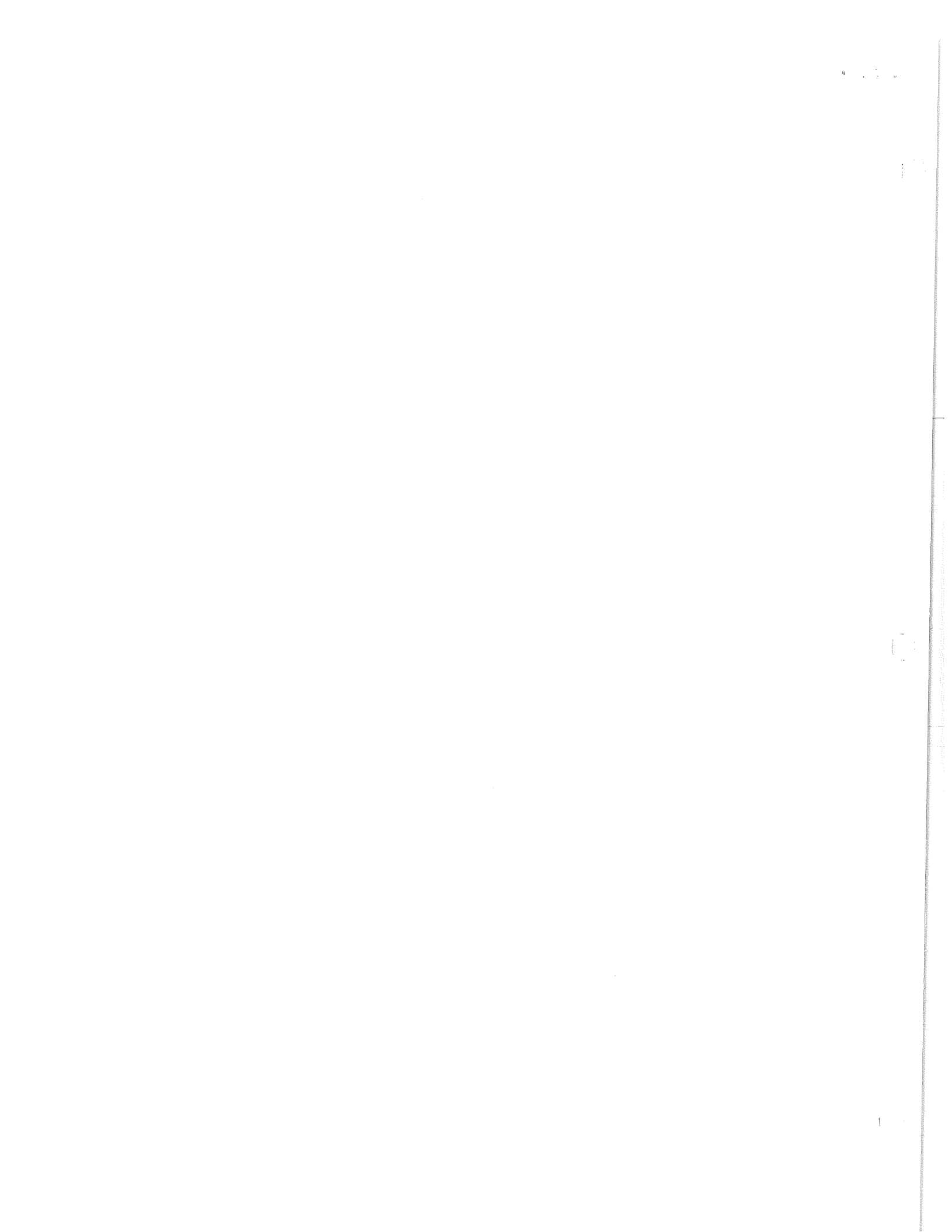
Invites the states with coastlines bordering the eastern Pacific Ocean and states whose vessels fish for tunas in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean with purse seines, to initiate and/or expand national research programs to develop technology for reducing dolphin mortality in the fishery, and/or to support through financial and other means international research programs designed to improve the efficiency of current technology for reducing dolphin mortality induced by fishing and develop alternative methods of fishing for large yellowfin tuna that do not involve intentional setting on dolphins.

The representatives of Greenpeace at the IATTC's 49th Meeting in Tokyo asked to read the attached statement during the meeting. Logistical problems made it impossible for them to do so, and they therefore requested that it be circulated to the attendees with the minutes of the meeting.

The version in English is the original; it was translated into Spanish by the IATTC staff.

Los representantes de Greenpeace en la XLIX Reunión de la CIAT en Tokio solicitaron presentar la declaración anexa durante la reunión. Por razones logísticas les fue imposible hacerlo, y pidieron por lo tanto que fuera circulada a los asistentes con las actas de la reunión.

La versión en inglés es original; fue traducida al español por el personal de la CIAT.



ADELAIDE • AMSTERDAM • ANCHORAGE • AUCKLAND • BOSTON • BRUSSELS • BUENOS AIRES • CHICAGO • COPENHAGEN • DUBLIN
FORT LAUDERDALE • GOTHENBERG • HAMBURG • LEWES — U.K. • LONDON • LUXEMBOURG • MADRID • MONTREAL • OSLO • PALMA DE MALLORCA
PARIS • ROME • SAN FRANCISCO • SAN JOSE — COSTA RICA • SEATTLE • STOCKHOLM • SYDNEY • TORONTO • VANCOUVER • VIENNA
WASHINGTON • WORLD PARK BASE — ANTARCTICA • ZURICH

GREENPEACE

Greenpeace USA • 1436 U Street NW • Washington DC 20009 • Tel (202) 462-1177
Tlx 89-2359 • Fax (202) 462-4507

Greenpeace International Statement to the 49th Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Greenpeace appreciates the opportunity to express its concerns about the tuna/dolphin problem to the participants of the 49th Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

While Greenpeace recognizes the efforts made toward the reduction of estimated dolphin mortality, we continue to urge all nations, the fishing fleets and scientific bodies to work to end deliberate encirclement of dolphins and to research and implement alternative environmentally sound fishing technology.

The inability or unwillingness of nations to realize the urgency of this environmental problem and work together for final solutions has resulted in actions by governments and the industrial sector, which if not redressed have the potential in the long term toacerbate rather than solve the problem.

First, we reiterate our position regarding the blanket embargoes currently in force by the United States against several nations. In this case, sanctions are counter-productive and unacceptable for establishing real solutions. At best, they fail to distinguish between tuna caught with or without deliberate encirclement, thereby offering no incentive to those vessels that do not or would end the practice of deliberate encirclement.

Second, the dolphin safe policies are currently being carried out in a manner that fails to provide real incentives. Greenpeace initially encouraged the multinational tuna processors to develop dolphin safe initiatives because we viewed them as a means to promote premium prices for tuna harvested using environmentally sound methods. We were also encouraged by indications from industry that they would commit financial investment into research, development and implementation of alternative technologies that would replace deliberate encirclement of dolphins. Unfortunately, over the past year, processors, for the most part, have failed to do this. We maintain our position that industry must take responsibility for solving this problem and provide real incentives for real solutions. It is regrettable that only minimal contributions have been made in this direction.

====more====

Page Two of Two
Greenpeace Statement to the
49th Meeting of the IATTC

Finally, we are disturbed by the reluctance we have seen on the part of major fishing nations and fleets to commit to actively attempt to forge strong international regulation of the fishery and an end to deliberate encirclement.

The true solution lies first in the need for all governments, industries and scientific bodies to recognize that a serious environmental problem exists in this fishery. While many interpretations of the status of Eastern Tropical Pacific dolphin stocks have been undertaken, it is clear that uncertainty exists and interpretations vary. The recent findings of several international scientific bodies indicate that virtually every dolphin stock in the Eastern Tropical Pacific has suffered dramatic decline.

The only solution to this problem requires genuine cooperative efforts by all governments, industries and the non-governmental sector. Efforts must be made to establish a multilateral regime to regulate the fishery, require 100 percent observer coverage of the international fleet, end deliberate encirclement of dolphins and introduce environmentally sound alternatives that protect the oceanic ecosystems.

Declaración de Greenpeace International
ante la XLIX Reunión Anual de la
Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical

Greenpeace agradece la oportunidad de expresar sus preocupaciones sobre el problema atún-delfín a los participantes en la XLIX Reunión Anual de la Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical.

Greenpeace reconoce los esfuerzos hechos hacia la reducción de la mortalidad de delfines estimada, pero seguimos exhortando a todas las naciones, flotas pesqueras, y entidades científicas a trabajar para dar fin al cerco intencional de delfines, y a investigar y ejecutar tecnologías pesqueras alternativas ambientalmente sensatas.

La inabilidad o falta de interés por parte de las naciones por aceptar la urgencia de este problema ambiental y trabajar conjuntamente hacia una solución final ha resultado en acciones por parte de gobiernos y el sector industrial que, de no ser reparadas, podrían a largo plazo exacerbar el problema en lugar de resolverlo.

En primer lugar, reiteramos nuestra postura con respecto a los embargos generalizados actualmente en vigencia por los Estados Unidos contra varias naciones. En este caso, las sanciones son contraproducentes e inaceptables para establecer soluciones verdaderas. En el mejor de los casos, no distinguen entre atún capturado con o sin cercado intencional y, por lo tanto, no brindan incentivos a aquellos barcos que no cercan intencionalmente o que dejarían de hacerlo.

En segundo lugar, las políticas de "dolphin-safe" están actualmente siendo llevadas a cabo de una forma que no ofrece verdaderos incentivos. Inicialmente Greenpeace apoyó a las procesadoras multinacionales de atún en el desarrollo de iniciativas "dolphin-safe" porque las considerábamos un método para fomentar precios elevados para atún capturado con métodos ambientalmente sensatos. Nos alentaban también indicios de parte de la industria de que se comprometerían inversiones financieras para la investigación, desarrollo, y puesta en uso de tecnologías alternativas que reemplazaran el cercado intencional de delfines. Desgraciadamente, en el último año, la mayoría de las procesadoras no han cumplido con este compromiso. Mantenemos nuestra postura de que la industria debería tomar la responsabilidad de resolver este problema y ofrecer incentivos reales para soluciones reales. Es deplorable que las contribuciones hechas en esa dirección hayan sido mínimas.

Finalmente, nos preocupa la renuencia que observamos por parte de las principales naciones y flotas pesqueras a comprometerse en esfuerzos activos por forjar una reglamentación internacional fuerte de la pesquería y un fin al cercado intencional.

La solución verdadera yace primordialmente en la necesidad de que todos los gobiernos, las industrias, y las entidades científicas reconozcan que existe un problema ambiental grave en esta pesquería. Se han ofrecido muchas interpretaciones de la condición de los stocks de delfines del Pacífico oriental tropical, pero es claro que existe incertidumbre y que las interpretaciones varían. Los estudios de varias entidades científicas internacionales señalan que casi todos los stocks de delfines en el Pacífico oriental tropical han padecido reducciones dramáticas.

La única solución a este problema requiere esfuerzos cooperativos genuinos por parte de todos los gobiernos, las industrias, y el sector extragubernamental. Serán necesarios esfuerzos para establecer un régimen multilateral para regular la pesquería, requerir una cobertura por observadores de 100% en la flota internacional, dar fin al cerco intencional de los delfines, e introducir alternativas ambientalmente sensatas que protejan los ecosistemas oceánicos.