

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**103<sup>RD</sup> MEETING**

**Panama City, Panama**

**1-5 September 2025**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-103 K-1**

**SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON THE CREATION OF A WORKING  
GROUP ON DORADO**

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of its 103<sup>rd</sup> meeting:*

*Acknowledging* that dorado (*Coryphaena hippurus*) has been identified as a highly migratory species in accordance with Annex I of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and is therefore regulated by the Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

*Bearing in mind* that Article I of the Antigua Convention extends the scope of the IATTC to other species of fish caught by vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species, and that Article VII of the Convention empowers the Commission to adopt appropriate measures to reduce the catch of non-target species and to improve the sustainability of the fisheries in the Convention Area;

*Considering* that dorado is caught incidentally by purse-seine vessels operating in the Convention Area, as has been recognized by Resolutions C-04-05 and C-23-09;

*Recalling* that Resolution C-04-05 establishes measures for the prompt and unharmed release, to the extent practicable, of non-target species, including dorado, and recognizes their importance for artisanal fisheries, recommending the development of specific measures to mitigate bycatch;

*Taking into account* that three technical meetings on dorado have been held (October 2014, October 2015 and October 2016) with the objective of promoting synergy among IATTC Members for regional research on dorado; reviewing the current status of knowledge on dorado; identifying available data sets in the regional fisheries; and formulating a plan for future collaborative research, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and based on its technical recommendations to ensure scientific support;

*Reaffirming* the need to harmonize the measures adopted by the IATTC with national regulations, in accordance with the principle of compatibility established in Article V of the Antigua Convention and Article 7 of the Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

*Recognizing* that, although Resolution C-23-09 promotes collecting data on dorado and creating a voluntary group to identify available information on dorado (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the various fisheries of interest to the IATTC, no formal institutional mechanisms have been established within the IATTC to systematically coordinate these efforts;

*Considering* that, in document SAC-15 INF-R, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) expressly recognizes the recommendation to create a working group, noting that this could improve data collection and strengthen the technical staff's ability to fulfill its scientific functions. However, the SAC has not followed up on the recommendation to establish a working group to coordinate these efforts and propose integrated management measures;

*Considering* that, through document SAC-16-07 on the IATTC Strategic Science Plan for 2026-2030, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) establishes the need to carry out conventional stock assessments of priority species, including dorado, in collaboration with external organizations during 2026-2030;

*Stressing* that creating a working group on dorado would make it possible to consolidate available information, detect critical knowledge gaps, assess stock status and formulate technical recommendations for sustainable management, considering both its bycatch and its importance as a target species for artisanal fisheries;

*Emphasizing* that dorado is an essential source of income and food security for many artisanal fishing communities in the region, and that various international instruments, including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, promote the participation of these communities in decision-making processes;

*Reaffirming* the principle of the ecosystem and precautionary approach to fisheries management, as well as the need to promote equity, social inclusion and respect for traditional knowledge in regional fisheries governance.

*Agrees:*

1. To establish a multisectoral Working Group on Dorado (*Coryphaena hippurus*) (WGD) with the participation of scientists designated by the Members, technical officers from fisheries authorities, representatives of the artisanal and industrial fishing industries, and observers invited in an advisory capacity.
2. The objectives of the Working Group shall be to:
  - Systematize and analyze the existing information on the dorado fishery.
  - Identify critical information gaps.
  - Establish priorities for data collection and scientific collaboration.
  - Assist with stock status assessment, to the extent possible.
  - Formulate technical recommendations for the sustainable management of the resource.
  - Propose the establishment of a management strategy for the dorado resource.
  - Conduct regional technical/scientific workshops with stakeholders, leading to an updated dorado stock assessment.
  - Present a progress report at the annual meeting of the IATTC, starting in 2026. The first WGD meeting shall be held within six months of the resolution's adoption. A progress report shall be presented at the next IATTC meeting, and a consolidated technical report shall be presented no later than two years after the resolution's adoption.
3. The IATTC Director shall coordinate with stakeholders and work within the IATTC budget resources to manage financing for the implementation of actions derived from the WGD, with the potential support of external technical and scientific cooperation.
4. To the extent possible, the working group shall collaborate with other similar working groups on dorado management established in other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO) of coastal States, as well as other relevant regional cooperation mechanisms.