

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**WORKING GROUP ON BYCATCH**

**9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**San Diego, California (USA)**

**11 May 2019**

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**GENERAL**

1. Revise Resolution C-11-08 to increase longline observer coverage on vessels >20 m LOA to 20% and consider ways to supplement observer requirements with electronic monitoring.
2. Request the IATTC scientific staff to develop a list of minimum standards for electronic monitoring on purse-seine and longline vessels, for the consideration of the SAC
3. Request the IATTC scientific staff to analyze the available operational-level longline observer data for bycatch at the 2020 WG meeting, during the "Summary Report on Bycatch in the EPO" presentation.

**BYCATCH MITIGATION**

4. Encourage collaboration of CPCs to supply data for IATTC Class 1-5 purse-seine vessels and artisanal fisheries according to procedures currently being developed by IATTC scientific staff in collaboration with other organizations.
5. Encourage additional research on Mobulids, including post-release survival, genetics, and population studies.
6. The WG supports the request of the IAC in the development of IATTC conservation measures to reduce bycatches and mortality of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*), including circle hooks, fish bait, spatial management and safe handling and release.
7. The WG recommends that the IAC work with the IATTC staff to assess the vulnerability of leatherback turtles in the EPO using different management scenarios.
8. The WG encourages additional studies to determine impacts of net illumination on catch composition in additional locations.

**PURSE-SEINE BEST PRACTICES**

9. In the near future, move toward the use of non-entangling FADs without any netting and encourage research on biodegradable materials.
10. Promote the application of proven best practices of bycatch release on purse seiners and encourage research to develop safe-handling techniques to improve the post-release survival rates of sensitive fauna.
11. Additional electronic tagging experiments should be conducted in order to evaluate post-release survival rates.

**SEABIRDS**

12. The WG requests a review and update of the mitigation options in Resolution C-11-02, including potential harmonization with WCPFC seabird regulations and ACAP guidelines.

**MARINE MAMMAL SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE GUIDELINES**

13. The WG requests that marine mammal identification guides and safe handling and release guidelines be posted on the IATTC website.