INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

94TH MEETING

Bilbao, Spain, 22-26 July 2019

PROPOSAL IATTC-94 H-1

SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-17-02 ON CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2018-2020

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Resolution C-17-02 on conservation measures for tropical tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean includes a series of measures for the fishery on fish-aggregating devices (FADs). These measures establish a daily limit of FADs (active buoys) per vessel, which seeks to control the continued increase in FAD deployments and sets. Even though this measure entered into force in mid-2017, FAD deployments in the EPO have continued to increase: from around 16,000 in 2016 to approximately 24,000 in 2018 (SAC-10-PRES). Similarly, sets on floating objects continue to increase from 14,591 in 2016 to 16,806 in 2018 (SAC-10-03).

According to analyses of fishery indicators, this increase in the fishing effort associated with the FAD fishery is accompanied by an increase in fishing mortality (*F*) for the three tropical tuna species (SAC-10-19). For the specific case of yellowfin tuna, for the first time in history, the floating-object fishery had a greater impact on spawning biomass than both dolphin-associated and unassociated fisheries (SAC-10-07), which has concerned several CPCs. For bigeye tuna, the increasing number of sets on FADs and the continued decrease in the average catch weight suggest that the bigeye stock in the EPO may be under increasing fishing pressure and additional measures to the current seasonal closures (SAC-10-06) could be necessary.

In view of the above, it is considered essential that the Commission take management measures complementary to those in force by means of an amendment to Resolution C-17-02. In this proposal to amend Resolution C-17-02, the following is proposed:

1. To reduce the number of active buoys per vessel to a maximum of 350 active FADs for the largest Class-6 vessels. These maximum values would be in accordance with those established by the WCPFC and the IOTC.

2. To further clarify the term “remote activation and reactivation of buoys”, which is already prohibited in Resolution C-17-02.

3. To clarify the way in which vessels must submit information on buoys to the Secretariat, based on the conclusions of the Permanent *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs at its third meeting (FAD-03-INF-B) and the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee at its 9th and 10th meetings and the scientific staff of the Commission (SAC-10-19). This measure seeks to obtain better-quality scientific information in order to establish the actual fishing effort in the FAD fishery.

RESOLUTION C-19-XX

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-17-02 ON CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2018-2020

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Bilbao, Spain, on the occasion of its 94th Meeting:

Taking into account the best available scientific information on the status of the bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack stocks;

Committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Understanding that all fishing gears, including fish-aggregating devices (FADs), have an effect on the stocks and the pelagic ecosystem in the EPO, and that such effects should be fully understood by the Members of the Commission;

Recognizing that the IATTC scientific staff has demonstrated that fishery indicators suggest that fishing mortality (*F*) continues to increase for all three tropical tuna species due to the increase in fishing effort in the purse-seine fishery and, specifically, in the number of sets on floating objects;

Recognizing that Resolution C-17-02 established a series of measures for the fishery on fish-aggregating devices that are in force until 2020;

Considering that, despite current measures, FAD deployments and sets continue to increase (Document SAC-10-05 and Presentation SAC-10-05);

Taking into account that the last assessment of the status of yellowfin tuna (Document SAC-10-07) indicates that in more recent years the impact of floating-object fisheries is greater than that of dolphin-associated fisheries;

Noting that the Permanent *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs at its second meeting, and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its 9th and 10th meetings, have recommended that CPCs provide the IATTC staff with the same raw buoy data received by original users;

Agrees:

1. To amend Resolution C-17-02 as follows:

a) Paragraph 8 is replaced with the following paragraph: Beginning 1 January 2020, CPCs shall ensure that purse-seine vessels flying their flag have no more than the following number of fish-aggregating devices (FADs), as defined in Resolution C-16-01, active at any one time:

Class 6 (1,200 m^3 and greater):	350 FADs
Class 6 (< 1,200 m^3):	200 FADs
Class 4-5:	100 FADs
Class 1-3:	50 FADs

b) Paragraph 9 is replaced with the following paragraph: “Buoys associated with FADs shall be activated or reactivated exclusively onboard a purse-seine vessel. The reactivation of buoys at sea whose network service with the supplier company has been canceled is not permitted unless the buoy is onboard a purse-seine vessel.”

c) Paragraph 12 is replaced with the following paragraph: “CPCs shall ensure that purse-seine vessels flying their flag and that conduct fishing activities on FADs provide the IATTC scientific staff with the same raw buoy data received by original users from the buoy supplier companies.”