

**IINTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**  
**WORKING GROUP ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

La Jolla, California (USA)  
01-02 June 2026

**DOCUMENT EB-04-INF-B**

**NOTIFICATION OF A TEMPLATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION C-25-08 – CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS -**

**I. Background**

Resolution C-25-08 of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), which entered into force on 1 January 2026, establishes a phased reporting framework for Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) to report on the implementation of shark conservation measures. These reporting obligations are not new within the IATTC shark management regime, as these elements were already included in previous iterations of the Shark Resolutions C-23-07 and C-24-05, which were successively replaced by the current Resolution C-25-08. There are several requirements within the Resolution regarding data and compliance reporting and in Paragraph 24 requires:

*‘The IATTC Secretariat will develop a template for CPCs to report on the implementation of the resolution, for adoption by the Commission in 2026.’*

To meet this requirement the Secretariat, with the valuable cooperation of the Canadian delegation, developed a reporting template for CPCs to document the implementation of shark conservation measures. This template (attached with minor modifications to accommodate the updates to the Resolution) was presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Compliance Committee and Review Committee (COR16), held in Panama City in August 2025, where the Committee took note of its development and recommended that the Commission review it with a view to its approval and use.

However, the Commission has not yet formally adopted the template. Accordingly, and until such adoption takes place, CPCs shall fulfill their 2026 reporting obligations in accordance with paragraph 25 of Resolution C-25-08, that is, through the annual compliance questionnaire.

**‘Paragraph 25:** In 2026, CPCs will use the annual compliance questionnaire to report on their implementation of the resolution.’

While in paragraph 26 future reports are required to be submitted through the template beginning in 2027.

**‘Paragraph 26:** As of 2027, CPCs will use the notification template provided by the technical staff to report annually on their implementation and shall submit reports covering the previous year to the Secretariat by 30 June of each year.’

Since the Commission will review the template at its next plenary meeting, scheduled for September 2026, the Secretariat has deemed it appropriate to submit it for consideration by the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG), to be held on 1 and 2 June, so that the Group may propose improvements before the document is presented to the IATTC plenary.

## II. Submission to the EBWG

The template will be presented to the EBWG-04 by a member of the Secretariat staff responsible for matters related to the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (COR), who will explain the regulatory framework and reporting obligations underlying it. In addition, scientific staff will address the data reporting, scientific and bycatch-related aspects that could potentially be incorporated into a single reporting template to improve consistency and facilitate utilization of data provisions to the Secretariat.

Resolution C-25-08 also contains additional data reporting obligations in Paragraphs 21-23 which require substantive information and data which are not explicitly covered by Resolution C-03-05 on Data Provision:

**Paragraph 21.** Each CPC shall annually report data for catches, effort by gear type landing and trade of sharks, by species where possible, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data, of the fisheries under the purview of the Commission.

**Paragraph 22.** CPCs are encouraged to provide aggregated information on trade, as available.

**Paragraph 23.** CPCs shall also provide to the IATTC, through observer programs, electronic monitoring programs or other means, the species identification, the number and status (dead/alive) of all sharks caught, in accordance with applicable monitoring requirements, including those caught incidentally and/or released by purse seine vessels of all capacity classes and longline vessels.

The staff is requesting that the EBWG consider revising the attached template to build a reporting document that consolidates compliance, mitigation and bycatch data reporting through a standardized format could offer significant benefits to both CPCs and the Commission. A standardized template eases the burden on national reporting staff by providing clear, structured fields that eliminate ambiguity regarding what information is required; it ensures data are captured at a spatial and temporal resolution adequate for meaningful scientific analysis; and it allows IATTC staff to compile and compare information across fleets and years to assess implementation of Resolution C-025-08, identify data gaps, and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures over time.

The presentation and this document are intended to guide the Group's attention toward those reporting elements and facilitating a focused analysis of its technical and scientific dimensions. This joint presentation seeks to ensure that the WPEB has a comprehensive view of the template, the reporting requirements outlined in both Resolutions C-03-05 and C-25-08 both from the compliance and scientific perspectives, so that its observations and recommendations are as complete and well-founded as possible.

## III. Final Considerations

The Secretariat considers that the procedure described above will make it possible to have a duly reviewed and technically robust template, which will serve as an effective tool for the systematic collection of information aimed at strengthening and continuously improving shark conservation measures, in accordance with what the Commission may require.

The Secretariat remains available to CPCs to address any questions related to the reporting obligations described herein.

The draft template presented to COR16 is attached.



## IATTC REPORTING TEMPLATE. COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION

[https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/6e08563b-454c-4df2-961b-0b9ffef04fcd/C-23-07\\_Sharks-consolidates-and-replaces-C-05-03,-C-16-04,-and-C-16-05.pdf](https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/6e08563b-454c-4df2-961b-0b9ffef04fcd/C-23-07_Sharks-consolidates-and-replaces-C-05-03,-C-16-04,-and-C-16-05.pdf)

### C-25-08 ON THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

In the area of implementation there are 3 options to respond. Please consider the following options:  
**YES.-** *Where appropriate, responses should provide information on what or how measures are implemented through laws and/or regulations (including relevant licensing conditions) and how compliance is monitored and enforced. Please indicate the relevant dates of regulations entering into force and hyperlinks to relevant laws and regulations where available.*

**NO.-** *Provide information to explain why the relevant obligation or recommendation has not been implemented, including any relevant plans or timelines for future implementation and a description of any barriers or challenges to implementation and how those might be overcome.*

**N/A.-** *Provide a rationale as to why this obligation or recommendation is not applicable.*

Reporting CPC:

Date:

#### REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

**PAR. 3.** *Members and Cooperating Non-Members (“CPCs”) should establish and implement a national plan of action for conservation and management of sharks, in accordance with the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks*

**Has the CPC established a national plan of action (NPOA) for conservation and management of sharks, in accordance with FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**If the CPC has established and NPOA for sharks, has it been fully implemented ? Please provide a copy of the NPOA.**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**PAR. 4.** *CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishers fully utilize all retained catches of sharks, with the exception of those species for which a retention ban has been adopted by the IATTC.*

**Has the CPC implemented measures to require fishers fully utilize all retained catch of sharks, with the exception of those species for which a retention ban has been adopted?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**If implemented, please describe how the CPC ensures compliance with this obligation, including monitoring or inspection efforts?**

**Are all retained sharks fully utilized? Please describe the levels of compliance as estimated from the monitoring procedures described in the previous question.**

**PAR. 5.** *CPCs shall prohibit shark finning*

**Does the CPC prohibit shark finning, as defined in the Resolution?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this prohibition? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.**

**Have you encountered any instances of non-compliance with this obligation? Please describe the levels of compliance as estimated from the monitoring procedures described in the previous question.**

**PAR 6.** *CPCs shall ensure that all sharks are landed with all fins naturally attached to the body. In order to facilitate on-board storage, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the shark carcass as appropriate but shall remain naturally attached to the carcass until the first point of landing (see Annex 2).*

**Has the CPC implemented measures to ensure sharks are landed with fins naturally attached until the first point of landing?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this requirement? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.**

**What percentage of shark landings does the CPC estimate that they inspect or otherwise monitor? Please describe the level of compliance observed (e.g. number or percentage of sharks landed with their fins naturally attached during the previous year).**

**PAR. 7.** Until the end of 2026, notwithstanding paragraphs 6, and other provisions in this Resolution, CPCs may take alternative measures to ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified on board the vessel at any time, using one of the following methods:

- (i) each individual shark carcass and its corresponding fins are stored in the same bag, preferably a biodegradable one
- (ii) each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding shark fins using rope or wire; or,
- (iii) the shark fins and the corresponding shark are identically, uniquely, and numerically tagged in a manner that an authorized inspector can readily identify the matching of the shark fins to the corresponding shark.

**Does the CPC allow the utilization of the alternative measures consistent with paragraph 7 of the Resolution?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with these alternative measures? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.**

**Which of the three alternatives did the CPC allow during this reporting period? Describe how many vessels utilized the allowed alternatives during this reporting period (both in terms of absolute numbers and relative percent)?**

If the CPC allows the use of alternative measures to the “fins naturally attached” (FNA) requirement of paragraph 6 of the Resolution, please describe why implementing FNA during the reporting period was not possible. Please also describe the anticipated timeline for implementation of FNA, along with any barriers and challenges to implementing FNA and possible solutions.

**Par. 8.** Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, landing or trading of any fins harvested or that have been removed on board in contravention of this Resolution

**Has the CPC implemented a prohibition on the retention, transshipment, landing or trade of fins that have been harvested or removed in contravention of this measure?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this requirement? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.**

**PAR. 10.** CPCs shall prohibit vessels targeting tuna and/or swordfish from using buoy lines.

**Has the CPC implemented measures to prohibit the use of buoy lines in tuna and swordfish target fisheries?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this requirement? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.**

**PAR. 11.** CPCs shall require their vessels to promptly release unharmed all sharks (alive or dead) that are not retained, the extent practicable (*sic*), as soon as they are seen on the line, entangled in the net, or brailled on the deck, taking due consideration the safety of any person on board, using the following procedures.

**For purse seine vessels:**

- a. when seen entangled in the net, disentangle the sharks and release them into the ocean as soon as possible.
- b. sharks brailled on deck must be returned to the water as soon as possible, either utilizing a ramp from the deck connecting to an opening on the side of the vessel, or through escape hatches. If ramps or escape hatches are not available, the sharks must be lowered with a sling or cargo net, using a crane or similar equipment, or as indicated in Annex 3 or any future revisions, as identified pursuant to paragraph 12.

- c. prohibit the use of gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments for the handling of sharks.
- d. prohibit the lifting of sharks by the head, tail, gill slits, or spiracles, or by using bind wire against or inserted through the body. Prohibit the punching of holes through the bodies of sharks (e.g., to pass a cable through for lifting the shark).
- e. prohibit the lifting of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) onboard the vessel and prohibit the towing of whale sharks out of a purse-seine net, e.g., using towing ropes.

**For longline vessels:**

- f. leave the shark in the water, where possible.
- g. use a line cutter to cut the branchline as close to the hook as possible, and so that less than 1 meter remains on the animal, to the extent practicable.

**Has the CPC implemented measures contained in paragraph 11 of the Resolution to require the prompt release of sharks not retained?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**. How many sharks does the CPC estimate were released during this reporting period? Please segregate by gear type.**

**Does the CPC provide training or other materials to crew regarding the best handling and release practices of sharks? If “yes”, please describe**

**PURSE SEINE VESSELS:**

**How does the CPC ensure compliance with paragraph 11 with respect to purse-seine vessels? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**PURSE SEINE VESSELS:**

**Do the CPC’s Purse-seine vessels use ramps connected to an opening on the side of the vessel, escape hatches, or a sling, or cargo net with a crane to facilitate release?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

<p><b>PURSE SEINE VESSELS:</b>  <b>Does the CPC prohibit the use of gaff, hooks, or similar instruments for the handling of sharks on purse-seine vessels?</b></p>
<p>Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.</p>
<p><b>If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this prohibition? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.</b></p>
<p><b>LOGLINE VESSELS:</b>  <b>How does the CPC ensure compliance with paragraph 11 with respect to longline vessels? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.</b></p>
<p>Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.</p>
<p><b>LOGLINE VESSELS:</b>  <b>Does the CPC require longline vessels to carry a line cutter?</b></p>
<p>Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.</p>
<p><b>LOGLINE VESSELS:</b>  <b>If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this requirement? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs</b></p>

**PAR. 12.** CPCs may elect to use the safe handling and release guidelines described in Annex 3 and as appropriate, the tools identified in Annex 3.1 of this Resolution.

**Has the CPC elected to use the safe handling and release guidelines described in Annex 3 and the tools identified in Annex 3.1?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**PAR. 19.** By 2027, CPCs will undertake, where possible, in cooperation with the IATTC scientific staff, actions to:

- a. identify ways to make fishing gears more selective, where appropriate, including research into alternative measures to wire leaders;
- b. improve knowledge of key biological and ecological parameters, life-history and behavioral traits, and migration patterns of key shark species;
- c. identify key shark mating, pupping, and nursery areas; and
- d. improve handling practices for live sharks to maximize their post-release survival

**Please describe any actions the CPC has taken to implement paragraph 18 of the Resolution.**

**PAR. 19.** . The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the identification of shark species/groups and the collection of data on their shark catches

**Does the CPC require capacity building assistance for the identification of shark species/groups and data collection on shark catches?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**PAR. 20.** Each CPC shall annually report data for catches, effort by gear type landing and trade of sharks, by species where possible, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data, of the fisheries under the purview of the Commission

**Has the CPC reported catch and effort data by gear type, landings and trade data, consistent with paragraph 20, for fisheries under the purview of the Commission? Is reporting by species possible? Please include a description of any barriers or challenges to any elements of these reporting requirements.**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**Have you reported all relevant historical data described in paragraph 20?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**PAR. 21.** CPCs are encouraged to provide aggregated information on trade, as available

**Did the CPC provide aggregated data regarding trade of sharks or shark products?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**PAR. 22.** CPCs shall also provide to the IATTC, through observer programs, electronic monitoring programs or other means, the species identification, the number and status (dead/alive) of all sharks caught, in accordance with applicable monitoring requirements, including those caught incidentally and/or released by purse seine vessels of all capacity classes and longline vessels.

**Does the CPC provide the information described in paragraph 22 to the IATTC??**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

Please send the completed form to [compliance@iattc.org](mailto:compliance@iattc.org)