

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**87<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**Guayaquil (Ecuador)  
29 June-3 July 2015**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-89 A-1**

**SUBMITTED BY COSTA RICA**

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-05-03 ON THE CONSERVATION OF  
SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE  
EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The sustainable utilisation of species of fisheries interest is one of the basic objectives of fisheries management. Although sharks in fisheries for tunas and tuna-like species are frequently subject to the rules on bycatch, generating in time an important interaction in catches, which, under the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, must be managed with prudence, in order to achieve the full utilisation of catches and the elimination of discards.

In this context, the IATTC issued in the year 2005 Resolution C-05-03 with the manifest objective of fighting shark finning through the establishment of a weight ratio of shark fins to bodies or carcasses, since this practice not only violates the concept of full utilisation of catches, but also promotes indiscriminate catching of sharks, which makes effective management of those stocks impossible. In time, various countries developed efficient alternatives to guarantee the eradication of the practice of finning, abandoning the practice of the weight ratio in order to utilise a more effective management control, conceived as the natural attachment of fins with partial cuts which, without separating the fins and body, in order to allow the proper handling and quality of the meat, by means of timely bleeding, in conjunction with the removal of the head and intestines of the animal.

Currently, the Central American countries in the framework of OSPESCA adopted Regulation OSP-05-11, by which the partial cutting of fins and maintaining a natural attachment are regulated, showing that the adopted mechanism is useful, viable, objective, transparent, and demonstrably for the elimination of finning.

Additionally, during the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee held on 11-15 May 2015, the representative of Costa Rica reiterated the importance that the practice of making compulsory the unloadings of sharks with fins attached to the body has had, in order to achieve a complete utilisation of shark catches.

This proposal aspires to the countries subject to IATTC regulation adopting the mechanism of naturally-attached fins with partial cuts, recognises the merit of the implementation of the regulations contained in Resolution C-05-03, for which reason what is intended with this proposal is the substitution of the mechanism that allows fins to be separated from carcasses, provided the weight of the fins is not more than 5% of the weight of the shark carcasses on board, by the practice of fins attached naturally to the body of the shark, with partial cuts.

Costa Rica intends that this proposed amendment be discussed, introducing substantive improvements to Resolution C-05-03, which is achieved through this proposal, by modifying the Resolution, substituting

paragraphs 4 and 5 of that Resolution, so that hereafter it reads:

*Resolves as follows:*

[...]

4. CPCs shall require of their vessels ~~to have onboard fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard,~~ that the sharks that they carry onboard and up to the first point of landing on *terra firma*, maintain their fins attached naturally to the carcass, allowing them to have longitudinal cuts in the muscular area adjacent to the fins of the shark and in the keel or caudal peduncle in a partial manner, and may be detached at the point of unloading. The competent authorities of the CPCs will develop the mechanisms for verifying compliance and obtaining data necessary for guaranteeing compliance with this provision. ~~CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.~~
  
5. Those Members or Cooperating Non-Members, or of the fishery, will have a period of two years, from the date of adoption of this Resolution, to take the necessary measures that will guarantee compliance with this practice of transporting and unloading sharks and their respective fins. ~~The ratio of fin to body weight of sharks described in paragraph 4 shall be reviewed by the Working Group on Stock Assessment and reported back to the Commission in 2006 for revision, if necessary.~~

[...]