

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

104th MEETING

Lisbon, Portugal

31 August – 4 September 2026

RESOLUTION C-26-06

**RESEARCH FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF DOLPHINFISH (DORADO)
(*Coryphaena hippurus*)**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Lisbon, Portugal, on the occasion of its 104th Meeting:

Recognizing that the fish stocks covered by the Convention are understood to be the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

Bearing in mind that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f) of the Antigua Convention establishes that the Commission shall “adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by this Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened”;

Reaffirming the obligations contained in the Antigua Convention, Article VII 1 (a) and (i), the Commission shall adopt, “standards for collection, verification, and timely exchange and reporting of data concerning the fisheries for fish stocks covered by this Convention” and shall establish “a comprehensive program for data collection”;

*Recognizing that Dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) is a specie targeted by artisanal and industrial longline fisheries by several CPCs amounting to 98% of the catches in the EPO; and incidentally caught by vessels using purse-seine gear operating in the Convention Area estimated at 2% of total catches of this species; and is within the fish stocks of interest to the Commission;*

Noting that four technical meetings on dolphin fish have been held (DOR-01 to DOR-04), in October 2014, October 2015, October 2016, and March 2026, with the objectives of promoting synergy among IATTC Members for regional dolphin fish research; review the current status of dolphin fish knowledge and identify available datasets in regional fisheries, and formulate a roadmap for future research, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and based on its technical recommendations to ensure its scientific support;

*Recalling that Resolution C-23-09, adopted at the 101st Meeting of the Commission (Victoria, B.C., Canada, 2023), adopted measures to strengthen research for the management of dolphin fish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), including data collection and submission by CPCs, and the commitment of scientific staff to update the dolphin fish stock assessment;*

Acknowledging that under the framework of the WGDF, progress has been made in fulfilling its mandate, including the 4th Technical Meeting on Dolphin fish, Review of the Conceptual Model and Available Data for the Dolphin fish Stock Assessment in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (DOR-04), held from 10 to 12 March 2026 in San José, Costa Rica, in which a roadmap and a work plan for the evaluation of the dolphin fish stock were agreed.

Taking into account the recommendations of the 17th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (La Jolla, California, USA) reflected in document SAC-17 Recommendations, whereby the Commission was recommended to manage the implementation of this roadmap and update the date of assessment of the status of dolphin fish for 2027, and provide the necessary support to the scientific staff to conclude such update pursuant to Resolution C-23-09, presenting its results at the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Commission during that year;

Acknowledging that, within the framework of this work plan proposed in DOR-04 and presented in document SAC-17-INF-J, the IATTC Secretariat formally requested CPCs, through memorandum Ref. 0348-410 of June 18, 2026, to submit biological, catch, and fishing effort data for dolphin fish, with a view to updating the conceptual model and assumptions on the structure of the stock;

Emphasizing that it is necessary to amend Resolution C-23-09 to reflect the establishment of the Working Group on Dolphin fish through Resolution C-25-05, to update the timeline for the assessment of the dolphin fish stock in accordance with the recommendations of the SAC, and to clarify the requirements for data collection and submission by CPCs;

Resolves as follows:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs)

- a) CPCs shall collect and submit to the IATTC biological, catch, and interaction data, as well as fishing effort and interaction data relating to other species, that is necessary to support scientific research and evaluation of the resource. Technical requirements, formats, and information standards will be developed and updated by IATTC scientific staff, in coordination with the Working Group, and in accordance with evolving scientific knowledge and the needs of stock assessments.
- b) Data regarding artisanal and recreational fleets may be reported as total annual catches without data on fishing effort; however, CPCs are encouraged to collect and present complete data on these and other fleets when available. All information that this paragraph refers to shall be submitted before June 30 of each year, as part of annual catch reports presented pursuant to Resolution C-03-05.
- c) CPCs shall designate scientific focal points and inform them to the IATTC Secretariat, to address consultations and collaborate with the IATTC scientific staff.
- d) Data relating to longline fleets over 24 meters in length could be submitted when bycatch is equal to or greater than 5% of the total volume caught annually.

2. IATTC scientific staff

- a) Considering that the IATTC scientific staff developed document SAC-15-INF-R, for the purpose of standardizing the format for the presentation of dolphin fish data by CPCs, and in order to ensure the availability of the information necessary for the update of the planned stock assessment for 2027, it will update, as necessary, the mechanism for the timely and standardized delivery of such data by CPCs.
- b) Based on the data received from the CPCs and considering the human and financial resources available consistent with Resolution C-25-05, the IATTC scientific staff shall:
 - i. Develop in coordination with the Working Group on Dolphin fish: 1) a conceptual model report for the dolphin fish stocks in the EPO, 2) a proposed stock assessment model based on the conceptual model report and available metadata, and 3) an update of the 2016 stock assessment in an exploratory manner. These documents shall be presented at the SAC and Commission meeting in 2027.
 - ii. Develop, in coordination with the WGDF, a long-term research plan to strengthen the assessment and management of the dolphin fish stock, which shall be submitted to the

SAC and the Commission for consideration in 2028. The plan shall follow the logical sequence of the scientific process and shall include as priority tasks, the assurance of the provision, quality, and continuity of the data submitted by the CPCs in accordance with paragraph 1, the continuous improvement of the conceptual model and assessment methodologies, and the plan shall also include an estimate of the human, technical, and financial resources required for its implementation. The Commission shall review these requirements and, as appropriate, consider the allocation of the necessary resources, including possible external sources of funding.

- iii. The IATTC scientific staff shall support the WGDF in the implementation of the roadmap developed at the 4th Technical Workshop on Dorado (DOR-04), as well as any other work plan or recommendation agreed upon under the framework of the WGDF.

3. Working Group on Dolphin fish (WGDF)

The WGDF, complying with Resolution C-25-05, shall continue with the development of coordination activities, as appropriate;

- a) Shall promote, with the support of IATTC scientific staff, the implementation of the roadmap and work plan recommended at the 4th Technical Meeting on Dorado (DOR-04), as well as any new recommendations or work plans that emerge under the WGDF, while ensuring that their implementation does not affect the timeline for the update of the dolphin fish stock assessment and the submission of its results and recommendations to the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Commission in 2027;
- b) Shall support, to the extent possible, the scientific staff of the IATTC in the systematization and analysis of data submitted by CPCs pursuant to paragraph 1 of this resolution; y
- c) Shall submit progress reports to the SAC and the Commission, pursuant to the provisions of Resolution C-25-05.

4. Review

Once the results of the scientific staff in coordination with the WGDF have been presented, the SAC shall review this Resolution at its 2028 meeting to assess the adequacy of the measures set out herein and to provide a recommendation to the Commission.

- 5. This resolution amends and replaces Resolution C-23-09.