

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: All Commissioners, attendees of 22nd Annual Meeting of IATTC, and all interested persons.

FROM: Director of Investigations

SUBJECT: Minutes of 22nd Regular Annual Meeting


Transmitted herewith are the minutes of the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, held in Ottawa, Canada on 22nd, 23rd and 25th of April, 1970.

All member countries except Panama were represented by one or more regular Commissioners. Panama was represented by an alternate Commissioner who is a member of the Panamanian foreign service at Montreal, Canada.

Chile, Ecuador, France, Japan and Peru were represented by observers. The Commission took the following actions:

1. Agreed to the reduced program of research recommended for FY 1970/71 to fit the reduced probable budget of \$522,234.
2. Agreed to the recommended program and budget of \$1,169,314 for FY 1971/72 but recommended that an austerity budget in the sum of \$629,915 be submitted. The staff was asked to submit two budgets in the future. The first should be for the complete required research program and the second for an austerity budget which would allow operations at the existing level.
3. Approved the proportion of contributions from Member Governments as follows: U.S.A. - 100.00; Mexico 3.672; Costa Rica - 0.672; Canada and Panama \$500 minimum contribution each.
4. Approved the 1969 Annual Report and directed that it be printed and distributed.
5. Agreed to the continuation of the experimental quota of 120,000 tons for 1970 with the stipulation that if the annual catch rate should fall below 3 short tons per day, fishing be curtailed to the level of the then current equilibrium catch.
6. The 4000-ton small boat allowance be increased to 6000 tons (recognizing the fact that this action would cause the catch to exceed the recommended quota of 120,000 short tons), the additional 2000 tons to be taken by vessels classified under Tuna Commission size Class I to V.
7. Agreed that the next Annual Meeting be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, and to commence on 23 February 1971.
8. Elected Sr. Jose Luis Cardona-Cooper as Chairman. The office of Secretary was voted to Mexico, but the person to fill this office would be designated by Mexico at a later date.

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
La Jolla, California
May 13, 1970



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION, 22nd
ANNUAL MEETING, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA,
APRIL 22 - 24, 1970.

COSTA RICA

Milton H. Lopez, Commissioner

UNITED STATES

Wm. H. Holmstrom, Commissioner
Donald P. Loker, Commissioner

Donald L. McKernan
Wm. M. Terry
Wilven G. Van Campen
George B. Gross (U.S. Fishery Attache, Mexico)
F.R. Insinger
Charles R. Carry
Anthony Pisano
Carl Marino
Anthony Nizetich
M. Mattera
O.E. Kerns
A. Felando
Gerald V. Howard
Denton R. Moore
Robert C. Wilson
O.A. Schultz (Puerto Rico)
J.J. Royal

MEXICO

A. Cervantes, Commissioner
Maria E. Tellez, Commissioner
A. Zarur, Commissioner

M.A. Zubieta
R.O. Zubieta
J. Nieto

CANADA

A.W.H. Needler, Commissioner
E.B. Young, Commissioner
G.F.M. Smith
E. Kremer
P.A. West

PERU	Xavier Escudero
CHILE	Ernesto Illanes R. Mardones
FRANCE	Mr. Charvet
JAPAN	K. Hasegawa S. Shimura S. Sugano R. Tanabe
PANAMA	Mrs. Rosa C. de Rojas
IATTC STAFF	Dr. James Joseph, Director of Investigations B.M. Chatwin
INTERPRETER	Carlos Diez
TRANSLATORS & INTERPRETERS	C. Kanellakos Mrs. J. Fraraccio Mr. J. Usubiaga Miss M. Jordan
TECHNICAL SECRETARY SECRETARY	W.J. Clark Miss Bernice Lefebvre

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR
ANNUAL MEETING

RESUMEN DE LAS MINUTAS DE LA VIGESIMA SEGUNDA
REUNION ANUAL ORDINARIA

April 23, 23 and 25, 1970

Ottawa, Canada

Chairman: A. W. H. Needler

Presidente: A.W.H. Needler

AGENDA
22ND REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING
April 22, 23 and 25, 1970
Ottawa, Canada

Chairman: A.W.H. Needler

1. Opening of meeting by the Chairman.
2. Consideration and adoption of Agenda.
3. Current research and research results.
4. The 1969 fishing year (Background Paper No. 1)
5. Condition of the yellowfin stock and quota for 1970 (Background Paper No. 2).
6. Revision of Research Program 1970/71 (Background Paper No. 3).
7. Recommended Research Program and Budget for 1971/72 (Background Paper No. 4).
8. Proportions of contributions (Background Paper No. 5).
9. Approval of Annual Report for 1969.
10. Election of officers.
11. Place and date of next Annual Meeting.
12. Other business.
13. Adjournment.

The twenty-second regular annual meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission for the year 1970 convened in plenary session in the Centennial Room of the Government Conference Center - Ottawa, Canada at 10.00 hours April 22nd, 1970. The following persons were in attendance:

CANADA

A. W. H. Needler, Commissioner
E. B. Young, Commissioner
E. Kremer
G. F. M. Smith
P. A. West

COSTA RICA

Milton H. López, Commissioner

MEXICO

A. Cervantes, Commissioner
María E. Téllez, Commissioner
A. Zarur, Commissioner
J. Nieto
H. Sarabia
M. A. Zubieta
R. O. Zubieta

PANAMA

Mrs. Rosa C. de Rojas

UNITED STATES

Wm. H. Holmstrom, Commissioner
Donald P. Loker, Commissioner
Donald L. McKernan
Wm. M. Terry
Wilven G. Van Campen
George B. Gross
Gerald V. Howard
Denton R. Moore
Robert C. Wilson
O. A. Schultz
F. R. Insinger
Charles R. Carry
Anthony Pisano
Carl Marino
Anthony Nizetich
M. Mattera
O.E. Kerns
A. Felando
J. J. Royal

CHILE

Ernesto Illanes
R. Mardones

FRANCE

Mr. Charvet

JAPAN

K. Hasegawa
S. Shimura
S. Sugano
R. Tanabe

PERU

Xavier Escudero

IATTC STAFF

James Joseph
Director of Investigations
B. M. Chatwin

INTERPRETER

Carlos Diez
Gerardo Lara

TRANSLATORS & INTERPRETERS

Mrs. J. Fraraccio
C. Kanellakos
Miss M. Jordan
Mr. J. Usubiaga

TECHNICAL SECRETARY

W. J. Clark

SECRETARY

Miss Bernice Lefebvre

AGENDA ITEM I - OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRMAN

The meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by Dr. A.W.H. Needler, Chairman of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. In his opening remarks, Dr. Needler indicated that Canada had entered the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission because it had demonstrated its ability to maintain an international resource at a high level of production and shown effectiveness in preventing overfishing. He indicated that the Commission was an example to the rest of the world and because of its excellent record, urged the participation of other countries in the Commission.

The Chairman then asked the Heads of Delegations to introduce themselves as well as members of their own delegations.

Milton López of Costa Rica expressed the sincere regrets of his fellow Commissioners, Mr. Cardona-Cooper, Mr. Fernando Flores and Mr. Bêeche who were unable to attend due to other matters.

Mr. Amín Zarur, the Commissioner of Mexico indicated that his fellow Commissioner, Sr. Cifuentes would not be able to attend this meeting of the Tuna Commission because of other pressing matters. He apologized for the absence of Commissioners Cervantes and Téllez and indicated that they would arrive early the next morning. He introduced his advisors, who were present, Srs. Zubieta, Nieto, Ostos Zubieta and Saravia.

Commissioner Holmstrom of the United States introduced Commissioner Donald P. Loker and expressed the regrets of Commissioners McHugh and Driscoll who were unable to attend this meeting. He then introduced the members of the U.S. delegation.

Sra. Rosa C. de Rojas, speaking for Panama, apologized for the absence of the regular Panamanian Commissioners, indicating that it was impossible at this time for them to attend the meeting, but indicated that she had been appointed as a Commissioner for this meeting by her government.

Dr. A.W.H. Needler, speaking for Canada, introduced his fellow Commissioner, Mr. E.B. Young and their scientific advisor, Dr. G.F.M. Smith, who had been recently appointed as a replacement for Dr. Peter A. Larkin. Messrs. Kremer and West were then introduced as representatives of the Canadian Tuna Industry.

The Chairman then asked that any one attending in the capacity of observer, please introduce themselves.

The Head of the Japanese delegation, R. Tanabe introduced himself and his fellow observers from Japan, Mr. S. Sugano, Mr. S. Shimura and Mr. K. Hasegawa.

Sr. Ernesto Illanes, observer from Chile introduced himself and his colleague, Sr. R. Mardones of the Chilean Embassy in Ottawa.

Mr. Xavier Escudero of the Peruvian Embassy in Ottawa represented the Peruvian Government as an observer.

The Chairman then asked Commissioner Young from Canada to address the group for a few moments and Commissioner Young described the facilities available at the Conference Center. He also announced that the Canadian Government would host a reception that evening at 5.30 PM.

AGENDA ITEM II - CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman pointed out that this year's draft agenda followed the pattern of previous years. He indicated that the agenda had been in the hands of the Commissioners for some time and asked for comments on it. The Commissioner from Mexico, Sr. Amín Zarur requested that Agenda Item 5 be moved to follow Agenda Item 8 and that it be considered the following day. The reason for this, he explained, was that his fellow Mexican Commissioners would not arrive until the next morning, and since this was one of the most important items on the Agenda, he would like to have it postponed until after the arrival of his colleagues. After some discussion of this, it was moved by Costa Rica that both Agenda Items 4 and 5 be moved to follow Agenda Item 8. This was seconded by Commissioner Holmstrom of the United States and carried. The Agenda as adopted was approved.

AGENDA ITEM III - CURRENT RESEARCH AND RESEARCH RESULTS

The Chairman called upon the Director of Investigations to discuss this topic. The following is a brief summary of the review presented.

1. Statistics of the Fishery and Population Dynamics

A brief summary of the Commission's statistical system and its utilization in the overall program of conservation was given. Catch data for 1969 was presented in addition to some historic data dating back to 1960.

A detailed review of the studies relating to dynamics of the yellowfin tuna was not given during this review but deferred until Agenda Item 5.

A discussion of the fishery for skipjack tuna in the eastern Pacific was given. It was stated that the abundance of skipjack in the eastern Pacific apparently varies rather substantially from year to year and that skipjack taken in the eastern Pacific were most likely part of a larger population centered offshore. It was explained that unlike yellowfin tuna, the fishery for skipjack tuna does not seem to affect the future abundance of the species in the eastern Pacific. Because of this fact, and because of the high variability in abundance of skipjack in the eastern Pacific it was explained that it would be very desirable to be able to predict future abundance of skipjack. To do this, the Commission staff has been involved in such studies during the past year. These studies entail examination of various features in the environment of skipjack tuna both in the eastern and Central Pacific Ocean. Attempts to relate anomalies in these variables to anomalies in abundance of skipjack tuna were described.

Unlike the longline fishery which captures principally bigeye tuna in the eastern Pacific, the surface fishery historically has taken this species incidentally to the capture of yellowfin tuna. The Commission, it was explained, maintains separate catch records for surface caught bigeye tuna. A review of these catch records was given as well as a review of current research on bigeye tuna. It was explained that this research in the past has been concerned with both surface caught bigeye and longline caught bigeye tuna.

A brief discussion of recent efficiency changes which affect the Commission's measure of abundance, was given. The purpose of this study is to develop abundance measures of yellowfin and skipjack tuna which are independent of efficiency changes in the fleet of purse seine vessels.

Examination of logbook records reveals that at least four components of the fishing process have led to increased effectiveness of the purse seine fishery in recent years. These are: 1) the probability of capturing a sighted school has increased, 2) the time to bring aboard the catch has decreased, 3) larger seiners relative to smaller seiners tend to take a larger fraction of the school set on, and 4) the average vessel speed has increased.

As reported at last year's annual meeting a mathematical model of the purse seine process was developed which offers the possibility of developing abundance measures for the two species which also accounts for efficiency changes. Utilizing this model and certain logbook data, such as the time and area of fishing, the number of sets by school categories, the success or failure of these sets, the amount of time spent in the set, the weight of the catch and the vessel speed we are computing indices of abundance which are in terms of numerical abundance. Additionally, we are working on techniques to put these indices in terms of biomass or weight.

2. Studies of Size Composition of the Catch

The Commission maintains a continuing series of information on the length composition of tunas in the catch taken from the eastern Pacific Ocean. These data are collected at major ports where tuna captured in the eastern Pacific Ocean are landed. It was explained that they are used to estimate growth rates, to monitor changes in the average size of the fish being captured and to compute numbers of fish available to the fishery, which resulted from spawnings during a single season. A detailed discussion of current estimates of growth rates of yellowfin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean was given as well as a discussion of the relationship between fish in the surface fishery and those taken in the Japanese longline fishery as inferred from the studies of size composition.

3. Population Studies

It was explained that in order to manage fisheries in the most efficient manner, some knowledge of population structure of the resource under exploitation is necessary. The Commission has employed a number of techniques to identify such unit populations and that these techniques include studies of the size and shape of tunas, serological studies and tagging experiments. A brief review of progress in each of these disciplines was given.

4. Tagging

During 1969 the Commission had 4 tagging cruises in the eastern Pacific Ocean. During these cruises 9,344 yellowfin and 1,000 skipjack were marked and released. Two of these cruises were opportunistic tagging cruises aboard purse seine fishing vessels. Opportunistic cruises are regular commercial fishing trips which through the cooperation of the vessel owner and captain, the Commission is allowed to place one or two scientists aboard the vessel to tag and release tunas. It is understood that tagging would be on a not-to-interfere basis. During two such cruises, 484 yellowfin and 330 skipjack were tagged and released. The remaining two cruises were charter cruises in which the Commission chartered the use of the vessel for a specific period of time. One of these charter cruises was aboard a baitboat and during this trip 341 yellowfin and 438 skipjack were tagged and released. The other charter cruise was aboard a tuna purse seiner. During this trip 8519 yellowfin and 232 skipjack were tagged and released. A brief review of tag returns from these charter cruises was given.

5. Spawning and early life history studies

The results of studies of spawning and early life history of tuna-like fish in the eastern Pacific Ocean as reflected by larval distribution, were presented. Two such studies, which the Commission is involved in, were discussed. These were the Mazatlan study, a cooperative venture with the Dirección General de Pesca, and a second, the international EASTROPAC expedition.

6. Oceanography and Tuna Ecology

Tunas are pelagic animals and spend their entire life in oceanic waters. Because of this they are profoundly influenced by their environment. Therefore, the Tuna Commission is deeply concerned with the oceanography and ecology of the eastern Pacific ocean. It was explained that the Tuna Commission, because of its size, is not capable of undertaking large oceanographic programs by itself. Therefore, it has been the policy of the Commission to contribute to the fund of oceanographic knowledge obtained by other agencies interested in the eastern Pacific Ocean. During the past year the oceanographic staff of the Commission has been reduced to one oceanographer and one technician, whereas previously it consisted of three oceanographers, two technicians and one draftsman. Though the staff has been reduced rather sharply, it still manages to accomplish a rather large amount of oceanographic research. A brief review of this research was given, and thereafter the Chairman called for comments.

Commissioner Zarur of Mexico reiterated a need for the staff to conduct at-sea research on tunas, especially such things as tuna tagging. He called for the continued support of this program by other Commissioners. He also indicated that there might be some possibility that cooperative cruises between Mexico and Commission might be arranged. He stated that Mexico has obtained a new research vessel which is capable of capturing tunas by the purse seine method and that it might be possible for the Commission to utilize this vessel part-time for tuna tagging purposes.

AGENDA ITEM VI - REVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR 1970/71

The Chairman called upon the Director of Investigations to review this item and the Director pointed out that this was completely covered in Background Paper No. 3. He indicated that the original budget submitted by the Commission was for the amount of \$1,196,835.00 but because of the existing difficult financial climate, the Commission staff was requested to draw up a second reduced or austerity budget which would be used by government officials when presenting the budget for government approval if the first recommended budget was unacceptable. The second budget was in the amount of \$564,735.00. In January, 1970 the Commission received unofficial advice from U.S. Government officers that the U.S. contribution to the Commission for fiscal year 1970/71 would probably not exceed \$491,900. This amount, if granted, would establish the total budget of IATTC at \$522,234, an increase of \$74,304 over fiscal year 1969/70, but a decrease of \$674,601 and \$42,501 respectively from the recommended and austerity budgets of fiscal year 1970/71.

The Commission agreed to the reduced program. The Chairman then proceeded with the consideration of Agenda Item VII.

AGENDA ITEM VII - RECOMMENDED RESEARCH PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1971/72

The Chairman again called on the Director of Investigations to elaborate on this item. The Director referred to Background Paper No. 4 which had been prepared earlier and in the hands of the Commissioners for some time. The Director of Investigations explained that during the last few years conditions in the fishery had changed rather remarkably. The most important of these have been changes in the efficiency of the vessels themselves and changes in the distribution of the area in which these vessels fish. These changes have affected the Commission's estimates of abundance of yellowfin tuna. If the Commission is not able to directly quantify these effects, the conservation program becomes less effective as the basis for management decisions becomes more empirical and less scientific. Without a strong scientific basis for management decisions, the risks of making the wrong decisions increase. The wrong decisions can result in losses to the fishing industry by either underestimating yellowfin abundance or overestimating fishing mortality. To continue making sound management decisions, the Commission requires solutions to the problems mentioned above. To arrive at some such solutions in a timely manner, new research is needed. This new research is in the form of a comprehensive tagging program. Such a program would envision releasing tagged tunas in a systematic fashion over a grid of carefully selected strata of time and space. To accomplish such work, would require considerable research at sea. To be able to conduct at-sea research would require a substantial increase in the Commission's budget. For this reason, the Commission proposed a budget for fiscal year 1971/72 of \$1,169,314. This would be an increase of \$647,080 over the expected level of expenditures in fiscal year 1970/71. Nearly all of this increase would go to vessel charters for the purpose of tagging tunas.

Commissioner Holstrom of the United States commented on the proposed budget indicating that because of the fiscal climate in the United States at the present time he did not feel that a budget of 1.17 million dollars would have any realistic

chance of being approved. He suggested that the staff should consider an alternate budget, one which could maintain the current level of research with perhaps slightly expanded efforts in very critical areas and one which might stand some realistic chance of being approved in the United States. He suggested that during the noon recess the Director of Investigations in collaboration with a representative of the United States and a representative from Mexico prepare a reduced austerity budget and report back to the Commission on the details of this budget. This was agreed to by the other Commissioners, and after the noon recess the Director reported back with a budget in the amount of \$629,915 (see Appendix I). He indicated that this new revised budget eliminated essentially the major portion of the proposed tagging suggested in the recommended budget. Commissioner Holmstrom of the United States suggested that in preparing future budgets the Director of Investigations should, in consultation with the proper Government officials, attempt to predict the budget climates in each of the member countries and prepare a budget which might be amenable to this fiscal climate.

Commissioner Needler of Canada indicated that it was the responsibility of the Director of Investigations to recommend a budget to the Commission which proposed carrying out needed research, regardless of whether the Director felt there was a strong possibility of obtaining approval for this budget or not. The Commissioners from Mexico and Costa Rica agreed with Commissioner Needler on this point. After some discussion of this matter it was decided that in the future the Director of Investigations should prepare two budgets for the Commission: 1) a recommended version which indicated the needed research regardless of the probability of obtaining such funding and 2) an austerity version, which, after consultation with the proper government officials might have some probability of being granted.

Commissioner Holmstrom from the United States moved that the revised budget be accepted. It was seconded by Mexico and carried.

AGENDA ITEM VIII - PROPORTION OF CONTRIBUTION

The Chairman called on the Director of Investigations to review this item. The Director referred the Commissioners to Background Paper No. 5 and he briefly reviewed the manner in which the contributions were calculated. He indicated that the proportions were as follows (See Appendix II):

United States of America	100.000
Mexico	3.672
Costa Rica	0.672
Canada and Panama, minimum contribution \$500 each.	

Based on the revised budget of \$629,915, the Director stated that the contributions of each government would be as follows:

United States of America	\$602,732
Mexico	22,132
Costa Rica	4,051
Panama and Canada (\$500 each)	1,000

At this point the observer from Japan asked whether bigeye tuna were included in computing the proportions of contributions. The Director responded by saying that they were included and quoted the amounts of bigeye tuna by member countries in the past, and which had been included in computing the proportions.

The proportion of payments as submitted was adopted with unanimous approval.

At this juncture the hour having reached 1630, Chairman Needler adjourned the meeting until 0900 hours April 23, 1970.

APRIL 23, 1970

After an expression of apology from Commissioner Téllez of Mexico for not being able to attend the opening day sessions, the Chairman called upon the Director of Investigations to review Agenda Items IV and V.

AGENDA ITEM IV - THE 1969 FISHING YEAR

The Director indicated that Background Paper No. 1 and Information Paper No. 1 dealt fully with this subject. He then proceeded to review very briefly the contents of these Background Papers. During 1969, 126,191 short tons of yellowfin tuna and 63,725 short tons of skipjack were captured in the Commission's Regulatory Area. The vessels of 7 countries, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Japan, Panama and the U.S.A. partook in the capture of tunas in the CRA. By the end of 1969 the combined international fleet attained a capacity of 62,300 short tons. All of this capacity was active in the CRA during 1969. This compares to a capacity of about 46,000 to 47,000 short tons during the period 1965 to 1967. After the closure to unrestricted yellowfin fishing during 1969, a portion of this capacity fished in the area west of the CRA and took approximately 18,900 short tons of yellowfin and 900 tons of skipjack. Also in 1969 a substantial share of the total fleet which fished in the CRA participated in the tropical Atlantic tuna fishery. 28 purse seiners from Japan, Canada, Panama and the U.S.A. comprising 20,261 capacity tons or 32.5 per cent of the international eastern tropical Pacific fleet were active in these two ocean fisheries in 1969. A brief discussion of the estimated future growth of the fleet fishing in the CRA was given. It was indicated that by 1972 approximately 90,000 tons of more of fish carrying capacity could be active in the eastern Pacific fishery.

AGENDA ITEM V - CONDITION OF THE YELLOWFIN STOCK AND QUOTA FOR 1970

The Director indicated that the subject was covered in great detail in Background Paper No. 2, and then proceeded to review the contents of this Background Paper by stating that at the 1968 Annual Meeting the Commission asked its staff to report back at the 1969 Annual Meeting with specific proposals for programs of experimental fishing designed to ascertain empirically the maximum sustainable yield of yellowfin tuna. To comply with this request, the staff presented alternative schemes of experimental fishing at the 1969 meeting.

The particular scheme chosen by the Commission provided for a catch quota of 120,000 short tons per year during 1969, 1970 and 1971. However, it was agreed that if the annual catch per day's fishing measured in standard purse seine units should fall below 3 short tons per day, at any time before the completion of the 3-year period, the catch would be curtailed to correspond to the then current level of sustainable yield. The rationale for selecting such an experimental overfishing program was then reviewed by the Director. After this review, the Director next spent some time discussing the current knowledge concerning the population structure of yellowfin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean. He indicated that because of the expanding fishery offshore, further knowledge on this subject was necessary. He reviewed the current research of the scientific staff designed to obtain this knowledge. Specifically, there were tagging studies, studies of body shape and form and serological studies. He next reviewed the progress of the experimental fishing program during 1969 and to date during 1970, and compared the observed results with expected results. He concluded that the experiment to date was progressing moderately well, and in his opinion should be continued during 1970 and 1971. At the end of the year, the results of this experiment would be examined and on the basis of these results, future programs proposed.

At the end of this presentation, Commissioner Zarur of Mexico asked the Director if the Commission had made estimates of yellowfin dumping during the closed yellowfin season. The Director commented that an outline of this problem was in Background Paper No. 1 but reiterated that the Commission's records of dumping of yellowfin tuna due to regulations are obtained from what the fishermen report to the Commission and the logbook coverage by the Commission of all purse seiners and baitboats operating in the area is nearly 100%. However, it is not known what share of the fishing skippers actually report the fish that are dumped. Therefore, the Commission's estimates of yellowfin tuna dumping, though perhaps more complete than any other estimate, is not exact.

Yellowfin tuna dumped, due to regulations, and reported in logbooks for 1967 was approximately 3,000 tons, about 5,000 tons in 1968 and about 1,333 tons in 1969.

Other theoretical estimates were made by Commission scientists on the basis of those vessels actually fishing during regulated trips in 1967 and 1968. Estimates in both years ranged from about 9,000 to 17,000 tons of yellowfin tuna dumped. The 17,000 ton estimate assumed that no effort was made by fishermen to avoid yellowfin tuna and the 9,000 ton estimate assumed that pure schools of tuna were avoided. The 17,000 ton estimate is most likely high and so probably is the other, therefore, in the Commission's opinion dumping is somewhere between that reported in the logbooks and 9,000 tons.

Commissioner Needler then asked the Director of Investigations whether the yellowfin tuna reported caught from outside of the CRA were in fact part of the stock inside the CRA. The Director indicated that it is not possible to accurately answer this question but the Commission's research is designed towards obtaining the necessary facts to answer it. Dr. Needler, the Canadian Commissioner,

next asked whether catch records from fish taken outside of the regulatory area were included in estimates of sustainable yield made for fish taken from within the eastern Pacific Ocean. The Director indicated that this had been done and made very little difference in the estimate of sustainable yield because only two years of information were available for the fishery outside of the CRA.

At the suggestion of Commissioner Téllez from Mexico, a brief discussion of the 4,000 tons small boat allowance was held and was then decided that any further discussion of small boat allowances should be postponed until the inter-governmental meeting. The Chairman then suggested that the group move on to Agenda Item No. 9.

AGENDA ITEM IX - APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1969

The Chairman then called on the Director of Investigations to briefly review the Annual Report and addendum. The Director indicated that the Annual Report had been in the hands of the Commissioners for some time and assumed that all had had a chance to examine it carefully. He then indicated he would be glad to answer any questions concerning the Annual Report or addendum. Hearing no questions, Commissioner Holstrom of the U.S. moved the Annual Report and addendum be approved for printing. This was seconded by Mexico and carried unanimously.

At this point, the Chairman suggested that the Commission meeting go into recess in order that an inter-governmental meeting could be held. All delegations agreed and the meeting was recessed at 1205 hours.

APRIL 25, 1970

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 1055 in the Centennial Room of the Government Conference Center. The Chairman began by calling for a discussion of the Commission's earlier resolution calling for a catch quota of 120,000 tons for 1970 as well as a resolution (Appendix III) from the Eighth Inter-Governmental Meeting on the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna recommending that two new paragraphs be added to the Commission's Resolution. These are noted in the Commission's Resolution as Section IV, paragraph 4 and Section VII (see Appendix IV).

The Commission's resolution, including the suggested recommendations transmitted by the Inter-Governmental meeting was read paragraph by paragraph and several modifications in wording were proposed and agreed to. The draft resolution as amended (Appendix IV) was approved by all the delegations present. However, Commissioner Needler of Canada indicated that the additional allowance of 2,000 tons for vessels of size class I to 7 does not benefit Canada. Canada therefore, would like to review this problem at the next Intergovernmental Meeting. As Panama was not represented at the meeting by a regular Commissioner, the Director stated that Panama would be informed of the decisions made at this meeting by cable and would be asked to vote later by telephone.*

* Panama was informed by cable of all substantive actions taken by the Commission. Agreement on these actions was received from Panama by telephone on May 4, 1970.

AGENDA ITEM X - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the Chairman's request, the Director of Investigations opened the discussion by saying it was the custom to rotate the offices of Chairman and Secretary among the member governments with the Chairman being from the host country, whenever possible. The Chairmanship should normally have fallen to Mexico for 1970. However, because of a national election taking place in that country, Mexico had indicated a desire to pass her turn.

Commissioner Holmstrom from the United States nominated Sr. Cardona-Cooper as President for the coming year. This was seconded by Commissioner Téllez from Mexico and carried unanimously. Commissioner Lopez of Costa Rica accepted the nomination for Commissioner Cardona-Cooper, who was not present at the meeting.

The next item of business being the election of Secretary, the Chairman called for nominations. Commissioner Lopez of Costa Rica suggested that the Secretary's office should go to Mexico. Commissioner Zarur of Mexico indicated that Mexico was indeed honored to accept this office but because of the elections forthcoming in Mexico, they would not be able to name the person for this office at this time, but would submit his name at a later date.

AGENDA ITEM XI - PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

The Director of Investigations introduced the subject by explaining that a rotational system was used to set the place of Annual Meetings. According to this system the 1971 Annual Meeting should fall to Mexico City. However, the Commissioner from Mexico explained that because of the election problem discussed earlier, it would be best for Mexico to pass her turn. Therefore, Commissioner Holmstrom of the United States recommended Costa Rica as the meeting site for 1971.

Commissioner Lopez, speaking for Costa Rica, said that it was indeed a great honor for Costa Rica to be suggested as the next meeting site, and that he was pleased to accept on behalf of his country.

The Chairman then asked for comments on a suitable date for the 1971 Annual Meeting and asked the Director of Investigations to comment briefly on suitable meeting dates. The Director responded by saying that because of the increasing fleet size and the rate at which this fleet captured yellowfin tuna in 1970, the recommended closure date for 1971, if a quota were set at about 120,000 tons, could likely fall before mid-March. Therefore, a meeting date should be set early enough in the year so that action could be taken to stay within any such recommended quota. The Director indicated that some time during the month of February would be adequate. After some discussion of a possible meeting date, Commissioner Loker from the United States suggested that the host country be given the privilege of setting the meeting date. Costa Rica suggested February 23 as the first date of the meeting. No termination date for the meeting was set, but it was understood that the meeting would stay in session until the Commission's business was completed.

AGENDA ITEM XII - OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Zarur of Mexico brought up the subject of Japan's entrance into the Commission and inquired of the current status of Japan's entry into the Commission. The representative from Japan thanked all of the member countries for their letters of acceptance for Japan to adhere to the Commission's Convention. He explained that at the present time there was a bill before the Diet concerning Japan's entrance into the Commission. He indicated that this would most likely pass and Japan looked forward to working in the capacity of member of the Commission soon.

Commissioner Loker on behalf of Commissioner Holstrom and the United States congratulated the Chairman on his conduct of the meeting and thanked the host government, Canada, for providing such excellent facilities to the Commission for its meeting.

Costa Rica and Mexico endorsed the remarks of the United States.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman thanked all of the Commissioners for their participation in this meeting. He also congratulated the scientific staff on their program of research and thanked the interpreter, Sr. Carlos Diez and his assistant, Sr. Gerardo Lara, as well as the Canadian Government interpreters, Sr. Kanellakos and his assistants, who helped Sr. Diez with his interpretations. With this, the Chairman declared the XXII Annual Meeting of the Commission closed at 1130 hours April 25, 1970.