



**Position statement from AGAC for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
(IATTC Annual Meeting, September 2–6, 2024)**

Madrid, July 31st, 2024

AGAC is a fishers' association representing the interests of 20 tuna purse seiners operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. AGAC is deeply compromised with tuna fisheries improvement activities in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: [the fishery is MSC-certified for both yellowfin and skipjack tuna, while the bigeye component is being fully assessed for certification.](#)

AGAC has identified the following priority issues:

- 1. Ensure continued support, and secure funding, for all target tunas MSE**
- 2. Finalize the management strategy evaluation (MSE) for bigeye and development of management objectives and revised reference points for tropical tunas. AGAC encourages the IATTC to**
 - a. identify the factors leading to uncertainties around management**
 - b. complete the yellowfin tuna stock assessment**
 - i. incorporate new CPUEs and the Buoy-derived Abundance Index (BAI)**
 - c. and ensure robust HCRs are in place and are consistent with the harvest strategy**
- 3. Establish & convene a scientist-manager dialogue group to advance management procedures for other tuna stocks**
- 4. Adopt a reporting requirement for the provision of detailed operational data (set by set) for longline fisheries**
- 5. Adopt the data form in [Appendix 4 in FAD-07 INF-A](#) to facilitate reporting on FAD recoveries per Resolution C-23-03 and harmonization of data with WCPFC to promote Pacific-wide collaboration**
- 6. Adopt in 2024 interim electronic monitoring program standards for all gear types and a timeline for implementation beginning in 2025. To the extent possible, these standards should be harmonized with those adopted by, or in development, in other tuna RFMOs**
- 7. Establish a comprehensive observer program (human or electronic or a combination) to cover longline vessels and class 1-5 purse seine vessels, with a sampling coverage of at least 50%**



8. Amend Resolution C-23-07 to require that all retained sharks be landed with fins naturally attached without exceptions
9. Endorse the [best handling and release practices \(BHRP\) guideline](#) development work plan
10. Adopt the shark ([SAC-15-11](#)) BHRP guidelines
11. Develop and adopt a recovery plan for oceanic white-tip sharks
12. Establish a work plan with timelines to further strengthen the Committee's procedures and outcomes, including developing a scheme of responses to improve compliance
13. Develop and adopt by 2025 a hierarchy of infractions

AGAC works closely with several stakeholders which share the collective mission to undertake science-based initiatives for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna stocks, reducing bycatch and promoting ecosystem health, through advocacy, applied science and direct action. We thus urge the IATTC to act on our identified priorities at its upcoming meeting. AGAC looks forward to the continued leadership of all IATTC CPCs in the EPO.