

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

104th MEETING

**Lisbon, Portugal
31 August – 4 September 2026**

RESOLUTION C-26-09

RESOLUTION ON A WORKPLAN FOR BILLFISH IN THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

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

Recognizing that, like tuna, billfish are highly migratory species associated with tuna, widely distributed in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), and are caught by a variety of fisheries, including industrial, small-scale, coastal, and sport fisheries carried out by various Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Commission;

Recognizing also the ecological, economic, and social importance of billfish for numerous Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Commission, including their contribution to food security, the livelihoods of coastal communities, recreational fishing, sustainable marine tourism, and the functioning of pelagic marine ecosystems;

Remembering that, in accordance with the Antigua Convention, the Commission must adopt its conservation and management measures based on the best available scientific information and promote the scientific cooperation necessary for the fulfillment of its objectives;

Recognizing that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the scientific staff of the IATTC play a fundamental role in developing the scientific advice that serves as the basis for the Commission's decisions;

Taking note that the available scientific information on billfish in the eastern Pacific Ocean remains incomplete and fragmented, particularly regarding catch and effort data, biological information, post-release mortality and the contribution of artisanal, coastal, and sport fisheries, limiting the development of increasingly robust scientific assessments;

Recognizing also the valuable contributions that CPCs, IATTC scientific staff, academic institutions, and other relevant scientific mechanisms make to improve knowledge on billfish, and highlighting the importance of strengthening scientific cooperation and information exchange among these existing capacities;

Recognizing that several billfish populations are distributed beyond the Convention Area and that strengthening collaboration with relevant regional scientific mechanisms contributes to improving scientific knowledge regarding these highly migratory species, including, where appropriate, the International Scientific Committee for North Pacific Tuna and Related Species (ISC);

Recognizing also that strengthening coordination among existing scientific capabilities shall facilitate the identification of common research priorities, promote a more efficient exchange of scientific information,

and contribute to improving the scientific basis that supports the work of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and of the Commission;

Considering that a dialogue mechanism that promotes scientific coordination within the institutional framework of the IATTC can contribute to more efficiently articulating existing scientific efforts, promoting complementarity among ongoing initiatives and fostering a more integrated use of available knowledge to support the Commission's scientific process;

Considering Article VII, paragraph 1(f), of the Antigua Convention, which provides that the Commission shall, as necessary, adopt measures and recommendations concerning species belonging to, or associated with or dependent on, the fish stocks covered by the Convention;

Agree to the following:

1. To convene a billfish workshop in early 2027, funded by external sources, to develop a draft workplan on billfish consistent with the SAC 17 Recommendation 8.1 contained in Document IATTC-104-02 *That the Director, in collaboration with CPCs and other interested parties, develop a work plan for billfish data collection and stock assessments for the SAC's and Commission's consideration, with clear costs and staffing levels required to conduct the work plan as well as potential external sources of funding*). This workshop shall be in hybrid format, with interpretation services.
2. The workplan for billfish in the IATTC Convention Area, shall include the following species:
 - Blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*);
 - Black marlin (*Istiompax indica*);
 - Striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*);
 - Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*);
 - Shortbill spearfish (*Tetrapturus angustirostris*); and
 - Sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*).
3. The outcomes of this workshop shall be reported to the SAC in its annual meeting in 2027.
4. The SAC meeting in 2027 shall include a specific agenda item on billfish.
5. This Resolution shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.