

# INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

## 102<sup>ND</sup> MEETING

Panama City, Panama  
2-6 September 2024

### PROPOSAL IATTC-102 J-1 REV 1

#### SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR

### CREATION OF AN *AD HOC* WORKING GROUP TO STRENGTHEN THE DIALOGUE AMONG SCIENTISTS, MANAGERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ON MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of its 102<sup>nd</sup> Meeting:*

*Committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);*

*Recognizing that the Commission had adopted provisional reference points and harvest control rules (HCR) for tropical tuna fisheries in the EPO in Resolutions C-16-02 and C-23-06;*

*Noting that in Resolutions C-16-02 and C-23-06 the scientific staff is urged to continue testing reference points and harvest control rules to support the adoption by the Commission of a permanent HCR;*

*Noting that Resolution C-21-04 urges the scientific staff to present a BET harvest strategy for consideration by the Commission in 2024, which was subsequently updated to 2025;*

*Aware that Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) is the most advanced process to test the effectiveness of HCRs and other management strategies in achieving management objectives;*

*Aware that the usefulness of a MSE depends on the involvement of managers, scientists and stakeholders;*

*Noting that Resolution C-19-07 urges the Commission to consider the establishment of a working group for scientists, managers and other stakeholders on MSE;*

*Noting that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) has recommended that the Commission create a working group to facilitate dialogue among scientists, managers and other stakeholders to advance the process of management strategy evaluation for the development of the harvest strategy; and*

*Pursuant to Article VII, paragraph 1(u) of the Antigua Convention;*

*Agrees as follows:*

1. To create the Working Group to improve the dialogue among fisheries scientists, managers and other stakeholders.
2. The Working Group shall have the following objectives:

- a. Improve communication and facilitate mutual understanding among fisheries scientists, managers, vessel owners, captains, fleet managers, unions, external fisheries experts, IGOs and NGOs regarding matters related to harvest strategies and MSE within the IATTC;
  - b. Advise and assist the SAC and the Commission in the development and implementation of a work plan and a timeline for the harvest strategy and MSE process in the IATTC;
  - c. Identify and recommend to the Commission management objectives and reference points compatible with the Antigua Convention, including the application of the precautionary approach and the corresponding performance indicators;
  - d. Identify and recommend candidate harvest strategies for IATTC fisheries that can be tested to determine their effectiveness and robustness in achieving management objectives for tropical tunas, beginning with bigeye tuna.
3. The Working Group shall be co-chaired by a person from the scientific and one from the administrative area to be decided by the Commission.
4. The duties of the Working Group shall be as follows:
  - a. Assist in reviewing and updating, as necessary, the work plans and timelines for the harvest strategy and MSE processes.
  - b. Make recommendations on [candidate/potential elements] of harvest strategies for testing with MSE, including:
    - i. General management objectives and related performance indicators;
    - ii. Candidate reference points, including the use of BMSY and FMSY or appropriate proxies as target and/or limit reference points, along with associated probabilities and timelines;
    - iii. Candidate harvest strategies, including input data, evaluation methods and harvest control rules.
  - c. Recommend monitoring and control systems to ensure effective implementation of harvest strategies.
  - d. Develop exceptional circumstances protocols to guide management in circumstances outside of those for which the harvest strategy was designed.
  - e. Assist the Commission in identifying and committing the funds necessary to carry out the harvest strategy and MSE work plans.
5. The Working Group shall report to the Scientific Advisory Committee on an annual basis, beginning in 2025. The Commission shall consider the results of the Working Group under a permanent agenda item for this purpose and shall also provide new guidelines on other topics to be considered by the Working Group.