

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**101<sup>st</sup> MEETING**

**Victoria, B.C., Canada**

**7-11 August 2023**

**RESOLUTION C-23-09**

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

***(Coryphaena hippurus)***

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), on the occasion of its 101<sup>st</sup> 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;*

*Recalling that collaborative research with the IATTC in 2014-2016 showed that the data available for the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) south were sufficient to conduct an exploratory assessment of the core Dolphinfish stock and management strategies, however, information from the EPO north was found to be limited;*

*Recalling that the IATTC has provided the opportunity for collaborative research, including three technical meetings on the *Coryphaena hippurus* resource between 2014 and 2016; the development of an exploratory assessment of the *C. hippurus* stock in the "core" region; an exploratory management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the EPO south; and an evaluation of potential reference points and harvest control rules for *C. hippurus* in the EPO;*

*Taking into account that, in its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Scientific Advisory Committee recommended that the IATTC staff continue working with CPCs on research in relation to the stock status of Dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the Convention Area;*

*Further noting that, at the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, the SAC recommended that the Commission encourage Members participating directly or indirectly, as flag States or coastal States, in the Dolphinfish fishery to consider assessing and managing the Dolphinfish stock.*

*Recalling* that, in document IATTC-100-02b *Staff Activities and Research Plan*, the IATTC scientific staff presented the need for future research to improve the analysis of the stock assessment of *C. hippurus* (Dolphinfish) in the Convention Area;

*Emphasizing* that the objective of the Convention is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks in the Convention Area, and that both collaborative studies and exploratory research conducted by the Scientific Advisory Committee show a need for better data to assess the stock of *Coryphaena hippurus* in the Convention Area and research to improve the analysis and assessment of this fish stock.

*Resolves as follows:*

**1. Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs)**

CPCs shall collect and submit to the IATTC biological, catch and interaction data, as well as fishing effort data relating to Dolphinfish from their fishing fleets whose catch of this species constitutes more than 5% of their entire annual catch. CPCs are encouraged to collect and submit data from other fleets, where available. This information shall be submitted by 30 June (beginning in 2024) as part of annual catch reporting in accordance with Resolution C-03-05. Artisanal and recreational fleet data may be reported as total annual catches without data on fishing effort in accordance with Resolution C-03-05.

**2. IATTC scientific staff**

- a) The IATTC scientific staff will develop a proposal to standardize the format for data reporting and present it at the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2024. This format will be used by the CPCs to submit the information according to paragraph 1.
- b) Based on the data received from the CPCs and considering the human and financial resources available, the IATTC scientific staff will:
  - i. Update, to the extent possible, the stock assessment for Dolphinfish that was conducted by IATTC staff between 2012 and 2016 and present it to the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2026.
  - ii. As appropriate, update the recommendations for CPCs on harvest control rules for the Dolphinfish longline fishery, during the 2026 Scientific Advisory Committee.

**3. Review**

In 2024, SAC should consider and recommend the Commission as appropriate, the creation of a voluntary group to identify the information available on the Dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) resource in the various fisheries of interest to the IATTC. It should also identify information gaps that must be solved to know the status of this resource, either as target or bycatch, and possibly recommend management measures.

This Resolution shall be reviewed by the scientific staff and at the meeting of the SAC in 2026, to evaluate the adequacy of the measures of this Resolution and provide a recommendation to the Commission.