

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

98TH MEETING

(by videoconference)

23-27 August 2021

PROPOSAL IATTC-98 D-1

SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR

**COMPLEMENTS TO STAFF ACTIVITIES AND RESEARCH PLAN
FOR TROPICAL TUNAS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN
DURING 2022-2024**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered virtually, on the occasion of its 97th Meeting (Extraordinary);

Aware of its responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and for formulating recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) with regard to these resources;

Recognizing that research plans are a cornerstone of management advice for tropical tunas;

Concerned that the Themes, Goals and Targets described in the Strategic Science Plan (SSP; IATTC-93-06a) be fully implemented;

Taking into account that the SSP is perfectible and can be optimized according to the will and disposition of the IATTC scientific staff, as well as the collaboration of the CPCs; and

Recalling the need to consider the needs identified by the SAC and the CPCs;

Agrees:

That the IATTC scientific staff complement the work and research plans, within the framework of the research Themes of the Strategic Science Plan (SSP; IATTC-93-06a) and summarized in Document SAC-12-01. This complement seeks to strengthen the strategic approach in the planning of scientific activities for bigeye and skipjack tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) for 2022-2023, aiming to contribute to the third strategic pillar of the SSP called Sustainable Fisheries through the following activities:

1. Evaluate, on an annual basis during 2022-2023, the status of bigeye tuna through updated assessments (as defined in Document SAC-12-01), reviewing the status of exploitation within the framework of reference points and risk analysis indicated in Resolution C-16-02, **ensuring that these research complements do not impact the original research plan of the scientific staff reported in Document SAC-12-01.**
2. Review, during 2022, the weighting process of the 44 reference models implemented for bigeye tuna (SAC-11 INF-F, SAC-11-06) with emphasis on the impact on risk analysis and management advice.
3. Complete the research plan for skipjack tuna for 2022-2023, temporarily adapting the research activities described in the Work Plan to develop a stock assessment of skipjack tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean (section 1.1 of Document SAC-12-01) to improve the accuracy of the status of this species, **with due caution to ensure that these research complements do not impact the original research plan of the scientific staff reported in Document SAC-12-01.**
4. Consider an interim stock assessment of skipjack tuna, practicable only during the period in which the Work Plan for developing an assessment of skipjack tuna described in Document SAC-12-01 is implemented. This interim assessment should decouple inferences about the status of skipjack tuna

from the status of bigeye tuna.

5. Establish a process for tracking the activities of the Work Plan to develop an assessment of skipjack tuna described in Document SAC-12-01, that integrates the participation of the CPCs during 2022-2024. For example, a schedule of frequent workshops (e.g., every six months) with the participation of the CPCs would: (i) promote the participation of the CPCs in the recollection of tagging data, (ii) detect potential deviations from Work Plan 3, and (iii) assist in the identification of interim assessment methodologies for skipjack tuna indicated in paragraph 4.