

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla CA 92037-1509, USA – www.iattc.org
Tel: (858) 546-7100 – Fax: (858) 546-7133 – Director: Guillermo Compeán

11 July 2016
Ref.: 0377-410

To: Commissioners

cc: Bolivia, Honduras, Indonesia, Liberia

From: Guillermo Compeán, Director



Re: Announcement of workshop on methods for monitoring dolphin stock status

The Antigua Convention, which governs this Commission, requires that the status of species potentially impacted by tuna fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean be monitored. In the tropical zone, this includes the stocks of dolphins found associated with yellowfin tuna.

No fishery-independent surveys of dolphin abundance have been conducted since 2006, and therefore there are currently no reliable indicators available for assessing the status of these dolphin populations. This lack of information is problematic because, in spite of the current low levels of reported mortalities in the tuna fishery, the high historical levels of that mortality and the low estimated rates of population increase have resulted in ambiguous estimates of population status.

For this reason, the IATTC is hosting a **Workshop on Methods for Monitoring the Status of Eastern Tropical Ocean Dolphin Populations**, which will bring together more than 20 experts in the fields of line-transect surveys and mark-recapture studies, abundance estimation and population modelling, and imaging, tagging, genetics and life history data, to discuss options for developing indices with which to monitor dolphin populations. The goal of the workshop is to identify methods, both conventional and novel, for assessing the status of dolphin stocks.

The workshop will be held 18-20 October 2016, in the Pacific Room of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, located at 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive in La Jolla, California, USA. It will include presentations by the IATTC staff on historic and potential data sources, including fisheries data, tagging and genetics data, and survey data; by Stephen Buckland, of the University of St Andrews, Scotland, on data analysis methods, including line-transect and mark-recapture; and by André Punt, of the University of Washington, USA, on population assessment modelling methodology. Discussions will follow on potential methods for monitoring population status, using not only conventional methodologies but also non-conventional and experimental methodologies that may require future research and development. The agenda and other information are available on the [IATTC website](http://www.iattc.org).

The format of the workshop will consist of presentations by, and discussions among, the invited participants, with periods for comments and questions by observers. Anyone interested is invited to attend the workshop as an observer; however, due to space limitations, observers are

encouraged to register as soon as possible, and in any case, no later than 1 September (contact Mónica Galván, mgalvan@iattc.org).

Since the workshop will be held in a building belonging to the US Government, all attendees who are not citizens of the United States need to register online with [NMFS-NOAA](#) by 13 September in order to be able to enter the building.

On the page requesting information about the meeting¹, enter the following:

Sponsor's name:	Cisco Werner
Sponsor's e-mail:	cisco.werner@noaa.gov
Meeting name:	ETP Dolphin Abundance Workshop (Pacific Rm)
Arrival date:	October 18 2016 – 8:00 AM
Departure date:	October 20 2016 – 6:00 PM

¹ https://docs.google.com/a/noaa.gov/forms/d/13wQaOZ_YcMV21b7aLYnh-WWkmpNYrYJhmDiJDlbnNOA/viewform?c=0&w=1