

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

93TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

24, 27-30 August 2018

DOCUMENT IATTC-93-03 ADD. 1

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 8th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON BYCATCH AS APPROVED BY THE 9th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following recommendations by the 8th Meeting of the Working Group on Bycatch were approved by the 9th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on 18 May 2018.

GENERAL

1. Request the scientific staff to provide, three weeks in advance of every meeting of the Working Group, an updated overview of bycatch data (by species, gears, areas, *etc.*) available to the Commission, outstanding data gaps, progress in the implementation and results of relevant projects, updates on ongoing collaborations with relevant organizations, and suggestions for future work.
2. Prioritize work to assess the conservation status of key bycatch species.
3. Prioritize work to assess the effectiveness of adopted and alternative bycatch mitigation methods, taking into account the potential effects on other affected species (including target species), and the relative impact of the various fisheries on mortality and the conservation status of these species.

OBSERVERS

4. Request the Commission to establish a minimum standard protocol for electronic monitoring.
5. Submit summarized national observer data in a standardized format that provides information useful for generating fleet-wide bycatch estimates.

SEABIRDS

6. Based on an assessment of Resolution C-11-02 against the latest review of seabird mitigation measures, consider the following revisions to improve C-11-02, subject to validation of their scientific basis:
 - a. Updating the specifications for side-setting in the North Pacific to require that the branchline weighting used meets minimum requirements;
 - b. Updating the minimum specifications for branchline weighting and tori lines;
 - c. Removing blue-dyed bait, deep-setting line shooters, and underwater setting chutes from the list of mitigation options;
 - d. Making management of offal discharge a required additional measure;
 - e. Allowing mitigation measures whose effectiveness for seabird bycatch mitigation is proven to be added in the future.

SEA TURTLES

7. The Secretariat should explore with CPCs the possibility of organizing a regional workshop on sea turtle bycatch and mitigation methods, in order to determine the level of interaction with, and the mortality caused by, different fishing gears relative to factors other than fishing, analyze existing

scientific information on mitigation (including *inter alia*, gear depth, soak time, hook type, bait type, etc.) for the most endangered sea turtle species that are likely to interact with tuna fisheries, while considering spatial and seasonal factors and the potential effects on other species (including target species).

8. Continue to participate and promote research to improve techniques to further reduce sea turtle bycatch in all gear types used in the EPO.

SHARKS AND RAYS

9. The SAC reiterates its previous recommendation that the scientific staff review the provisions of Resolution C-05-03 related to the fins-to-carcass ratio for sharks.
10. Develop and implement guidelines for the safe release of sharks and rays for different gear types.