

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

16th Meeting

Panama, R. P.

16 - 17 April, 1963

The sixteenth meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission being the regular annual meeting for the year 1963, convened at 10:00 a.m., 16 April 1963, at the Hotel Panama-Hilton, Panama City, Republic of Panama,

The following persons attended the sessions:

Representatives of Member Governments

- Costa Rica: Lic. José Luis Cardona-Cooper, Commissioner
Sr. Milton López, Special Delegate
Sr. José Luis Moreno, Special Delegate
Sr. Raúl Canessa Murillo, Special Delegate
Sr. Luis Antonio Cardona, Secretary of Delegation
- Ecuador: Dr. Eduardo Burneo, Commissioner
- Panama: Dr. Felipe Juan Escobar, Minister of Agriculture, Commerce
and Industries
Mr. Juan L. de Obarrio, Commissioner
Mr. Carlos A. López-Guevara, Commissioner
Sr. Camilo Quintero, Commissioner
- United States: Mr. Eugene D. Bennett, Chairman of the Commission
Dr. J. L. McHugh, Commissioner
Mr. Robert L. Jones, Commissioner
Mr. John G. Driscoll, Jr., Commissioner

Members of Scientific Staff of the Commission

- Dr. Milner B. Schaefer, Director of Investigations
Dr. Malvern Gilmartin, Senior Scientist
Dr. John L. Kask (Guest), Chairman, Fisheries Research Board
of Canada

Official Observers from other Governments

- Chile: Dr. Anibal Palma
Sr. Teofilo Reges Corda, Ambassador
- Colombia: Dr. Jaime López Mosquero, Ambassador
- Guatemala: Sr. Adolfo Rosa Chan, Chargé d'Affaires
- Mexico: Biol. Héctor Chapa Saldaña
Biol. Mauro Cardenas F.
- Peru: Sr. Victor F. Pezet M. Q.
Sr. Manuel Elguerra

Japan: Mr. Tomihiko Kambara, Counselor, Embassy of Japan in Brazil
Mr. Hisatsane Ishida, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan,
Panama
Mr. Takeya Kuroda, Japanese Fisheries Agency

Observers from Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Dr. Francois Bourgois - Instituto Nacional de Pesca, Ecuador
Dr. Harold Loesch - Instituto Nacional de Pesca, Ecuador

Advisors to National Sections of the Commission

Panama: Sr. Osvaldo Sánchez
Sr. Roberto Ruíz Stoute
Biol. Lenin Sucre B.
Sr. Roberto L. Novey

United States: Mr. August Felando
Mr. John J. Royal
Mr. Donald P. Loker
Mr. John Calise

Costa Rica: Dr. Fernando Palau
Sr. Stuart Heigold

Others

Panama: Sr. Jaime Jácome, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Commerce
and Industries
Sr. Rogelio Anguizola, Director-General of Industries
Ing. Ruben Dario Arosemena, Director-General of Agriculture
Ing. Ernesto Solís
Dr. Menalco Solís, Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce and
Industries
Sr. Rogelio A. Martinez
Sr. Abraham Benedetti
Sr. Simon Vega, Press
Biol. Arnoldo Masters
Sr. Ronaldo Galvez
Ing. Juan B. McKay
Sr. Nico Luhrsen, Delegate of CNP in Panama
Sr. Carlos A. Arosemena Lacayo, Promarina, S.A.
Sr. Ricardo A. Casira, Proveedora Marina, S.A.
Sr. Daniel Ngui, Proveedora Marina, S.A.
Sr. Alvaro Jiménez, Industry
Sr. Manuel A. Flores
Sra. Rosa Isabel Rodriguez, Secretary, Fisheries Department
Dr. Fernando Carrandi, Agency of Press Information (AIP)
Sr. Julio Jaen, Channel 4, T.V.
Sr. Osvaldo Sandoval, Industry

Mexico: Sr. Juan Morenza, Press

Costa Rica: Sr. Jorge Loaiza S., Ambassador
Sr. James Hirsch K.

United States:

Mr. William C. Herrington, Department of State
Mr. Henry F. Weekley, Department of State
Mr. Donald R. Johnson, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Mr. Benjamin J. Birdsall, U.S. Aid to Panama Agriculture
Mr. John M. Wheaton
Mr. Mario Barrera, Diario de las Américas, Miami, Florida
Mr. Franklin Jones, CARE, Inc.
Mr. James R. Townsend, Fisheries Technician, U.S. Aid to
Panama

Ecuador:

Sr. Raúl Moscoso

Inauguration

His Excellency, Dr. Felipe Juan Escobar, Minister of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries, gave an address of welcome on behalf of the Government of Panama, noting the technical and scientific nature of the Commission and the importance of its work in laying a basis for conservation of the tuna stocks by all nations.

Lic. J. L. Cardona-Cooper responded on behalf of Costa Rica, expressing the pleasure of his Delegation in being in Panama, and recalling the generosity of Panama in assisting Costa Rica with an experimental attempt to rehabilitate the anchoveta population in the Gulf of Nicoya. He briefly reviewed the history of the Commission, complimented the Director of Investigations and the Staff, and especially welcomed the Commission's guest at this meeting, Dr. John L. Kask, Chairman of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

Dr. Eduardo Burneo responded on behalf of Ecuador. He transmitted the regrets of Dr. Ponce y Carbo at not being able to attend due to having to attend another conference in Geneva. He reiterated the importance of the work of the Commission in laying the scientific foundation for preserving the tuna resources, which are an importance source of food for mankind.

Biol. Juan de Obarrio, on behalf of Panama's Section of the Commission, welcomed the large attendance at this meeting as evidence of the growing interest in the fisheries of the Eastern Tropical Pacific. He noted the rapidly increasing importance of marine resources for an expanding human population, the importance of scientific research, although long-range and costly, for the preservation of the tuna and other resources, and the necessity for international cooperation in management of the tuna fishery on a scientific basis. He again welcomed all in attendance.

Chairman Eugene D. Bennett, on behalf of the United States, expressed the delight of the U.S. Delegation at meeting again in Panama. He recalled the long and fruitful labors of the Commission and the fine spirit of international cooperation which have made them possible.

There was a brief recess, after which the working sessions were commenced.

At the opening of the working session, Chairman Bennett announced the convening of an Inter-Governmental Meeting following the meeting of the Commission, to commence at 0900 on 18 April, at the same place, to consider means of implementing the Commission's recommendations for regulation of the fishery for yellowfin tuna.

He then asked each country to introduce its representatives and others in attendance. After this was done, he took up the agenda of the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The Director of Investigations had prepared, and circulated in advance, a suggested agenda, together with explanations and background information. The Chairman presented this for discussion.

Lic. Cardona-Cooper suggested that there be added to the Agenda a further matter, the replacement of Dr. Schaefer as Director of Investigations, which is necessitated by his having accepted a new position as Director of the Institute of Marine Resources of the University of California. He indicated that his Delegation, with others, would propose the appointment of Dr. John L. Kask as Director of Investigations, and also hoped that Dr. Schaefer might continue to assist the Commission and the new Director as a consultant.

This addition to the Agenda was approved. The Agenda as unanimously adopted was:

1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the Agenda.
2. Discussion of the current research program and results.
3. Approval for publication of the Annual Report for 1962.
4. Condition of the fishery and the fish stocks; recommendations for regulation of the fishery for yellowfin tuna during calendar year 1963.
5. Program of investigations for fiscal year 1963-1964.
6. Research program and budget for fiscal year 1964-1965.
7. Proportions of contributions from Member Governments for fiscal year 1964-1965.
8. Election of officers for the next year.
9. Location and date of next annual meeting.
10. Appointment of replacement for Dr. Schaefer as Director of Investigations

Discussion of the current research program and results

The Director of Investigations, at the invitation of the Chairman, commenced a review of the research conducted by the staff during the past year, illustrating some of the more important points with charts and graphs. He reviewed the system of collection and analysis of catch statistics and related data, and demonstrated the ways in which the condition of the fish stocks and the fishery is monitored. He noted that the research of the past year has further confirmed that the yellowfin stocks have been somewhat overfished, but that the skipjack populations are capable of supporting increased harvests. He indicated that the condition of the yellowfin stocks, and recommendations for measures to restore them, would be discussed more fully under item 4 of the Agenda. Additional important information has been obtained respecting the population structure of the tunas, as well as concerning their life history, ecology, migrations, and population dynamics, their schooling habits, and the variations in their susceptibility to capture. Further research has been accomplished on physical, chemical, and biological oceanography, which affects the distribution and abundance of the tunas and other fishes; it has been possible to explain a large part of the fishery-independent variations in apparent abundance of yellowfin tuna over the last 28 years by the changes in availability associated with large-scale changes in sea temperatures, which occur together over the entire Eastern Pacific. Research on bait species has been curtailed, due to its decreased importance in view of the shift to purse-seining for tunas. It is, however, of yet considerable importance in Ecuador, where a large share of the catch is made by small baitboats, and where the staff is continuing some studies of bait fishes and related species, in conjunction with oceanographic research on the Gulf of Guayaquil and adjacent waters. It was indicated that Dr. Gilmartin would present the studies in Ecuador in more detail subsequently.

A recess was taken for lunch from 12:20 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

After the luncheon recess, Dr. Schaefer completed his presentation of recent research results, and answered numerous questions from the Commissioners and others as to various details.

Dr. Gilmartin then discussed the plan and accomplishments of the research on the oceanography of the Gulf of Guayaquil and adjacent waters off Ecuador, and the research being conducted on bait fishes and other clupeoid and engraulid species in the Gulf and along the coast of Ecuador.

It was noted by Dr. Schaefer that all of the material discussed is presented in detail in the draft of the Annual Report for the year 1962.

Approval for publication of the Annual Report for 1962

A draft of the Annual Report for 1962 had been distributed for review to all members of the Commission several weeks in advance of the meeting. There were no suggestions for revision.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously resolved that: The Annual Report of the Commission for the year 1962, as drafted, is approved for publication.

Condition of the fishery and recommendations for regulation of the fishery for yellowfin tuna

The Chairman, in taking up this item, noted that it was probably the most important matter to be dealt with at this meeting, and should be fully discussed. He asked the Director of Investigations to present the pertinent scientific data and interpretations.

The Director, with the assistance of the staff, had prepared and circulated in advance of the meeting, to the Commissioners and to others concerned, in both member and non-member governments, a background document reviewing the catch statistics and related information and presenting the results of their analysis. He reviewed the material in that document, illustrating it with slides, and also presented pertinent data for the first three months of 1963, which were believed further to confirm the conclusions which had been drawn in the document. It was indicated that the yellowfin tuna populations have been reduced to a level lower than that at which maximum sustainable yield could be obtained, and that some curtailment of fishing effort applied to that species would be necessary if further decline in stock and sustainable catch is to be prevented, or if the stocks are to be restored toward the level corresponding to maximum sustainable yield.

It had been estimated that the maximum sustainable yield is about 91.5 thousand tons, and would be sustained at that average level with about 32,400 units of effort. It appears that, although the fishery may, toward the end of 1962, have been coming into stability at the level of effort obtaining (about 40,000 units), the condition of the yellowfin stocks and the expected effort during 1963 are such that a prudent estimate of the sustainable yield during 1963 is 81,000 tons. It is, then, necessary that the catch during 1963 be limited to not over 81,000 tons if further decline of the stock is to be insured against, and to limit it to some lower figure if the stock of yellowfin is to be rebuilt. Restoration of some 17 thousand tons to the stock will be required, over whatever period is deemed most desirable, to bring it back to the level where it will again sustain an annual average yield of the maximum amount. The Director had suggested that the limit be set at 76,000 tons, in order to commence this restoration. He suggested further that 73,000 tons of this be allowed during the open season commencing 1 January 1963, and he expected that

this would result in closure of the fishery for yellowfin in early September. Incidental catch of yellowfin, under a 15 per cent allowance, thereafter would produce the remaining 3,000 tons. A draft resolution on this matter had been prepared for the consideration of the Commission.

The Chairman then asked for discussion. He said that it would, he believed, be best if the remainder of the day be devoted to this discussion, and that action on the matter be taken the next day, after there had been ample time for full consideration of the recommendations. This was agreed to.

Representatives from Costa Rica referred to the recent increase in fishing effort due to the conversion of many large vessels to seining, and raised the question of whether limitation of this type of gear would not be desirable. This led to a discussion of various possible methods of regulating fisheries and their possible application to this one, considering both biological and economic factors, by the Director and several of the Commissioners and others present. It emerged that limitation of the total catch, by annual quota, seemed to be the most effective and generally acceptable means of limiting the fishing effort on yellowfin tuna while interfering as little as possible with the growth of the fishery for other species, and with economically efficient methods of fishing. It was suggested, however, that while this seemed to be acceptable to representatives of the Member Governments, it would also be necessary to have the cooperation of other Governments whose vessels operate in the fishery and that, therefore, it would be desirable to ascertain their opinions. Chairman Bennett then inquired of those present from other nations what was their opinion. Colombia, Guatemala and Peru were not present. The Observer for Chile said he was in favor of any conservation measure, but that it should be agreed to by all nations concerned. He would be in agreement with some limitation of catch if the interests of all nations are taken into account. He noted that in Chile the Government is spending considerable funds to assist in the development of the tropical tuna fishery, that they expected to add some 15 vessels to the fleet fishing out of ports in northern Chile by the end of this year, and that some provision for their needs should be made.

The Representative of Japan said that his Government recognized the need for conservation of yellowfin tuna in the Eastern Pacific, and emphasized the need for cooperation of all nations to effect it. There may be room for argument as to the best means of effecting conservation. Japan will cooperate, but does not wish to stipulate at this time the amount of the quota or the means of effecting it.

The Representative of Mexico said that his Government is in process of joining the Commission, and would present its views at the Inter-Governmental Meeting. Mexico, however, would be, in general, in agreement with measures recommended by the Commission.

Dr. Burneo of Ecuador remarked that, while the desire of Chile to augment her catch of tuna could be understood, her fishermen would be in worse position if no measures are taken and the yellowfin stocks are further depleted.

It then being 5:30 p.m., the meeting was recessed until the following morning.

The meeting reconvened at 9:45 a.m. 17 April at the same place.

After further discussion of the material presented the previous day, it was asked by the Chairman what action should be taken in the light of the draft resolution prepared by the Director, and the discussion so far.

Lic. Cardona-Cooper of Costa Rica proposed that the draft be amended to provide for a catch limit during 1963 of 81,000 tons, of which 79,000 tons would be allowed

during the open season and 2,000 tons reserved for incidental catch after the closure of fishing for yellowfin. This would prevent further decline in the stocks of yellowfin.

Dr. McHugh of the United States said that he agreed, but that it should be clearly understood that a harvest of 81,000 tons during 1963 would probably result in no rebuilding of the stocks of yellowfin, and that a smaller quota would have to be set in the future to rebuild them. Lic. Cardona-Cooper agreed that this would only maintain the status quo and avoid any further reduction in the yellowfin tuna population. He then read the amended draft resolution which he proposed be adopted.

Dr. Burneo of Ecuador said that before he voted he would like the opinion of the Director of Investigations. The Director said that with a catch of 81,000 tons during 1963, the Commission would only be maintaining the status quo. While this could be a sound decision, the Commission should understand that some year in the future it would probably be necessary further to curtail the catch in order to rebuild the population to restore it to the level of maximum sustainable yield.

The Resolution (reproduced below) was then put to a vote and was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Having reviewed its previous findings and recommendations respecting the need to curtail the catch and effort for yellowfin tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, in order to restore the population of that species to a level where maximum sustainable catches may be again obtained,

Having considered the additional statistics of catch and effort, and other information, for the year 1962,

Observing that the studies of its scientific staff indicate that the yellowfin population remains substantially below the level of abundance corresponding to maximum sustainable yield, that a prudent estimate of the sustainable yield to be expected during 1963 is that it will not exceed 81,000 tons,

Recommends to the High Contracting Parties that they take joint action as follows:

- 1) Establishment of a catch-limit (quota) on the total catch of yellowfin tuna by fishermen of all nations of 81,000 tons during calendar year 1963, from the area previously defined in the Resolution adopted by the Commission on 17 May 1962.
- 2) Reservation of 2,000 tons of this yellowfin tuna quota for allowance for incidental catches when fishing for other tuna species, such as skipjack and big-eye tuna, after the closure of unrestricted fishing for yellowfin tuna.
- 3) Opening of the fishery for yellowfin tuna on 1 January 1963; during the open season vessels should be permitted to depart from port with permission to fish for any tuna species, including yellowfin, without restriction on the quantity of any species, until the return of the vessel to port.
- 4) Closure of the fishery for yellowfin tuna during 1963 at such date as the quantity of tuna already landed plus the expected catch of yellowfin tuna by vessels which are at sea with permits to fish without restriction reaches 79,000 tons.

5) After the date of closure of the fishery for yellowfin tuna, vessels should be permitted to leave port with permission to fish only for other species of tuna than yellowfin tuna; but any vessel operating under such permission should be allowed to land not more than 15 per cent by weight of yellowfin tuna among its catch on any voyage. This limitation should apply to each and every trip on which the vessels depart with permission to fish only for other species of tuna than yellowfin tuna, even though the vessel does not return to port from such a trip until after the end of the calendar year 1963.

6) Such action as may be necessary to obtain the cooperation of those Governments whose vessels operate in this fishery, but which are not parties to the Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, in effecting these conservation measures.

Program of Investigations for fiscal year 1963-1964

The Commission at its Annual Meeting in Quito, Ecuador in May 1962 had recommended to the Member Governments a research program, and budget, that would considerably expand present efforts, especially with respect to work at sea, designed to restore the research program to a level adequate to provide the information required by the Commission to carry out its duties under the Convention. Unfortunately, it appears that the funds which will be available will be considerably less than the amount recommended by the Commission (418,183 versus \$624,835). In view of this, the Director of Investigations had prepared and circulated, in advance of the meeting, the following program which was, in his opinion the best that could be done with prospectively available financing:

1. Collection, compilation, and analysis of catch statistics, logbook data, and related information
 - a. Continuing routine collection and compilation of current data on catch and fishing effort. Total catch, both landed and that at sea, will be estimated more precisely, and on a more nearly current basis, in order to provide information for forecasting the closure date of the yellowfin fishery.
 - b. Calculation of statistical indices of tuna abundance.
 - c. Continuing research to monitor effects of fishing on the stocks, and the effects of changes in the abundance and distribution of the fish stocks on operating patterns of the fishing fleets.
 - d. Continued research in theoretical population dynamics and their application to the fish stocks of concern to the Commission.
2. Investigations of life history, population structure, and vital statistics of yellowfin and skipjack tuna
 - a. Studies of population structure and migrations.
 - (1) ~~Tagging -- Continued analysis of tag-recovery data to study migrations, diffusion, growth, mortality rates, and catchability coefficients. Field work will have to be curtailed due to lack of funds for vessel charter.~~
 - (2) Continuation of genetic research by blood typing. Investigation of electrophoresis of blood haemoglobin as a genetic tool.

- (3) Continuation of analysis of size-frequency data to infer population structure, ancillary to other methods.
- b. Sampling for size-composition at San Pedro, San Diego, Puntarenas, Peru, and Puerto Rico; routine processing by digital computer.
- c. Continuation of research on vital statistics (age, growth, mortality and year-class strength) from size-composition data in conjunction with data on catch and effort. Further development of new methods of estimating skipjack growth from size-frequency data.
- d. Continued development and application of mathematical models to improve our understanding of the dynamics of the tuna populations, and as a basis of monitoring effects of fishing (and of fishing regulations) on the stocks.
- e. Studies of spawning and early life history to be limited to examination of plankton collections provided by other agencies.
- f. Composition and behavior of tuna schools.
 - (1) Collection and analysis of data on results of individual purse-seine sets.
 - (2) Collection and analysis of information on size composition of individual tuna schools (in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries).

3. Oceanography and tuna ecology

- a. Completion, in cooperation with the Institute of Marine Resources of the University of California, of a comprehensive summary of knowledge of the oceanography of the Eastern Pacific, 30°N to 40°S, east of 130°W, and of the distribution of the tuna fisheries and other fisheries in this region.
- b. Continuation of the study of physical, chemical and biological oceanography of the Gulf of Guayaquil and adjacent waters, in cooperation with the Fisheries Institute of Ecuador and the Institute of Marine Resources Research of Peru.
- c. Participation in a cooperative study of the "El Niño" phenomenon by synoptic BT sections off the coast of Central America and northern South America at selected locations (dependent on funding from other agencies).

4. Research on baitfishes

- a. Completion of analysis and preparation for publication of data previously obtained in Costa Rica and Panama.
- b. ~~Studies in Ecuador (in cooperation with the Fisheries Institute of Ecuador).~~
 - (1) Collection from research and commercial vessels of anchovetas, thread herring, and other clupeoid and engraulid fishes in the Gulf of Guayaquil, supplemented as possible by sampling at other locations along the Ecuadorian coast.

- (2) Analysis of samples and data with respect to taxonomy, life history, and ecology of clupeoid and engraulid fishes.

c. Routine compilation of statistical data on baitfish catches.

The Director of Investigations, at the invitation of the Chairman, introduced and explained the proposed program. It was then moved, seconded and unanimously approved that: The Commission approves and adopts the research program for the fiscal year 1963-1964 presented by the Director of Investigations.

Research program and budget for fiscal year 1964-1965

At the request of the Chairman, Dr. Schaefer introduced his recommendations for the research program and corresponding budget for fiscal year 1964-1965. This had been transmitted to the Commissioners in a document dated 28 January 1963. These recommendations again include a considerable expansion of research on the tunas, especially work at sea, both within and beyond the range of the present fisheries, to bring the research program to a level where it will be able to provide information on both yellowfin and skipjack tuna which will be required by the Commission in the near future. The continuing growth of the skipjack fishery, now that the yellowfin fishery has reached and surpassed the level of maximum sustainable yield, makes this research increasingly urgent. Funds required are \$617,183, an increase of \$198,000, nearly all of which is for increased vessel work at sea.

After some discussion of the program and budget, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted that: The program recommended by the Director of Investigations for the fiscal year 1 July 1964 to 30 June 1965 is recommended to the Member Governments, and there is recommended to be appropriated a budget of \$617,183 for its execution.

Proportion of contributions from Member Governments for fiscal year 1964-1965

The most recent figures on utilization of tropical tunas (for the year 1962) from the Eastern Pacific by governments which are members of the Commission, or have applied for membership, are:

United States of America	297,451,000 pounds
Ecuador	17,216,000 pounds
Costa Rica	1,538,000 pounds
Panama	none
Colombia	877,000 pounds
Mexico	2,872,000 pounds

In accordance, the funds for joint expenses of the Commission should be in the following proportions (expressed as the ratio of the contributions of each country to that of the U.S.A.):

United States of America	100.000
Ecuador	5.788
Costa Rica	0.517
Panama	Minimum contribution of \$500
Colombia	0.295
Mexico	0.966

With a budget of \$617,183, if Colombia and Mexico adhere to the Convention, the contributions of each government would be as follows:

United States of America	\$573,306
Ecuador	33,183
Costa Rica	2,964
Panama	500
Colombia	1,692
Mexico	5,538
	<u>\$617,183</u>

If Colombia and Mexico do not adhere to the Convention, the contributions would be as follows:

United States of America	\$580,107
Ecuador	33,577
Costa Rica	2,999
Panama	500
	<u>\$617,183</u>

At the request of the Chairman, Dr. Schaefer presented these data.

It was then moved, seconded and unanimously adopted that: The contributions for the joint program of the Commission during the fiscal year 1 July 1964 to 30 June 1965 shall be in the following proportions:

United States of America	100.000
Ecuador	5.788
Costa Rica	0.517
Colombia	0.295
Mexico	0.966
Panama - minimum contribution of \$500	

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Election of officers for the next year

The Chairman indicated that the positions of Chairman and Secretary of the Commission rotate among the different National Sections, and that nominations for these posts were now in order.

Lic. Cardona-Cooper of Costa Rica nominated Dr. Enrique Ponce y Carbo of Ecuador as Chairman for the next year. This was seconded and unanimously approved.

Dr. McHugh of the United States nominated Lic. J. L. Cardona-Cooper of Costa Rica as Secretary for the next year. This was seconded and unanimously approved.

Location and date of next annual meeting

It was suggested that, since this meeting had been scheduled for San Diego, California, but had been changed to Panama, R.P., it would be appropriate to schedule the next meeting for San Diego, California. However, should Colombia or Mexico complete adherence to the Convention, and should invite the Commission to meet in one of those countries, that would be preferable. In the event both did so, it would be appropriate to honor the first invitation.

It was further indicated that mid-March is the most convenient time for the meeting.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that: The next annual meeting will be held on 18 and 19 March 1964, and will be held in San Diego, California, unless either Colombia or Mexico complete adherence to the Convention and invites the Commission to meet there; in this event the Commission will hold the meeting at a

suitable location in whichever country may first complete adherence and extend such invitation.

Replacement of Dr. Schaefer as Director of Investigations

The Chairman complimented most highly the accomplishments of Dr. Schaefer during the many years he has served the Commission, and said that it is with great regret that the Commission finds it necessary to appoint a replacement for him due to his having accepted appointment as Director of the Institute of Marine Resources of the University of California; Dr. Schaefer has been continuing as Director of Investigations for the Commission on a half-time basis since his appointment to the University, but must take up his University duties on a full-time basis as soon as practicable.

Lic. J. L. Cardona-Cooper of Costa Rica, on behalf of both Costa Rica and Panama, nominated Dr. John L. Kask for the post. Dr. McHugh of the United States spoke in favor of this, noting Dr. Kask's long years of experience in fisheries research and his high scientific competence. Chairman Bennett also spoke of his knowledge of Dr. Kask's eminent research and administrative abilities. He moved that the Commission vote to tender an invitation to Dr. Kask to be appointed as Director of Investigations, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, to commence at such date as he is able to take up the duties of the position, prior to the end of the calendar year.

Lic. Cardona-Cooper seconded this, and went on to congratulate Mr. Bennett for his fine leadership of this meeting, further complimented Dr. Schaefer, and spoke in the memory of the late Lee F. Payne of the United States Section.

It was then unanimously approved, by a roll-call vote, that Dr. John L. Kask be invited to accept appointment as Director of Investigations, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, at such date, prior to the end of this calendar year, as he is able to take up the duties of the position.

Dr. Schaefer spoke of his high admiration for Dr. Kask and the pleasure with which he viewed his appointment. He indicated that in his new position as Director of the Institute of Marine Resources he would continue to be substantially engaged in research on the tuna and other fisheries of the Eastern Pacific, and looked forward to continuing cooperation between the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, of which the IMR is a component, and the Director and staff of the Commission, as well as with other scientific organizations along the west coast of the Americas.

Dr. Kask recalled his long association with Dr. Schaefer, as mentor and colleague, and his past association with the Commission, both in the stage of original negotiations of the Convention between the U.S.A. and Costa Rica, and as a Commissioner of the U.S. Section some years ago. He spoke of the worldwide reputation of the Commission's work and his hope, should he be able to accept the post of Director of Investigations, to carry forward this important scientific endeavor. He indicated that he would have to consult the Minister of the Government of Canada to whom he is at present responsible, but would hope to be able to give a reply to the Commission in the very near future.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.