

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico

24-28 July 2017

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 C-1

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

**IATTC RESOLUTION FOR THE CREATION OF A WORKING
GROUP ON ALLOCATION OF FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
TROPICAL TUNA SPECIES**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Goal: this Resolution aims to establish a framework to develop the sustainable long-term management of the tropical tuna stocks in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) based on a Total Allowable Catch system.

Despite the adoption of Resolution C-02-03, IATTC purse-seine active capacity has continued to increase to reach over 300.000 m³ of well volume which represents almost double the estimated optimal fleet size.

Confronted with this continuous increase of capacity in the EPO, the current management system, based on time and area closures, has shown its limits. It is therefore appropriate to explore alternative management measures, which can ensure better predictability for Members and long-term sustainable management of tuna stocks.

The EU is therefore proposing to establish a Working Group on the Allocation of Fishing Opportunities for Tropical Tuna Species (the Working Group), tasked with the discussion and recommendation of allocation criteria for the distribution of a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the relevant tuna species. The Working Group will have to take into consideration the outcome of the most recent stock assessments for those species and the advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

The recommendations of the Working Group will serve to guide the Commission in the development of a TAC system for the IATTC.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

In accordance with the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 1 (u), of the Antigua Convention;

Agrees:

1. A Working Group on the Allocation of Fishing Opportunities for Tropical Tuna Species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (the Working Group) is established.
2. The Working Group shall be composed of those representatives designated for this purpose by each Member of the Commission, who may be accompanied by such experts and advisers as that Member may deem advisable. The names of those representatives shall be communicated to the Director by 1 October 2017, who shall inform CPCs and the Chair of the Working Group.
3. Meetings of the Working Group shall be open to the participation of observers. The Working Group shall invite experts to attend meetings as it deems appropriate.
4. The Commission shall appoint an independent Chair to conduct meetings and coordinate the Working Group. The Chair will be responsible for, *inter alia*, drawing up the agenda of the Working Group's meetings, in consultation with the Director.
5. The Working Group shall meet once a year, preferably on the occasion of the ordinary meeting of the Commission. It may convene additional meetings at the request of at least two (2) of the Members of the

Commission, provided that a majority of the Members support the request.

6. In addition to face-to-face meetings, the Working Group shall conduct its work electronically throughout the year.
7. The functions of the Working Group shall be the following:
 - a. Provide the Commission with information, technical advice and recommendations relating to the establishment and implementation of criteria for quota allocations of a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of tropical tuna stocks in the EPO;
 - b. draw to the attention of the Commission, as appropriate, any matter regarding tropical tuna species quota allocation in the EPO;
 - c. perform such other functions as the Commission may direct.
8. In support of the work of the Working Group, the staff of the Commission shall:
 - a. collect the information necessary for the work of the Working Group;
 - b. provide such analyses as the Working Group deems necessary for carrying out its functions;
 - c. prepare the reports of the Working Group;
 - d. distribute to the members of the Working Group all pertinent information.
9. The Working Group shall report on a regular basis to the Commission and shall endeavour to present an initial report of its findings at the 2019 meeting of the Commission.