

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

103RD MEETING

Panama City, Panama

1-5 September 2025

PROPOSAL IATTC-103 J-1

SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR

RESOLUTION C-25-XX

**CONSERVATION MEASURE TO ESTABLISH A MANAGEMENT
STRATEGY FOR TROPICAL TUNA FISHERIES IN THE EASTERN
PACIFIC OCEAN**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of its 103rd meeting:

Aware of its responsibility to conduct scientific studies on tuna and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and to formulate recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) regarding those resources;

Acknowledging that excessive fishing effort could reduce the potential production of the resource;

Concerned about the increasing capacity of purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area;

Taking into account the best available scientific information, as reflected in the recommendations of the IATTC staff, as well as the precautionary approach;

Recalling the recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) on the precautionary approach and limit reference points, which the Commission considers to be of high priority; and

Aware of the ongoing work on the development of reference points and harvest control rules for tropical tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Agrees:

To implement management measures for tropical tunas in the EPO based on the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process, which has been developed by the IATTC scientific staff and will be strengthened through the actions of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation (WGMSE).

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. The Commission shall commit to developing and implementing harvest strategies for each of the tropical tuna stocks or fisheries in the EPO during the new three-year cycle (2026-2028), in accordance with the process implemented by the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation (WGMSE) and the management measures proposed to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).
2. Without prejudice to the direction in which the WGMSE proceeds, the Commission shall require that harvest strategies contain the following elements:
 - a) Define explicit management objectives, with specific deadlines, for the fishery or tropical tuna,
 - b) Identify target and limit reference points for each tropical tuna species,

- c) Establish acceptable risk levels to avoid exceeding the limit reference points,
- d) Implement a cost-effective monitoring strategy that uses the best available information to assess performance relative to the reference points,
- e) Adopt harvest control rules that achieve target reference points and avoid limit reference points, and
- f) Implement Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), which periodically reviews the performance of the proposed harvest control rules relative to management objectives and includes risk assessment.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF A HARVEST STRATEGY

- 3. While developing harvest strategies, the Commission may adjust the elements outlined in paragraph 1 on a case-by-case basis, with the objective of meeting the specific requirements of the fishery or tropical tuna stock. This may include establishing interim or provisional elements of a harvest strategy. The absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason to postpone or not adopt harvest strategies.
- 4. Harvest strategies shall not result in the direct or indirect transfer of a disproportionate burden of management measures to CPCs.
- 5. The Commission shall agree on a work plan and indicative time frames for adopting harvest strategies for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas consistent with the recommendations made by the WGMSE to the SAC. The Commission and the SAC shall review this work plan annually, beginning this year, 2025, with actions for bigeye tuna.