

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

94TH MEETING

Bilbao, Spain, 22-26 July 2019

PROPOSAL IATTC-94 E-2

SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-11-08 ON SCIENTIFIC
OBSERVERS FOR LONGLINE VESSELS**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Bilbao, Spain, on the occasion of its 94th Meeting:

Recognising the need to collect **better** scientific information on target species as well as comprehensive data on interactions with non-target species, in particular, sea turtles, sharks and seabirds;

Noting the need to ensure uniform and equitable treatment of all tuna-fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area;

Noting that large purse-seine vessels operating in the Antigua Convention Area are required to carry **100%** scientific observers aboard, in accordance with the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program;

Taking into account that **the IATTC scientific staff has determined that a 5% observer coverage on longline vessels is too low to calculate accurate catch estimates for of low-abundance or at-risk species such as some sharks and has established that a 20% observer coverage is the minimum necessary for these estimates;**

Recognizing that the Working Group on Bycatch at its 7th meeting recommended increasing the percentage of observer coverage on board longline vessels to 20%, a recommendation that was endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee at its 8th meeting;

Agrees that:

1. Each Member and cooperating non-Member (CPCs) shall ensure that, from 1 January 2019, at least **20%** of the fishing effort made by its longline fishing vessels greater than 20 metres length overall carry a scientific observer. [-----]
2. **The fishing effort will be determined by the number of fishing days.**
3. Each CPC shall endeavor to ensure that observer coverage will be representative of the activities of its fleet.
4. The main task of the scientific observers shall be to record any available biological information, the catches of targeted fish species, species composition and any available biological information as well as any interactions with non-target species such as sea turtles, seabirds and sharks.
5. The Director, in cooperation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, **will review the reporting format detailing the required data to be collected by scientific observers on longline vessels and shall communicate it to the Commission.**
6. Scientific observers shall submit to their flag CPC authorities a report on these observations at the latest 30 days after the end of each fishing trip.
7. Every year, CPCs shall submit to the Scientific Advisory Committee, through the Director, by 31 March, the scientific observers' information on the previous year's fishery in a format established by **that** Committee.