

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

94TH MEETING

Bilbao, Spain
22-26 July 2019

PROPOSAL IATTC-94 A-7

**CONSOLIDATED TEXT OF THE COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, EUROPEAN UNION,
MEXICO, AND VENEZUELA PROPOSALS**

RESOLUTION C-19-XX

**AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION C-16-01 ON THE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF
DATA ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Taking into account the best available scientific information on the status of the bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack stocks;

Committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Understanding that all fishing gears, including fish-aggregating devices (FADs), have an effect on the stocks and the pelagic ecosystem in the EPO, and that such effects should be fully understood by the Members of the Commission;

Attentive to the provisions of IATTC Resolutions C-99-07, C-17-02 and C-18-05 on measures related to the regulation of FADs;

Agreeing that, to accurately provide the scientific advice necessary to effectively manage tuna fisheries in the EPO, it is necessary for the scientific staff of the IATTC to have access to, and analyze, the relevant data regarding such fisheries and gears, and for Commission Members to put in place measures as needed to collect such information in their fisheries;

Acknowledging that observers currently collect data on FADs in the EPO that have been examined by the IATTC staff (Document SAC-02-13) and that the Commission has adopted measures for further research on FADs; the significant effect that FADs may have on bigeye tuna spawning biomass, according to IATTC estimates (Document SAC-03-06); that skipjack tuna is captured on FADs and in unassociated schools in the EPO (Document SAC-03-03), and according to IATTC estimates, its exploitation rate has been increasing in recent years (Document SAC-03-07);

Recognizing that these measures need to be expanded and improved upon to ensure that the effects of the use of FADs on highly migratory fish stocks along with non-target, associated and dependent species, are fully understood and that the Commission can receive the best available scientific advice concerning mitigation of any negative effects;

Committed to ensuring that such scientific advice is taken into account in the development of the Commission's conservation and management measures concerning fishing for tunas;

Noting that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) has recommended that the Commission should strengthen the work on FADs by holding a meeting involving managers, scientists, and other stakeholders;

Noting that, based on recent scientific analysis, the development of improved FAD designs, in particular non-entangling FADs, both drifting and anchored, helps reduce the incidence of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles and other species;

Further noting that whale sharks are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, including from fishing, and noting the ecological and economic value these species can bring to the EPO; and

Concerned about the potential effects of purse-seine operations on the status of whale sharks when deliberately or accidentally set upon;

Agrees:

The rules of procedure of the Working Group are the following:

1. Formal recommendations of the Working Group shall be developed only during face-to-face meetings of the Working Group.
2. Notwithstanding the multi-sectoral nature of the Working Group, the formal recommendations of the Working Group shall be adopted by consensus of the Members of the Commission present at the Working Group meeting.
3. The Working Group will meet at least once per year, preferably on the occasion of the Commission meeting.
4. The Working Group may convene additional meetings at the request of at least two (2) Members of the Commission, provided that a majority of the Members support the request.
5. The Working Group shall elect individuals to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair at the end of its first meeting each year. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall remain in office through the end of the first meeting the following year.
6. If the Chair is unable to serve as Chair at any time, the Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair until such time as the Chair is able to resume carrying out his or her functions or a new Chair is elected. If both the Vice-Chair and Chair are unable to serve as Chair during the intersessional period, a new Chair shall be elected by Members of the Commission, following the process for intersessional decision-making specified in the IATTC Rules of Procedure, and shall serve until the end of the next meeting of the Working Group.
7. The Chair, in consultation with the participants of the Working Group, shall draw up an agenda for meetings and shall circulate it to the Members. The agenda should normally be circulated at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date fixed for the meeting.
8. In support of the work of the Working Group, the IATTC staff shall:
 - a. compile and present information identified by the Working Group as necessary to carry out its functions;
 - b. provide the statistical analyses the Working Group deems necessary to carry out its functions;
 - c. prepare the reports of the Working Group, and transmit the reports to the SAC and to the Commission, as appropriate; and
 - d. distribute to the members of the Working Group any relevant information for the achievement of its objectives.