

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

84TH MEETING (EXTRAORDINARY)

La Jolla, California (USA)

24 Oct 2012

RECOMMENDATION C-12-11

IATTC – WCPFC OVERLAP AREA

The Members of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) present at the 84th Meeting (Extraordinary):

Having considered and analyzed Document [IATTC-83 INF-B](#) prepared by the Directors of IATTC and WCPFC on the overlap area between the two organizations:

1. Recognize that a fundamental and essential objective of the work of the two Commissions is to develop and strengthen their cooperation in order to promote the achievement of the objectives of their respective conventions, within the limits of their respective competencies;
2. Note that such cooperation is an obligation for the organizations and their members under international law and under the specific provisions of their respective Conventions;
3. Note that the existence of the overlap area, although unfortunate, is a fact whose consequences must be addressed to avoid any negative impact on the achievement of the objectives of their respective conventions;
4. Notwithstanding the merits of all five options presented by the Directors, the IATTC Members consider that, for the time being, the most appropriate course of action would be a two-step approach:
 - a. In the short term, agree on the most practical arrangement, applicable only in the overlap area, which would be to adopt a solution along the lines defined by the Directors of the IATTC and WCPFC as Option 4, *i.e.*:
 - i. Vessels listed exclusively in the WCPFC register shall apply the conservation and management measures of the WCPFC when fishing in the overlap area.
 - ii. Vessels listed exclusively in the IATTC register shall apply the conservation and management measures of the IATTC when fishing in the overlap area.
 - iii. In the case of vessels listed in the registers of both organizations, the corresponding flag Member shall decide and notify to both Commissions under which of the two commissions those vessels shall operate when fishing in the overlap area, as regards the application, for a period of not less than three years, of the conservation and management measures of that Commission.
 - iv. In the case of vessels listed in the registers of both organizations, the vessels of a Cooperating Non-Member shall apply the conservation and management measures of the Commission of which it is a member, when fishing in the overlap area.
 - b. Initiate in parallel a longer-term process through the establishment of a joint working group to explore avenues for managing tuna stocks in the entire Pacific Ocean, considering, *inter alia*, the joint management components outlined in Option 5 defined by the Directors of the IATTC and the WCPFC in Document [IATTC-83 INF-B](#).

5. Recognize the need for each Commission to facilitate granting to the members of the other Commission the status of Member or Cooperating Non-Member.