

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

104th MEETING

Lisbon, Portugal

31 August - 4 September 2026

PROPOSAL IATTC-104 A-1

SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA

PROPOSAL TO AMEND RESOLUTION C-25-01

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Resolution C-25-01 on conservation measures for tropical tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean established a series of measures for the conservation of tropical tunas during 2026, 2027, and 2028. Several specific measures were included for fishing on fish aggregating devices (FADs). These measures established a daily limit on the number of deployed FADs (active buoys) per ship, which was intended to control the continuous growth in deployment and sets on FADs. Although the measure came into effect in mid-2017, FAD deployment in the EPO has continued to increase significantly, going from approximately 5,000 in 2005 to more than 30,000 in 2025.

This is seen in the results of the most recent indicators of the fishery on floating objects presented in Document FAD-10-01, which show that 2025 was the year with the highest historical levels of deployed FADs (Graph 1).

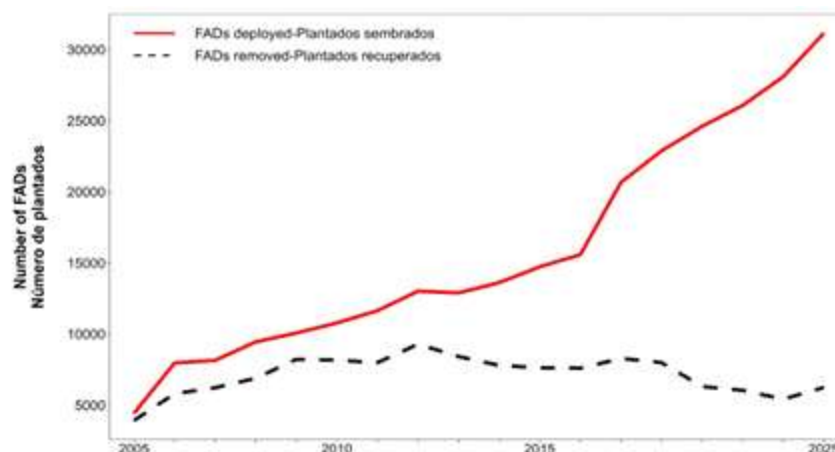


FIGURE 16. FAD deployments and retrievals by Class-6 vessels, 2005-2025. Adapted from document [IATTC-93-INF-A](#)

FIGURA 16. Siembras y recuperaciones de plantados por buques de clase 6, 2005-2025. Adaptado del documento [IATTC-93-INF-A](#)

Recognizing that despite the progress made in implementing Resolution C-23-04, it is still necessary to strengthen the design of FADs to reduce their impacts on marine ecosystems and to advance in the evaluation of alternative materials, including bioplastics, whose adoption should be governed by the precautionary principle; likewise, that the biodegradability criteria are not applicable to electronic buoys associated with these devices.

Graph 1. Evolution of deploying and retrieving FADs in the EPO (Graph taken from DOCUMENT FAD-10-01)

Similarly, sets on floating objects remain at historically high levels and continue to increase, going from 14,591 in 2016, to a historical maximum of 16,407 in 2025 (Graph 2, SAC-17-01 table A-7).

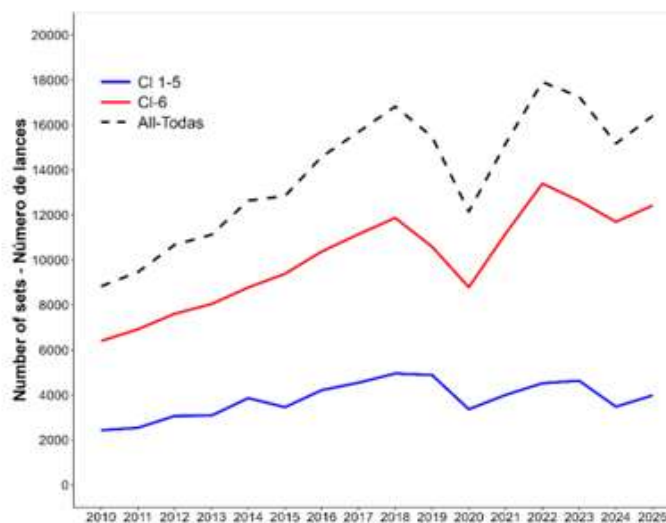


FIGURE 8. Evolution of the number of floating-object sets by Class 1-5 and Class 6 vessels, 2010-2025. Source: Document SAC-17-01, Table A-7.

FIGURA 8. Evolución del número de lances sobre objetos flotantes por buques de clases 1-5 y clase 6, 2010-2025. Fuente: Documento SAC-17-01, Tabla A-7.

Graph 2. Evolution of the number of sets on floating objects per class 1-5 and class 6 vessels, 2010-2025 (Graph taken from DOCUMENT FAD-10-01)

These results show that the measures currently in place, although they have contributed to improving the monitoring and transparency of the fishery, have not managed to stop the sustained increase in effective fishing effort associated with this method. At the same time, fishery indicators show higher catches of skipjack and yellowfin tuna, as well as a decrease in catch per set and in average size of bigeye tuna, which are factors that support the need to maintain and strengthen management measures aimed at preventing further increases in fishing mortality of tropical tunas.

In this context, and considering the most recent scientific information available, the IATTC scientific staff noted in document SAC-17-10 that, within the framework of Resolution C-25-01, the Commission could consider three alternatives for tropical tuna conservation measures from 2027 onwards: i) maintain

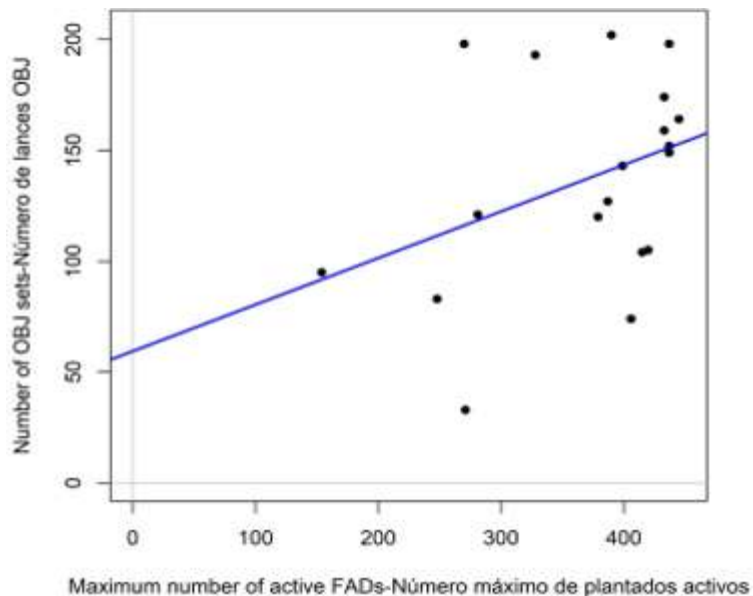
the conservation measures in force during 2027–2028; ii) reduce these measures by applying the Harvest Control Rule (HCR) adopted in Resolution C-23-06; or iii) develop and implement a Management Procedure that allows for gradual and precautionary reductions of conservation measures, based on previously defined scientific criteria.

Scientific literature supports the adoption of precautionary limits on the use of FADs to reduce the catch of juveniles and mitigate ecosystem impacts, although there is currently no reduction percentage that is uniformly accepted internationally.

Although there are analyses that evaluate quantified reductions in the number of FADs, reductions needed to generate significant biological effects on tuna populations are usually greater than reductions actually made to decrease environmental impacts such as stranding or marine litter.

Within the framework of alternative management scenarios proposed for the EPO, it is found that the limits applied to the number of FADs constitute one of the most direct and effective instruments to control the effective fishing effort in this fishing modality. In this regard, recent assessments developed using the POSEIDON bioeconomic model (Document FAD-08 INF-A) for the EPO tuna fishery suggest that moderate reductions in the number of active FADs can generate significant environmental benefits, including a decrease in stranding events and in the accumulation of marine debris, without producing significant reductions in total catches of the fishery. Specifically, simulations performed with the model indicated that *“Reducing the percentage of active FADs per vessel to 80% of the 2023 active FAD limits established in Resolution C-21-04 could significantly reduce the ecological impacts associated with FADs, such as decreasing strandings, while maintaining total catch levels consistent with those observed under the current FAD limit.”*

Considering that there is a direct relationship between the number of active FADs and the number of sets on floating objects (Graph 3) (IATTC 94-INF-A Responses to Data Requests and Analysis) and between the number of FADs and sets (Graph 4), by limiting active FADs per vessel, the number of FADs will be indirectly limited to a certain extent, provided that remote deactivations or activations do not occur or are not frequent (SAC 11-INF-M). Likewise, by limiting FAD deployment, sets on floating objects will also be indirectly limited.



Graph 3. Relationship between the number of active FADs and the number of sets (CIAT 2019).

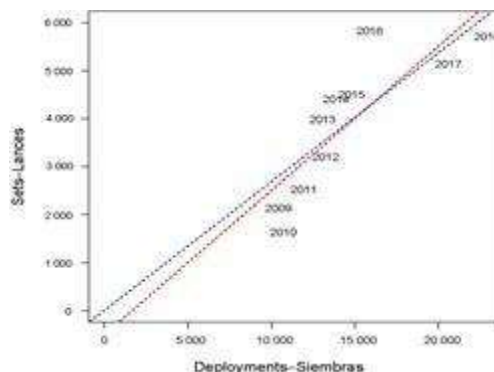


Figure 4. Evolution of deployment and sets on floating objects (Source FAD-04-PRES Active FAD Limits).

Furthermore, the Scientific Advisory Committee has pointed out the need to assess the impacts of the sustained increase in FAD deployment at the ecosystem level, highlighting that the proliferation of these devices constitutes a management challenge that goes beyond the materials used for building them. Likewise, concerns persist about the impacts that lost, abandoned, or discarded FADs may have on marine ecosystems, highlighting the need to strengthen measures for the identification, recovery, and management of these devices throughout their entire life cycle.

In this context, although the IATTC and its Members have made significant progress in the transition to non-entangled and biodegradable FADs, it is necessary to recognize the limitations that this strategy still presents. The development and adoption of FADs made with biodegradable materials is a positive step to reduce some of the environmental impacts associated with the loss or abandonment of these devices; however, biodegradability does not imply their immediate disappearance or the automatic elimination of their effects on marine ecosystems.

Several studies have shown that biodegradable materials can maintain their structural functionality for extended periods before fully degrading, so FADs continue to be operational and exert the same ecological effects associated with the aggregation of target and non-target species for much of their lifespan. Additionally, significant technical challenges remain in the development of fully biodegradable devices that guarantee adequate levels of buoyancy, strength, durability, and operational safety under ocean conditions.

Consequently, biodegradability should be considered a complementary measure within a comprehensive approach to managing FADs, but not a sufficient solution to address all the impacts associated with their use. Aspects such as the alteration of species behavior patterns, bycatch, associated fauna mortality, contribution to fishing effort, and ecosystem effects derived from the artificial aggregation of organisms persist, regardless of the material with which the device is built.

In this regard, the FAO report *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2026 – Blue Transformation: turning vision into impact*, on page 168, states that: “*The widespread use of drifting fish aggregating devices (dFADs) has considerably improved the efficiency and productivity of purse seine fisheries worldwide. However, it has also raised concerns about its impact on tuna stocks, particularly due to the high catches of juvenile tuna, as well as its broader environmental effects. Lost or abandoned fishing gear contributes to marine debris, can damage coral reefs when they become stranded, and can cause 'ghost fishing' mortality of sharks and turtles due to entanglement.*”

The proposed complementary measures consist of:

i) Reduction of the maximum number of active stocks per vessel to 300 for larger Class 6 purse seiners, 200 for Class 6 vessels with a capacity of less than 1,200 m³, 80 for Class 4 and 5 vessels, and 50 for Class 1 to 3 vessels.

(ii) To ensure that, from January 1, 2027, each Class 6 purse seine vessel does not acquire more than 450 satellite buoys per calendar year; that Class 4 and 5 vessels do not acquire more than 200 satellite buoys per year; and that Class 1 to 3 vessels do not acquire more than 100 satellite buoys per year.

iii) To ensure that, from January 1, 2027, each Class 6 purse seine vessel recovers annually a minimum percentage of FADs deployed, progressively: 20% in 2027, 30% in 2028, and 40% from 2029 onwards. The Commission will periodically review the implementation and effectiveness of this measure based on the best available scientific and technical information, in order to assess the progress achieved and, if necessary, adjust the percentages or the implementation schedule.

Regarding the proposal to limit the annual acquisition of satellite buoys, it is considered that this measure complements the limits on active FADs through an objective, transparent, and easily verifiable mechanism, which can contribute to stabilizing the total number of devices deployed in the EPO. The measure does not restrict the operational capacity of the fleets or access to fishing activity but rather promotes a more efficient use of available buoys, encourages better planning of fishing operations and discourages the continuous increase in the number of FADs deployed each year.

This measure is consistent with discussions held within the framework of regional tuna fisheries management organizations, in which the need to complement active FAD limits with additional

instruments to more effectively control the proliferation of devices in the ocean and their associated effects on fishing effort and the marine environment has been recognized.

Additionally, the progressive recovery of FADs is proposed, a measure that currently constitutes one of the most effective tools to reduce the environmental impacts associated with the use of these devices. As has been pointed out in various technical and scientific forums, thousands of FADs are deployed annually in tropical oceans and a significant proportion of them end up stranded on reefs, coastal areas or sensitive ecosystems, or remain adrift contributing to the accumulation of marine debris.

The obligation to recover a minimum percentage of the deployed FADs seeks to strengthen the principle of responsibility over the life cycle of these devices, promote more efficient operational practices, and progressively reduce the environmental impacts derived from their loss, abandonment, or stranding. The gradual implementation of this measure will also allow the fleet to progressively adapt its operations and evaluate effective recovery mechanisms.

From a fisheries management perspective, the recovery of FADs also creates incentives for more efficient use of these devices, reduces the need to continually increase FADs, and indirectly contributes to stabilizing the fishing effort associated with fishing on floating objects.

Therefore, the measures proposed in this resolution do not intend to arbitrarily impose new restrictions, but rather to prevent the continued increase in effective fishing effort resulting from the progressive increase in the number of deployed FADs. In this sense, these are precautionary, gradual measures consistent with the scientific recommendations of the IATTC, aimed both at containing the future growth of fishing effort and at strengthening the sustainability of the fishery and reducing the environmental impacts associated with the massive use of these devices, including those related to lost, abandoned, or stranded FADs

Consequently, the proposal does not seek to affect the activity of the tuna fleet, but to stabilize the growth of the effort associated with FADs and to prevent this from generating uncontrolled increases in fishing pressure on tuna resources.

The measures proposed in this resolution are not intended to arbitrarily impose new restrictions, but to prevent the continued increase in effective fishing effort resulting from the progressive increase in the number of deployed FADs. In this sense, these are precautionary, gradual measures consistent with the scientific recommendations of the IATTC, aimed at containing the future growth of fishing effort, strengthening the sustainability of the fishery, and reducing the environmental impacts associated with the massive use of these devices, including those related to lost, abandoned, or stranded FADs.

Consequently, the proposal does not seek to affect the activity of the tuna fleet, but to stabilize the growth of the effort associated with FADs and to prevent this from generating uncontrolled increases in fishing pressure on tuna resources.

Regarding conservation measures applicable to tuna fisheries other than those associated with the use of FADs, Colombia proposes reducing the total closure period to 54 days, compared to the equivalent of 72

days contemplated in the current regime (64 days of closure plus 8 days corresponding to the “corralito”). This proposal is based on the results of stock assessments and analyses presented to the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee, which show an improvement in the status of the assessed tropical tuna stocks, particularly bigeye tuna. However, Colombia considers it necessary to maintain a precautionary approach and rigor in the scientific monitoring of these stocks, given that uncertainties still persist regarding the long-term stability of this favorable condition. In this sense, there is no full certainty that the observed recovery corresponds to a new state of permanent stock equilibrium, and it may be influenced, at least partially, by ecological, oceanographic, or environmental conditions that temporarily affect the productivity and availability of resources. Therefore, any adjustment to management measures must be accompanied by robust monitoring of biological and fisheries indicators to verify the sustainability of this trend over time. For these same reasons, the position regarding capacity discussions should remain conservative.

Hence, Colombia believes that discussions related to a possible increase in fishing capacity should be approached with caution and under a precautionary approach, avoiding decisions that could increase pressure on stocks until it is confirmed that the positive trends observed are sustainable in the long term.

While the fishing closure has been a useful tool to limit fishing mortality of tropical tunas, recent analyses show that the main structural change that has occurred in the fishery during the last decade has been the continuous increase in FAD deployments, the number of active FADs, and the setting of traps on floating objects; therefore, the proposal is complemented by measures aimed at regulating FADs, already described above. Consequently, a more efficient management strategy involves complementing a moderate reduction in closure time with measures specifically targeting the component of the fishery that has been increasing effective effort. Under this approach, restrictions on FADs and satellite buoys and the recovery of deployed FADs allow for more direct control of fishing capacity than maintaining a closure under the current proposed conditions.

In summary, the proposed moderate reduction in closure days should not be interpreted as a decrease in the level of conservation, but as a reallocation of management measures towards more specific instruments that act directly on the factors that drive the increase in effective fishing effort associated with fishing on fish aggregating devices.

Furthermore, SAC-17 identified that current measures and the application of the Harvest Control Rule could allow the Commission to consider gradual adjustments to conservation measures, while maintaining a precautionary management framework. In this sense, the proposal is consistent with the recommendation of the scientific staff to consider gradual adjustments in conservation measures within a framework of adaptive and precautionary management, and as already mentioned, the partial reduction of the closure is compensated by new measures aimed at containing the increase in effort associated with FADs, avoiding additional increases in fishing mortality, so that the potential effects derived from a moderate reduction of the closure are compensated by the proposed measures on FADs, so that the proposal maintains a level of conservation equivalent to or higher than the current regime, through more focused and measurable instruments.

Conclusions:

- This proposal does not intend to substantially modify the conditions of the tuna fishery in the EPO; its main objective is to prevent the continued increase of a specific component of fishing effort (FADs) that has shown sustained growth during the last decade, under a precautionary

- approach, and compatible with the long-term sustainability of the fishery.
- The proposed measures are consistent with the precautionary approach established in the Antigua Convention, respond to scientific recommendations that warn about the continued growth of activity associated with FADs, contribute to reducing environmental impacts widely recognized by the international community, and strengthen the credibility of the IATTC as an organization committed to modern, responsible, and evidence-based management.
- Adopting these measures will allow the Commission to act preventively before it becomes necessary to resort to more restrictive measures in the future, while simultaneously ensuring the sustainability of tuna stocks.

References:

DOCUMENT FAD-10-01 FLOATING OBJECT FISHERY INDICATORS A 2025 REPORT. Jon Lopez, Marlon Román, Cleridy E. Lennert-Cody, Mark N. Maunder, Nick Vogel, Leanne M. Fuller, Sylvain Caillot.

DOCUMENT FAD-08 INF-A. EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT SCENARIOS FOR THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN TROPICAL TUNA SPECIES USING POSEIDON. Katyana A. Vert-Pre, Nicolas Payette, Alexandra Norelli, Brian Powers, Michael Drexler, Steven Saul, Aarthi Ananthanarayanan, Richard Bailey, Jens Koed Madsen, Ernesto Carrella, and collaborators: Alexandre Aires-da-Silva, Ernesto Altamirano, Dan Fuller, Cleridy E. Lennert-Cody, Jon Lopez, JoyDeLee Marrow, Mark Maunder, Carolina Minte-Vera, Gala Moreno, Dan Ovando, Marlon Roman, Dale Squires, Kurt Schaefer, Nick Vogel, Haikun Xu. June 2024.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Lisbon, Portugal, on the occasion of its 104th Meeting:

Aware of its responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and for formulating recommendations to its Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) with regard to these resources;

Recognizing that the potential production from the resource can be reduced if fishing effort is excessive;

~~*Concerned that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase;*~~

Concerned about the long-term trend observed in the deployment of fish aggregating devices (FADs) in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, identified by the Commission's scientific staff, which shows a sustained increase from approximately five thousand (5,000) FADs deployed in 2005 to more than thirty thousand (30,000) FADs deployed in 2025, in contrast to the recovery levels of these devices which have remained considerably lower, generating a progressive accumulation of lost, abandoned, or unrecovered FADs and an increase in their presence in the marine ecosystem;

Recognizing that the Scientific Advisory Committee has identified the need to assess the potential negative impacts of the sustained increase in FAD deployment at the ecosystem level, and that the proliferation of these devices constitutes a management concern that transcends the effects associated exclusively with the materials used to build them;

Concerned about the impacts that lost, abandoned, or discarded FADs can have on marine

ecosystems, including sensitive coastal habitats, as well as the need to strengthen measures aimed at promoting their identification, recovery, and proper management throughout their life cycle;

Recognizing the important progress made by the Commission and the CPCs to promote the transition to non-entangled and biodegradable FADs under Resolution C-23-04, as well as the ongoing efforts to strengthen technical definitions, certification processes, operational performance assessment, durability, and scientific validation of new materials and designs;

Recognizing that, while the use of biodegradable materials contributes to reducing certain environmental impacts associated with the persistence of waste in the marine environment, this transition does not eliminate the effects derived from the proliferation of FADs.

Recognizing that, despite the progress made in implementing Resolution C-23-04, it is still necessary to strengthen the design of FADs to reduce their impacts on marine ecosystems and to advance in the evaluation of alternative materials, including bioplastics, whose adoption should be governed by the precautionary principle; in addition, biodegradability criteria are not applicable to the electronic buoys associated with these devices.

Reaffirming its commitment to the application of the precautionary principle, which states that “[t]he lack of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or not adopting conservation and management measures”

Considering the available scientific information, reflected in the recommendations of the IATTC staff, which shows a sustained growth in the number of deployed FADs, with the consequent increase in effective fishing effort and the challenges for its management, monitoring and recovery.

~~Recalling the need to take into account the special circumstances and requirements of the developing countries of the region, particularly the coastal countries, as recognized in the Antigua Convention, in particular in its Preamble and its Article XXIII, paragraph 1;~~ *Recalling the need to take into account the special circumstances and needs of the developing countries of the region, particularly the coastal countries, as recognized in the Antigua Convention, particularly in its Preamble and Article XXIII, paragraph 1; “adopt measures that are based on the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention and to maintain or restore the populations of harvested species at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield...”;*

Recognizing the importance of the Integrated Port Sampling Program, as a data collection tool to provide the best scientific estimates available for bigeye tuna catch

~~Agrees:~~

~~To apply in the Convention Area the conservation and management measures for tropical tuna set out below, and to request that the staff of the IATTC monitor the fishing activities of the respective CPCs’ flag vessels relative to this commitment, and also report on such activities at each annual meeting of the Commission;~~

~~These measures are applicable from 00:00 hours on 1 January 2026 and will expire on 24:00 hours on 31 December 2026, except for the second closure period referred to in paragraph 3, which extends until 24:00 hours on 11 January 2027, unless the scientific advice provided by the staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in 2026 through the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process confirms the effectiveness of the measures in place. In this case, the Resolution would remain in force until 24:00 hours on 31 December 2028, except for the second closure period referred to in paragraph 3, which would extend until 24:00 hours on 11 January 2029, and also except for the additional days of closure that would be added pursuant to paragraph 4 to that second closure period. These measures are applicable to all CPCs’ purse seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 4 to 6 (182-metric tons carrying capacity or more), and to all their longline vessels over 24 meters length overall,~~

~~that fish for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area; except for the provisions of paragraph 41, which are applicable to all active purse seine vessels on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register (RVR).~~

- ~~1. Pole and line, troll, and sportfishing vessels, and purse seine vessels of IATTC capacity 1-3 (181 metric tons carrying capacity or less) and longline vessels less than 24 meters length overall, are not subject to these measures, except those related to the management of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs).~~

Agrees:

To apply in the Convention Area the conservation and management measures for tropical tunas set out below, and request that IATTC staff monitor the fishing activities of CPC-flagged vessels in accordance with this commitment and also report on these activities at each annual meeting of the Commission.

1. These conservation measures are applicable from 00:00 on 1 January 2027 until 24:00 on December 31, 2028, except for the second closure period referred to in paragraph 3, which would extend until 24:00 on January 11, 2029, and also except for the additional closure days, which would be added in accordance with paragraph 4 at the end of this second period. These measures apply to purse seine vessels of all IATTC classes 4 through 6 CPCs (carrying capacity of 182 metric tons or more), and to all their longline vessels over 24 meters in length, fishing for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna in the Convention Area, except for the provisions of paragraph 41, which apply to all active purse seine vessels registered in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register (RVR). These provisions shall apply unless scientific advice provided by staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in 2027 confirms that additional measures are required.
2. Pole-and-line, troll and sport fishing vessels, and purse seine vessels in IATTC capacity classes 1 to 3 (carrying capacity of 181 metric tons or less), and longline vessels less than 24 meters in length, are not subject to these measures, except for those related to the management of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs).

MEASURES FOR PURSE-SEINE FLEETS

3. All purse-seine vessels covered by these measures must stop fishing in the Convention Area for a period of 64 days in each year covered by this Resolution.
 - a. For purse-seine vessel classes 5 and 6, these closures shall be observed in one of two periods, as follows: from 00:00 on August 16th until 24:00 on October 8th, or from 00:00 on November 19th until 24:00 hours on January 11th of the following year.
 - b. Class 4 purse-seine vessels shall observe a closure of 64 consecutive days, at any time of the year, at the discretion of the vessel owner, who shall notify the flag CPC in writing, and the latter to the Director of the IATTC, of the start date of the closure at least 30 days in advance. These provisions for class 4 vessels shall apply on an exceptional basis during the period of validity of this Resolution, and the IATTC scientific staff shall evaluate their effects for review by the CCA and the corresponding recommendation to the Commission.
4. For years 2026 and 2027–2028, should the resolution remain in force in accordance with paragraph 1, CPCs shall ensure that vessels that exceeded during the previous year the annual catch limit of 1,200 metric tons of bigeye tuna shall increase during the following year by 10 additional days the closure period established in paragraph 3 of this resolution.

If during this same period a vessel exceeds the annual catch limit of 1,500 metric tons of bigeye tuna, they shall increase the closure by 13 days; if it exceeds the annual catch limit of 1,800 tons of bigeye tuna, it shall increase its closure by 16 days; if it exceeds the annual catch limit of 2,100 metric tons, it shall increase its closure by 19 days; and if it exceeds the annual catch limit of 2,400 metric tons, it shall increase its closure by 22 days, in addition to the closure stipulated in paragraph 3 of this resolution.

For class 5 and 6 purse-seine vessels, the additional days of closure pursuant to this paragraph shall be added, as appropriate, to the beginning of the closure for vessels observing the first period and to the end of the closure for vessels observing the second period, so that the closure of the first period shall always end on 8 October and the second period shall always begin on 9 November of each year. For class 4 purse-seine vessels, the additional days of closure must be added consecutively to their chosen days of closure.

The IATTC Secretariat shall send to the CPCs by 1 March 2026 the names of the vessels that must observe additional closure days in accordance with this paragraph.

5. Each CPC shall strengthen the sampling and control system for tuna catches through, among others, the utilization of on-board observer data, logbooks, port sampling and information from tuna processing facilities, to facilitate to the operators and captains the monitoring of their catches and a better compliance with the objectives of this Resolution.
6. CPCs shall be responsible for the compilation and submission of the final data on the annual catches of bigeye tuna made by individual vessels flying their flag during the current year and such data shall be reported to the Secretariat no later than 15 February of the following year.
7. Recognizing the scientific value of the Integrated Port Sampling Program (IPSP) as described in SAC-16-05, the program shall be implemented and remain active with the necessary budgetary support from the Commission for the duration of this Resolution.
8. For 2026 and following years, if applicable, as soon as possible, after the conclusion of each trip, the IATTC staff will transmit to the flag CPC their best estimate of a vessel's catch for that trip, together with an accounting of the data and the methodology used to arrive at the estimate. The flag CPC will then determine the amount of bigeye catch that will be attributed to a vessel for a given trip per paragraph 11.
9. The sampling in port and processing plants may prioritize vessels that have reached an average catch between the years 2017 to 2019 greater than five hundred (500) tons of bigeye tuna per year, according to the data received by the Secretariat.
10. CPCs shall ensure that the processing plants data for vessels flying their flags for any fish caught in the IATTC Convention Area be provided to its fisheries authorities in real time (i.e., within 10 days from the first day of unloading until the last day of grading by size), with copy to the IATTC staff.
11. The CPCs will be responsible for estimating the catch of bigeye tuna of each vessel flying its flag at the end of each trip, to the extent that one or more data sources are available to the CPC in the days immediately after the conclusion of the trip and discharge (e.g., observer estimates, ship's log data, well sampling, cannery data). The duty to estimate the catch of the vessel will be the responsibility of the flag CPC.
12. In the event that the *status quo* conditions, as represented by the average annual catches of bigeye tuna during the three-year period 2017-2019 (66,906 t – Best Scientific Estimate [BSE]), are not offset by this measure, or taking into consideration the results of any new stock assessments for bigeye, the IATTC scientific staff shall propose to the Commission an update of its recommendations for these conservation measures, including, among others, an increase of the numbers of closure days.

13. If the implementation of this measure has positive effects that demonstrate an improvement of the status of the bigeye tuna stock, the scientific staff shall analyze the conservation measures in force in order to submit to the Commission for consideration new measures that consider, among others, reducing the number of closure days or eliminating the “*corralito*.”
14. The fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna by purse-seine vessels within the area of 96° and 110°W and between 4°N and 3°S, known as the “*corralito*”, which is illustrated in Figure 1, shall be closed from 00:00 hours on October 9¹⁹ to 24:00 hours on November 8¹⁸.

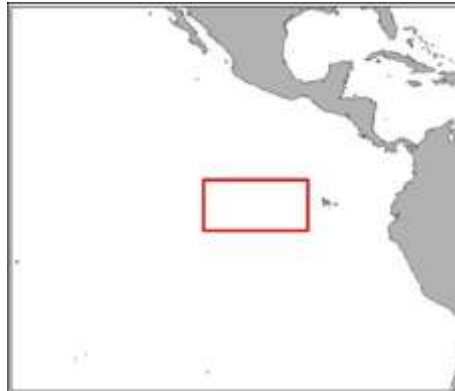


Figure 1. Closure area

15. a. For each one of the closure periods stipulated for class 5 and 6 purse-seine vessel in paragraph 3 of this Resolution, each CPC shall notify the Director, by 15 July of each year, the names of all the purse-seine vessels that will observe that closure period, also identifying those that must observe additional closure days pursuant to paragraph 4 of this resolution.
- b. Every vessel that fishes, regardless of the flag under which it operates or whether it changes flag or the jurisdiction of the CPC under which it fishes during the year, must observe the closure period to which it was committed.
15. a. If a *force majeure*¹ event renders a class 5 or 6 vessel² unable to proceed to sea outside one of the two closure periods during a period of at least 75 continuous days, a CPC may request an exemption for a reduced closure period as provided in paragraph 3 and subparagraph 16b. If an exemption is granted, the vessel will be required to observe a reduced closure period as outlined below in subparagraph 16e. A request for exemption due to *force majeure* shall be sent by a CPC to the Secretariat within 30 calendar days of the end of the period of inactivity due to *force majeure*. Requests submitted after this time will not be considered.
- b. In addition to the request for exemption, the CPC shall send the evidence necessary to demonstrate that the vessel did not proceed to sea during said continuous period, which closure period the vessel observed, and that the facts on which the request for exemption is based were due to *force majeure*.
- c. After the timely receipt of both the request and supporting information required in subparagraph b, the Director shall immediately send the request and the evidence electronically to the other CPCs for their consideration, duly coded in order to maintain the anonymity of the name, flag and owner of the vessel.
- d. The request shall be considered accepted unless an IATTC Member objects to it formally within 15 calendar days of the receipt of said request, in which case the Director shall immediately notify all CPCs of the objection.
- e. If the request for exemption is accepted:
- i. the vessel shall observe a reduced closure period of 40 consecutive days in the same year

during which the *force majeure* event occurred, in one of the two periods prescribed in paragraph 3, to be immediately notified to the Director by the CPC, or

- ii. in the event said vessel has already observed a closure period prescribed in paragraph 3 in the same year during which the *force majeure* event occurred, it shall observe a reduced closure period of 40 consecutive days the following year, in one of the two periods prescribed in paragraph 3, to be notified to the Director by the CPC no later than 15 July of that year.
- iii. vessels that benefit from the exemption must carry an observer from the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) on board.
- iv. The exemption shall only apply to the ~~64-day~~ closure period stipulated in paragraph 3 of this Resolution, not to the additional periods stipulated in paragraph 4.

17. Each CPC shall, for purse-seine fisheries:

- a. Before the date of entry into force of the closure, take the legal and administrative measures necessary to implement the closure;
- b. Inform all interested parties in its tuna industry of the closure;
- c. Inform the Director that these steps have been taken;

Ensure that at the time a closure period begins, and for the entire duration of that period, all the purse-seine vessels fishing for yellowfin, bigeye, and/or skipjack tunas that are committed to observing that closure period and that fly its flag, or operate under its jurisdiction, in the Antigua Convention Area are in port, except that vessels carrying an observer from the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) on board may remain at sea, provided they do not make a set or deploy, retrieve, visit or check a FAD in the Convention Area. The only other exception to this provision shall be that vessels carrying an observer authorized pursuant to the AIDCP may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area.

¹ For the purposes of paragraph 16, only cases of vessels disabled in the course of fishing operations by mechanical and/or structural failure, fire or explosion, shall be considered *force majeure*.

² This exemption applies to the vessels of fleets that observe either of the closure periods prescribed in paragraph 3.

MEASURES FOR THE FISHERY ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES

18. For the purposes of this Resolution, the definitions contained in Annex I shall apply.

Electronic satellite buoy register.

19. ~~CPCs shall ensure that purse-seine vessels flying their flag have no more than the following number of FADs, as defined in Annex I (consistent with Resolution C-19-01), active at any one time:~~

Class 6 (1,200 m³ and greater):	340 FADs
Class 6 (< 1,200 m³):	210 FADs
Classes 4-5:	85 FADs
Classes 1-3:	50 FADs

20. La Secretaría establecerá y administrará un registro electrónico para todas las boyas satelitales desplegadas en el Área de la Convención (en adelante, el "Registro de FADS (FADS por sus siglas en inglés) o plantados. El Registro de FADS deberá contener la información detallada de todas las boyas activadas y asociadas a los plantados desplegados por los buques autorizados.

La Secretaría administrará un Registro Electrónico de FADS utilizando, en la medida de lo posible, los sistemas de información y datos de boyas ya existentes, procurando minimizar costos adicionales para la Comisión.

Medidas de gestión de boyas satelitales.

2. En concordancia con el párrafo 2 de la resolución C-25-07 las CPC deberán garantizar que únicamente los buques cerqueros autorizados desplieguen plantados o dispositivos agregadores de peces equipados con boyas satelitales activadas e inscritas de manera oportuna en el Registro de FADS

21. Los CPC asegurarán que los buques de cerco que enarbolan su pabellón no tengan más que las cantidades siguientes de dispositivos agregadores de peces (plantados), definidos en el Anexo I (consistente con la resolución C-19-01), activos en cualquier momento:

Clase 6 (1,200 m ³ y mayores):	300 plantados
Clase 6 (< 1,200 m ³):	200 plantados
Clases 4-5:	80 plantados
Clases 1-3:	50 plantados

22. A FAD shall be activated exclusively onboard a purse-seine vessel.
23. For the purposes of this resolution, a FAD is considered active when it:
- is deployed at sea; and
 - activation of the satellite buoy has occurred, and the satellite buoy is transmitting its location

and is being tracked by the vessel, its owner, or operator.

24. Deactivation of a satellite buoy attached to a FAD may only be done in the following circumstances: complete loss of signal reception; appropriation of a FAD by a third party; temporarily during a selected closure period; for being outside of:
 - the area between the meridians 150° W and 100° W, and the parallels 8° N and 10°S;
 - the area between the meridian 100° W and the coast of the American continent and the parallels 5° N and 15°S;or transfer of ownership. CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, deactivations to the Secretariat using the specific data fields indicated in Annex II. The reports shall be submitted at monthly intervals with a time delay of at least 60 days, but no longer than 90 days after the deactivation. The FAD Working Group, based on advice from the IATTC scientific staff, shall provide to the SAC and the Commission advice on any required adjustments.
25. Remote reactivation of a satellite buoy at sea shall only occur in the following circumstances: to assist in the recovery of a beached FAD; after a temporary deactivation during the closure period; or transfer of ownership while the FAD is at sea. CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, any remote reactivation to the Secretariat using the specific data fields indicated in Annex III. The reports shall be submitted at monthly intervals with a time delay of at least 60 days, but no longer than 90 days after the remote reactivation.
26. The IATTC scientific staff and the Working Group on FADs will also, to the extent possible, review the variation in levels of aggregation, mortality, change in fishing strategy, and durability of FADs built with biodegradable materials or with designs and materials that present less risk for the environment.
27. In order to support the work of the IATTC scientific staff in analyzing the impact of FAD fisheries, while protecting business confidential data, CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, daily information on all active FADs to the Secretariat. The information provided shall be identical in form and content to the raw satellite buoy data provided by the buoy manufacturers to the original users (i.e., vessels and vessel administrators), as specified

in the Annex IV of this Resolution. Reporting shall occur at monthly intervals and with a time delay of at least 60 days, but no longer than 90 days.

28. In order to provide the IATTC scientific staff with valuable information to feed their work, as agreed in 2023, CPCs shall continue reporting, or require their vessels to report to the IATTC, utilizing a format developed by the IATTC staff and approved by the Commission, complete VMS data for all vessels required to carry VMS pursuant to Resolution C-14-02. The information reported to the Secretariat shall include, at a minimum, the information specified in Paragraphs 2(a) of and 2(b) of that Resolution. Where the flag CPC requires more frequent polling rates, CPCs are encouraged to submit higher-frequency VMS data. Reporting shall occur every two months and with a time delay no longer than 90 days. Data collected pursuant to this paragraph shall be treated in accordance with Resolution C-15-07 on data confidentiality policy and procedures.
29. Each CPC shall ensure that:
 - a. its purse-seine vessels do not deploy FADs during a period of 15 days prior to the start of the selected closure period;
 - b. all its Class-6 purse-seine vessels recover within 15 days prior to the start of the closure period a number of FADs equal to the number of FADs set upon during that same period.
30. ~~a. In compliance with Resolution C-23-04, to reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, CPCs shall ensure that, as required as of 1 January 2025, the design and construction of any FADs to be deployed or redeployed (i.e., will be placed in the water) in the IATTC area of competence shall comply with the following specifications in accordance with Annex I of that resolution:~~
 - ~~i. the use of mesh net shall be prohibited for any part of a FAD;~~
 - ~~ii. only non-entangling FAD materials and designs shall be used~~~~b. CPCs, with the support of the Commission and its staff and in consultation with all stakeholders, as appropriate, shall ensure that the design and use of biodegradable non-entangling FADs are made in compliance with the provisions of Resolution C-23-04 and its Annex I.~~
31. The Scientific Advisory Committee and the *Ad hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs shall review the progress and results of the implementation of the FAD provisions contained in this Resolution and make recommendations to the Commission, as appropriate.

CPCs shall ensure that as of January 1, 2027, each of their class 6 purse seine vessels will not acquire more than 450 satellite buoys per calendar year. Class 4 vessels may not acquire more than 200 satellite buoys per year, and class 1 to 3 vessels may not acquire more than 100 satellite buoys per year.

CPCs shall ensure that, as of 1 January 2027, each of their Class 6 purse seine vessels collects from the sea, during each calendar year, a minimum percentage of the planted vessels it sows, in accordance with the following progressive implementation schedule:

- a) 20% as of 1 January 2027;
- b) 30% as of 1 January 2028; and
- c) 40% as of 1 January 2029.

The Commission will periodically review the implementation and effectiveness of this measure, considering the best available scientific and technical information, in order to assess the progress made and, if necessary, adjust the percentages or the implementation schedule.

MEASURES FOR THE LONGLINE FISHERY

32. China, Japan, Korea, United States, and Chinese Taipei undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during the period in which this Resolution remains in force do not exceed 55,131 metric tons, distributed at the following levels:

Country	Metric tons
China	2,507
Japan	32,372
Korea	11,947
Chinese Taipei	7,555
United States	750

33. All other CPCs undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area do not exceed the greater of 500 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001^{3,4}. CPCs whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director.
34. A CPC referenced in paragraph 30 may make a single transfer of a portion of its bigeye tuna catch limit to other CPCs that also have a bigeye tuna catch limit listed in paragraph 31, provided that the total transferred by any CPC does not exceed 30 percent of its catch limit. These transfers cannot be made to retroactively cover an overage of another CPC's catch limit. Both CPCs involved in a transfer shall, separately or jointly, notify the Director 10 days in advance of the intended transfer. This notification shall specify the tonnage to be transferred. The Director shall promptly notify the Commission of the transfer.
35. The CPC that receives the transfer shall be responsible for management for the transferred catch limit, including monitoring and monthly reporting of catch. A CPC that receives a one-time transfer of bigeye tuna catch limit shall not retransfer that catch limit to another CPC. The amount of bigeye transferred shall be considered without prejudice by the Commission for the purposes of establishing any future limits or allocations.

OTHER PROVISIONS

36. Landings and transshipments of tuna or tuna products that have been positively identified as originating from fishing activities that contravene these measures are prohibited. The Director is requested to provide relevant information to CPCs to assist them in this regard.
37. Each CPC shall submit to the Director, by 15 July, a national report on its updated national compliance scheme and actions taken to implement these measures, including any controls it has imposed on its fleets and any monitoring, control, and compliance measures it has established to ensure compliance with such controls.
38. In order to evaluate progress towards the objectives of these measures, the IATTC scientific staff will analyze the effects on the stocks of the implementation of these measures, and previous conservation and management measures, and will propose, if necessary, appropriate measures to be applied in future years.
39. Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the Director is requested to continue the experiments with sorting grids for juvenile tunas and other species of non-target fish in the purse-

seine nets of vessels that fish on FADs and on unassociated schools, by developing an experimental protocol, including parameters for the materials to be used for the sorting grids, and the methods for their construction, installation, and deployment. The Director shall also specify the methods and format for the collection of scientific data to be used for analysis of the performance of the sorting grids. The foregoing is without prejudice to each CPC carrying out its own experimental programs with sorting grids and presenting its results to the Director.

40. To renew the requirement for all purse-seine vessels to first retain on board and then land all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna caught, except fish considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size. A single exception shall be the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set.

The IATTC shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness, especially in the overlap area, including by frequent consultations with the WCPFC, in order to maintain, and inform their respective members of, a thorough understanding of conservation and management measures directed at bigeye, yellowfin, and other tunas, and the scientific bases and effectiveness of those measures.

³ The Commission acknowledges that France, as a coastal State, is developing a tuna longline fleet on behalf of its overseas territories situated in the Convention Area.

⁴ The Commission acknowledges that Peru, as a coastal State, will develop a tuna longline fleet, which will operate in strict compliance with the rules and provisions of the IATTC and in accordance with the resolutions of the Commission.

41. The IATTC shall support the enhancement of the Regional Tuna Tagging Program (RTTP) with wide spatial coverage to allow for estimation of growth, natural mortality and abundance; and while maintaining a priority for tropical tunas, also include swordfish and sharks to the extent practicable (see proposal E.4.b in SAC-16 INF-E). In addition, the RTTP shall collaborate and coordinate with opportunistic tagging programs conducted by CPCs and relevant stakeholders by means such as providing data on drifting FADs during the closure periods, with appropriate safeguards to protect business confidential information. IATTC staff shall use these data to continue prioritizing research concerning the stock structure(s) of yellowfin tuna.
- ~~42. Funding for the RTTP in the amount of \$1.8M USD shall be provided through one-time assessed contributions to be paid by all purse-seine vessels listed as active on the IATTC RVR at any point during the calendar year 2026. All such vessels will pay an amount equal to \$6.16USD per cubic meter of well capacity. Payment for such vessels is due by 30 June 2026, or for vessels entering the RVR after 15 January 2026 is due prior to the vessel's inclusion in the RVR, along with its AIDCP vessel assessment. If voluntary contributions are obtained in support of the RTTP, this amount will be deducted from the \$1.8million USD and the assessed rate of payment per cubic meter will be recalculated. All the surplus resulting from the inclusion of new vessels on the RVR will be reported by the Secretariat to the CPCs in a timely manner, in writing, and will be used only for research projects to strengthen stock assessments~~
43. Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the IATTC scientific staff shall continue research work on the relationship between the depth of nets deployed by tuna vessels and the catches of bigeye tuna, in order to determine its effect on an increase in fishing mortality in each area of operation. For the 2026 meeting of the IATTC SAC, the results of this work should be presented for their respective analysis and recommendations to the Commission.
44. In 2026⁶⁷ the results of these measures shall be evaluated in the context of the results of the stock assessments and of changes in the level of active capacity in the purse-seine fleet and, depending on the conclusions reached by the IATTC scientific staff, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, and based on such evaluation, the Commission shall take further actions including substantial extension of closure days for purse-seine vessels or equivalent measures, such as catch limits.
- ~~45. The IATTC shall continue efforts to develop harvest strategies for tropical tunas. The IATTC scientific staff shall prioritize and continue to establish the scientific basis, through Management Strategy Evaluation testing, to advise the Commission on initial candidate harvest strategies, starting with bigeye tuna. The staff, consulting with the ad hoc Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation and the SAC, shall then present for the Commission's adoption in 2026 a candidate harvest strategy for bigeye tuna, including candidate management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.~~
46. Except in cases of *force majeure* prescribed in paragraph 16, no exemptions will be allowed with regard to the closure periods notified to the Director in accordance with paragraph 16a, nor with regard to the fishing effort of the purse-seine fleets of the respective CPCs.

Annex I

Definitions

For the purposes of this Resolution, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. FAD (consistent with Resolution C-19-01): Anchored, drifting, floating or submerged objects deployed and/or tracked by vessels, including through the use of radio and/or satellite buoys, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for purse-seine fishing operations.
- b. Satellite buoy: A buoy that uses a satellite network service to indicate its geographical position and is compliant with requirements in Resolution C-19-01 to be clearly marked with a unique identification code.
- c. Activation of a satellite buoy: The act of initializing network service for receiving the satellite buoy's position. Activation is done by the buoy supplier company at the request of the vessel owner or manager. Following activation, the vessel owner pays for the communication service. The buoy can be transmitting or not, depending if it has been switched on.
- d. Deactivation of a satellite buoy: The act of cancelling network service for receiving the satellite buoy's position. Deactivation is done by the buoy supplier company at the request of the vessel owner or manager. Following deactivation, the communication service is no longer paid for, and the buoy stops transmitting.
- e. Reactivation of a satellite buoy: The act of re-initializing network service for transmission of a satellite buoy's position after deactivation. The procedure is the same as the one to be followed for activation of a satellite buoy.
- f. Signal loss: The situation in which, without any intervention of the owner/operator/manager, a satellite buoy cannot be located by the owner on a monitoring device. The main causes of signal loss are buoy retrieved by another vessel or person (at-sea or on-shore), FAD sinking and buoy failure.

Annex II

Satellite Buoy Deactivation

CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, any deactivation of a satellite buoy to the Secretariat using the following data fields of the first communication of the buoy after being activated:

- date [YYYY/MM/DD],
- time [hh:mm],
- buoy identifier code,
- latitude [expressed in degrees and minutes in decimal values],
- longitude [expressed in degrees and minutes in decimal values],
- speed [knots], and
- reason of deactivation: signal loss, stolen FAD, beaching, temporarily during closure periods, transferred ownership, FAD outside the areas specified in paragraph 22 of this resolution, other (specify).

Annex III

Satellite Buoy Reactivation

CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, any remote reactivation of a satellite buoy to the Secretariat using the following data fields of the last communication of the buoy before being deactivated:

- date [YYYY/MM/DD],
- time [hh:mm],
- buoy identifier code,
- latitude [expressed in degrees and minutes in decimal values],
- longitude [expressed in degrees and minutes in decimal values],
- speed [knots], and
- reason of remote reactivation: recovery of a signal loss, after a temporary deactivation during the closure period, or transfer of ownership while FAD is at sea, other (specify).

Annex IV

Format of the information to be requested to satellite buoy manufacturers

a) Daily information on buoy location

The following data fields should be included for all the buoys and positions recorded during the day, in fishing company-specific csv files:

- date [dd-mm-yyyy],
- time [hh.mm],
- unique buoy identifier code [the format varies for each buoy manufacturer but is always an alphanumeric code],
- IMO of the vessel associated to the buoy and receiving the information,
- latitude [expressed as decimal degrees],
- longitude [expressed as decimal degrees],
- speed [knots],
- echosounder = on/off.

Additionally, whenever possible, the following information corresponding to each transmission will be included:

- Water temperature.
- Buoy in the water (only for those buoys with sensors that allow identifying buoys in the water)
- Activation and deactivation dates.
- Estate or transmission mode of the buoy (e.g. immediate information, retrieving, etc.)

Data should be received in csv files named “X-YYYY-MM-ZZZZZZZ.csv” where X is the code of the buoy manufacturer (M, S, Z, for Marine Instruments, Satlink, and Zunibal, respectively), YYYY is the year, MM the month, and ZZZZZZZ the name of the fishing company. A single csv file will be prepared for company, year and month.

b) Information on acoustic records

The following data fields must be included for all the buoys and acoustic records recorded daily, in fishing company-specific csv files:

- ZUNIBAL: company, unique buoy identifier code, date (date, time), type (position or sounder), latitude, longitude, speed, drift, total
- SATLINK: Company, unique buoy identifier code, Message Descriptor (MD), date (date, time), latitude, longitude, battery charge (bat), temp, speed, drift, layer1, layer2, layer3, layer4, layer5, layer6, layer7, layer8, layer9, layer10, sum, max, mag1, mag2, mag3, mag4, mag5, mag6, mag7, mag8.
- MARINE INSTRUMENTS: company, unique buoy identifier code, TransmissionDate, TransmissionHour, lat, lon, mode, light, poll, temperature, vcc, SounderDate, gain, layers, layerbits, maxdepth, sd1, sd2, sd3, sd4, sd5, sd6, sd7, sd8, sd9, sd10, sd11, sd13, sd12, sd14, sd15, sd16, sd17, sd18, sd19, sd20, sd21, sd22, sd23, sd24, sd25, sd26, sd27, sd28, sd29, sd30, sd31, sd32, sd33, sd34, sd35, sd36, sd37, sd38, sd39, sd40, sd41, sd42, sd43, sd44, sd45, sd346, sd47, sd48, sd49, sd50.

Data should be received in csv files named “X-YYYY-MM-ZZZZZZZ-Sounder.csv” where X is the code of the buoy manufacturer (M, S, Z, for Marine Instruments, Satlink, and Zunibal, respectively), YYYY is the year, MM the month, and ZZZZZZZ the name of the fishing company. A single csv file will be prepared for company, year and month.