

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT) INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

MEMORANDUM

14 December 2020

Ref.: DRAFT

Para: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation

c.c.: Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia

De: Alfonso Miranda, Chair

Re: 96th meeting (extraordinary) of the Commission by videoconference (22 December 2020) –
Convening and *ad hoc* Rules of Procedure

Subsequent to the 95th Annual Meeting of the Commission, the Secretariat received a request from a Member for the holding of an extraordinary meeting to resolve the only outstanding issue from the annual meeting, which is related to the adoption of conservation measures for tropical tunas. This request was seconded by seven Members, and both this Chair and the Secretariat have received messages of support for that request, for which reason, and in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Antigua Convention, after considering that it is pertinent and timely to hold a special meeting for this purpose, I hereby announce that an extraordinary meeting will be held by videoconference on **Tuesday, December 22**, from **7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** time of San Diego, California, United States of America.

In the absence of procedural rules in force for holding meetings by videoconference, I propose that the same ad-hoc procedural rules that served to hold the 95th meeting of the Commission (see Resolution-C-20-01), be approved at the beginning of the meeting hereby convened, which will ensure the proper conduct of the meeting

As you will recall, both the Commission staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee made recommendations, on a scientific basis, that guide the Commission's expected actions, challenges and opportunities in the management and conservation of tropical tunas. I invite Members to focus on establishing a consensual, productive, realistic, and responsible path towards the orderly management of these species, and to recognize that the scientific recommendation, with its precautionary approach, reminds us that it is pertinent to continue working over the next three years to strengthen measures to maintain fishing mortality at levels around target reference points. In this respect, one Member has proposed that the current measure be extended, together with the holding of another extraordinary meeting in 2021, dedicated exclusively to reviewing and strengthening the measure that may be adopted at the 96th Special Meeting.

As Chair at the service of the Commission, I wish to reiterate my deep concern about the eventuality of a situation in which there would be no conservation and management measures for tropical tunas, even if there were no legal and governance void as CPCs would still be bound by the approximately 50 other resolutions in force.

That is why I intend to open up all the areas of concertation that may prove necessary and, in this connection, I wish to propose, without this preventing or conditioning the Commission's decision, that we focus on

implementing a "package" of actions in the framework of a road map, built on scientific advice. This "package" has the following components:

- a. The extension of Resolution C-17-02 for one year, which in the short term makes it possible to comply with the scientific recommendation without exceeding an acceptable risk in order to maintain fishing mortality at levels close to the target reference points.
- b. The holding in May 2021 of a workshop to evaluate management strategies (EEO), in accordance with Resolution C-19-07, which will allow for the in-depth study and production of critical elements in the strengthening of the management measure for tropical tunas.
- c. The holding of a meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on FADs, in May 2021, with the clear mandate to identify actions to maintain fishing mortality at appropriate levels, avoiding possible exceeding of target and limit reference points. These actions will be submitted to the Scientific Advisory Committee in order to discuss timely and necessary recommendations on the collection of and access to data from fishing operations, as well as effective control of these devices
- d. The development, by scientific personnel, of analyses aimed at facilitating the interpretation of the stock status indicators (SSI) and their relationship with fishing mortality. These analyses, together with the actions identified by the ad hoc Working Group on FADs, shall be taken into account by the Members in developing their positions and proposals
- e. The realization of a sensitivity analysis on the process of weighting of reference models, with emphasis on bigeye tuna as the species which constrains management measures. The results of this analysis, the interpretation of the ISS, and the recommendations of the FAD Working Group will be the background for consideration by the Scientific Advisory Committee.
- f. The identification, in the framework of the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee to be held at the end of May 2021, following the EEO workshop and the ad hoc Working Group on FADs, of the tasks to be included in the scientific work plan, thus facilitating the Commission's decisions on conservation measures for the 2022/2024 triennium.
- g. The holding of an extraordinary meeting of the Commission, either presential or by videoconference, according to the evolution of the circumstances arising from the COVID 19 pandemic, in June 2021, to discuss the conservation measures for tropical tunas, for 2022 onwards. If it can be held presentially, , this extraordinary meeting would also provide the opportunity to advance and conclude the selection process for the Director of the IATTC.

At times like these, when our fisheries demand such commitments and consensus and when civil society throughout the world is closely observing our work and the level of performance of our organization and other RFMOs, I need the support and understanding of the Members to work effectively and efficiently. I therefore invite you to initiate from now on the consultations necessary to achieve a consistent result, so that the Extraordinary Meeting may be the optimal space and time to express and formalize those consensuses. I hope that my proposal for this package of actions will help in the construction of consensus and commitments among the Members, which will also allow us to strengthen our work and consolidate the strength of the IATTC and the fisheries under our responsibility.

Consistent with the above, I am also attaching the proposed [agenda for the 96th Meeting of the Commission](#).