

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

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## INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

### **1<sup>st</sup> WORKSHOP ON IMPROVEMENTS IN DATA COLLECTION AND PROVISION: INDUSTRIAL LONGLINE FISHERY**

*(by videoconference)*

9-11 January 2023

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Many aspects of the research conducted by IATTC's staff have expanded since the Antigua Convention entered into force over a decade ago, and data provision has not kept pace. This has severely hampered the staff's work, ultimately impacting the research that can be undertaken to provide conservation and management advice to the Commission pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention.

For example, stock assessments of the tropical tuna species have suffered because access to essential data, in particular, fine-resolution logbook data required for the sophisticated techniques used to assess the stock status, has been intermittent and restricted. Some of these data, including operational level logbook data, have been recently available to the staff through Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the Commission and individual Cooperating Members and non-Members (CPCs) under very specific terms for set time periods. That was an important step and it allowed for progress to be made but more remains to be done to ensure the inclusion of all the elements which are required to conduct research necessary to improve the assessments.

Additionally, the need to address ecosystem considerations as well as the impacts the eastern Pacific Ocean's (EPO) tuna fisheries have on associated and dependent species, as stipulated in the Antigua Convention, has become more and more relevant in recent years as a consequence of increasingly demanding external market and conservation drivers (*e.g.* fishery certification) that require greater demonstration of ecologically sustainable fisheries. In this respect too, undertaking the required ecological analyses to demonstrate sustainability has been hampered by the lack of quality data on species caught as bycatch in the various fisheries, with limited to no data available for fisheries other than large purse-seine vessels (IATTC Class-6; fish carrying capacity > 363 t) that carry observers onboard.

Such limitations led the IATTC staff to review all current resolutions related to the provision of data, as they constitute the foundation of all of its research, mainly the overall resolution on data provision, [C-03-05](#). Upon review, the staff concluded that this resolution requires updating to be consistent with the mandates of the Antigua Convention and other instruments adopted by the Commission, with the IATTC's Strategic Science Plan (SSP), as well as to harmonize with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations rules, policies and practices.

In 2021, the staff prepared a background document [SAC-12-09](#) “Improving species and catch data reporting (Resolution C-03-05)” to highlight the need for updating C-03-05. This document was presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SAC in May 2021 (by videoconference). However, due to time constraints, this presentation was brief, and Members had limited time to adequately comment on the contents of the document. This did not prevent the SAC to endorse a staff recommendation on general data provision (see [IATTC-97-01](#), section 3.1) which called for holding a series of workshops to improve data collection and submission, with the ultimate goal to revise C-03-05.

This first workshop will focus on the “industrial longline fishery”, which primarily includes large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLFVs) operating on the high seas. Data to be covered by this workshop include:

- The data from vessels >24 m length overall (LOA) included in the “the LSTLFV List” (Resolution [C-11-05](#)) that are authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the EPO.

Data limitations from this fishery are detailed in [SAC-12-09](#). Two main challenges with the current data are lack of operational-level data for tunas and poor data for bycatch species.

**OBJECTIVES** The primary objectives of this workshop, as stated in the SAC recommendation, are three-fold:

- a) To discuss improvements in data collection, including any required additional resources and capacity building activities;
- b) To develop standard data reporting templates (initial draft appendices in document SAC-12-09 and suggested revisions in WSDAT-01-01);
- c) To modernize Resolution-C-03-05 to align data reporting requirements with the Antigua Convention, the WCPFC Scientific Service Provider and harmonize them with FAO and other tuna RFMOs standards.

**PARTICIPATION:** The workshop will address several organizational and logistical issues pertaining to data collection and submission for industrial longliners. It is therefore important that each CPC designate a representative who will participate in the workshop on its behalf, in addition to the expert(s) who would accompany him/her. Designated representatives of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) including RFMOs, as well as relevant IGOs and NGOs, and the experts accompanying them, would also be welcome to participate as observers. As usual, a registration form will be posted on the meeting website to allow participants to register individually. It would be most appreciated if, in addition, each CPC, RFB, IGO and NGO interested in participating send the list with its respective representative and accompanying expert(s) to Ms. Monica Galván, Assistant to the Director, at [mgalvan@iattc.org](mailto:mgalvan@iattc.org).

**ARRANGEMENTS:** The Workshop will be held by videoconference, utilizing the Zoom platform. An invitation to join will be sent individually to each registered participant. As indicated above, the Workshop will be held on 9, 10, 11 Jan 2023. Each session will have a duration of three hours and will start at 3 PM PDT (UTC -7) to finalize around 6 PM PDT (UTC -7). For the convenience of the participants, a document will be posted on the website with more precise indications on the ways the meeting will be conducted, taking into account the special requirements and limitations of videoconferencing, using as a model the similar documents that were used for previous IATTC meetings by videoconference. A preliminary agenda is also posted in the meeting website.

Languages: English and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation.