

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, Canada

7-11 August 2023

PROPOSAL IATTC-101 G-1

SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR

SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Victoria, British Columbia (Canada), on the occasion of its 101st Meeting:

Recalling its responsibility, established in the Antigua Convention, for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area and for the formulation of recommendations in this regard to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs);

Observing that south Pacific albacore tuna supports diverse fisheries in areas under national jurisdiction, as well as in areas beyond national jurisdiction, across the breadth of the Pacific Ocean south of the equator, encompassing the convention areas of the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

Emphasizing the importance of regional and global cooperation to ensure the effective conservation and protection of living aquatic resources throughout their range of distribution, as encouraged in paragraph 12 of Article 6 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

Thus recognizing the importance of working with the WCPFC, as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage south Pacific albacore tuna fisheries throughout the migratory range of the stock in the Pacific Ocean south of the equator;

Recalling further paragraph 4 of Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Encouraged by recent collaborations in this regard between the scientific staff of the IATTC Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through which a Pacific-wide stock assessment of south Pacific albacore tuna was conducted;

Observing that fishing controls for south Pacific albacore tuna are in effect exclusively in the waters of the WCPFC Convention Area south of 20°S and that there are currently no controls in effect in the IATTC Convention Area outside the overlap area;

Considering the recommendation of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, at its 17th meeting, that longline catches of south Pacific albacore tuna be reduced in the WCPFC Convention Area to avoid further and prolonged depletion of vulnerable biomass by adult catches;

Recalling that longline fishing vessels greater than 24 meters length overall (LSTLFVs) are highly mobile and can easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, so they have a high potential to operate between IATTC and WCPFC convention areas;

Recalling Resolution C-11-05 on the establishment of a list of longline fishing vessels over 24 meters (LSTLFVs) authorized to operate in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Finally, taking into account Article IV of the Antigua Convention, which calls upon the Members of the

Commission to apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management, and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention.

The IATTC therefore resolves that:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members of the Commission (CPCs) shall not increase the number of their active tuna longline vessels fishing for south Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area south of 10°S above the highest level reported during the recent reference period (2012-2021).
2. The Commission shall consider requests from CPCs that do not have active LSTLFVs that have caught south Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area during the reference period to enter the fishery and review this resolution, as appropriate.
3. CPCs whose vessels fish for albacore tuna shall cooperate to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishery in the IATTC Convention Area, including, inter alia, cooperation and collaboration to improve research with respect to the status of this stock.
4. Under the provisions established in Resolution C-03-05, CPCs shall report annually to the Commission all required data on their respective fleets that caught south Pacific albacore tuna during the previous calendar year. The required data shall be reviewed annually by the SAC following the recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff.
5. The IATTC scientific staff, taking into account feedback from the CPCs, should develop and make available data forms as part of the ongoing process to improve data provision under Resolution C-03-05. The forms should be presented and reviewed at SAC-14 and distributed to the CPCs.
6. The IATTC scientific staff shall present the data forms developed by the staff and the CPCs in 2022 at the 14th meeting of the SAC. The SAC should review and adopt appropriate data forms, taking into account their importance and scope.
7. The Commission shall seek to ensure compatibility between south Pacific albacore tuna conservation measures in the IATTC Convention Area and measures adopted or already in force in the WCPFC Convention Area.
8. The Director shall communicate this resolution to the WCPFC Secretariat within 90 days of its adoption.
9. This measure shall enter into force on 1 January 2024 and may be reviewed annually by the IATTC scientific staff and the SAC.