

Bycatch Working Group 2017--RECOMMENDATIONS (Summary)

- Observer Coverage and data:
 - Increase coverage from 5% to 20%;
 - Increase submission of the operational-level data.

- Follow up on Sea Turtle Bycatch *Resolution C-07-03*:
 - Develop and adopt a format for reporting on implementation of “FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations”;
 - Improve compliance with report submissions;
 - Ensure reports are available to CPCs through the IATTC website;
 - Assess level of implementation of *C-07-03* regarding application of measures to reduce the sea turtle bycatch, including an assessment of need to update;
 - Foster cooperation with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection of Sea Turtles (IAC), and in particular:
 - i. Strengthen cooperation between IAC and IATTC, including cross participation at meetings;
 - ii. IATTC and IAC Secretariats work together to support trainings in best practices for safe handling and release of incidentally-caught sea turtles caught;
 - iii. Encourage sea turtle bycatch mitigation experimentations (eg., net illumination and reducing the time that nets are submerged);
 - iv. Encourage IATTC to collaborate with the IAC scientific committee to identify bycatch hotspots in leatherback inter-nesting areas.

- Follow up on Seabird Bycatch *Resolution C-11-02*:
 - i. Safe handling guidelines for incidentally-caught seabirds posted on IATTC website;
 - ii. Improve data in annual reports (species, zero incidental catch, stratified data);
 - iii. Assess level of implementation of *C-11-02*, regarding mitigation measures used, including assessment of need to update;
 - iv. Consider, as an alternative mitigation method, the use of hook shielding devices.

- Encourage pilot projects with electronic observers, mainly on longline vessels, and suggest CPC to include in their national reports summary information on the use of electronic observers.

- Recommend that Working Groups continue to meet at least once annually.