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INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
c/o Scripps Institution of Oceanography
La Jolla, California 92037 USA

February 2, 1972

Ref.: 2341-154-160a

To: ALL COMMISSIONERS

26
Attendees of the ~~24th~~ Annual Meeting of IATTC,
and all interested persons

FROM: Director of Investigations

SUBJECT: Minutes of the 24th Annual Meeting

Transmitted herewith are the minutes of the 24th Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, held in Tokyo, Japan on January 6, 7 and 13, 1972.

All member countries were represented by one or more regular Commissioners throughout the entire meeting except Panama who was represented by their Ambassador in Tokyo. Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Korea, Nicaragua and Peru were represented by Observers, as were two international organizations -- The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the South Pacific Commission.

The Commission took the following actions:

1. Agreed to the continuation of an experimental fishing program in 1972, with a quota of 120,000 short tons, but authorized the Director of Investigations to increase this limit in two successive increments of 10,000 short tons if in his opinion this action would not endanger the stock of yellowfin.
2. Agreed that if the annual catch rate is projected to fall below 3 short tons per standard day's fishing, unrestricted fishing for yellowfin tuna in the CYRA shall be curtailed so as not to exceed the then current estimate of equilibrium yield.
3. Agreed to an austerity budget in the sum of \$739,048 for FY1973/1974.

4. Postponed the determination of the proportion of contributions for the FY 1973/1974 appropriations until the Commission is able to obtain final data on the utilization of tunas captured during 1971.
5. Agreed to vote on the approval of the annual report for 1971 by mail after April 1, 1972.
6. Elected Mr. Juan L. de Obarrio of Panama as Chairman and Mr. José Luis Cardona-Cooper of Costa Rica as Secretary.
7. Agreed provisionally that the next Annual Meeting be held in Panama subject to final approval by the Government of that country. It was also decided to postpone the selection of a meeting date until after the meeting of the Inter-Governmental Working Group to be held in Mexico City beginning April 12, 1972.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL

Summary Minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting
Resumen de las Minutas de la Vigésima Cuarta Reunión Anual

January 6, 7 and 13, 1972

Enero 6, 7 y 13 de 1972

Tokyo, Japan

Tokio, Japón

Chairman:	Mr. Fumihiko Suzuki, Japan
Presidente:	Sr. Fumihiko Suzuki, Japón
Secretary:	Mr. Joaquin Mercado, Mexico
Secretario:	Sr. Joaquín Mercado, México

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL

A G E N D A

XXIV ANNUAL MEETING

January 6, 7, and 13, 1972

Tokyo, Japan

Chairman: Fumihiko Suzuki
Secretary: Joaquín Mercado

1. Opening of the Meeting by the Chairman.
2. Consideration and adoption of Agenda.
3. Current research and research results.
4. The 1971 fishing year (Background Paper No. 1)
5. Condition of the yellowfin stock and quota for 1972
(Background Paper No. 2).
6. Recommended research program and budget for Fiscal Year
1973/74 (Background Paper No. 3).
7. Proportions of contributions.
8. Discussion of Annual Report.
9. Election of Officers.
10. Place and date of next Annual Meeting.
11. Other business.
12. Adjournment.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission for the year 1972 convened in plenary session in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 10:30 hours on January 6, 1972. The following persons were in attendance:

CANADA

Commissioners

Mr. E. Blyth Young
Mr. Robert L. Payne
Mr. G. F. Waring

Advisers

Dr. G. F. M. Smith
Mr. S. H. Heeney

COSTA RICA

Commissioners

Mr. Milton H. Lopez
Mr. H.E.V. James W. Furniss
Dr. Gabriela S. Myers

Adviser

Mr. Tomas Doyle Figueredo

JAPAN

Commissioners

Mr. Fumihiko Suzuki
Dr. Tomonari Matsushita
Mr. Shoichi Masuda

Special Adviser

Mr. Toshihiko Otsu

Advisers

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Mr. Tadatsuna Yabu
Mr. Tatsuo Yamaguchi
Mr. Tamiyuki Tanaka
Mr. Toshio Isogai
Mr. Issei Nomura
Mr. Kenzo Oshima
Mr. Kenro Iino

JAPAN (Cont'd)

(Fishery Agency)

Mr. Kenichi Kakudo
Mr. Toshihiko Otsubo
Mr. Tatsuo Saito
Mr. Ryuichi Tanabe
Mr. Koji Imamura
Mr. Tatsuhiko Iwasawa
Mr. Isao Nakasu
Mr. Shiro Yoshizaki
Mr. Shigeo Miyamoto
Mr. Shuji Ishida
Mr. Shunichi Hozumi
Mr. Yuji Tobita
Mr. Shintaro Enomoto
Mr. Minoru Iida
Mr. Kunio Yonezawa
Mr. Tokuya Kikuchi
Dr. Akira Suda
Mr. Susume Kume
(Fishing Industry)
Mr. Masao Miyoshi
Mr. Isao Koide
Mr. Hirosaku Koda
Mr. Shojiro Shimura
Mr. Tsutomu Watanabe

MEXICO

Head of Delegation

Ambassador Fernando Castro y Castro

Commissioners

Lic. Arturo Diaz Rojo
Biol. Pedro Mercado
Lic. Joaquin Mercado
Biol. Amin Zarur

Advisers

Biol. Manuel Flores Villegas
Comdte. Jorge Campos
Lic. Jesus Nieto

PANAMA

Ambassador Antonio G. Suarez S.

U.S.A.

Commissioners

Mr. John Gerald Driscoll Jr.
Mr. William H. Holmstrom
Mr. Donald P. Loker
Mr. William M. Terry

Advisers

Mr. Clinton E. Atkinson
Mr. Lester Balingier
Mr. Gordon Broadhead
Mr. Peter Buchan
Mr. Charles R. Carry
Mr. August Felando
Mr. Raymond L. Fritz
Mr. George B. Gross
Mr. Gerald V. Howard
Mr. F. Robert Insinger
Mr. O. E. Kerns, Jr.
Dr. William H. Lenarz
Mr. Michael J. Mattera
Mr. Anthony Pisano
Mr. Edward A. Ryan
Mr. C. A. Schulz
Mr. Wilvan G. Van Campen

CHILE

Observer

Mr. Patricio Aracena

COLOMBIA

Observer

Mr. Jose I. Estrada

ECUADOR

Observer

EC. Galo Valencia

EL SALVADOR

Observer

Mr. Luis Napoleon Baraona

FRANCE

Observer

Miss Jane Debenest
Mr. Bernard Cendron

GUATEMALA

Observer

Mr. Edger A. Lopez Calvo

KOREA

Observer

Mr. Hong Jang Joo
Mr. Dong Jae Koh

NICARAGUA

Observer

Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Muñoz
Lic. Francisco J. d'Escoto Brockmann

PERU

Observer

Mr. Eduardo Ponce Vivanco

ICCAT

Observer

Dr. Makoto Miyake

S.P.C.

Observer

Mr. Robert Bobenrieth

IATTC

INTERPRETER

Dr. James Joseph
Director of Investigations

Mr. Carlos Diez

Mr. Bruce M. Chatwin

AGENDA ITEM I - OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRMAN

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 hours by Mr. Fumihiko Suzuki, Chairman of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. The Chairman then introduced His Excellency Mr. Shoichiro Itoh, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, who delivered the following address on behalf of his excellency Mr. Munenori Akagi, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Japan.

"On the occasion of the 24th Regular Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, it is indeed a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to welcome you on behalf of the Government of Japan.

First of all, I wish to express my heartiest welcome to those delegates and observers who have come all the way to Japan in order to attend this Meeting which is held for the first time in Tokyo.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission is one of the oldest international organizations established for the conservation of fishery resources and, on the basis of its vigorous activities and deep experience accumulated throughout its long history, has contributed greatly to the conservation of yellowfin tuna resources in the Eastern Pacific.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my profound admiration to the Commissioners, the scientific Staff of the Commission and all other people concerned for their strenuous efforts to strengthen the activities of the Commission.

It goes without saying that the tuna industry is one of the largest in scale among the world fishing industries and has played a great role both in securing animal protein for mankind and in developing the fishing industry as a whole. Thus it appears that many of the tuna resources are now coming to the point of their maximum utilization.

Under these circumstances international organizations have been established for the purpose of the conservation of tuna resources in the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans. The activities of these organizations, however, have just begun and, therefore, it is incumbent upon this Commission, with its long history and tradition, to set an example to these newly established organizations. It is also necessary to these organizations to cooperate with each other so that the functions of these organizations will be duly fulfilled. In this respect I believe that the responsibility of this Commission, through its activities, is very great.

It is my hope that at this annual meeting the Commissioners and all

those concerned will hold thorough and fruitful discussions for effective conservation and rational utilization of tuna resources which are very valuable to mankind and that the meeting will make yet another important contribution to the work of the Commission.

In concluding my remarks, let me express my hope that all the participants to this meeting, and especially those who have come for the first time to Japan, will take a full look at the Japanese fishing industry of today and thereby deepen the understanding of our country, and for all the participants I wish that your stay here will be a pleasant one.

Thank you."

The Chairman then welcomed all of the delegates, advisers and observers to Tokyo and expressed his wishes for a fruitful as well as successful meeting. He next asked the heads of delegations to introduce themselves, as well as members of their delegations. Following this the Chairman moved to the next agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM II - CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman pointed out that this year's draft agenda followed quite closely the pattern of past years. He indicated that the agenda had been in the hands of the commissioners for some time and asked for comments on it. After some discussion the agenda was adopted, but it was agreed to rearrange the order of agenda items as follows: 1, 2, 4, 5, 3, 6, 8, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12.

AGENDA ITEM IV - THE 1971 FISHING YEAR

The Chairman asked the Director of Investigations to review this agenda item. The Director commented that Background Paper No. 1 dealt fully with this subject; he then reviewed the contents of this Background Paper. During 1971, 114,209* short tons of yellowfin tuna and 115,231* short tons of skipjack were caught from within the Commission's Regulatory Area for Yellowfin Tuna (CYRA). In 1971, vessels of 12 countries fished for tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean. By the end of 1971 the combined international fleet had attained a capacity of 94,198* short tons compared to 46,000 short tons during 1967. After the closure date to unrestricted fishing for yellowfin tuna a portion of the fleet fished to the west of the CYRA where they captured about 22,000* tons of yellowfin and 1,000* tons of skipjack. Also in 1971 a substantial share of the fleet which fished in the CYRA participated in the tuna fishery of the eastern Atlantic Ocean.

It was estimated that by the end of 1972 the vessels participating in the eastern Pacific tuna fishery might have a total capacity of more than 116,000 tons.

During the discussion of this item the Mexican delegation asked the

* Preliminary

Japanese delegation whether their government had established maximum allowable levels of mercury in tuna and tuna-like products for human consumption, and if they had ascertained, on the basis of their scientific studies, whether the levels of mercury observed in tuna are hazardous to the health of those who consume such tuna.

In the ensuing discussion the Japanese Delegates replied that their studies indicated that the consumption of tuna which might be contaminated with mercury was not hazardous to health, and therefore they could see no reason for establishing maximum allowable levels.

AGENDA ITEM V - CONDITION OF THE YELLOWFIN STOCK AND QUOTA FOR 1972

The Chairman called upon the Director of Investigations to review Agenda Item V. The Director stated that the subject was covered in great detail in Background Paper No. 2. He then proceeded to review the contents of the Background Paper by stating that at the 1968 Annual Meeting the Commission asked its staff to report back at the 1969 Annual Meeting with specific proposals for programs of experimental fishing designed to ascertain empirically the maximum sustainable yield of yellowfin tuna. To comply with this request the staff presented alternative schemes of experimental fishing at the 1969 meeting.

The particular scheme chosen by the Commission provided for a catch quota of 120,000 short tons per year during 1969, 1970 and 1971. However, it was agreed that if the annual catch per day's fishing, measured in standard purse-seine units, should fall below 3 short tons at any time before the completion of the 3-year period, the catch would be curtailed to correspond to the then current level of sustainable yield. The Director then reviewed the rationale for selecting such an experimental fishing program.

He then explained that during 1971 the catch per standard day's fishing, which is used as an index of yellowfin abundance, declined substantially over the levels of the previous two years. This decline was expected, he stated, as a result of the experimental overfishing program. On the basis of the index of abundance it was explained that the stocks of yellowfin in the CYRA should be able to support an equilibrium catch of approximately 105,000 tons during 1972. The Director then went on to explain that two unique factors operative in 1971 (but not in 1969 or 1970) may have biased the index of abundance downward in that year. He then explained how these two factors, mercury contamination of the tuna and the exceptionally good skipjack fishing early in the year, could have caused the abundance to be under-estimated. Because of this possibility he suggested that the quota for 1972 should be flexible and provisions made for increasing it if, during the year, current information indicated a higher than expected abundance of yellowfin tuna.

Following the review by the Director, the Chairman recessed the meeting at noon, until the following morning.

January 7, 1972.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:15 AM by calling for questions from the floor concerning the review of Background Paper No.2, presented the day before. There followed an extensive general discussion which

lasted throughout the morning. The discussion centered primarily around the question of the possible error involved in estimating the abundance of yellowfin during 1971. The delegations were particularly interested in the risk, both biological and economic, of continuing the experimental fishing program during 1972. The Director explained that the risk of causing any irreversible damage to the stocks, by continuing such a program in 1972 was not great. He further explained that with reference to the economic risk, this was a matter for the Commissioners themselves to ascertain, with the help of their advisors.

After this discussion the Chairman stated that further discussion of this item would be postponed until after the Inter-Governmental Meeting.

He then moved to the next item of business.

AGENDA ITEM III - CURRENT RESEARCH AND RESEARCH RESULTS

The Chairman called upon the Director of Investigations to review the research of the Commission's staff during 1971. In his review the Director explained that in 1971 the Commission's staff had completed its twenty-first year of investigations. He commented that the research had been primarily concerned with yellowfin and skipjack but did include some studies of bigeye tuna as well. It was stated that the single most important duty of the Commission during 1971 was the collection, tabulation and analysis of records of total catch and of logbook data and related information from a large portion of the fleet, and the application of such data and analysis to the formulation of mathematical models to assess the effect of fishing on the abundance of the stocks.

A review of the staff's research on skipjack tuna was also given.

Among other items of research discussed were the staff's studies concerning size composition of the catch, stock structure (which includes morphometric, serological and tagging studies), spawning and early life history and oceanography and tuna exology.

After the Director completed his review, the Chairman called for comments from the floor. A general discussion followed thereafter.

There being no further discussion on this item the Chairman moved to the next item of business.

AGENDA ITEM VI - RECOMMENDED RESEARCH PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL

YEAR 1973/1974.

The Chairman called upon the Director of Investigations to discuss this item. The Director referred to Background Paper No. 3 which had been prepared earlier and had been in the hands of the Commissioners for some time. He explained that at the 22nd. Annual Meeting of the Commission held in Ottawa, Canada, the Commission instructed the Director to prepare two budgets in the future. The first should be a recommended version, which indicates the needed research, regardless of the probability of obtaining such funding. The second should be an austerity version designed to maintain the research at current or slightly augmented levels. In keeping with these instructions two budgets were presented in Background Paper No.3.

The Recommended Budget which provided for a substantial tagging program was in the amount of \$1,271,517. It was explained that nearly all of the increase of \$552,003 over expected levels of expenditure during 1972/1973 would be for the charter of vessels for tagging cruises.

The Austerity Budget presented by the Director of Investigations was in the amount of \$739,048, and increase of \$19,534 over the expected level of expenditure in 1972/73. This increased expenditure, it was explained, would be used entirely to meet government pay raises, in-grade increases and promotions.

After asking for the floor the Delegate from Mexico moved that the Austerity Budget be approved in its entirety.

This was seconded by the Delegate from the U.S.A.

All national sections present voted to accept Mexico's proposal.

The question of approval by Panama, whose delegate was not in attendance at the time, was raised. There followed general discussion of whether unanimity meant all members present or all members regardless of their presence or absence. It was explained that this question had been discussed in previous years by the Commission and it was generally agreed that unanimity meant all members, both present and absent.

The Delegate from Mexico felt that this question should be discussed again at some future date, because very possibly unanimity might apply in the strictest sense and, as dealt with in Article 1, paragraph 7 and 8 of the Convention, to only those members present.

In any event it was decided to solicit the vote of Panama on the approval of the budget.

AGENDA ITEM VIII - DISCUSSION OF ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman then called on the Director of Investigations to review this agenda item. The Director stated that since the annual meeting fell so early in the new year it was not possible to prepare, as in past years, a draft of the annual report for presentation at this meeting. He indicated that a draft of the annual report would be prepared and mailed to all Commissioners by April 1, 1972.

The Chairman indicated that the annual report was approved by mail for the year 1970, and therefore the 1971 annual report could be approved by mail. All national sections agreed unanimously with this proposal.

Having completed this item of business the Chairman recessed the meeting until January 13, 1972

January 13, 1972

The Chairman opened the meeting at 16:05 hours. He then asked the Director of Investigations to summarize the discussions of January 6 and 7 concerning Background Paper 1 and 2.

After this summary the Commissioners from the U.S.A. proposed that the experimental fishing program be continued during 1972; that a quota of 120,000 short tons be established; that the Director of Investigations be authorized to increase the quota up to 140,000 short tons in two increments of 10,000 tons each if the data on the fishery during early 1972 indicate the stocks are at a higher abundance than expected; and that the 3 tons per day safety provision be retained in the regulatory program of 1972.

The proposal was seconded by Canada and carried unanimously.

The Commissioner of Canada proposed that the Director of Investigations draft the resolution of the Commission concerning recommendations for conservation measures in 1972, including the suggested recommendation transmitted by the XI Intergovernmental Meeting (Appendix I) and the quota approved by the Commission at this meeting. He further proposed that the resolution to be drafted by the Director of Investigations should incorporate all of the management measures included in last year's resolution by the Commission, as qualified by the present quota (Appendix II).

The proposal was seconded by Panama and carried unanimously.

There followed a discussion of the possible merits of a suggestion by the Director of Investigations to allow fishing on an experimental basis during the closed season for yellowfin tuna in an area lying within the CYRA bounded by 3°N to 95°W, and 3°S to 90°W. It was explained that this is an area where no fishing effort had been observed and opening the area should induce exploration in the region. Such exploration would perhaps provide valuable scientific information concerning yellowfin tuna and skipjack.

Agreement on this proposal could not be reached and it was decided to discuss it further at the next annual meeting.

AGENDA ITEM VII - PROPORTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

The Chairman called on the Director of Investigations to review this item. The Director explained that a background paper had not been prepared on this item because data on the utilization of tuna captured during 1971 were incomplete. He further explained that since the budget for 1973/1974 would not be approved for some time he would, subject to the approval of the Commissioners, distribute information on the proportion of the contributions as further information becomes available.

All national sections agreed with this action.

AGENDA ITEM IX - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

After explaining the general practice followed in the past by the Commission for electing officers, the Chairman called for nomination for Chairman for the year 1972.

The Commissioner from Costa Rica nominated Commissioner Juan L. de Obarrio as Chairman, which carried unanimously.

The next item of business being the election of Secretary, the Chairman called for nominations.

The U.S. Delegation nominated Commissioner Jose Luis Cardona-Cooper of Costa Rica as Secretary, which also carried, unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM X - PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

After reviewing the procedure followed by the Commission in the past to establish the place and date of the annual meeting, and commenting on the location of recent annual meetings, the Chairman opened this item for discussion.

The Delegate from Panama indicated that his Government would be honored to serve provisionally as host for the next annual meeting of the Commission.

All delegations agreed to this meeting site.

The Chairman then asked for comments on a suitable date for the annual meeting and asked the Director of Investigations to comment first. The Director, noting the envisioned fleet capacity and early closure dates in the past, suggested that the Commission should consider holding its meeting sometime before the new year, or at least within a few days after it.

After some discussion of this, Canada proposed to postpone the selection of a meeting date until after the meeting of the Inter-Governmental Working Group to be held in Mexico City beginning April 12, 1972 and expected to continue through April 14, 1972.

AGENDA ITEM XI - OTHER BUSINESS

No items of other business were raised.

AGENDA ITEM XII - ADJOURNMENT

The delegate from Costa Rica expressed to the Chairman and to the Government of Japan the profound thanks of those attending the meeting for the tremendous help given in carrying out the work of this Commission meeting, and all delegates in turn voiced similar expressions of gratitude.

The Chairman, Mr. Fumihiko Suzuki, then announced with regret that this would be his last Commission meeting as his government had re-assigned him to new duties and that he would be leaving Japan for this reason.

The Chairman then adjourned the 24th. Annual Commission Meeting at 18:45 hours, January 13, 1972.

RESOLUTION

The 11th Inter-Governmental Meeting on the Conservation of
Yellowfin Tuna resolves,

TO RECOMMEND:

That the IATTC, taking into account extraordinary circumstances which will obtain in certain of the member countries in 1972 propose to the member governments that newly constructed flag vessels of those members of the Commission which are developing countries and whose fisheries are in early states of development (that is, whose catch of yellowfin and skipjack in the convention area in 1970 did not exceed 12,000 short tons, and whose total fish catch in 1969 did not exceed 400,000 metric tons) and which vessels enter the fishery for yellowfin tuna in the convention area for the first time either during the closed season in 1971 or during 1972 and because of characteristics such as size, gear or fishing techniques, present special problems, be permitted to fish unrestricted for yellowfin tuna until such vessels have taken in the aggregate 2,000 short tons of yellowfin or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restraints as may be necessary to limit the aggregate catch of such vessels to 2,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna;

That the small boat allowance of 6,000 short tons in effect during 1971 be continued during 1972;

That the incidental catch allowance of 15% yellowfin tuna in effect during 1971 be continued during 1972.

RESOLUTION

The Inter-american Tropical Tuna Commission

Taking note of the condition of the stock at the beginning of 1972,

Taking note that the recommendations for establishing a conservation regime during 1971, approved at its 24th (Special) Meeting, were for 1971 only,

Considering the special unique problems which were evident in 1971 remain unresolved,

Considering also the resolution from the 11th Intergovernmental Meeting on the conservation of yellowfin tuna held in Tokyo, Japan, 7 January and 10 January through 13 January, 1972, which recommends certain management decisions to the Commission,

Concludes that it is desirable to continue in 1972 the fishing program in effect during 1971,

Therefore recommends to the High Contracting Parties that they take joint action to:

- 1) Establish the annual catch limit (quota) on the total catch of yellowfin tuna for the calendar year 1972 at 120,000 short tons from the Commission's Yellowfin Regulatory Area (CYRA) defined in the resolution adopted by the Commission on May 17, 1962, provided:
 - a) that if the annual catch rate is projected to fall below 3 short tons per standard day's fishing, measured in purse seine units adjusted to limits of gear efficiency previous to 1962, as estimated by the Director of Investigations, the unrestricted fishing for yellowfin tuna in the CYRA shall be curtailed so as not to exceed the then current estimate of equilibrium yield and shall be closed on a date to be fixed by the Director of Investigations:
 - b) that the Director of Investigations may increase this limit by no more than two successive increments of 10,000 short tons each, if he concludes from re-examination of available data that such increase will offer no substantial danger to the stock.
- 2) Reserve a portion of the annual yellowfin tuna quota for an allowance for incidental catches of tuna fishing vessels when fishing in CYRA for species normally taken mingled with yellowfin tuna, after the closure of the unrestricted fishing for yellowfin tuna. The amount of this portion should be determined by the scientific staff of the Commission at such time as the catch of yellowfin tuna approaches the recommended quota for the year.

- 3) Allow vessels to enter the CYRA during the open-season, which began January 1, 1972, with permission to fish for yellowfin tuna without restriction on the quantity until the return of the vessel to port.
- 4) Close the fishery for yellowfin tuna in 1972 at such date as the quantity already caught plus the expected catch of yellowfin tuna by vessels which are at sea with permission to fish without restriction reaches 120,000 short tons or 130,000 or 140,000, if the Director of Investigations so determines such amounts should be taken, less the portion reserved for incidental catches in Item 2 above and for the special proportions allowed for in Items 6 and 7 below, such date to be determined by the Director of Investigations.

In order to not outtail their fisheries, those countries whose Governments accept the Commissions's recommendations but whose fisheries of yellowfin tuna are not of significance will be exempted of their obligations of compliance with the restrictive measures.

Under present conditions, and according to the information available, an annual capture of 1,000 tons of yellowfin tuna is the upper limit to enjoy said exemption.

After the closure of the yellowfin tuna fishery, the Governments of the contracting parties and cooperating countries may permit their flag vessels to land yellowfin tuna without restriction in any country described in the preceding section which has tuna canning facilities until such time as the total amount of yellowfin tuna landed in such country during the current year reaches 1,000 short tons.

For 1972 only, in order to avoid congestion of unloading and processing facilities around the date of the season closure and the danger that vessels may put to sea without adequate preparations, any vessel which completes its trip before the closure may sail to fish freely for yellowfin tuna within the CYRA on any trip which is commenced within 30 days after the closure.

- 5) Permit each vessel, not provided with a special allowance under Items 6 and 7 below, fishing tuna in the CYRA after the closure date for the yellowfin tuna fishery to land an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna taken in catches of other species in the CYRA on each trip commenced during such closed season. The amount each vessel is permitted to land as an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna shall be determined by the Government which regulates the fishing activities of such vessels; provided, however, that the aggregate of the incidental catches of yellowfin tuna taken by all such vessels of a country so permitted shall not exceed 15 percent of the combined total catch taken by such vessels during the period these vessels are permitted to land incidental catches of yellowfin tuna.

- 6) Permit the flag vessels of each country of 400 short tons capacity and less fishing tuna in the CYRA after the closure date for the yellowfin tuna fishery to fish freely until 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna are taken by such vessels or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the catch of yellowfin tuna by such vessels to 6,000 short tons; and thereafter to permit such vessels to land an incidental catch of yellowfin tuna taken in the catch of other species in the CYRA on each trip commenced after 6,000 tons have been caught. The amount each vessels is permitted to land as an incidental catch shall be determined by the Government which regulates the fishing activities of such vessels; provided, however that the aggregate of the incidental catches of yellowfin tuna taken by such vessels of each country so permitted shall not exceed 15 percent of the total catch taken by such vessels during trips commenced after 6,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna have been caught.
- 7) Permit, during 1972, the newly constructed flag vessels of those members of the Commission which are developing countries and whose fisheries are in early stage of development, (that is, whose tuna catch in the convention area in 1970 did not exceed 12,000 short tons, and whose total fish catch in 1969 did not exceed 400,000 metric tons) and which enter the fishery for yellowfin tuna in the convention area for the first time either during the closed season in 1971 or during 1972 and which, because of characteristics such as size, gear or fishing techniques, present special problems to fish unrestricted for yellowfin tuna until such vessel have taken in the aggregate 2,000 short tons of yellowfin, or to fish for yellowfin tuna under such restrictions as may be necessary to limit the aggregate catch of such vessels to 2,000 short tons of yellowfin tuna.
- 8) The species referred to in Items 2, 5 and 6 are: skipjack tuna, bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna, albacore tuna, bonito, billfishes and sharks.
- 9) Obtain by appropriate measures the cooperation of those Governments whose vessels operate in the fishery, but which are not parties to the Convention for the establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, to put into effect these conservation measures.

