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 INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
 PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FLEET CAPACITY
9TH MEETING

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EFFECT OF FLEET CAPACITY INCREASES

At the 75th Meeting of the Commission in June 2007, three proposals for capacity increases (F1, F2 and F3) were presented by Venezuela, Peru and Guatemala. The staff was asked to analyze the effect of these proposals on the tuna stocks, and how they would affect the recommendation for a 109-day closure for bigeye tuna and a 74-day closure for yellowfin tuna in document [IATTC-75-07b](#). Subsequently, as the result of a dispute about jurisdiction, the purse-seine vessel *Cuyuni* remained on the Regional Register under Vanuatu flag, and Venezuela has claimed the right to replace it; the effect of this is also included in the analysis.

The recommendations in document [IATTC-75-07b](#) were designed to limit fishing mortality (*F*) to the level corresponding to the fishing rate at maximum sustainable yield (MSY). In order to achieve this objective with the increases in capacity resulting from these proposals, the current recommended closure would need to be extended as shown in the table. Every additional 10,000 cubic meters (m³) of capacity translates into an extension of the closures proposed in document IATTC-75-07b of approximately 12 days for yellowfin and 10 days for bigeye.

	Capacity increase (m ³)	Extension of recommended closures in IATTC-75-07b (days)	
		Yellowfin	Bigeye
F1	5473	6	6
F2	10851	13	11
F3	3760	4	4
<i>Cuyuni</i>	1446	1	1
Total¹	21530	25	22

An increase in capacity of 21,530 m³ would change the recommendations in document IATTC-75-07b as follows:

Recommendation 1(a), yellowfin: “Extend the closure periods for the purse-seine fishery in Resolution C-06-02 by an additional 57 [= 32+25] days, to 99 [= 74+25] days, and that the closure period be extended further if the carrying capacity of the purse-seine fleet continues to increase.”

Recommendation 2.2.1, bigeye: “In addition to the yellowfin closure in 1 (a) above [99 days], close the purse-seine fishery on floating objects in the EPO for an additional 32 days.” [for a total of 131 days, the original total 109 days plus 22 additional days].

If the closures cannot be tailored to a given species, then the recommended closure for both yellowfin and bigeye tuna is the larger of the two individual species closures. Thus, with an increase in capacity of 21,530 m³, the closure period recommended is 131 days.

¹ Does not equal sum of individual proposals because of rounding to whole days