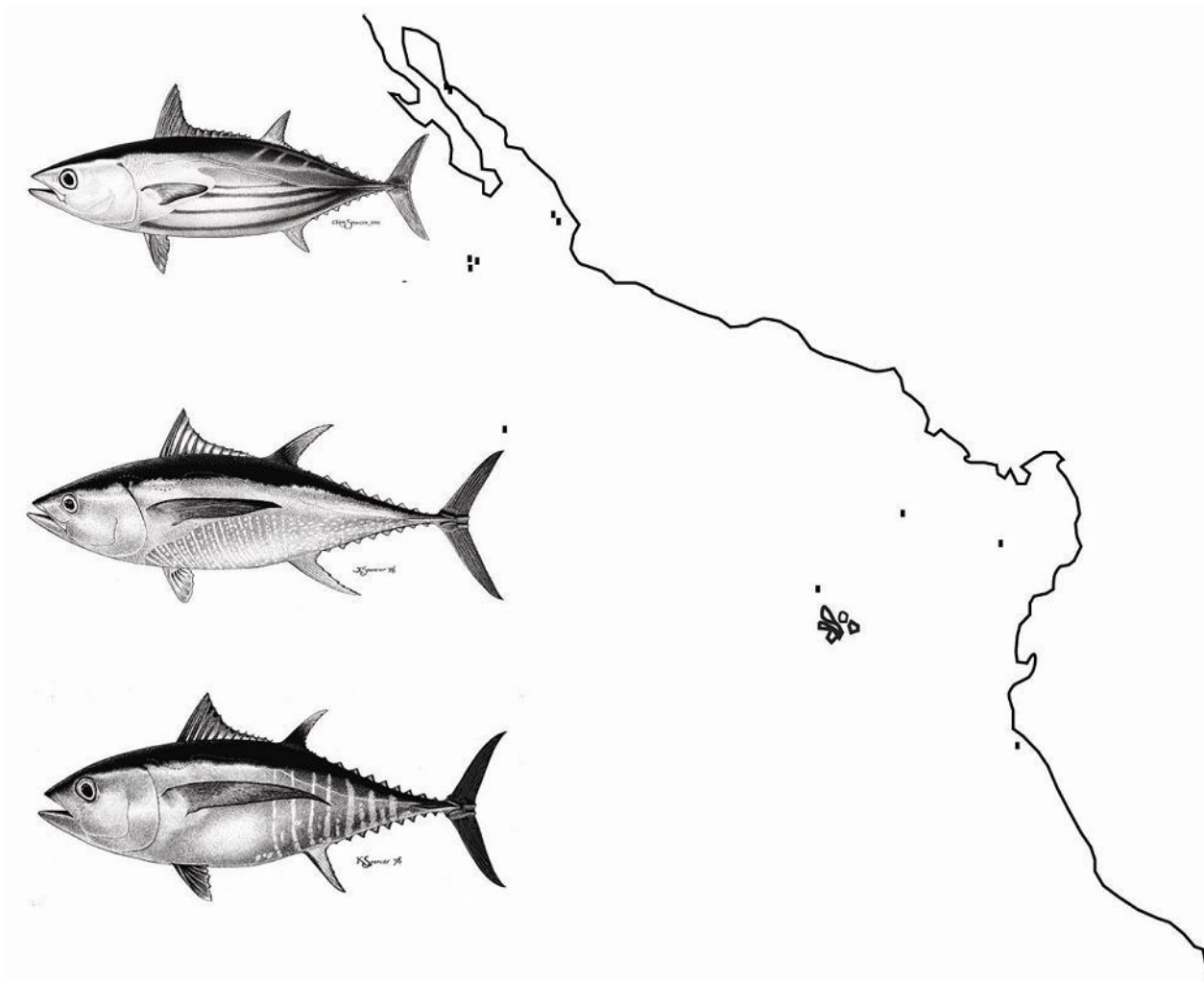


**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
DOCUMENT SAC-01-12**

**REGIONAL TUNA TAGGING PROJECT
EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**



PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL TUNA TAGGING PROGRAM

- **Tagging program for bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean**
- **Proposed 3 year period for tagging operations**
- **The goal is to improve the scientific foundations, and reduce uncertainties, in the stock assessments of these tuna species**
- **Methods include chartering pole-and-line vessels, with about 10 months total charter time per year, to enable adequate spatial and temporal tag deployments throughout the region**
- **Conventional plastic dart tags and archival tags would be deployed with all 3 species**
- **Proposed budget: US\$1.5 million per year**
- **Formation of steering committee**
- **Seeking funding for this Regional Tuna Tagging Program**



JUSTIFICATION FOR A REGIONAL TUNA TAGGING PROGRAM

- **Tagging data have the most merit in providing estimates of home range distributions and delineation of stock structure, diffusion rates, and the extent of mixing between regions**
- **Tagging data are essential for estimation of natural mortality rates**
- **The IATTC scientific working group considered tagging experiments to be of such high priority that it convened a workshop in 2007**
- **The first recommendation in the report of the 9th IATTC SARM , convened in 2008, was to establish a regional tuna tagging program in the EPO**
- **High priority panel recommendations of the 2010 external review of the bigeye stock assessment included establishing a long-term tagging program, throughout the EPO, in order to provide required data on movement parameters, as well as growth and natural mortality rates**

