

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

83RD MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

25-29 June 2012

PROPOSAL IATTC-83 E-2 REV

SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA

**RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF SILKY SHARKS
CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE IATTC
CONVENTION AREA**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 83rd Meeting:

Recognizing that fish stocks covered by the IATTC include other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas;

Recalling that it is a function of the IATTC to establish, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing or are associated with stocks of fishes covered by the IATTC, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened;

Considering that silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) are the main shark species caught in association with purse-seine fisheries for tunas;

Noting that silky sharks are vulnerable to overexploitation due to their low reproductive capacity, slow intrinsic population growth, and especially the fact that these sharks are taken in fisheries targeting other resources such as tunas, whose growth rates and fecundity are much greater;

Emphasizing that, at the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in May 2012, the IATTC scientific staff expressed concern about the substantial declining trend in catches of silky shark by purse-seine vessels, particularly in the southern region, and recommended the conservation measures set out in Document [IATTC 83-05c](#) (revised);

Recognizing that precautionary measures for this species are needed, due to its condition in the IATTC Convention Area, and that, according to the IATTC staff, there is sufficient information available to warrant such measures;

Agrees that:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) shall take management and conservation measures with respect to retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any partial or whole carcass of silky sharks in the fisheries covered by the IATTC.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release silky sharks unharmed as soon as they are seen in the net, on the hook, or on the deck, and do it in a manner that will result in the least possible harm to the individuals captured.
3. CPCs shall record *inter alia*, through the observer programs, the number of discards and releases of

silky sharks, with an indication of status (dead or alive). and report it to the IATTC.

4. In their annual reports, CPCs shall report to the Commission of the steps taken to implement this Resolution, including monitoring, control, and surveillance measures that support its implementation .
5. CPCs shall, where possible, implement research projects on silky sharks in the IATTC Convention Area.
6. In order to assess progress toward the objectives of these measures, in 2013 and 2014 the IATTC scientific staff shall analyze the implementation of this resolution and shall propose, if necessary, suitable measures to be applied in the following years.
7. The Commission shall review this Resolution at the latest at its annual meeting in 2014, and consider revising it in the light of the 2013 assessment of silky sharks and the recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff.
8. This Resolution shall enter into force on 1st January 2013.