

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**87<sup>TH</sup> MEETING (RESUMED)**

**La Jolla, California USA  
27-29 October 2014**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-87 I-3**

**SUBMITTED BY MEXICO**

**MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF  
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, CA, on the occasion of its 87th Meeting;*

*Taking into account that the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is caught in both the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);*

*Expressing concern for the latest stock assessment of 2012 and its 2014 update provided by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), we would like to highlight the following:*

- The current (2012) PBF biomass level is near historically low levels and experiencing high exploitation rates above all biological reference points;
- If the low recruitment of recent years continues, the risk of SSB falling below its historically lowest level observed would increase; and
- Further substantial reductions in fishing mortality and juvenile catch over the whole range of juvenile ages should be considered in both Commissions to reduce the risk of SSB falling below its historically lowest level.

*Affirming that it is necessary to adopt compatible management measures to reduce the fishing mortality of Pacific bluefin tuna throughout the range of the resource to contribute to the stability of the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna;*

*Recognizing that the impact of the fishery for Pacific bluefin tuna in the Western and Central Pacific is much greater (84%) than in the EPO fisheries (16%) and its rate of increase in recent years has been greater (Document IATTC 83-05, page 75);*

*Putting on record again that the conservation measures adopted in the Western and Central Pacific are more necessary to improve the status of the stock, due to the high magnitude and composition of their catch, since; 80% of the fishing mortality in numbers of fish are individuals under the age of one year and are caught in the WCP, which relates also to the magnitude of the impact;*

*Encouraging both Commissions to take complementary and effective measures to reduce the mortality of bluefin tuna throughout the entire spectrum of ages, especially juveniles;*

*Urging all IATTC Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) involved in this fishery to participate, in a fair and equitable manner, and without exceptions, in the discussion and adoption of conservation measures applicable to the stock throughout its entire range;*

*Acknowledging* that any measure adopted in the EPO will have less benefit than expected for the stock unless the WCPFC adopts strong measures

*Mindful* that these measures are intended as an interim means for exercising caution towards assuring sustainability of the Pacific bluefin tuna resource and urging comparable action by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and that future conservation measures should be based not only on these interim measures, but also on the development of future scientific information and advice of the (ISC) and the IATTC scientific staff;

*Taking into account* the IATTC scientific staff's conservation recommendation;

*Also recognizing* that the IATTC has adopted Conservation and Management Measures for Bluefin tuna for 2012 and 2014, that these have been mandatory and non-voluntary and that the measures resulted in reducing catches in the EPO;

*Considering* further that previous Conservation management measures adopted in the WCPFC have not been fulfilled.

*Wishing* that combined Conservation and Management Measures of the WCPFC and the IATTC with other voluntary measures aimed to reduce fishing mortality, should be implemented to better contribute to the condition of the Bluefin tuna population; and

*Considering* that the average catch of 2010-2012 for the EPO was 6,180 tons.

*Bearing in mind* that IATTC scientific staff recommends a reduction of 20% to 50% in catches as beneficial for the stock, provided that they implemented over the entire area of distribution of the fishery

*Concerned* and taking into account that Northern Committee 10th in its September 2014 meeting considered only a reduction of 6% juvenile catch (less than 30kg, and not the whole weight range of juvenile) in relation to their average catch 2010-2012

*Concerned* that measures adopted in the EPO alone will not fulfill its objective if effective and substantial measures are not taken by all fisheries involved in both Commissions

*Resolves as follows:*

1. In the IATTC Convention Area, annual commercial catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by all the CPCs during 2015 and 2016 will be reduced by 25% of the average catches 2010-2012, which shall not exceed 4327 metric tons respectively (This corresponds to a 53% reduction from the levels of 2006). Notwithstanding the previous statement, the proposed reduction for 2016 will be ratified only if the WCPFC adopts equivalent effective measures in 2015 and 2016.
2. OR notwithstanding the previous statements, if the WCPFC in its annual meeting at the end of 2015 adopts a more substantial reduction and based on equivalences, the IATTC will consider further reductions.
3. This reduction is for the whole range of catches not only for PBF less than 30kg.
4. Non-commercial catches of bluefin tuna in the EPO will be reduced by 25% of the average catch 2010-2012 and should not exceed 308 metric tons in 2015 and in 2016. The reduction for 2016 will be reconsidered according to previous paragraph.
5. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the total catch of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area in 2015 and 2016 does not exceed the catch limit. For this purpose, each CPC shall report its catches to the Director in a timely fashion, weekly. The Director will send a first notice to the CPCs when 50% of the limit quota is reached. He will likewise send similar notices when 60%, 70%, and 80% of the limit quota is reached. When 90% is reached, the Director will send the corresponding notice to all CPCs, with a projection of when the limit quota established in paragraph 1 will be reached, and the CPCs will take the necessary internal measures to avoid exceeding the limit.

6. CPCs shall continue cooperating, through the Commission, to maintain the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) applied to Pacific bluefin tuna as a matter of priority.
7. The Commission shall again request the WCPFC to adopt comparable and effective stock building targets, mandatory measures, and a definitive schedule for implementation of said measures in its 2014 Regular Annual Session to address the impact of the fisheries and reduction of fishing mortality in the Western and Central Pacific on the Pacific bluefin tuna stock.
8. Based upon actions and measures adopted by the WCPFC, as referenced in paragraph 5, and appropriate analysis thereafter by the ISC, the scientific staff of the IATTC shall assess the status of the Pacific bluefin tuna stock and the effectiveness of the adopted WCPFC and IATTC measures. This assessment shall be presented at the next meeting of the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee in 2016. (SAC-6)
9. To enhance effectiveness of this Resolution and Pacific-wide progress towards rebuilding the Pacific bluefin tuna stock, CPCs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned WCPFC members bilaterally.