

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**89<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**Guayaquil (Ecuador)  
29 June-3 July 2015**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-89 A-1A REV**

**SUBMITTED BY COSTA RICA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-05-03 ON THE CONSERVATION OF  
SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE  
EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The sustainable utilisation of species of fisheries interest is one of the basic objectives of fisheries management. Although sharks in fisheries for tunas and tuna-like species are frequently subject to the rules on bycatch, generating in time an important interaction in catches, which, under the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, must be managed with prudence, in order to achieve the full utilisation of catches and the elimination of discards.

In this context, the IATTC issued in the year 2005 Resolution C-05-03 with the manifest objective of fighting shark finning through the establishment of a weight ratio of shark fins to bodies or carcasses, since this practice not only violates the concept of full utilisation of catches, but also promotes indiscriminate catching of sharks, which makes effective management of those stocks impossible. In time, various countries developed efficient alternatives to guarantee the eradication of the practice of finning, abandoning the practice of the weight ratio in order to utilise a more effective management control, conceived as the natural attachment of fins with partial cuts which, without separating the fins and body, in order to allow the proper handling and quality of the meat, by means of timely bleeding, in conjunction with the removal of the head and intestines of the animal.

Currently, the Central American countries in the framework of OSPESCA adopted Regulation OSP-05-11, by which the partial cutting of fins and maintaining a natural attachment are regulated, showing that the adopted mechanism is useful, viable, objective, transparent, and demonstrably for the elimination of finning.

Additionally, during the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee held on 11-15 May 2015, the representative of Costa Rica reiterated the importance that the practice of making compulsory the unloadings of sharks with fins attached to the body has had, in order to achieve a complete utilisation of shark catches.

This proposal aspires to the countries subject to IATTC regulation adopting the mechanism of naturally-attached fins with partial cuts, recognises the merit of the implementation of the regulations contained in Resolution C-05-03, for which reason what is intended with this proposal is the substitution of the mechanism that allows fins to be separated from carcasses, provided the weight of the fins is not more than 5% of the weight of the shark carcasses on board, by the practice of fins attached naturally to the body of the shark, with partial cuts.

Costa Rica intends that this proposed amendment be discussed, introducing substantive improvements to Resolution C-05-03, which is achieved through this proposal, by modifying the Resolution, substituting

paragraphs 4 and 5 of that Resolution, so that hereafter it reads:

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission*

*Resolves as follows:*

Paragraph 8 to 11 of Resolution C-03-05 are replaced by the following paragraphs:

8. CPCs shall submit data on catches of sharks, in accordance with the requirements and procedures of the IATTC for the provision of data. CPCs shall send to the IATTC Secretariat, by 1 May at the latest, a comprehensive annual report on the implementation of this resolution during the previous year.
9. CPCs shall, where possible, undertake research to:
  - a. identify ways of increasing the selectivity of fishing gears, as appropriate, including research into alternatives to the use of steel leaders;
  - b. improve the understanding of key biological/ecological parameters, life history and behaviour characteristics, and migration patterns of key shark species;
  - c. identify key shark mating, pupping, and nursery grounds; and
  - d. improve handling practices for live sharks to maximize post-release survival.
10. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall review annually the information submitted by CPCs and shall provide, as necessary, recommendations to the Commission on ways of strengthening the conservation and management of sharks in IATTC fisheries.
11. The Commission shall develop and consider for adoption at its regular annual meeting in 2016 mechanisms for encouraging CPCs to comply with its reporting requirements on sharks, particularly for the most vulnerable shark species identified by the Scientific Advisory Committee.
12. The Commission shall consider appropriate aid for developing CPCs for identifying species/groups of sharks and for collecting data on their catches of sharks."

The rest of the Resolution remains unchanged.