

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

89TH MEETING

Guayaquil (Ecuador)

29 June-3 July 2015

PROPOSAL IATTC-89 O-1

SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR

**EXHORTATION TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC
FISHERIES COMMISSION (WCPFC)**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), at its 89th ordinary meeting,

Considering:

That the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) are the regional tuna fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) that have the responsibility for administering and managing the fisheries for tropical tunas in the Pacific Ocean, especially those for the tropical species yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye.

That the stocks of bigeye and yellowfin tuna throughout the Pacific Ocean, according to the scientific analyses of both RFMOs, are very close to their maximum sustainable yields.

That both Commissions (IATTC and WCPFC) have for many years been adopting management measures to protect the stocks of bigeye and yellowfin tuna, which are different operationally, since one party stops its operations entirely and others partially, which prevents a greater effectiveness when it comes to conserving all the stocks of tunas in the Pacific Ocean at their maximum level.

That in the case of the IATTC, there has been a resolution since the year 2002 which establishes a maximum capacity limit for all the fleets, and this is not yet the case in the WCPFC, which has resulted in an increase of the fleet that operates in the Central and Western Pacific in recent years even though the maximum capacity limit with which they can make catches is not known for certain.

Resolves to exhort the WCPFC to consider at its next ordinary annual meeting:

1. To adopt, as the IATTC has done, management measures established as a total closure of catches for 62 continuous days for the purse-seine fishery for skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tunas, whereby the operation of the fleets is totally stopped, if possible for the same periods as in the Eastern Pacific, in order to achieve greater efficiency of the measures for the sustainability of the species throughout the Pacific Ocean.
2. To establish a maximum limit for the catching capacity of the entire tuna purse-seine fleet in the areas of the Central and Western Pacific.
3. That a permanent committee be created between the professional scientific teams of the IATTC and WCPFC in order to improve their work dynamic jointly, with similar assessment models for analyzing the status of all the stocks of tropical tunas in the Pacific Ocean as a whole.