



Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

SAC-06-11 Staff
Conservation
Recommendations



Recommendations by the staff for conservation measures in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 2015

YELLOWFIN, SKIPJACK, AND BIGEYE TUNAS

The staff recommends maintaining Resolution C-13-01 for 2016.

PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA:

The staff recommends maintaining Resolution C-14-06.

NORTHERN ALBACORE TUNA:

No new measures are proposed by the staff for 2016.

HARVEST CONTROL RULE

- Management measures for the purse-seine fishery, such as closures, which may be fixed for multiple years, will ensure that the fishing mortality rate (F) does not exceed the best estimate of the rate corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (F_{MSY}) for the species that requires the strictest management.
- If the probability that F exceeds the limit reference point (F_{limit}) is greater than 10%, management measures that have a probability of at least 50% of reducing F to the target level (F_{MSY}) or lower, and a probability of less than 10% that F will exceed F_{limit} , will be established as soon as is practical.
- If the probability that the spawning biomass (S) is below the limit reference point (S_{limit}) is greater than 10%, measures will be established that have a probability of at least 50% of rebuilding S to the target level (dynamic S_{MSY}) or greater, and a probability of less than 10% that S will fall below S_{limit} within a period of two generations of the stock or five years, whichever is greater.
- For other fisheries, management measures will be as consistent as possible with those for the purse-seine fishery.
- Further evaluation of this harvest control rule and alternatives will be conducted, so that a permanent harvest control rule can be adopted.

Conservation of silky sharks

- For purse-seine vessels:
 - Prohibit retention of silky sharks by all vessels, and require that the sharks be promptly released unharmed, to the extent feasible.
 - Establish observer programs for capacity class 1-5 vessels, with technical assistance from IATTC staff, at a level of observer coverage adequate to reliably monitor silky shark bycatches.
 - Record, through observer programs for purse-seine vessels of all capacity classes, the number and status (dead/alive) of silky sharks caught and released.
- For vessels other than purse-seiners, require that all silky sharks captured in fisheries that do not target this species be released as soon as they are seen in the net, on a hook, or on deck, to improve their chances of survival.
- **Close fisheries directed at silky sharks for a three-month period each year, preferably during the first semester. Fisheries not directed at silky sharks, but which catch the species incidentally, may continue to operate during the closure, but should not be allowed to use steel leaders on longlines for the duration of the closure.** The three-month closure is based on the ratio of the best measure of average catch in 2008-2009 to that in 2011-2102. The distribution of catches suggests that the predominant period of silky shark catch is the first half of the year.
- Limit the catch of silky sharks of less than 100 cm total length during a trip to 20% of the total number of silky sharks caught during that trip.
- Identify silky shark pupping grounds and prohibit fishing (with steel leaders) in them.
- Change Paragraph 12 of Resolution [C-05-03](#) to read “Paragraphs 2-10 of this resolution apply only to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IATTC” so that reporting of shark catches, by species, and of fishing effort, required by paragraph 11 of the resolution, is mandatory for all vessels.
- Conduct experiments on mitigating shark catches, especially in longline fisheries, and on the survival of sharks captured by all gear types, with priority given to those gears with significant catches. Survival experiments should include studies of the effects on survival of shorter sets and of the use of circle hooks.
- support research on mitigation of shark bycatch and data collection projects.

Bycatch

- Seabirds
- Handling of Mobulid rays in purse-seine fisheries
- Handling of sea turtles in longline fisheries
- Fishing gear configurations-
- Non-entangling FADs



Observer coverage of longline vessels

- The data show that 5% is too low a level of coverage to allow accurate estimates of the catch of species caught infrequently in those fisheries.
- The staff recommends 20% observer coverage of large longline vessels until sufficient information is available to justify a revision.



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Questions

