

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90th MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June -1 July 2016

DOCUMENT IATTC-90-04c

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEVENTH SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) makes the following recommendations:

1. That the staff present alternatives for management measures, such as: a single closure to be applied to all fisheries and vessel sizes, or a single closure with two periods during the year, the establishment of more time-area closures (like the *corralito*) where there is a high incidence of catch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, individual vessel quotas, capacity reductions, and restrictions on fishing gear deployments, that would apply to fisheries on the basis of their relative impacts and as alternatives to the 87 days of closure proposed by the IATTC scientific staff for tropical tuna species in the years 2017 and 2018.
2. Support the staff's recommendation on Pacific bluefin tuna.
3. Over a five-year period, increase observer coverage of longline vessels over 20 meters length overall to 20% annual coverage.¹
4. That countries with longline vessels over 20 meters length overall update which vessels are active, inactive, and/or sunk, and if possible inform the IATTC staff of the duration of their fishing operations.
5. Establish observer coverage for purse-seine vessels of less than 364 metric tons carrying capacity, and evaluate the use of electronic monitoring systems.
6. Evaluate the use of electronic monitoring systems with the objective of proposing minimum standards for adoption by the Commission and so augment observer coverage in longline and purse-seine fisheries.
7. Clarify the scope of the Antigua Convention with respect to associated species that are part of the same ecosystem and are affected by fishing (e.g. sharks and dorado) in order to facilitate research and management priorities.
8. Build and strengthen the capacity of developing states in data collection, research, and compliance with IATTC measures (e.g. training workshops, data collection, analyses, and standardization of data), with the aim of establishing a data collection program for fisheries and vessels for which a lack of information has been identified
9. Establish a definition of artisanal fisheries (e.g. by vessel size, gear type, well size, etc.) in order to clarify which vessels need to submit data to the IATTC.

¹ Japan stated that it does not agree with this recommendation because it considers that the need of scientific observers described in the preamble of Resolution C- 11-08 can be achieved under the current coverage with an appropriate research plan . China, Korea and Chinese Taipei stated also that they do not agree with this recommendation.

10. Strengthen and continue the work and research on FADs with the objective of designing a management plan for FADs as soon as possible.
11. That the staff continues work on models for predicting catches of bigeye tuna, and expand these efforts to consider other species, particularly yellowfin tuna.
12. If the Commission decides to activate the capacity of Guatemala and Venezuela, considered favorably at the 88th meeting, increase the closure period as recommended in Document [SAC-06 INF-B](#) and its *addendum*, as a conservation measure that offsets that capacity.²
13. Establish or continue tagging programs for tropical tunas, silky sharks, and dorado, to improve estimates of growth and hypotheses of stock structure.
14. Evaluate unilateral management measures adopted by Members, like Costa Rica within its EEZ, and their impacts on stocks of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas.
15. Strengthen scientific cooperation with the WCPFC and encourage the adoption of harmonized conservation measures for bigeye and bluefin tunas in both organizations.
16. The SAC thanked Japan for providing datasets including samples for its training and commercial vessels, separately. It was noted that, according to the information provided, training and commercial vessels seem to be catching different sizes. In light of these results the SAC recommended that the staff continues working with Japan in order to explore recruitment signals in the training vessel data.
17. The SAC congratulated the IATTC Secretariat for developing a tool to access the results of the assessments through the IATTC web page. It was noted that this tool is very useful and the SAC recommended that the Secretariat continue development of such tool into the future.
18. The SAC thanked the Secretariat for presenting the results of the work undertaken with the coastal countries to assess the status of dorado and capacity-building activities undertaken by IATTC staff. The SAC noted the socio-economic importance that dorado fisheries have in the region and recommended that this work continue in the future.

² The EU states that it does not agree with this recommendation because it considers that the process of formulation and its contents go beyond the scientific scope that is the remit of this Committee, and goes into elements that are strictly within the competence of the Commission.