

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

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3RD TECHNICAL MEETING ON DORADO

Evaluating data needs and assessment methods for data-limited dorado fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean

25-27 October 2016; Panama City, Panama

Scope and objectives

The first two IATTC technical meetings on dorado were very successful in establishing the collaborative research forum that is necessary to work on dorado on the regional scale of the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). This collaborative work also had two important scientific outcomes: the first [integrated stock assessment of dorado](#) in the EPO, and an exploratory [management strategy evaluation](#) (MSE) of dorado. However, those studies focused exclusively on the southern EPO, off Peru and Ecuador, where the majority of the dorado from the EPO is caught and for which a great deal of data is available. In contrast, data are limited for other areas of the EPO where dorado fisheries are economically important (e.g. Central America). For these fisheries, there is an urgent need for alternative stock assessment methodologies and/or indicators of stock status as a basis for management.

The 3rd technical meeting on dorado will focus on evaluating and prioritizing data collection needs, as well as tools for developing and evaluating stock status indicators likely to rapidly deliver the scientific information needed for managing these data-limited fisheries. The IATTC staff will facilitate sessions of collaborative work and discussions aimed at resolving two important issues that need to be addressed: 1) priorities for the collection of fisheries data, and 2) stock status indicators that could be derived relatively rapidly from those data and that would be useful for managing dorado fisheries. Capacity-building activities, such as tutorials, will be conducted to illustrate the use of different data sources and assessment methods, and discussion sessions will be held to generate ideas for future research.

Finally, the potential use of a Management Strategy Evaluation framework to explore the effect of the choice of data sources and indicators for such data-limited fisheries on the possibility of achieving the desired conservation goals will be discussed.