

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

94TH MEETING

Bilbao, Spain, 22-26 July 2019

PROPOSAL IATTC-94 A-3

SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FADs

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Considering that the *Ad Hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs does not have detailed terms of reference, it is necessary to strengthen those terms to ensure the proper functioning of the Group. For practical reasons, and taking into account the development of this Group, it is also pertinent to adopt an independent resolution, since the creation and terms of reference of the Group are currently covered in Resolution C-18-05 on the collection and analyses of data on fish-aggregating devices.

The proposed terms of reference have been drafted using language already adopted and contained in various IATTC documents, including the Antigua Convention and the terms of reference of other Working Groups and subsidiary bodies. In addition, the different provisions already included in Resolution C-18-05 concerning the Group are maintained. Finally, it is worth mentioning that we are not proposing any substantial changes to the objectives or functioning of the Group.

We consider that these terms of reference are necessary in order to have clear rules and ensure greater practicality.

RESOLUTION C-19-XX

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FADs

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Bilbao, Spain, on the occasion of its 94th Meeting:

Committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Taking into account the best available scientific information on the status of the bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack stocks;

Understanding that all fishing gears, including fish-aggregating devices (FADs), have an effect on the stocks and the pelagic ecosystem in the EPO, and that such effects should be fully understood by the Members of the Commission;

Attentive to the provisions of IATTC Resolutions C-99-07, C-17-02 and C-18-05 on measures related to the regulation of FADs;

Recognizing that these measures need to be expanded and improved upon to ensure that the effects of the use of FADs on highly migratory fish stocks along with non-target, associated and dependent species, are fully understood and that the Commission can receive the best available scientific advice concerning mitigation of any negative effects;

Committed to ensuring that such scientific advice is taken into account in the development of the Commission's conservation and management measures concerning fishing for tunas;

Agrees:

This Working Group shall be multi-sectorial, involving various stakeholders such as scientists, fishery managers, fishing industry representatives, administrators, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and fishers. Expressions of interest to participate in the Working Group shall be provided to the Director, who shall inform CPCs and the Chair of the FADs Working Group.

The objectives of the Working Group are the following:

1. Collect and compile information on FADs in the EPO, including but not limited to data collected by the IATTC and reports prepared by the scientific staff of the IATTC;
2. Review the FAD data collection requirements established in relevant resolutions to assess the need for revision;
3. Develop data reporting formats and definitions of terms related to FAD fishing (e.g. biodegradable FADs, non-entangling FADs, etc.), to implement obligations under this Resolution, in cooperation with the scientific staff, to be submitted to the Commission for consideration;
4. Compile information regarding developments on FADs in other tuna RFMOs;
5. Compile information regarding developments on the latest scientific information on FADs, including information on non-entangling FADs, and identify priority areas for research;
6. Prepare annual reports for the SAC, including specific recommendations, as appropriate; and
7. Identify and review possible FAD management measures, in coordination with the scientific staff and the SAC, and make recommendations to the Commission, as appropriate.

The reports adopted by the Working Group shall form part of the appendices to the minutes of the Scientific Advisory Committee meeting.

The recommendations adopted by the Working Group shall be included in the document containing the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee. In addition, the recommendations adopted by the Working Group may also be endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

The Working Group shall report periodically to the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Commission.

The Working Group shall liaise, as far as possible, with other similar working groups on FAD management established in other tuna regional fisheries management organizations (tuna RFMOs), in particular the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

The Working Group shall hold at least one annual meeting, preferably on the occasion of the SAC meeting.

The Working Group may convene additional meetings at the request of at least two (2) members of the Commission, provided that a majority of the members support the request.

At the end of each of its annual meetings, the Working Group shall elect individuals to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall remain in office for a period of one year. The Chair and Vice-Chair may be re-elected unless they are no longer able to carry out their respective functions or their successors are elected.

If the Chair is unable to carry out its functions at any time, the Vice-Chair shall act as Chair until such time as the Chair is able to resume carrying out its functions or a new Chair is elected.

The Chair, in consultation with the participants of the Working Group, shall draw up an agenda for meetings and shall circulate it to the Members. The agenda should normally be circulated at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date fixed for the meeting.

In support of the work of the Working Group, the staff of the Commission shall:

- (a) compile and present the information necessary for the work of the Working Group;
- (b) provide the statistical analyses the Working Group deems necessary to carry out its functions;
- (c) prepare the reports of the Working Group; and
- (d) distribute to the members of the Working Group any relevant information for the achievement of its objectives.