



**Inter-American Convention for the Protection and
Conservation of Sea Turtles**
Fifth Conference of the Parties
June 1-3, 2011- Bonaire

**Memorandum of Understanding between the Inter-American Tropical Tuna
Commission and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation
of Sea Turtles**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (hereinafter IATTC) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (hereinafter IAC), jointly called “the Parties”;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the objective of the IAC is to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the Parties;

CONSIDERING that the objective of the Convention for the strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (Antigua Convention) is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by that Convention;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Antigua Convention also establishes provisions for the conservation of species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by the Antigua Convention;

CONVINCED that, based on the best available scientific data, species of sea turtles in the Americas are vulnerable, and that some of these species could face an imminent risk of extinction;

AWARE that the feeding, migration and nesting habitats of some sea turtles may coincide with areas where fishing occurs; and that sea turtles play an important ecological role in marine ecosystems;

RECALLING that the IATTC and IAC want to achieve conservation and sustainable uses of marine species and their habitats;

NOTING that Article XII of the IAC states that the IAC Parties shall promote bilateral and multilateral cooperative activities to further the objective of this Convention and, when they deem it appropriate, shall seek the support of relevant international organizations;

CONSIDERING that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention states that the IATTC shall cooperate with appropriate regional organizations to further the objectives of this Convention, and may establish institutional arrangements for this purpose;

RECALLING that the IATTC has adopted several resolutions to protect and conserve sea turtles, including measures to mitigate the impact of tuna fishing vessels on sea turtles;



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TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the IAC's adoption of the Resolution "Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles" (COP3/2006/R-2) that requests the IAC Pro Tempore Secretariat to commence discussions with regional fishery management organizations in order to develop Memorandum of Understandings;

AWARE that some members of the IATTC are Parties to the IAC;

RECOGNIZING that the achievement of the objectives of the IATTC and the IAC will benefit from cooperation and collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

THEREFORE, THE PARTIES RESOLVE TO:

1. MEMORANDUM OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter Memorandum) is to facilitate cooperation between the IATTC and the IAC in order to enhance the conservation of sea turtles in the eastern Pacific Ocean and reduce incidental by-catch of sea turtle species for IATTC vessels.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The IATTC and the IAC may maintain consultations, and carry out joint cooperative activities regarding topics of common interest including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- a) systems for collecting and analyzing data, and to exchange information relating to incidental by-catch of sea turtles in the IATTC Convention Area;
- b) exchange of information regarding management approaches relevant to the conservation of sea turtles;
- c) education and awareness programs for fishermen operating in areas where sea turtles may be encountered;
- d) research on sea turtle by-catch mitigation measures relevant to fishing operations in the IATTC Convention Area;
- e) training programs on conservation techniques and measures to mitigate threats affecting sea turtles;
- f) exchange of expertise, techniques and knowledge relevant to the conservation of sea turtles in the IATTC Convention Area and,
- g) participation in relevant meetings of each organization and,
- h) in any other areas of cooperation the Parties agree to.

3. REVIEW, MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

This Memorandum can be reviewed, modified and amended by the mutual consent of the Parties. The modifications or amendments must be done in writing, specifying the date they become effective.



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4. JUDICIAL NATURE

The Parties acknowledge that this Memorandum does not create legally binding obligations.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE


This Memorandum will enter into force upon the date signed by the Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Pro Tempore Secretary of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

Each Party shall have the right to terminate this Memorandum at any time by giving thirty days advance written notice to the other Party.

The results of the joint collaborative activities carried out within the framework of this Memorandum may be published or used with the consent of the IATTC and the IAC, based on specific contracts and in conformity with the international conventions relevant to the matter.

Signed in four originals, in English and in Spanish, both texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL
TUNA COMMISSION**


Guillermo A. Compeán
IATTC Director

Date: 16/June/2011

**FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION
OF SEA TURTLES**


Verónica Cáceres Chamorro
IAC Pro Tempore Secretary

Date: 10/JUN/2011