

# COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT) INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

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## MEMORANDUM

2 July 2025  
Ref.: 0358-410

To: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation  
c.c.: Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia  
From: Arnulfo L. Franco, Director  
Re: Resolution C-23-07 on sharks

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Resolution C-23-07 on Conservation Measures for the Protection and Sustainable Management of Sharks establishes in paragraph 23 that:

*“The IATTC Secretariat will develop a template for CPCs to report on the implementation of this Resolution for adoption by the Commission in 2024. In 2025, CPCs shall send to the IATTC Secretariat, by June 30 at the latest, a comprehensive annual report of the implementation of this Resolution during the previous year.”*

However, Resolution C-24-05 on sharks, which amends and replaces Resolution C-23-07 as of July 1, 2025, states the following in paragraphs 23 to 25:

*“23. The IATTC Secretariat will develop a template for CPCs to report on the implementation of this Resolution for adoption by the Commission in 2024.*

*24. In 2025, CPCs shall use the annual compliance questionnaire to report on their compliance with this Resolution.*

*25. In 2026, CPCs shall use the reporting template provided by the Staff to annually report on its implementation of this Resolution. Reports for the previous year shall be submitted to the IATTC Secretariat, by June 30 of each year.”.*

This Secretariat considers that there is clearly a discrepancy between the two resolutions, but that the Commission's intention was to operate in accordance with the mentioned paragraphs (23 to 25). In this case, the compliance questionnaire, which will be reviewed at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Review Committee (COR), will be used to report compliance with Resolution C-24-05, and for 2026, it will be done based on the format described in paragraph 26.

In accordance with the above, and with the valuable cooperation of the Canadian delegation and based on a template used in ICCAT, the format included in the annex was prepared this year for CPCs consideration and grant their eventual approval during the 16<sup>th</sup> COR meeting, to be held in Panama in August 2025, and to be used by CPCs to report on compliance with the resolution in 2026.

I appreciate your valuable cooperation.

Attachment: as indicated.

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IATTC REPORTING TEMPLATE. COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION [C-23-07](#)  
C-23-07 ON THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS.

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b> In the area of implementation there is 3 options to respond. Please consider the following options to respond in the selected option as following: <b>YES.-</b> <i>Where appropriate, responses should provide information on what or how measures are implemented through laws and/or regulations (including relevant licensing conditions) and how compliance is monitored and enforced. Please indicate the relevant dates of regulations entering into force and hyperlinks to relevant laws and regulations where available.</i> <b>NO.-</b> <i>Provide information to explain why the relevant obligation or recommendation has not been implemented, including any relevant plans or timelines for future implementation and a description of any barriers or challenges to implementation and how those might be overcome.</i> <b>N/A.-</b> <i>Provide a rationale as to why this obligation or recommendation is not applicable.</i>
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<b>Reporting CPC:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
<b>PAR. 3.</b> <i>Members and Cooperating Non-Members (“CPCs”) should establish and implement a national plan of action for conservation and management of sharks, in accordance with the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks</i>
<b>Has the CPC <u>established</u> a national plan of action (NPOA) for conservation and management of sharks, in accordance with FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks?</b>
Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.
<b>If the CPC has established and NPOA for sharks, has it been fully <u>implemented</u> ?</b>
Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.
<b>PAR. 4.</b> <i>CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishers fully utilize all retained catches of sharks, with the exception of those species for which a retention ban has been adopted by the IATTC.</i>
<b>Has the CPC implemented measures to require fishers fully utilize all retained catch of sharks, with the exception of those species for which a retention ban has been adopted?</b>
Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.
<b>If implemented, please describe how the CPC ensures compliance with this obligation, including monitoring or inspection efforts?</b>

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Are all retained sharks fully utilized? Please describe the levels of compliance as estimated from the monitoring procedures described in the previous question.
PAR. 5. CPCs shall prohibit shark finning
Does the CPC prohibit shark finning, as defined in the Resolution?
Answer YES, NO, or N/A and explain as indicated in the instructions.
If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this prohibition? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.
Have you encountered any instances of non-compliance with this obligation? Please describe the levels of compliance as estimated from the monitoring procedures described in the previous question.
PAR 6. CPCs shall ensure that all sharks are landed with all fins naturally attached to the body. In order to facilitate on-board storage, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the shark carcass as appropriate but shall remain naturally attached to the carcass until the first point of landing (see Annex 2).
Has the CPC implemented measures to ensure sharks are landed with fins naturally attached until the first point of landing?
Answer YES, NO, or N/A and explain as indicated in the instructions.
If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this requirement? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.
What percentage of shark landings does the CPC estimate that they inspect or otherwise monitor? Please describe the level of compliance observed (e.g. number or percent of sharks were landed with their fins naturally attached during the previous year).
PAR. 7. Until the end of 2026, notwithstanding paragraphs 6, and other provisions in this Resolution, CPCs may take alternative measures to ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified on board the vessel at any time, using one of the following methods: (i) each individual shark carcass and its corresponding fins are stored in the same bag, preferably a biodegradable one (ii) each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding shark fins using rope or wire; or,

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(iii)	the shark fins and the corresponding shark are identically, uniquely, and numerically tagged in a manner that an authorized inspector can readily identify the matching of the shark fins to the corresponding shark.
<b>Does the CPC allow the utilization of the alternative measures consistent with paragraph 7 of the Resolution?</b>	
Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.	
<b>If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with these alternative measures? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.</b>	
<b>Which of the three alternatives did the CPC allow during this reporting period? Describe how many vessels utilized the allowed alternatives during this reporting period (both in terms of absolute numbers and relative percent)?</b>	
<b>If the CPC allows the use of alternative measures to the “fins naturally attached” (FNA) requirement of paragraph 6 of the Resolution, please describe why implementing FNA during the reporting period was not possible. Please also describe the anticipated timeline for implementation of FNA, along with any barriers and challenges to implementing FNA and possible solutions.</b>	
<b>Par. 8.</b> Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, landing or trading of any fins harvested or that have been removed on board in contravention of this Resolution	
<b>Has the CPC implemented a prohibition on the retention, transshipment, landing or trade of fins that harvested or removed in contravention of this measure?</b>	
Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.	
<b>If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this requirement? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.</b>	
<b>PAR. 10.</b> CPCs shall prohibit vessels targeting tuna and/or swordfish from using buoy lines.	
<b>Has the CPC implemented measures to prohibit the use of buoy lines in tuna and swordfish target fisheries?</b>	
Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.	
<b>If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this requirement? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.</b>	
<b>PAR. 11.</b> CPCs shall require their vessels to promptly release unharmed all sharks (alive or dead) that are not retained, the extent practicable, as soon as they are seen on the line, entangled in the net, or brailled on the deck, taking due consideration the safety of any person on board, using the following	

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procedures when seen entangled in the net, disentangle the sharks and release them into the ocean as soon as possible sharks brailed on deck must be returned to the water as soon as possible, either utilizing a ramp from the deck connecting to an opening on the side of the vessel, or through escape hatches. If ramps or escape hatches are not available, the sharks must be lowered with a sling or cargo net, using a crane or similar equipment, or as indicated in Annex 3 or any future revisions, as identified pursuant to paragraph 12 prohibit the use of gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments for the handling of sharks prohibit the lifting of sharks by the head, tail, gill slits, or spiracles, or by using bind wire against or inserted through the body. Prohibit the punching of holes through the bodies of sharks (e.g., to pass a cable through for lifting the shark) prohibit the lifting of whale sharks (Rhincodon typus) onboard the vessel and prohibit the towing of whale sharks out of a purse-seine net, e.g., using towing ropes. leave the shark in the water, where possible use a line cutter to cut the branchline as close to the hook as possible, and so that less than 1 meter remains on the animal, to the extent practicable

**Has the CPC implemented measures contained in paragraph 11 of the Resolution to require the prompt release of sharks not retained?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**Does the CPC provide training or other materials to crew regarding the safe handling and release of sharks? If “yes”, please describe.**

**How many sharks does the CPC estimate were released during this reporting period? Please segregate by gear type.**

**PURSE SEINE VESSELS:**  
**How does the CPC ensure compliance with paragraph 11 with respect to purse-seine vessels? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**PURSE SEINE VESSELS:**  
**Do the CPC’s Purse-seine vessels use ramps connected to an opening on the side of the vessel, escape hatches, or a sling, or cargo net with a crane to facilitate release?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**PURSE SEINE VESSELS:**  
**Does the CPC prohibit the use of gaff, hooks, or similar instruments for the handling of sharks on purse-seine vessels?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this prohibition? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.**

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<b>LONGLINE VESSELS:</b> <b>How does the CPC ensure compliance with paragraph 11 with respect to longline vessels? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs.</b>
Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.
<b>LONGLINE VESSELS:</b> <b>Does the CPC require longline vessels to carry a line cutter?</b>
Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.
<b>LONGLINE VESSELS:</b> <b>If “yes”, how does the CPC ensure compliance with this requirement? Please include descriptions of relevant monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and programs</b>
<b>PAR. 12.</b> CPCs may elect to use the safe handling and release guidelines described in Annex 3 and as appropriate, the tools identified in Annex 3.1 of this Resolution.
<b>Has the CPC elected to use the safe handling and release guidelines described in Annex 3 and the tools identified in Annex 3.1?</b>
Answer <b>YES, NO, or N/A</b> and explain as indicated in the instructions.
<b>PAR. 18.</b> By 2027, CPCs will undertake, where possible, in cooperation with the IATTC scientific staff, actions to: a. identify ways to make fishing gears more selective, where appropriate, including research into alternative measures to wire leaders; b. improve knowledge of key biological and ecological parameters, life-history and behavioral traits, and migration patterns of key shark species; c. identify key shark mating, pupping, and nursery areas; and d. improve handling practices for live sharks to maximize their post-release survival
<b>Please describe any actions the CPC has taken to implement paragraph 18 of the Resolution.</b>

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**PAR. 19.** The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the identification of shark species/groups and the collection of data on their shark catches

**Does the CPC require capacity building assistance for the identification of shark species/groups and data collection on shark catches?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**PAR. 20.** Each CPC shall annually report data for catches, effort by gear type landing and trade of sharks, by species where possible, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data, of the fisheries under the purview of the Commission

**Has the CPC reported catch and effort data by gear type, landings and trade data, consistent with paragraph 20, for fisheries under the purview of the Commission? Is reporting by species possible? Please include a description of any barriers or challenges to any elements of these reporting requirements.**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**Have you reported all relevant historical data described in paragraph 20?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**PAR. 21.** CPCs are encouraged to provide aggregated information on trade, as available

**Does the CPC provide to IATTC any aggregated data regarding trade of sharks or shark products?**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

**PAR. 22.** CPCs shall also provide to the IATTC, through observer programs, electronic monitoring programs or other means, the species identification, the number and status (dead/alive) of all sharks caught, in accordance with applicable monitoring requirements, including those caught incidentally and/or released by purse seine vessels of all capacity classes and longline vessels.

**Does the CPC provide the information described in paragraph 22 to the IATTC??**

Answer **YES, NO, or N/A** and explain as indicated in the instructions.

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**Resolution C-23-07 on sharks / Resolución C-23-07 sobre tiburones**

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**From** Monica Galvan <mgalvan@iattc.org>

**Date** Wed 7/2/2025 12:10 PM

**To** Monica Galvan <mgalvan@iattc.org>

 2 attachments (649 KB)

0358-410 Comm HODs re format to report on resolution C-23-07 on sharks ENG.pdf; 0358-410 Comm HODs re format to report on resolution C-23-07 on sharks SPN.pdf;

Dear delegates,

I have attached a letter for your information and consideration.

Best regards,

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Estimados delegados,

Adjunto oficio para su información y consideración.

Atentamente,

*Monica Galvan*

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

**Assistant to the Director**



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