

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico

24-28 July 2017

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. General presentation of proposals submitted by Members on resolutions and others	
4. a. The fishery in 2016 and status of the tuna and billfish stocks	IATTC-92-04a
b. Review of the Commission staff's research	
c. Report and recommendations of the 8 th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee	IATTC-92-04c
d. Conservation recommendations by the Commission staff	IATTC-92-04d
5. Reports of subsidiary bodies and working groups:	
a. 2 nd Meeting of the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Group on FADs	
b. 5 th Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance	
c. 8 th Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission	
d. 18 th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity	
e. 7 th Meeting of the Working group on Bycatch	
6. Observer program for transshipments at sea	IATTC-92-06
7. Implementation of Resolution C-14-02 (amended) on the establishment of a vessel monitoring system (VMS):	
a. Progress reports by CPCs	
b. Possible development of a stand-alone IATTC VMS scheme	
8. Plan of action for implementing the recommendations of the Performance Review	
9. Discussion of resolutions and recommendations	
10. Election of Chair and Deputy Chair for the July 2017-July 2018 period	
11. Election of Chairs of subsidiary bodies and working groups	
12. Other business	
13. Place and date of next meeting	
14. Adjournment	

APPENDICES

1	List of attendees	
2.	RESOLUTIONS	
2a	Conservation measures for tropical tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean during 2018-2020 and amendment to Resolution C-17-01	C-17-02
2b	Financing for fiscal year 2018	C-17-03
2c	Amendment of paragraph 4 of the IATTC Rules of Procedure regarding the date of the ordinary annual meeting	C-17-04
2d	Creation of an <i>ad hoc</i> Working Group to review the legal and operative coherence of IATTC resolutions	C-17-05
3.	PROPOSALS [Not Adopted]	
3a	C-1 European Union. Working Group on allocation of fishing opportunities for tropical tuna species	
3b	D-1 United States. Pacific bluefin tuna	
3c	E-1 European Union. Conservation of sharks	
3d	E-2 Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Conservation of sharks	
3e	F-1 United States. Sea turtles	
3f	G-1 European Union. Minimum standards for inspections in port	
3g	H-1 United States. Safety of observers at sea	
3h	K-1 Mexico. Contribution by the IATTC to the AIDCP	
3i	L-1 Mexico. Observers on longline vessels	
4	REPORTS	
4a	Report of the 5 th meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance	
4b	Report of the 8 th meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (“Review Committee”)	
4c	Report of the 18 th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity	
4d	Report of the 7 th meeting of the Working Group on Bycatch (May 2017)	
4e	Report of the 2 nd meeting of the <i>ad hoc</i> Working Group on FADs	
5	OTHERS	
5a	Chile: Statement as a Cooperating Non-Member	
5b	Colombia: Statement on capacity dispute	

The 92nd meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was held in Mexico City, Mexico, on 24-28 July 2017. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the chairman of the IATTC, Mr. Guillermo Morán, of Ecuador. In accordance with rule 10 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, Mr. Carlos Marín, of Guatemala, was elected rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, with the addition of a new item 7e), *7th meeting of the Working Group on Bycatch*, and a new item 8, *Plan of action for implementing the recommendations of the Performance Review*.

3. General presentation of proposals submitted by Members on resolutions and others

Members that had submitted proposals were given the opportunity of presenting them in a general manner, thus enabling the process of discussion and negotiation of the proposals to commence without delay, before their consideration under item 9 of the agenda.

4. a. The fishery in 2016 and status of the tuna and billfish stocks

The Commission's scientific staff presented Document [IATTC-92-04a](#), *The fishery in 2016 and status of the tuna and billfish stocks*.

Regarding yellowfin tuna in the EPO, the assessment indicates that the recent fishing mortality (F) has been slightly below the level corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) (F multiplier = 1.03), and it is estimated that the current spawning biomass (S) is below that level. However, the recent biomass (B) of fish aged 3 quarters or greater is greater than that corresponding to the MSY ($B_{\text{recent}}/B_{\text{MSY}} = 1.30$), due to the high recruitments in 2015 and 2016.

Regarding bigeye tuna in the EPO, since 1993 the fishing mortality (F) of bigeye less than about 15 quarters of age has increased substantially, as a consequence of the expansion of the purse-seine fishery on floating objects. According to the base case assessment, recent F has been below the MSY level (F multiplier 1.15), whereas the recent spawning biomass has been above that level. Discards of small bigeye have a small, but detectable, impact on the decline of the stock.

Regarding skipjack tuna in the EPO, data- and model-based indicators have not yet detected any clear adverse impact of fishing. However, the average weight has fallen to levels seen at the beginning of the 1980s, and was below its lower reference point in 2015 and 2016, which could be a result of overfishing, but could also be caused by the fact that recent recruitments have been greater than the previous ones, or by the expansion of the fishery to areas occupied by smaller skipjack. Since effort and biomass of skipjack have been relatively constant over the last 15 years, this also implies that the biomass of skipjack is above B_{MSY} .

Regarding Pacific bluefin tuna, the stock of this species in the northern Pacific is at very low levels, and fishing mortality is above any reasonable reference point. It is expected that the stock will recover under current management actions. However, due to the uncertainty regarding the relationship between spawning biomass and recruitment, and when recruitment might be affected by the low level of abundance of spawners, there is concern about the low abundance of spawners. The fisheries in the western Pacific Ocean have had a greater impact than those of the EPO, and their rate of increase in recent years has been greater.

Regarding north Pacific albacore tuna, an assessment carried out in April 2017 by the Working Group on Albacore of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), based on data through 2015, concluded that the stock is probably not currently overfished, since the assessment does not indicate that fishing has reduced the spawning stock biomass (SSB) below reasonable reference points based on biomass. Overfishing is probably not occurring, since the assessment indicates that fishing is likely to be below a suite of potential reference points based on fishing mortality. The stock assessment model is an improved model in relation to the 2014 one, nevertheless large uncertainties remain. A management strategy evaluation process is ongoing this stock and a stakeholder workshop will take place in October 2017.

Japan expressed concern about the continuing increase in recent years in the capacity of the purse-seine fleet, and asked about its causes, and also about the continued increase in sets on fish-aggregating devices (FADs), which catch considerable quantities of juvenile fish. Japan noted that its fishermen do not find any sign of recovery of bigeye tuna stock and feel that the stock assessment is not consistent with the actual situation of bigeye tuna and emphasized the need for future improvement of the stock assessment.

The staff replied that the increase in the capacity of the purse-seine fleet, from 248,428 m³ in 2015 to 261,555 m³ in 2016, was due essentially to the activation of available capacity, of the capacity corresponding to previously inactive vessels or to vessels returning to the EPO after fishing in other areas. All of these movements were documented in the Regional Vessel Register and were in accordance with current regulations. Regarding bigeye tuna, the staff noted that a recovery of the stock has been observed in the last three years, but for a more accurate assessment of its status more detailed data are needed, in

particular those held by Japan, whose ongoing collaboration in this regard by its scientists is therefore of great importance. The reason for the increase in the number of sets on FADs is not clear, but some possibilities include a greater number of FADs deployed, a higher number of FAD sets within a day, an increase in the number of vessels making sets on FADs, etc.

Mexico and Colombia noted that, in clear contrast to the increase of the catches of yellowfin tuna on floating objects, the fishery for tunas associated with dolphins has in general been very stable, and in fact a reduction in the catches of yellowfin has been observed. Colombia noted that this meant that the increase in fishing mortality is not due only to the increased capacity of the purse-seine fleet, and the impact of the use of FADs is evidenced by the fact that to date 80% of the bigeye limit established in Resolution C-17-01 has been reached.

Mexico noted that the increase in sets on floating objects, particularly on FADs, also has a strong impact on the catches of juveniles, and suggested bigeye tuna could not recover unless those catches were controlled. Colombia also insisted that the increase in sets on floating objects, particularly on FADs, has a strong impact on the catches of juveniles, not only with respect to bigeye tuna, but also for other species of tropical tunas, including yellowfin tuna. Some delegations were of the view that management measures should focus especially on the mortality of juvenile caused by the use of FADs.

Regarding purse seine fleet capacity, the staff noted that, although the correlation between capacity and fishing mortality is not strong, it is significant, so using it as an indicator has worked throughout the years, as an additional element which has to be taken into account within a precautionary approach.

On this matter, the European Union noted the correlation between fleet capacity and the number of days of closure, and recalled that the advisability of increasing closures by 25 days had been discussed at previous meetings, whereas now only 10 additional days were being considered, which showed the need for developing a more consistent methodology.

In more general terms, the European Union requested additional information to help understand what happens in the different fishing modes, by country and by species, with historical series of catches, to have available more extensive information that will facilitate taking decisions on management measures.

Colombia insisted that more effective methodologies and additional indicators should be used to help determine mortality in a more objective manner, in order to propose and adopt conservation measures that are better suited to the particularities of the tuna fishery in the EPO.

Ecuador pointed out that at the 91st (extraordinary) meeting of the Commission in February 2017, the conservation and management measures for tropical tunas had been adopted in a hurry and that, with the new information provided by the scientific staff, it would be advisable to modify them at the present meeting.

b. Review of the Commission staff's research

Dr. Alexandre Aires-da-Silva, of the Commission scientific staff, presented information on the current and planned activities of the staff. Research work is developed through four programs: 1) assessment of the main tuna stocks; 2) studies of biology and ecosystems; 3) data collection and databases; and 4) bycatch and International Dolphin Conservation Program. A detailed description of these activities can be found in document SAC-08-10a.

There has been considerable interest, both in the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and among IATTC Members, for the staff to conduct investigations not included in its current or planned research activities and/or requiring collaboration with scientists from member countries. The staff prepared a series of proposals to address some of the mentioned topics and facilitate the search for potential sources of extrabudgetary funding.

Dr. Aires-da-Silva described the following proposed research activities, set out in detail in Appendices 1 and 2 of Document [CAF-05-04](#), to be carried out in the short and medium term:

	Proposal	Period	Budget (US\$)
1.	Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for tropical tunas in the EPO	1 year	162,000
2.	Relationship between vessel operational characteristics and fishing mortality	2 years	223,000
3.	Workshop to advance spatial stock assessments of bigeye tuna in the Pacific Ocean	1 week	50,000
4.	Analyses of the effects of fisheries targeting on longline CPUE standardization	3 months	23,000
5.	Improving data collection and stock assessments for sharks in the EPO	4 years	1,012,000
6.	Evaluation of potential reference points for dorado in the EPO	6 months	81,000
7.	Electronic monitoring of purse-seine vessel activities and catches	2 years	207,000
8.	Testing the potential of sorting grids for reducing the mortality of small tunas and other species in the purse-seine fishery in the EPO	2 years	100,000
9.	Tagging program	3 years	7,286,103

Mexico noted that it was necessary to continue the work of assessing dolphin populations, and thanked the European Union for supporting the workshop on dolphins held recently in La Jolla. Japan, while supporting the proposed projects, in particular Proposal 2, recalled that it is not a Party to the AIDCP, and asked for information on the demarcation of responsibilities and activities on these matters between the IATTC in the AIDCP, mainly from the budgetary perspective.

Costa Rica stated that the important research on sharks should continue, and recalled that it had offered the Commission a physical space for a field office, which would strengthen its work.

Ecuador requested that this information be posted on the IATTC website.

Finally, the Commission thanked the staff for the presentation and noted that the budgetary resources that would be needed to carry out the proposed activities should be considered.

c. Report and recommendations of the 8th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee

Dr. Compeán reported on the eighth meeting of the SAC held in May 2017 in La Jolla. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Working Group on FADs and the Working Group on bycatch, and adopted a series of recommendations (see Document [IATTC-92-04c](#), *Recommendations of the 8th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee*).

Regarding SAC recommendation 18, *Analysis of catch limits*, Mexico noted that it had not agreed with using the 2014-2016 period as a basis for the recommended assessment, and had expressed this in writing.

d. Conservation recommendations by the IATTC staff

Dr. Aires-da-Silva presented the staff's conservation and management recommendations (Document [IATTC-92-04d](#)). However, only the first of these, to extend the closure of the purse-seine fishery established in Resolution C-17-01 from 62 days to 72 days, could be reviewed, and it was agreed that CPCs would send written comments on the other recommendations to the Secretariat, for circulation to all CPCs.

Several Members expressed their support for extending the closure period, although some, among them Costa Rica, proposed that 62 days be maintained for vessels fishing for tunas associated with dolphins. The European Union noted that the fishery on FADs could not alone be blamed for the status of the resource and that all fisheries contribute to fishing mortality. While stressing that impact on fishing mortality is determined by the number of sets made on FADs and not by the number of FADs deployed, the EU emphasized the need to regulate the use of FADs, notably because of their possible environmental impacts. Nicaragua suggested a package of measures in addition to the 72 days of closure would be added. Nicaragua noted that the closures have not proved to be sufficient for that fishery on FADs, and stressed, as did Mexico

and Colombia, that the problem of catches of juvenile tunas, which caused more negative impacts on the resource, should be addressed. Colombia stressed the need for vessels to remain in port during the entirety of the corresponding closure as well as the importance that the closure be applied to all capacity classes of vessels.

Ecuador, with the support of El Salvador and Guatemala, stated that Resolution C-17-01, which was adopted precipitously would force the fleet that fishes on FADs to cease operating for five months, and which would cause considerable economic and social damage, should be revised. When asked for its opinion, the IATTC scientific staff responded that a 72-day closure in 2017 would be enough to achieve the conservation and management objectives of the IATTC for that year. Some Members expressed themselves opposed to modifying Resolution C-17-01, in particular, as noted by the European Union and Japan, because there was no procedure for doing so, apart from the bad precedent this would represent, as stressed by Colombia. The United States shared Japan's concerns with adjusting management measures mid-season, the precedent that would set, and the administrative burden from changing regulations mid-season. However, the United States stated that it understood that this was a serious and unusual situation.

Mexico and Nicaragua commented that U.S. purse seine vessels move to the western Pacific Ocean during the closure periods in the EPO to continue fishing. The United States stressed that this is perfectly legal provided it complies with the obligations and rules established by both the IATTC and the WCPFC, and is furthermore within the existing cooperative framework between the two commissions for the conservation and management of the resources. Colombia, like Mexico and Nicaragua, stressed that, although this practice is legal under the current conservation measures, it has an impact on the resource, since the Pacific Ocean should be viewed as a single ocean, in a holistic manner, and taking into account that tropical tunas are highly migratory species. Therefore, the closure loses its effectiveness considering that there are vessels that fish throughout the year, without stopping fishing, compared to vessels that remain in port during the entire closure.

In concluding this stage of the discussion, the Commission, following a proposal by the European Union, asked the Chair to formulate, together with the IATTC staff, a package of measures that would include a 72-day closure period, specific regulations for the fishery on FADs and an amendment to Resolution C-17-01.

5. Reports by subsidiary bodies and working groups:

a. Second meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on FADs

Dr. Josu Santiago, Chair of the Working Group, presented his report (Appendix 4e). The second meeting of the Group was held in two parts: the first in La Jolla in May 2017, and the second on 24 July in Mexico City. Resolution C-16-01 expanded the Working Groups mandate and it was empowered to report to and make recommendations to both the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Commission, and to “*identify and review possible management measures for FADs, in coordination with the scientific staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee*”. The recommendations formulated by the group in May have been endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee and submitted to the Commission (Document [IATTC-92-04c](#)).

The Commission thanked the Group for its work and took note of the recommendations. Ecuador reported that it was working towards using only non-entangling and biodegradable FADs in the near future.

Several members referred to the joint t-RFMOs meeting on FADs, which was held in Madrid in April 2017. France (on behalf of its overseas territories) requested that the Commission consider the question of the FADs that are deployed by IATTC purse-seine fleets and which, in increasing numbers, drift into the French Polynesia EEZ and, following the currents, are washed up on the beaches of islands. These FADs constitute a danger for navigation and have an impact not only on surface tuna schools but also, as observed by local fishermen, on fish in deeper layers.

b. 5th meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance

The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Lillo Maniscalchi, of Venezuela, presented his report (Appendix 4a).

The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. **IATTC budget for 2018:** approve the amount of US\$ 7,258,413, but not without first reviewing the budgetary implications of the implementation of the recommendations of the Performance Review (see draft Plan of Action).
2. **Special fund for promoting institutional capacity-building in developing CPCs:** approve the utilization of funds for 2018 as presented in table 5 of Document [CAF-05-05b](#).
3. **Transshipment monitoring program:** Approve a budget of US\$ 1,100,000 for 2018, and use the contribution-sharing formula that has been used to date.

The Commission welcomed the news that, during this 92nd meeting, Kiribati cleared its outstanding arrears relating to their contributions to the Commission budget. Panama, supported by the other members of OSPESCA, reiterated that it was complying with the payment plan that had been agreed by the Commission.

Regarding the first recommendation made by the Committee, the European Union recalled that, during the Committee's meeting, the review of the Plan of Action had already been initiated, focusing on the proposed actions that have budgetary implications, but, due to lack of time, had not been concluded. It stressed the importance of including in the budget at least the resources necessary for hiring an expert in human resources, recommended by the Performance Review (Recommendation 11). The European Union reiterated the need for having a long-term research plan (Recommendation 24) in order to have a more complete vision of the resources would be needed to that end in the future. It was also necessary to know the budgetary implications of creating a field office in Costa Rica.

Costa Rica expressed its gratitude for the mention in the report of the Committee of the establishment of that office and highlighted its potential for building capacity in the region, in addition to strengthening the IATTC with the provision of better data and information. It recalled that, at least during the initial phase, the establishment and running of the office would not imply any costs for the Commission, since Costa Rica would be providing the premises where it would be located, and the financial resources for its operation would come from a GEF-World Bank project for a period corresponding to the first two years. At the end of that period the matter would be submitted again to the consideration of the Commission, which could evaluate the results and benefits based on concrete experience.

It proved unnecessary to include a special line item in the budget to cover the US\$ 100,000 costs of the annual meeting of the Commission in 2018, as a result of Guatemala's offer to host the meeting. The European Union mentioned that it could possibly host the annual meeting in 2019 in Spain.

Dr. Compeán indicated that the following research projects, listed in the table below and described in [Appendix 1](#) of Document [CAF-05-04](#), as well as the consultancy project related to the management of human resources at the IATTC as a first step in the implementation of Recommendation 11 of the Performance Review, would be added to the budget. The Commission also agreed to include in the budget a project to conduct a feasibility study for the recovery of FADs (cost of \$50,000) proposed by the EU during the FAD Working Group meeting.

	Project	Budget (US\$)
1.	Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for tropical tunas in the EPO	162,000
2.	Relationship between vessel operational characteristics and fishing mortality	223,000
3.	Workshop to advance spatial stock assessments of bigeye tuna in the Pacific Ocean	50,000
4.	Analyses of the effects of fisheries targeting on longline CPUE standardization	23,000
5.	Evaluation of potential reference points for dorado in the EPO	81,000

6.	Electronic monitoring of purse-seine vessel activities and catches	207,000
7.	Testing the potential of sorting grids for reducing the mortality of small tunas and other species in the purse-seine fishery in the EPO	100,000
8.	Feasibility study for the recovery of FADs	50,000

Finally, the Commission approved the following:

1. A budget for 2018 of US\$ 7,977,003 for the IATTC.
2. A budget of 2018 of US\$ 1,100,000 for the observer program for transshipments at sea.
3. The implementation for 2018 of the projects presented in Document [CAF-05-05b](#) with funds from the Special Fund for supporting developing countries as well as the consultancy project related to the management of human resources at the IATTC.
- c. **8th Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (“Review Committee”)**

The Chair of the Committee, Mr. David Hogan, of the United States, presented his report (appendix 4b).

He highlighted the following matters, which were discussed but regarding which no recommendations could be agreed:

1. The Committee discussed whether the Commission should evaluate and decide, at this meeting, on the appropriate minimum sea turtle data, including condition of sea turtles upon release, to be collected by longline observers, and to address raw data provision to the Secretariat.
2. The Committee discussed the views of some Members regarding the implications for tuna conservation and management of vessels that fish in both the EPO and the WCPFC area and which may move between these areas during closures and continue fishing. Members expressed differing opinions on whether the activities of such vessels have implications for compliance, conservation and/or management. It was recognized that this matter may be raised again at the Commission level.
3. Ask the Bycatch Working Group to consider stronger or new measures to implement the sea turtle conservation objectives and develop ideas to strengthen implementation of the reporting requirements.
4. Consider asking the Scientific Advisory Committee to evaluate whether the data fields on the longline observer forms provide the necessary data to measure implementation of the Commission’s conservation measures for sea turtles, and revise as needed.
5. The Committee discussed how the Commission could work on rules of confidentiality consistent with the relevant provisions of the Antigua Convention, including for the work and information of the Committee. This was supported by many delegations but some did not concur that this should be a committee recommendation. It was recognized that this matter may be raised again at the Commission level.
6. The Committee discussed their general affirmation of their deference to the IATTC’s Director for configuring staff portfolios with regard to compliance and associated responsibilities pending the outcome of the Commission’s discussion of the implementation of the action plan in the area of human resource planning.

The Committee also directed the following recommendations at itself and/or the Secretariat:

1. Consider whether the timing of the compliance reporting procedure is sufficient or whether more time is needed, and the implications of any change for the Secretariat or the Committee.

2. Consider altering the reporting schedule for Resolution C-07-03 by changing the annual nature of reporting if nothing changes in a CPC's implementation (or Commission).
3. Include the relevant provisions of Resolution C-13-03 in the section containing implementation reporting of C-05-02 in the compliance report and, as appropriate, the questionnaire, and add those provisions to the annual data provision letter from the Secretariat.
4. In future questionnaires and follow-up to reported cases of non-compliance, CPCs provide a rationale or more detail for determinations of "no infraction" and a rationale or more detail when reporting "non-applicable" in the questionnaire.
5. Explore options for improving the existing compliance review process, and include assessments in future compliance reports of historical progress in implementation and of trends in compliance, including tables in the compliance report showing historical implementation by CPCs since the entry into force of the resolutions. This should include specificity in the following areas:
 - a. Include reporting on implementation of the longline observer coverage requirement in Resolution C-11-08, and correct the 2016 report to include 2015 and 2016 data on implementation; and
 - b. Include information on the number of sets with incidents with sea turtles (contained in Figure 4.1 of the 2016 report presented at this meeting) relating to Resolution C-04-05 since its entry into force in 2004.
6. In future compliance reports, report the status of implementation of Recommendation C-12-11 (IATTC-WCPFC overlap area) and indicate, when appropriate, which set of measures the relevant Members have chosen to implement for their vessel in the overlap area in compliance with said recommendation.
7. In future compliance reports and questionnaires include reporting on bluefin tuna conservation measures (currently C-16-03).
8. Ensure scheduling of at least 2 full days for the Committee.

The Committee made the following recommendations to the Commission:

1. Consider a definitive treatment of the provisions of the conservation and management measure for tropical tunas to address the different views on the use and transfer of the longline catch limits for bigeye tuna.
2. Update the purse seine observer IATTC compliance summary form to allow captains the opportunity to review, provide comments and sign the form, and similarly update instructions to this effect in the observer manual.
3. Clarify the status, in terms of the prohibition of discards, of catch that is not landed but instead utilized aboard the vessel, for example, as bait on FADs.
4. Explore options for revising the resolutions on sharks to be clear, facilitate a common understanding, and align with Commission conservation and utilization objectives for fisheries that catch sharks, whether as target or bycatch.
5. Revise or specify the requirements in Resolution C-03-05 for all gears and fisheries (e.g., longline, artisanal) regarding length-frequency and catch and effort data, to strengthen the implementation of reporting requirements, balanced with practicality, in particular with regard to artisanal fisheries.
6. Maintain the IATTC's IUU list with no changes.

7. Renew Cooperating Non-Member status for Bolivia, Honduras and Liberia, and confer Cooperating Non-Member status upon Chile. Consider the request for renewal from Indonesia once the Indonesian delegation arrives for the IATTC plenary.

The Commission took note of those recommendations. It concluded that there was no action to be taken regarding the IUU list, and decided to renew the status of Cooperating Non-Member for Bolivia, Honduras, and Liberia; and grant it to Chile. In the case of Indonesia, it was decided that a letter should be sent to that country to remind it forcefully of the obligations of CPCs, which includes Cooperating Non-Members, to attend the annual meetings of the IATTC and its subsidiary bodies.

After being congratulated by many delegations, Chile made a statement (Appendix 5a) confirming its commitment to complying with the measures and rules of the IATTC and its intention of becoming a full Member in the future. The other Cooperating Non-Members present at the meeting similarly confirmed their intention of complying with the measures and rules of the IATTC.

Many delegations highlighted the importance of working in the future on rules of confidentiality for managing the information generated at the Committee, in accordance with the discussion during the meeting of that Committee (see above, item 5 of matters discussed without a recommendation).

d. 18th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity

The Chair of the working group, Mr. Alfonso Miranda, of Peru, presented his report (Appendix 4c). The Group made the following recommendations:

1. The hiring of a group of consultants to recommend to the Commission on how to address operationally the solution to aspirations, requests and claims of capacity, as well as the management of existing capacity, in conjunction with management measures in accordance with the conditions of the resource and the special circumstances and needs of developing countries, particularly developing coastal countries and small island countries, in order to make compatible with them the solution to those capacity issues within the framework of overall capacity management plan based on the "*Elements for implementing a fleet capacity management plan in the IATTC*" set out in the document that was adopted in 2016.
2. To instruct the Director to prepare, in consultation with all Members concerned, a baseline of terms of reference for the contracting of the group of consultants so that these terms are informed to the CPCs and they may issue comments that strengthen those terms of reference. It is understood that such terms of reference will exclude the possibility for consultants to consider and give their opinion on the substantive and legal aspects of existing disputes.
3. The results of the work carried out by the group of consultants will be analyzed in a specially convened CPCs workshop in order to recommend to the Commission concrete actions to resolve the capacity theme in harmony with the necessary conservation measures at a date and place that the Director will notify in a timely manner, within the framework of an overall capacity management plan based on the "*Elements for implementing a fleet capacity management plan in the IATTC*" set out in the document that was adopted in 2016.
4. The results of the workshop should be presented to the Commission at the plenary meeting in 2018.

The Commission approved these recommendations, noting that in the consultation process no judgements could be made regarding cases of capacity disputes.

The European Union recalled that this matter of managing capacity can be developed in two parallel processes: the first, already initiated, involves developing a study by a consultant hired by World Wildlife Fund (WWF); the second would be to hire a consultant to develop a pragmatic proposal for consideration by the Working Group on Fleet Capacity. For this latter option, the European Union could contribute €80,000 and participate actively in the process, to facilitate and accelerate the development and presentation of the proposal.

Colombia requested that the statement that it had made at the meeting of the Working Group regarding its capacity dispute with Bolivia be included in the minutes (Appendix 5b). Similarly, the presentations by Peru and Costa Rica on their respective capacity requests would be published on the IATTC website for future reference.

e. 7th Meeting of the Working group on Bycatch

In the absence of the Chair of the Working Group (whose report is reproduced in Appendix 4d), Dr. Compeán read the recommendations of the seventh meeting of the Group, held in La Jolla on 5-6 May 2017, reviewed and endorsed by the 8th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee and included in its recommendations (Document [IATTC-92-04c](#)).

Japan noted that various countries had not joined the consensus of considering an increase in the coverage of longliners by observers from 5% to 20%, and the implementation of Resolution C- 11-08 should first be reviewed. The United States highlighted the recommendation that the Working Group should meet annually, noting that the necessary resources should be provided in the budget.

6. Observer program for transshipments at sea

Dr. Compeán noted that the only matter pending was approving the program's operating budget of US\$ 1,100,000 for 2018, recommended by the Committee on Administration and Finance, which the Commission duly did.

7. Implementation of Resolution C-14-02 (amended) on the establishment of a vessel monitoring system (VMS):

a. Progress reports by CPCs

Dr. Compeán commented that reports on the use of VMS submitted by individual CPCs had been posted on the IATTC website. There was no further discussion on that issue.

b. Possible development of a stand-alone IATTC VMS scheme

The European Union noted that Resolution C-14-02 establishes that the Commission should discuss the best way of proceeding with the future consideration of VMS to support its conservation and management program, including the possible development an independent IATTC VMS scheme. The European Union proposed that the Secretariat prepare a document on the subject before the end of the year in order to initiate the review and discussion of this matter required by the Resolution. Other Members supported this proposal, suggesting that the document include legal, technical, and budgetary elements, in particular regarding a possible independent and centralized system.

China stated that it could not at this time support the idea of a stand-alone and centralized IATTC VMS system, since in its opinion this is not consistent with the Antigua Convention, and it would be necessary to amend it.

8. Plan of action for implementing the recommendations of the Performance Review

Due to lack of time, the Commission could only take note that the Committee on Administration and Finance had initiated the review of the draft plan of action, with the comments and suggestions made by some Members, focusing on the proposed actions that have budgetary implications, but had not been able to conclude its review. The Commission decided that the matter should be considered during its next meeting, and given the priority necessary to reach decisions in that regard.

9. Discussion of resolutions and recommendations:

a. Resolutions adopted:

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolution	Subject	Appendix
C-17-02	Conservation measures for tropical tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean during 2018-2020 and amendment to Resolution C-17-01	2a
C-17-03	Financing for fiscal year 2018	2b
C-17-04	Amendment of IATTC Rules of Procedure regarding the date of the ordinary annual meeting	2c
C-17-05	Creation of an <i>ad hoc</i> working group to review the legal and operative coherence of IATTC resolutions	2d

Resolution C-17-02 includes elements of various [proposals submitted before the meeting](#), on conservation of tunas (B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5), and regulation of FADs (A-1, A-2), that are therefore not included in the list of proposals not approved (Section 9b, Appendix 3). It also incorporates suggestions made during the discussions and negotiations, comments and recommendations by the IATTC staff and the *ad hoc* FAD Working Group.

After withdrawing its proposal for including a paragraph on multi-species fisheries in the conservation resolution ([IATTC-92 PROP B-1 PER](#)), Peru asked that the minutes reflect its commitment to notifying the Secretariat in a timely fashion on fishing activities targeting fish stocks other than tunas and tuna-like species carried out by its vessels during the closure periods, including through coordination with the Secretariat on how to report this information as well as the placement on such vessels of national observers in order to ensure monitoring of these activities and observation of compliance with the rules and regulations established in the framework of the IATTC and the AIDCP.

b. Proposals submitted but not approved:

The outcomes at the end of the presentation of these proposals are as follows:

Prop	Subject	Outcomes	Appendix
C-1	European Union: Creation of a working group on allocation of fishing opportunities for tropical tuna species	Withdrawn. The discussion revealed a preference for addressing the issue by broadening the mandate of the Permanent Working Group on fleet capacity and this issue would be included in next meeting agenda.	3a
D-1	United States: Rebuilding strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna	The U.S. requested the proposal be appended to the Meeting Minutes as a US Position Paper for the Joint IATTC-NC-WCPFC Working Group Meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna. The Commission could not reach consensus for adoption, and a couple Members preferred decisions regarding the long-term management of Pacific bluefin tuna be discussed at the upcoming Joint IATTC-NC-WCPFC Working Group Meeting.	3b
E-1	European Union: Conservation of sharks	Pending. Some Members expressed a preference for consolidating both proposals into a single text. Others reiterated the need to clarify the Commission's mandate regarding sharks by agreeing an interpretation of the relevant provisions of the Antigua Convention.	3c
E-2	Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama: Conservation of sharks		3d
F-1	United States: Sea turtles	Pending. Despite the interest from various Members, and some specific suggestions regarding language, the discussion stalled due to some	3e

Prop	Subject	Outcomes	Appendix
		Members' insistence that the matter should be considered first by the Bycatch Working Group and the Scientific Advisory Committee	
G-1	European Union: Minimum standards for inspections in port	Pending. Despite support from most Members, the reservations expressed by others impeded progress on this proposal. One Member suggested a compromise solution of limiting the effect of the measure to EPO ports only, which was not acceptable for certain other Members.	3f
H-1	United States: Safety of observers at sea	Pending. The United States presented a revised version that took into account the suggestions and comments made by other Members. Although some CPCs supported, one Member objected to using any money from the centralized budget to purchase observer safety equipment.	3g
K-1	Mexico: Contribution of the IATTC to the AIDCP	No consensus on increasing the IATTC contribution to the AIDCP observer program from 30% to 40%. Arguments in favor stressed the value for IATTC of the data collected by the AIDCP; arguments against were that any increase should be paid only by those Members that were also Parties to the AIDCP, since the AIDCP does not contribute to the longline observer program.	3h
L-1	Mexico: Observers on longline vessels	No consensus to increase observer coverage on longline vessels from 5% to 20%, as recommended by the IATTC staff, the SAC, and the Performance Review. Supported by various Members, to improve bycatch data, but opposed by others on grounds logistical difficulties and some CPCs' failure to implement the current 5% coverage.	3i

10. Election of Chair and Deputy Chair for the July 2017-July 2018 period

After thanking Mr. Guillermo Morán for chairing the Commission for the last three years, the Commission elected Mr. Carlos Marín, of Guatemala, as Chair, and Mr. Alfonso Miranda, of Peru, as Deputy Chair.

11. Election of Chairs of subsidiary bodies and working groups

The Commission elected or re-elected the following persons:

Working Group or Committee	Chair/Co-Chair	Deputy Chair
Review Committee	David Hogan (USA)	
Committee on Administration and Finance	Lillo Maniscalchi (Venezuela)	Julio Guevara (Nicaragua)
Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity	Alfonso Miranda (Peru)	
Working Group on Bycatch	Yonat Swimmer (USA) Manuel Correia (Venezuela)	
<i>Ad hoc</i> working group on coherence of resolutions	Germán Pochet (Costa Rica)	

12. Other business

a. Transfer of bigeye catch limits

Japan intervened to recall that it had transferred to Korea and China 2,000 t and 6,000 t, respectively, of its bigeye tuna longline catch limits for 2017.

b. Mexico: progress in the management of the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2017

This matter could not be presented due to lack of time.

13. Place and date of next meeting

The 93rd annual meeting of the Commission will be held in Guatemala, on dates to be decided, and considering Resolution [C-17-04](#), which modifies the rules of procedure so that the annual meeting is held *preferably* at least three months after the conclusion of the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 AM on 29 July 2017. Many delegations congratulated and thanked the Government of Mexico for hosting the meeting and for the facilities provided for the successful conclusion of the work.

Attachment 1

ASISTENTES - ATTENDEES

MIEMBROS - MEMBERS

BELIZE

VALARIE LANZA*
Ministry of Finance
director@bhsfu.gov.bz

DELICE PINKARD
Ministry of Finance
sr.fishofficer@bhsfu.gov.bz

CANADA-CANADÁ

ESTELLE COUTURE*
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
estelle.couture@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

JOSÉ BENCHETRIT
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
jose.benchetrit@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CHINA

LIMING LIU*
Ministry of Agriculture
bofdwf@agri.gov.cn
XIAOBING LIU
Chinese Overseas Fisheries Association
xiaobing.liu@hotmail.com

JIANGFENG ZHU
Shangai Ocean University
Jfzhu@shou.edu.cn
YONGYI NI
Pingtairong Ocean Fishert Group Co.,Ltd
nyy@ptrcn.com

ZIJUN ZHOU
China Overseas Fisheries Association
Admin1@tuna.org.cn

COLOMBIA

ALEJANDRO JARAMILLO*
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
alejandro.jaramillo@cancilleria.gov.co

ENRIQUE DE LA VEGA
Programa Nacional de Observadores
edelavega@pescalimpia.org

ANDRÉS ORTÍZ
Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca
andres.ortiz@aunap.gov.co

DIEGO CANELOS
Seatech International, Inc.
dcanelos@seatechint.com

DIEGO TRIANA
Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca
diego.triana@aunap.gov.co

COREA - KOREA

SEUNG-LYONG KIM*
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
kpoksl5686@korea.kr

ILKANG NA
Korea Overseas Fisheries Association
ikna@kosfa.org

ZEE KIM
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
zeekim.korea@gmail.com

JO BORAM
Dongwon Industries Co. Ltd.
polo7321@dongwon.com

SEOK YOUNG MIN
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
sym9475@korea.kr

COSTA RICA

GUSTAVO MENESES*

Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura
gmeneses@incopesca.go.cr

GERMÁN POCHET

Ministerio de Agricultura
gpochet@legalambiental.com

JOSÉ CARVAJAL

Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura
jcarvajal@incopesca.go.cr

LORNA MARCHENA

Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura
lmarchena@incopesca.go.cr

JORGE BARRANTES

Cámara de Pescadores Artesanales de
Puntarenas de Costa Rica
capap@hotmail.es

MAURICIO GONZÁLEZ

Cámara Nacional Industria Palangrera
mgonzgut@hotmail.com

SERGIO SOTO

Cámara Nacional Industria Palangrera
sergiosotop28@gmail.com

MOISES MUG

FECOP
mmug@fecop.org

ECUADOR

ANA KATUSKA DROUET*

Ministerio de Acuicultura y Pesca
katuska.drouet@acuaculturaypesca.gob.ec

JAVIER CARDOSO

Ministerio de Acuicultura y Pesca
javier.cardoso@acuaculturaypesca.gob.ec

JORGE COSTAIN

Ministerio de Acuicultura y Pesca
jorge.costain@acuaculturaypesca.gob.ec

GUILLERMO MORÁN

Ministerio de Acuicultura y Pesca
gamv6731@gmail.com

ANDRÉS JARRE

Ministerio de Acuicultura y Pesca
andres.jarre@acuaculturaypesca.gob.ec

LEORNARDO ARIZAGA

Embajada del Ecuador en México
mecuamex@prodigy.net.mx

MANUEL PERALTA

Instituto Nacional de Pesca
mperalta@institutopesca.gob.ec

DANILO ALBÁN

PRO ECUADOR
dalbanf@proecuador.gob.ec

LUIS TORRES

PROBECUADOR

LUIS GARCÍA

Legalsa & Asociados
candrade@legalsa.com.ec

PABLO GARCÍA

SERVIGRUP S.A.
pgarcia@servigrup.com.ec

BRUNO LEONE

SERVIGRUP S.A.
brunol@servigrup.com.ec

FRANCISCO LEONE

SERVIGRUP S.A.
fleone@servigrup.com.ec

MONICA MALDONADO

CEIPA
ceipa@ceipa.com.ec

MARÍA F. MARRIOTT

PESPESCA
mmarriott@pespesca.com

DIEGO MILETICH

Pesquera Jadrán S.A.
jadran@gye.satnet.net

DIEGO MILETICH

Pesquera Jadrán S.A.
jadran@gye.satnet.net

FERNANDO MOLINA

Idelmar S.A.
fmolinaf13@hotmail.com

LUIS MOLINA

probecuador@gye.satnet.net
LUIGI BENINCASA AZUA
ATUNEC/Asociación de Atuneros de Ecuador

info@atunec.com.ec
RAFAEL TRUJILLO
Cámara Nacional de Pesquería
direjec@camaradepesqueria.com

ROBERTO AGUIRRE
Negocios Industriales Real NIRSA S.A
presidencia@nirsa.com

ROBERTO AGUIRRE CHIRIBOGA
Negocios Industriales Real NIRSA S.A
presidencia@nirsa.com

JOSÉ APOLO
Apolo Abogados
jgapolo@apolo.ec

HENK DE BRUIN
Grupo Jadran
jadran@gye.satnet.net

ÁNGEL DÍAZ
Pesquera Atunes del Pacífico
adiaz@iberopesca.com

BARTOLOME FERNÁNDEZ
FRIGOLAB
bartolof@frigolab.com.ec

FELIPE FERNÁNDEZ
Importeq S.A.
ff@campomarimo.ws

IKER GALINDEZ
Pesquera Ugavi S.A
iker.galindez@ugavi.com

Pesquera Jadrán S.A.
mmolinaf@hotmail.com
ABEL PALADINES
SERVITERRA
info@serviterra.com.ec
FABRIZIO PALADINES
Grupo Hermanos Paladines
paladinezfabrizio@puertoatun.com
JULIA PALADINES
INDUATUN
juliapaladines@hotmail.com
RAÚL PALADINES
P.H. Industria, Pesca, Construcciones
apm1@apm.com.ec
CARLOS NUÑEZ
ASISERVY
cnunez@asiservy.com
GIASANDRO PEROTTI
Transmarina C.A.
gperotti@transmarina.com
ELISEO VILLAR
Pesquera Ugavi S.A.
eliseo.villar@ugavi.com
JIMMY VILLAVICENCIO
Villavicencio & Asociados
jvillavicencio@v-a.com.ec

EL SALVADOR

GUSTAVO PORTILLO*
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
gustavo.portillo@mag.gob.sv

DIANA BARAHONA
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
diana.barahona@mag.gob.sv

CELINA DE PAZ
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
celina.depaz@mag.gob.sv

MIGUEL PEÑALVA
Calvo Pesca
miguel.penalva@calvo.es
MACARENA UBIS
Calvo Pesca
macarena.ubis@calvo.es

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA – UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BARRY THOM*
NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

KITTY SIMONDS

barry.thom@noaa.gov

MICHAEL THOMPSON

Newport Landing Sportfishing

mthompson041@cox.net

DAVID HOGAN

U.S. Department of State

hogandf@state.gov

MICHAEL BRAKKE

U.S. Department of State

brakkemt@state.gov

KATY SATER

U.S. Department of State

satermc@state.gov

BRANDON FISHER

U.S. Coast Guard

brandon.c.fisher2@uscg.mil

DEREK CAMPBELL

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

derek.campbell@noaa.gov

TAYLOR DEBEVEC

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

taylor.debevec@noaa.gov

MEGAN ENGELKE-ROS

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

meggan.engelke-ros@noaa.gov

RINI GHOSH

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

rini.ghosh@noaa.gov

KRISTIN RUSELLO

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

kristin.rusello@noaa.gov

HEIDI TAYLOR

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

heidi.taylor@noaa.gov

RACHAEL WADSWORTH

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

rachael.wadsworth@noaa.gov

RYAN WULFF

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

ryan.wulff@noaa.gov

Western Pacific Regional Fishery
Management Council

kitty.simonds@wpcouncil.org

ANTONIO ALVAREZ

AACH Holding Co.

galvarezd@aol.com

PETER FLOURNOY

American Fishermen's Research
Foundation

phf@international-law-offices.com

SVEIN FUGNER

Hawaii Longline Association

fougnernalytics@gmail.com

CARY GANN

Starkist Co.

cary.gann@starkist.com

BRIAN HALLMAN

American Tunaboat Association

bhallmanata@gmail.com

MICHAEL KRAFT

Bumble Bee Seafoods

mike.kraft@bumblebee.com

JOSH MADEIRA

Monterey Bay Aquarium

jmadeira@mbayaq.org

MATTHEW OWENS

Tri Marine Management Company, LLC

mowens@trimarinegroup.com

JAMES SOUSA

GS Fisheries

jim.sousa@marpacifico.net

JOHN ZUANICH

Tri Marine Fishing Management

jzuanich@trimarinegroup.com

FRANCIA – FRANCE

CRISTIANE LAURENT-MONPETIT*

Ministry of Overseas

christiane.laurent-monpetit@outre-mer.gouv.fr

MATTHIEU LE-QUENVEN

STEPHEN YEN KAI SUN

French Polynesia Ministry of Marine
Resources

syenkaisun@gmail.com

Maritime Affairs in French Polynesia
matthieu.le-quenven@affaires-maritimes.pf

GUATEMALA

BYRON ACEVEDO*

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y
Alimentación

bacevedo@maga.gob.gt

CARLOS MARÍN

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y
Alimentación

cfmarin1058@gmail.com

CARLOS TEJEDA

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y
Alimentación

dipescaguatemala.@gmail.com

ODILO ROMERO

JEALSA

moromero@jealsa.com

FRATERO DÍAZ

Pesquera Reina de la Paz S.A.

diaz.monje@hotmail.com

VASCO FRANCO

Pesquera Reina de la Paz S.A.

vascofrancoduramn@yahoo.com

GUSTAVO FERNÁNDEZ

Pesquera del INDO-PACIFICO, S.A.

gustavo@campomarino.ws

JAPÓN – JAPAN

KENGO TANAKA *

Fisheries Agency of Japan

kengo_tanaka880@maff.go.jp

MAKI KAWAMURA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

maki.kawamura@mofa.go.jp

SHINJI HIRUMA

Fisheries Agency of Japan

shinji_hiruma150@maff.go.jp

TAKESHI MIWA

Fisheries Agency of Japan

takeshi_miwa090@maff.go.jp

HIROSHI NISHIDA

National Research Institute of Far Seas
Fisheries

hnishi@affrc.go.jp

MICHIO SHIMIZU

National Ocean Tuna Fishery Association

mic-shimizu@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp

NATSUKI WATADA

Japan Tuna Fisheries Corporation

watada@japantuna.or.jp

KIRIBATI

MBWENEA TEIOKI*

Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources
Development

mbweneat@mfmrd.gov.ki

KAON TIAMERE

Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources
Development

kaont@mfmrd.gov.ki

MÉXICO – MEXICO

MARIO AGUILAR*

ERNESTO ESCOBAR

CONAPESCA/Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca
mario.aguilar@conapesca.gob.mx
PABLO ARENAS
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
pablo.arenas@inapesca.gob.mx
MICHEL DREYFUS
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
dreyfus@cicese.mx
MARTHA ESTRADA
CONAPESCA/Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca
mestrada@conapesca.gob.mx
RIGOBERTO GARCÍA
CONAPESCA/Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca
rigoberto.garcia@conapesca.gob.mx
MIGUEL HUERTA
CONAPESCA/Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca
mhuertab@conapesca.gob.mx
ISABEL REYES
CONAPESCA/Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca
ireyesr@conapesca.gob.mx
JUAN PERDOMO
CONAPESCA/Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca
juan.perdomo@conapesca.gob.mx
ROBERTO VÁZQUEZ
CONAPESCA/Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca
roberto.vazquez@conapesca.gob.mx
PEDRO ULLOA
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
pedro.ulloa@inapesca.gob.mx
SANTOS HERNÁNDEZ
Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores
shernandez@sre.gob.mx
ARMANDO DÍAZ
PNAAPD – FIDEMAR
adiaz@cicese.mx
MARCO ALCARAZ
Atuneros Unidos de California S.A de C.V.
marcoalcaraz66@hotmail.com
JOSÉ CARRANZA
Pesca Azteca, S.A. de C.V.

Pesca Azteca, S.A. de C.V.
dzamudio@pescaazteca.com
PEDRO GARRIDO
Naviera y Pesquera del Pacífico S.A. de C.V.
pedrogarrido@grupopando.com
GUILLERMO GÓMEZ
Alianza del Pacífico por el Atún Sustentable
gomezhall@gmail.com
JOSÉ GONZÁLEZ
Servax Bleu
jgonzalez@grupoaltex.com
ANTONIO GUERRA
Grupo Mar
aguerra@grupomar.mx
HAK SONG LEE
Fishbox S.A. de C.V.
hlee@grupoaltex.com
SATIAGO MATUS
Baja Aqua-Farms S.A de C.V
Santiago.matus@bajaaquafarms.mx
CARLOS MURILLO
Baja Aqua-Farms S.A de C.V
carlos.murillo@bajaaquafarms.mx
RICARDO NIEBLA
Naviera y Pesquera del Pacífico S.A. de C.V.
ricardonieblas@grupopando.com
MARIANA RAMOS
Alianza del Pacífico por el Atún Sustentable
mariana@pacifictunaalliance.org
MARK ROBERTSON
Potomac Global Advisors
mrobertson@potomacglobal.com
AMANDA SÁNCHEZ
Procesa
amanda.sanchez@procesa.mx
ANTONIO SUARÉZ
Grupo Mar
aguerra@grupomar.mx
CARLOS VELÁZQUEZ
Herdez
ctvo@herdez.com
EVARISTO VILLA
Herdez

direcciongeneral@pinsa.com

LUIS CALVILLO

Atuneros Unidos de California S.A de C.V.

ncunna@gmail.com

JINYOL CHO

Servax Bleu

jcho@grupoaltex.com

evm@herdez.com

JUNICHI YAMAGISHI

Pesquera Chichimecas S. De R.L. de C.V.

yamagishi@dohsui.co.jp

NICARAGUA

EDWARD JACKSON*

Instituto Nicaragüense de Pesca y Acuicultura

inpesca@inpesca.gob.ni

JULIO GUEVARA

INATUN/Industrial Atunera de Nicaragua

juliocgp@hotmail.com

ARMANDO SEGURA

Cámara de la Pesca de Nicaragua

capenic@ibw.com.ni

PANAMÁ-PANAMA

ZULEIKA PINZÓN

Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá

zpinzon@arap.gob.pa

RAÚL DELGADO

Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá

rdelgado@arap.gob.pa

JORGE CUMMINGS

Autoridad Marítima de Panamá

jcummings@amp.gob.pa

GINA VERGARA

Autoridad Marítima de Panamá

gvergarab@amp.gob.pa

ARNULFO FRANCO

FIPESCA

arnulfofranco@fipesca.com

LUIS DORATI

Trimarine Internacional

ldorati@trimarinegroup.com

PERÚ – PERU

HÉCTOR SOLDI*

Ministerio de la Producción

hsoldi@produce.gob.pe

GLADYS CÁRDENAS

Instituto del Mar del Perú

gcardenas@imarpe.gob.pe

OMAR RÍOS

Ministerio de la Producción

orios@produce.gob.pe

JESÚS PONCE

Ministerio de la Producción

jponce@rree.gob.pe

CLAUDIA BASTANTE

Embajada del Perú en México

cbastanteg@rree.gob.pe

OSCAR BERNALES

Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería

PABLO NIETO

Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería

snpnet@snp.org.pe

JORGE RISI

Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería

snpnet@snp.org.pe

EDUARDO CARCOVICH

Dolmar Representaciones SAC

ecarcovich@dolmar.pe

EDUARDO CARCOVICH

Dolmar Representaciones SAC

ecarcovich@dolmar.pe

JULIO GARCÍA

Pesquera Majat SAC

CONSUELO JIBAJA

Dolmar Representaciones SAC

ecarcovich@dolmar.pe

snpnet@snp.org.pe

MARÍA JOSÉ BOLUARTE
Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería

snpnet@snp.org.pe

JAVIER CALMET

Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería

snpnet@snp.org.pe

DANIEL QUIRÓZ

Pesquera Majat SAC

dfquirozn@yahoo.es

ALFONSO MIRANDA

Pez de Exportación S.A.C.

Alfonso.miranda@pezex.pe

TAIPEI CHINO – CHINESE TAIPEI

CHI-CHAO LIU*

Fisheries Agency/Council of Agriculture

chichao@msl.f.a.gov.tw

YU CHEN

Fisheries Agency/Council of Agriculture

chenyu@msl.f.a.gov.tw

YU-HUA CHENG

Dept. of Treaty & Legal Affairs

yhcheng01@mofa.gov.tw

KE-YANG LIN

Dept. of International Organizations

lkytw@kimo.com

SHAO-LIN HU

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Mexico

auntiehu@gmail.com

RICARDO HSU

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Mexico

economic88@prodigy.net.mx

HUI-SHAN MA

Overseas Fisheries Development Council

sandrama7@gmail.com

MARTIN HO

Taiwan Tuna Longline Association

sefe121@hotmail.com

LIANG-CHUN WANG

Taiwan Tuna Longline Association

duo_w@livemail.tw

TONY LIN

Taiwan Tuna Longline Association

tony@tuna.org.tw

UNIÓN EUROPEA – EUROPEAN UNION

ANGELA MARTINI*

European Commission

angela.martini@ec.europa.eu

LUIS MOLLEDO

European Commission

luis.molledo@ec.europa.eu

ALBERTO LÓPEZ-ASENJO

Secretaría General de Pesca

alassenjo@mapama.es

RAMÓN DE LA FIGUERA

Secretaría General de Pesca

rdelafiguera@mapama.es

DANIEL CALVO

OPAGAC

daniel.calvo@isabel.net

MIGUEL HERRERA

OPAGAC

m.navas@opagac.org

IMANOL LOINAZ

OPAGAC

imanol.loinaz@albacora.es

JUAN MARTIN

Asociación de Armadores de Marín

jcmartin@opromar.com

JOSU SANTIAGO

AZTI Tecnalia

jsantiago@azti.es

VANUATU

CHRISTOPHE EMELEE*

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry,
Fisheries & Bio-Security

christopheemeleevu@gmail.com

WILLIAM NAVITI

Department of Fisheries

wnaviti@vanuatu.gov.vu

KEVIN LIN

Ming Dar Fishery Vanuatu

Kevin.mdfc@msa.hinet.net

VENEZUELA

NANCY TABLANTE*

Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y
Acuicultura

ntablante@gmail.com

ALVIN DELGADO

FUNDATUN

fundatunpnov@gmail.com

MANUEL CORREIA

FUNDATUN

manuelcorreia.a@gmail.com

SALVATORE NATOLI

AVATUN/Asociación Venezolana de Armadores
Atunero

salvatore@gruponotoli.com

LILLO MANISCALCHI

AVATUN/Asociación Venezolana de
Armadores Atunero

lillomaniscalchi@yahoo.com

RITA DEL VALLE MANISCALCHI

AVATUN/Asociación Venezolana de
Armadores Atunero

badaoui_ritta@hotmail.com

DOMENICO PINTO

AVATUN/Asociación Venezolana de
Armadores Atunero

pezatun@telcel.net.ve

NO MIEMBROS COOPERANTES – COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS

BOLIVIA

MIRCO VARGAS

Ministerio de Defensa

pescamar@mindef.gob.bo

OMAR YAÑEZ

Ministerio de Defensa

pescamar@mindef.gob.bo

HUGO ALSINA

The Campomarino Group

halsina@campomarino.ws

AUGUSTO HOHAGEN

The Campomarino Group

ahohagen@me.com

HONDURAS

BERNAL CHAVARRÍA*

Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura

bchavarria@lsg-cr.com

LIBERIA

RAFAEL CIGARRUISTA*

Liberia International Shipping & Corporate

Registry

rcigarruista@liscr.com

CHILE

KARIN MUNDNICH*

Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura

kmundnich@subpesca.cl

JORGE VALENZUELA

Embaja de Chile

JFVALENZUELA@minrel.gob.cl

CRISTIAN LABORDA

Asesor

claborda@celaborda.com

ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES – INTERNACIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

VERÓNICA CÁCERES

IAC

secretario@iacturtle.org

BERNAL CHAVARRÍA

OSPESCA

bchavarria@lsg-cr.com

MARCO FAVERO

ACAP

marco.favero.acap@hotmail.com

FELETI TEO

WCPFC

feleti.teo@wcpfc.int

ORGANIZACIONES NO GUBERNAMENTALES – NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

MAXIMILIANO BELLO

The Pew Charitable Trusts

mbello@pewtrusts.org

JAMES GIBBON

The Pew Charitable Trusts

jgibbon@pewtrusts.org

ALEJANDRA GOYENECHEA

Defenders of Wildlife

agoyenechea@defenders.org

PABLO GUERRERO

World Wildlife Fund

pablo.guerrero@wwf.org.ec

VISHWANIE MAHARAJ

World Wildlife Fund

vishwanie.maharaj@wwfus.org

GALA MORENO

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation

gmoreno@iss-foundation.org

RYAN ORGERA

The Pew Charitable Trusts

rorgera@pewtrusts.org

REBECCA REGNERY

Humane Society International

rregnery@hsi.org

OTROS OBSERVADORES - OTHER OBSERVERS

JOSÉ BELOSO

Satlink S.L

ROMAIN LE HEN

Le Drezen

afm@satlink.es
AMAYA BERNARDEZ
Beta Diversidad
amayabernardezdelagranja@gmail.com
RAMÓN CASTELLANOS
Beta Diversidad
riic@me.com
MAX DUFOUR
Le Drezen
info@ledrezen.com
THOMAS GUILLESSER
Le Drezen
thomas.guillessier@ledrezen.com
ADAM HAMBLIN
Tri Marine
ahamblin@trimarinegroup.com
JUAN LARREA
Satlink S.L
afm@satlink.es

rlehen@lhtconseil.com
ALBINO MORÁN
Albino Moran y Partners Shipbrokers
am@albinomorán.com
DAVID ORDOÑEZ
Zamakona Yards
zamakona@zamakona.com
DIANA PIÑA
Beta Diversidad
fasha@betadiversidad.org
NORA TORRES
Beta Diversidad
noratorresmacias@gmail.com
PETER TRUTANICH
Tri Marine
ptrutanich@trimarinegroup.com

SECRETARÍA – SECRETARIAT

GUILLERMO COMPEÁN, Director
gcompean@iattc.org
MARISOL AGUILAR
maguilar@iattc.org
ERNESTO ALTAMIRANO
ealtamirano@iattc.org
RICARDO BELMONTES
rbelmontes@iattc.org
ALEXANDRE DA SILVA
adasilva@iattc.org
MONICA GALVÁN
mgalvan@iattc.org
MARTIN HALL
mhall@iattc.org
JOYDELEE MARROW
jmarrow@iattc.org
MARK MAUNDER
mmaunder@iattc.org
CAROLINA MINTE
cminte@iattc.org

TERESA MUSANO
tmusano@iattc.org
CHRISTINE PATNODE
cpatnode@iattc.org
JEAN-FRANCOIS PULVENIS
jpulvenis@iattc.org
NORA ROA-WADE
nwade@iattc.org
MARLON ROMÁN
mroman@iattc.org
SONIA SALAVERRÍA
ssalaverria@iattc.org
ENRIQUE UREÑA
eurena@iattc.org
NICHOLAS WEBB
nwebb@iattc.org
BRAD WILEY
bwiley@iattc.org

*Head of Delegation-Jefe de Delegación

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico

24-28 July 2017

RESOLUTION C-17-02

**CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR TROPICAL TUNAS IN THE
EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2018-2020 AND AMENDMENT
TO RESOLUTION C-17-01**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd Meeting:

Aware of its responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and for formulating recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) with regard to these resources;

Recognizing that the potential production from the resource can be reduced if fishing effort is excessive;

Concerned that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase;

Taking into account the best scientific information available, reflected in the IATTC staff's recommendations, and the precautionary approach; and

Recalling the need to take into account the special circumstances and requirements of the developing countries of the region, particularly the coastal countries, as recognized in the Antigua Convention, in particular in its Preamble and its Article XXIII, paragraph 1;

Agrees:

To apply in the Convention Area the conservation and management measures for tropical tuna set out below, and to request that the staff of the IATTC monitor the fishing activities of the respective CPC's flag vessels relative to this commitment, and also report on such activities at each annual meeting of the Commission;

1. These measures are applicable during 2018-2020 to all CPCs' purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 4 to 6 (more than 182 metric tons carrying capacity), and to all their longline vessels over 24 meters length overall, that fish for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area.
2. Pole-and-line, troll, and sportfishing vessels, and purse-seine vessels of IATTC capacity classes 1-3 (182 metric tons carrying capacity or less) and longline vessels less than 24 meters length overall, are not subject to these measures, except those related to the management of FADs.

MEASURES FOR PURSE-SEINE FLEETS

3. All purse-seine vessels covered by these measures must stop fishing in the Convention Area for a period

of 72 days in each year covered by this resolution. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods, as follows: from 00:00 hours on 29 July to 24:00 hours on 8 October, or from 00:00 hours on 9 November to 24:00 hours on 19 January of the following year.

4. The fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna by purse-seine vessels within the area of 96° and 110°W and between 4°N and 3°S, known as the “*corralito*”, which is illustrated in Figure 1, shall be closed from 00:00 hours on 9 October to 24:00 hours on 8 November of each year.

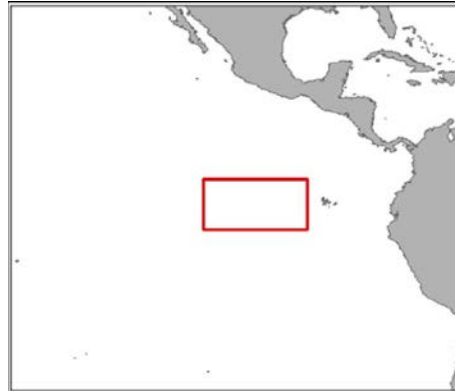


Figure 1. Closure area

5.
 - a. For each one of the closure periods, each CPC shall notify the Director, by 15 July of each year, the names of all the purse-seine vessels that will observe each closure period.
 - b. Every vessel that fishes, regardless of the flag under which it operates or whether it changes flag or the jurisdiction of the CPC under which it fishes during the year, must observe the closure period to which it was committed.
6.
 - a. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs 5a and 5b, a request by a CPC, on behalf of any of its vessels, for an exemption due to *force majeure*¹ rendering said vessel unable to proceed to sea outside said closure period during a period of at least 75 continuous days, shall be sent to the Secretariat, at the latest one month after it happens.
 - b. In addition to the request for an exemption, the CPC shall send the evidence necessary to demonstrate that the vessel did not proceed to sea and that the facts on which the request for exemption is based were due to *force majeure*.
 - c. The Director shall immediately send the request and the evidence electronically to the other CPCs for their consideration, duly coded in order to maintain the anonymity of the name, flag and owner of the vessel.
 - d. The request shall be considered accepted, unless an IATTC Member objects to it formally within 15 calendar days of the receipt of said request, in which case the Director shall immediately notify all CPCs of the objection.
 - e. If the request for exemption is accepted:
 - i. the vessel shall observe a reduced closure period of 40 consecutive days in the same year during which the *force majeure* event occurred, in one of the two periods prescribed in

¹ For the purposes of paragraph 6, only cases of vessels disabled in the course of fishing operations by mechanical and/or structural failure, fire or explosion, shall be considered *force majeure*

- paragraph 3, to be immediately notified to the Director by the CPC, or
- ii. in the event said vessel has already observed a closure period prescribed in paragraph 3 in the same year during which the *force majeure* event occurred, it shall observe a reduced closure period of 40 consecutive days the following year, in one of the two periods prescribed in paragraph 3, to be notified to the Director by the CPC no later than 15 July.
 - iii. vessels that benefit from the exemption must carry an observer aboard authorized pursuant to the AIDCP.

This exemption applies to the vessels of fleets that observe either of the closure periods prescribed in paragraph 3.

7. Each CPC shall, for purse-seine fisheries:
 - a. Before the date of entry into force of the closure, take the legal and administrative measures necessary to implement the closure;
 - b. Inform all interested parties in its tuna industry of the closure;
 - c. Inform the Director that these steps have been taken;
 - d. Ensure that at the time a closure period begins, and for the entire duration of that period, all the purse-seine vessels fishing for yellowfin, bigeye, and/or skipjack tunas that are committed to observing that closure period and that fly its flag, or operate under its jurisdiction, in the Convention Area are in port, except that vessels carrying an observer authorized pursuant to the AIDCP may remain at sea, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area. The only other exception to this provision shall be that vessels carrying an observer authorized pursuant to the AIDCP may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish in the Convention Area.

MEASURES FOR THE FISHERY ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES

8. CPCs shall ensure that purse-seine vessels flying their flag have no more than the following number of fish-aggregating devices (FADs), as defined in Resolution C-16-01, active at any one time:

Class 6 (1,200 m ³ and greater):	450 FADs
Class 6 (< 1,200 m ³):	300 FADs
Class 4-5:	120 FADs
Class 1-3:	70 FADs
9. A FAD shall be activated exclusively onboard a purse-seine vessel.
10. For the purposes of this resolution, a FAD is considered active when it:
 - a. is deployed at sea; and
 - b. starts transmitting its location and is being tracked by the vessel, its owner, or operator.
11. In order to support the monitoring of compliance with the limitation established in Paragraph 8, and the work of the IATTC scientific staff in analyzing the impact of FAD fisheries, while protecting business confidential data, CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, daily information on all active FADs to the Secretariat, in accordance with guidance developed under Paragraph 12, with reports at monthly intervals submitted with a time delay of at least 60 days, but no longer than 90 days.
12. The IATTC scientific staff and *Ad Hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs shall develop, at the latest by 30 November 2017, guidance on the reporting of FAD data in accordance with Paragraphs 10 and 11 of this resolution, including the format and specific data to be reported.

13. Each CPC shall ensure that:
 - a. its purse-seine vessels do not deploy FADs during a period of 15 days prior to the start of the selected closure period;
 - b. all its Class-6 purse-seine vessels recover within 15 days prior to the start of the closure period a number of FADs equal to the number of FADs set upon during that same period.
14. The Scientific Advisory Committee and the *Ad hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs shall review the progress and results of the implementation of the FAD provisions contained in this Resolution and make recommendations to the Commission, as appropriate.
15. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, as of 1 January 2019 CPCs shall ensure that the design and deployment of FADs shall be based on the principles set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Annex II of Resolution C-16-01.

MEASURES FOR THE LONGLINE FISHERY

16. China, Japan, Korea, United States, and Chinese Taipei undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during 2018, 2019, and 2020 do not exceed 55,131 metric tons, distributed at the following levels:

Metric tons	2018-2020
China	2,507
Japan	32,372
Korea	11,947
Chinese Taipei	7,555
United States	750

17. All other CPCs undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during the years included in this resolution do not exceed the greater of 500 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001^{2,3}. CPCs whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director.
18. A CPC referenced in paragraph 16 may make a single transfer of a portion of its bigeye tuna catch limit each year to other CPCs that also have a bigeye tuna catch limit listed in paragraph 16, provided that the total transferred by any CPC in a given year does not exceed 30 percent of its catch limit. These transfers cannot be made to retroactively cover an overage of another CPC's catch limit. Both CPCs involved in a transfer shall, separately or jointly, notify the Director 10 days in advance of the intended transfer. This notification shall specify the tonnage to be transferred and the year in which the transfer will occur. The Director shall promptly notify the Commission of the transfer.
19. The CPC that receives the transfer shall be responsible for management for the transferred catch limit, including monitoring and monthly reporting of catch. A CPC that receives a one-time transfer of bigeye tuna catch limit in a given year shall not retransfer that catch limit to another CPC. The amount of bigeye transferred in any one year shall be considered without prejudice by the Commission for the

² The Commission acknowledges that France, as a coastal State, is developing a tuna longline fleet on behalf of its overseas territories situated in the Convention Area.

³ The Commission acknowledges that Peru, as a coastal State, will develop a tuna longline fleet, which will operate in strict compliance with the rules and provisions of the IATTC and in accordance with the resolutions of the Commission.

purposes of establishing any future limits or allocations.

OTHER PROVISIONS

20. Landings and transshipments of tuna or tuna products that have been positively identified as originating from fishing activities that contravene these measures are prohibited. The Director is requested to provide relevant information to CPCs to assist them in this regard.
21. Each CPC shall submit to the Director, by 15 July of each year, a national report on its updated national compliance scheme and actions taken to implement these measures, including any controls it has imposed on its fleets and any monitoring, control, and compliance measures it has established to ensure compliance with such controls.
22. In order to evaluate progress towards the objectives of these measures, in each year the IATTC scientific staff will analyze the effects on the stocks of the implementation of these measures, and previous conservation and management measures, and will propose, if necessary, appropriate measures to be applied in future years.
23. Subject to the availability of the necessary funding, the Director is requested to continue the experiments with sorting grids for juvenile tunas and other species of non-target fish in the purse-seine nets of vessels that fish on FADs and on unassociated schools, by developing an experimental protocol, including parameters for the materials to be used for the sorting grids, and the methods for their construction, installation, and deployment. The Director shall also specify the methods and format for the collection of scientific data to be used for analysis of the performance of the sorting grids. The foregoing is without prejudice to each CPC carrying out its own experimental programs with sorting grids and presenting its results to the Director.
24. Renew the program to require all purse-seine vessels to first retain on board and then land all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna caught, except fish considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size. A single exception shall be the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set.
25. The IATTC shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness, especially in the overlap area, including by frequent consultations with the WCPFC, in order to maintain, and inform their respective members of, a thorough understanding of conservation and management measures directed at bigeye, yellowfin, and other tunas, and the scientific bases and effectiveness of those measures.
26. In 2018, 2019, and 2020 the results of these measures shall be evaluated in the context of the results of the stock assessments and of changes in the level of active capacity in the purse-seine fleet and, depending on the conclusions reached by the IATTC scientific staff, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, and based on such evaluation, the Commission shall take further actions including substantial extension of closure days for purse-seine vessels or equivalent measures, such as catch limits.
27. Except in cases of *force majeure* prescribed in paragraph 6, no exemptions will be allowed with regard to the closure periods notified to the Director in accordance with paragraph 5a, nor with regard to the fishing effort of the purse-seine fleets of the respective CPCs.

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-17-01 AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

28. Resolution C-17-01 is amended as follows:

a. Paragraph 3 is replaced by the following paragraph:

“3. a. All purse-seine vessels covered by these measures must stop fishing in the Convention Area for a period of 72 days. These closures shall be effected in one of two periods, as follows: from 00:00 hours on 29 July to 24:00 hours on 8 October 2017, or from 00:00 hours on 9 November 2017 to 24:00 hours on 19 January 2018.

b. Notwithstanding subparagraph 3a, a purse-seine vessel that has a Dolphin Mortality Limit in effect may fish during ten days of the respective closure period that the vessel selected, as follows: from 00:00 hours on 29 September 2017 to 8 October 2017 or from 00:00 hours on 9 November 2017 to 24:00 hours on 18 November 2017, but shall not make any floating object sets during that period.”

b. Paragraph 5 is deleted.

c. Paragraph 6 is replaced by the following paragraph:

“6. The fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna by purse-seine vessels within the area of 96° and 110°W and between 4°N and 3°S, known as the “*corralito*”, which is illustrated in Figure 1, shall be closed from 00:00 hours on 9 October to 24:00 hours on 8 November.”

29. This resolution does not modify nor alter in any way the decision adopted in Resolution C-17-01, regarding activation of the capacity acknowledged to Guatemala and Venezuela at the 88th Meeting of the IATTC, which continues to be authorized.

30. In accordance with Article IX.7 of the Antigua Convention, paragraph 28 of this Resolution shall be binding for all CPCs immediately after the adoption of this Resolution.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

**Mexico City, Mexico
24 - 28 July 2017**

RESOLUTION C-17-03

FINANCING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd Meeting:

Understanding the importance of ensuring sufficient funding for the Commission in a timely manner, so that it may continue to effectively develop and implement the agreed conservation and management program for the living marine resources of the IATTC Convention Area, and conduct the associated data collection and research;

Noting that non-payment of the agreed contributions may impair the Commission's ability to continue its operations;

Aware that the allocation of the costs of supporting the Commission among Members should be transparent, fair and equitable, stable, and predictable, but also should allow for redistribution of costs as new Members join;

Taking into account Resolution C-15-05, whereby the Commission, at its 89th Meeting, agreed on a formula for calculating the contributions of the Members to the Commission's budget for the years 2013-2017 and beyond,;

Taking into account the relevant provisions of the Antigua Convention;

Noting that several non-Members derive benefits from catching or utilizing fish covered by the Convention, but do not make contributions to the Commission's budget;

Taking note of the Commission staff's proposals regarding the budget presented in Document CAF-05-04; and

Recognizing the need to seek economies in the operation of the Commission, in order to reduce costs;

Agrees:

1. To adopt a budget of US\$ 7,977,003 for fiscal year (FY) 2018.
2. That the Members shall contribute to the Commission's budget for FY 2018 in accordance with the following schedule:

	FY 2018 (US\$)
Belize	44,187
Canada	149,137
China	200,561
Colombia	351,584
Korea	237,127

	FY 2018 (US\$)
Costa Rica	101,046
Ecuador	1,640,775
El Salvador	76,746
United States	1,746,553
France	128,801
Guatemala	50,202
Japan	389,667
Kiribati	42,407
Mexico	1,005,698
Nicaragua	71,491
Panama	606,497
Peru	84,561
Chinese Taipei	214,766
European Union	394,377
Vanuatu	55,261
Venezuela	385,560
Total	7,977,003

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

**Mexico City, Mexico
24-28 July 2017**

RESOLUTION C-17-04

RESOLUTION TO AMEND PARAGRAPH 4 OF RESOLUTION C-12-03, IATTC RULES OF PROCEDURE, REGARDING THE DATE OF THE ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd meeting:

Agrees:

To amend paragraph 4 of Resolution C-12-03 “IATTC Rules of Procedure”, so that hereafter it reads:

“... ”

Pursuant to Article VIII.1 of the Convention, the Commission shall meet at least once per calendar year, preferably not less than three months after the conclusion of the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee corresponding to the same year. The exact date and place of the meeting shall be decided by the Commission.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico

24-28 July 2017

RESOLUTION C-17-05

**CREATION OF AN *AD HOC* WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE
LEGAL AND OPERATIVE COHERENCE OF IATTC
RESOLUTIONS**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd meeting:

Aware of its responsibility regarding ensuring the conservation and sustainable long-term use of species covered by the Convention, in accordance with the relevant rules of international law, integrated and materialized by the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Commission ;

Recognising that the Commission's resolutions must be complied with effectively and efficiently by the Members, which depends fundamentally on ensuring that their structure and content is coherent with the legal framework and the technical and operative needs at which they are directed;

Taking into account that the performance review carried out by the Moss Adams Group in the year 2016 recognised the important work of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (Review Committee), however to date there has not been a comprehensive study of the Resolutions in force focused on their legal and operative integration and coherence and adaptation to the regulatory framework and scientific and compliance objectives of the IATTC; and

Recognising the importance of developing efforts that facilitate compliance with resolutions and provide advice on strategies for ensuring the permanent legal and operative coherence of resolutions that are adopted;

Agrees:

1. To create the *Ad Hoc* Virtual Working Group for reviewing the legal and operative coherence of IATTC resolutions in force.
2. The Working Group described in the first paragraph shall have the following functions:
 - a. In consultation and coordination with the Secretariat, it will evaluate the current content of all the Resolutions in force in the Commission;
 - b. It will analyse the conceptual coherence utilised in the language of the resolutions, as well as their structural and operative coherence, to determine whether recommending a clarifying amendment or reform is necessary in any or several resolutions to ensure coherence. To that end the Secretariat shall prepare by 15 March 2018 for consideration by the Working Group in its discussions a report on the coherence of the Resolutions in force;
 - c. It will analyse the recommendations issued by the Review Committee and the observations that the Members or the Secretariat may issue regarding the need or opportunities for improvement or clarification of the Resolutions and shall propose the way of effectively implementing those recommendations and observations;
 - d. It will issue a final report to the Commission with recommendations for consideration at the

ordinary annual Meeting in the year 2019.

3. Members shall designate their representative(s) to the Working Group, endeavouring that representatives will participate in the group with technical and specialised ability or experience suitable to the Group's objective. The Working Group's discussion shall be conducted virtually.
4. The Working Group shall be chaired by the person that the Commission decides.
5. The Chair of the Working Group, with the support of the Secretariat and considering the contributions that the Members may make, shall establish the format, frequency and content of the virtual meetings that the execution of its functions demand, which shall be conducted in the intersessional periods during 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.
6. The Commission shall review, at its meeting of the year 2019, the necessity or otherwise of extending and/or broadening the mandate of this Group.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico

24-28 July 2017

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 C-1

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

**IATTC RESOLUTION FOR THE CREATION OF A WORKING
GROUP ON ALLOCATION OF FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
TROPICAL TUNA SPECIES**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Goal: this Resolution aims to establish a framework to develop the sustainable long-term management of the tropical tuna stocks in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) based on a Total Allowed Catch system.

Despite the adoption of Resolution C-02-03, IATTC purse seine active capacity has continued to increase to reach over 300.000 m³ of well volume which represents almost double the estimated optimal fleet size.

Confronted with this continuous increase of capacity in the EPO, the current management system, based on time and area closures, has shown its limits. It is therefore appropriate to explore alternative management measures, which can ensure better predictability for members and long term sustainable management of tuna stocks.

The EU is therefore proposing to establish a Working Group on the Allocation of Fishing opportunities for Tropical Tuna Species (the Working Group) tasked with the discussion and recommendation of allocation criteria for the distribution of a Total Allowed Catch (TAC) for the relevant tuna species. The Working group will have to take into consideration the outcome of the most recent stock assessments for those species and the advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

The recommendations of the Working group will serve to guide the Commission in the development of a TAC system for the IATTC.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

In accordance with the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 1 (u), of the Antigua Convention;

Agrees:

1. A Working Group on the Allocation of Fishing Opportunities for Tropical Tuna Species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (the Working Group) is established.
2. The Working Group shall be composed of those representatives designated for this purpose by each Member of the Commission, who may be accompanied by such experts and advisers as that Member may deem advisable. The names of those representatives shall be communicated to the Director by 1 October 2017, who shall inform CPCs and the Chair of the Working Group.

3. Meetings of the Working Group shall be open to the participation of observers. The Working Group shall invite experts to attend meetings as it deems appropriate.
4. The Commission shall appoint an independent Chair to conduct meetings and coordinate the Working Group. The Chair will be responsible, *inter alia*, to draw the agenda of the Working Group's meetings, in consultation with the Director.
5. The Working Group shall meet once a year, preferably on the occasion of the ordinary meeting of the Commission. It may convene additional meetings at the request of at least two (2) of the Members of the Commission, provided that a majority of the Members support the request.
6. In addition to face-to-face meetings, the Working Group shall conduct its work electronically throughout the year.
7. The functions of the Working Group shall be the following:
 - (a) Provide the Commission with information, technical advice and recommendations relating to the establishment and implementation of criteria for quota allocations of a Total Allowed Catch (TAC) of tropical tuna stocks in the EPO;
 - (b) draw to the attention of the Commission, as appropriate, any matter regarding tropical tuna species quota allocation in the EPO;
 - (c) perform such other functions as the Commission may direct.
8. In support of the work of the Working Group, the staff of the Commission shall:
 - (a) collect the information necessary for the work of the Working Group;
 - (b) provide such analyses as the Working Group deems necessary for carrying out its functions;
 - (c) prepare the reports of the Working Group;
 - (d) distribute to the members of the Working Group all pertinent information.
9. The Working Group shall report on a regular basis to the Commission and shall endeavour to present an initial report of its findings at the 2019 meeting of the Commission.

Attachment 3b

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico

24-28 July 2017

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 D-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

REBUILDING STRATEGY FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd Meeting:

Taking into Account that the 2nd Joint Working Group meeting of the IATTC-Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee (NC) will be held in August 2017 and will discuss consideration and development of a rebuilding strategy (second rebuilding target and timeline, etc.) and long-term precautionary management framework (management objectives, limit and target reference points, harvest control rules, etc.);

Recognizing Resolution C-16-08 in which the Commission agreed to a long term management framework, including an initial (first) rebuilding target of $SSB_{med,1952-2014}$ (the median point estimate for 1952-2014), which is to be achieved by 2024 with at least 60 percent probability,

Further Recognizing that Resolution C-16-08 provides that the Commission will adopt, by 2018, reference points, harvest control rules, and a second rebuilding target to be achieved by 2030;

Recalling that Article VII, paragraph 1(c) of the Antigua Convention provides that the Commission shall "...maintain or restore the populations of harvested species at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield (msy)..." and that 20 percent of the unfished spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been recommended as a reasonable proxy for B_{MSY} for stocks with at least average resilience;⁴

⁴ For example: Mace P.M. 1994. Relationships between common biological reference points used as thresholds and targets of fisheries management strategies. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 51:110-122.

Acknowledging that at the WCPFC Annual Meeting in December 2016, the WCPFC requested that the NC consider that Pacific bluefin tuna be rebuilt to 20 percent unfished SSB with a 60 percent probability by 2034 at the latest;

Considering the recommendation made by the IATTC’s Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its eighth meeting in May 2017: “*To further its work on the recovery of Pacific bluefin tuna, the SAC supports the continued coordination between the IATTC and WCPFC to develop a rebuilding plan including how the second rebuilding target will be calculated, any assumptions about recruitment that need to be made, and a required probability of reaching that target.*”

Resolves as follows:

Recruitment scenario used in SSB projections

1. In evaluating stock rebuilding through 2024 and adopting any needed management action, the NC and IATTC should be suitably precautionary with respect to future recruitment, such as by focusing on the “low recruitment” scenario when reviewing the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean’s (ISC) SSB projections until 2024. The low recruitment scenario could include resampling from the relatively low recruitment period (1980-1989) or, if lower, resampling from the most recent 10 years of recruitment.

Harvest scenarios to reach the initial rebuilding target

2. As stated in the projections completed by the ISC in April 2017, reducing the catch of small fish results in positive impacts on SSB trajectories, even with increases in the catch of large fish in western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). Therefore, harvest scenarios should be adopted that include a reduction in the catch of small fish in the WCPO to reach the initial rebuilding target by 2024.

Second rebuilding target

3. In continuing the commitments of both the IATTC and WCPFC towards further developing and implementing a rebuilding plan for Pacific bluefin tuna, the second rebuilding target shall be $20\%SSB_{\text{current}, F=0}$ ⁵ by 2030 with a probability of at least 60 percent.
4. The Commission shall revise or adopt measures to achieve the second rebuilding target. Progress towards the second rebuilding target shall be reviewed based on the results of stock

⁵ Consistent with the method used by the WCPFC with respect to its limit reference points, the time period to be used for $SSB_{\text{current}, F=0}$ shall have a length of 10 years and be based on the years $t_1=y_{\text{last}}-10$ to $t_2=y_{\text{last}}-1$ where y_{last} is the last year used in the assessment; and the approach used for calculating the unfished biomass levels shall be based on scaled estimates of recruitment according to the stock recruitment relationship.

assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by ISC.

Limit reference point

5. The limit reference point for the stock size (B-limit) shall be $15\%SSB_{\text{current},F=0}$.²

Management strategy evaluation

6. The Commission encourages the ISC to begin a formal management strategy evaluation (MSE) on Pacific bluefin tuna in 2018; recognizing that developing the operating model and other aspects of the MSE will take time, further dialogue between the IATTC, the NC, and the ISC is encouraged.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico
24-28 July 2017

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 E-1

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

**IATTC RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS
CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE IATTC
CONVENTION AREA**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Antigua Convention requires IATTC to adopt conservation measures for species associated with the main targeted stocks.

The European Union is proposing a new Resolution which aims at eliminating the loopholes that prevent the effective enforcement and control of the implementation of the finning ban in the Convention area introduced through IATTC Resolution C-05-03.

Rationale:

This management measure aims to respond to concerns about the threats to shark populations from the practice of shark finning, in fact:

- The current fins to carcass weight ratio requirement has no solid scientific basis underpinning its ap-propriatness reliable and robust method for the implementation of the finning ban;
- Current scientific evidence clearly indicates that fins to carcass weight ratio varies widely among spe-cies, fin types used in calculations, the type of carcass weight used (whole or dressed), and the meth-od of processing used to remove the fins (fin cutting technique);
- The use of the fins to carcass weight ratios undermines the collection of essential information on spe-cies level interactions with fishing fleets, crucial for accurate stock assessments for sharks;
- The use of the ratio measure is not possible to control at sea;
- The only way to guarantee that sharks are not finned is to require that the carcasses be landed with the fins attached

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

CONSIDERING that many sharks are part of the pelagic ecosystems in the IATTC area, and that tunas and tuna-like species are captured in fisheries targeting sharks;

RECOGNISING the need to improve the collection of species specific data on catch, discards and trade as a basis for improving the conservation and management of shark stocks and aware that identifying sharks by species is rarely possible when fins have been removed from the carcass;

RECALLING that United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries, adopted annually by consensus, since 2007 (62/177, 63/112, 64/72, 65/38, 66/68, 67/79, 68/71 and A/RES/69/109)

calls upon States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organization or arrangement measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins, and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

FURTHER RECALLING that the FAO International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to encourage full use of dead sharks, to facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches and the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data;

AWARE that despite regional agreements on the prohibition of shark finning, sharks' fins continue to be removed on board and the rest of the shark carcass discarded into the sea;

EMPHASISING the recent recommendations of IOTC and WCPFC Scientific Committees and WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee that the use of fins-to-carcass weight ratios is not a verifiable means of ensuring the eradication shark finning and that it has proven ineffective in terms of implementation, enforcement and monitoring;

NOTING the recent adoption of Recommendation 2015:10 on Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), which establishes the fins attached policy as exclusive option for ensuring the shark finning ban in the NEAFC Convention area;

FURTHER NOTING the recent adoption of the fins naturally attached policy by NAFO at its 2016 Annual Meeting;

Agrees as follows:

1. 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*.
2. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishermen fully utilize their entire catches of sharks, with the exception of those species for which a retention ban has been adopted by the IATTC. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing.
3. CPCs shall prohibit the removal of shark fins on board vessels. CPCs shall prohibit the retention on-board, transshipment, carrying and landing of shark fins which are not naturally attached to the shark carcass until the first point of landing.
4. Without prejudice to paragraph 3, in order to facilitate on-board storage, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the shark carcass, but shall not be removed from the carcass until the first point of landing.
5. CPCs shall prohibit the purchase, offer for sale and sale of shark fins which have been removed on-board, retained on-board, transshipped or landed, in contravention to this Resolution.
6. In fisheries in which sharks are unwanted species, CPCs shall, to the extent possible, encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles and pregnant sharks that are caught incidentally and are

not used for food and/or subsistence. CPCs shall require that fishers are aware of and use identification guides and handling practices.

7. CPCs shall report data for catches of sharks, in accordance with IATTC data reporting requirements and procedures, including all available historical data, estimates & life status of discards (dead or alive) and size frequencies. CPCs shall send to the IATTC Secretariat, by May 1, at the latest, a comprehensive annual report of the implementation of this Resolution during the previous year.
8. CPCs shall, where possible, in cooperation with the IATTC scientific staff, undertake research to:
 - a) identify ways to make fishing gears more selective;
 - b) improve knowledge on key biological/ecological parameters, life-history and behavioural traits, 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 post-release survival.
9. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall annually review the information reported by CPCs and will, as necessary, provide recommendations to the Commission on ways to strengthen the conservation and management of sharks within IATTC fisheries.
10. 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.
11. Resolution C-05-03 is replaced by this measure.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico

24-28 July 2017

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 E-2

**SUBMITTED BY BELIZE, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA,
NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA AND PANAMA**

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-05-03 ON THE
CONSERVATION OF SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH
FISHERIES IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The sustainable utilisation of species of fisheries interest is one of the basic objectives of fisheries administration. The Commission has been adopting management measures aimed at ensuring the sustainable management of the shark resource in its different species, under the auspices of the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, the guidelines of the International Plan of Action for the Management and Conservation of Sharks and in the context of the functions that the Antigua Convention establishes.

In the year 2005, the IATTC issued Resolution C-05-03 aimed at ensuring the full utilisation of catches and the elimination of discards, through the establishment of a weight relationship between fins and body or carcass of the shark. Since that date management alternatives have been developed and implemented that had demonstrated their effectiveness for ensuring the eradication of the practice of finning. Such measures include establishing regulations that require retaining on board sharks caught from when they are caught until the first point of unloading, with their fins adhered naturally, with partial cuts which, without separating the fins from the body, allow the proper management of that catch destined for human consumption, in the framework of innocuousness, by means of prompt and timely bleeding, together with cutting off the head and gutting the animal, normally known as “fins attached naturally with partial cuts”, also, it guarantees 100% that finning is not done.

Since the year 2012 OSPESCA Regulation OSP-05-11 entered into force under the Central American SICA-OSPESCA integration framework. This regulation regulates the partial cutting of fins and the maintenance of natural adherence. During the period when this management tool was in force, it has been demonstrated that the mechanism adopted is useful, viable, transparent, and demonstrable for the eradication of finning.

While the regulation in force has been implemented, in consideration of the dynamism to which the process of management and management of fisheries must be exposed, the purpose of this proposal is that the countries subjected to IATTC regulations recognise as viable and timely the alternative that the mechanism of fin attached in a natural manner with partial cuts provides, without prejudice to the merits of the implementation of the regulations contained in Resolution C-05-03, for which reason what is intended with this proposal, is coexistence, for the alternative implementation of one or other method, at the choice of the Flag States, of the management strategy in force that allows the fins to be separated from the carcasses, provided that the weight of the fins does not exceed 5% of the weight of the carcasses of the sharks aboard, with the practice of fins attached to the body of the sharks in a natural manner, with partial cuts.

Finally, bearing in mind the recommendation of the Performance Review of the IATTC presented in the

year 2016, regarding exploring improvements in the collection of data on shark mortality in the management of the associated fisheries, it is considered advisable to request the development of a characterisation study of the longline fleet that will facilitate the management actions for the species caught in accordance with the conditions of each class.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd meeting:

Agrees:

To amend Resolution C-05-03 “*ON THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN*”, adding paragraphs 4 bis and 4 ter, so that hereafter they read:

4 bis, Alternatively, CPCs may require of their vessels that the sharks they have on board and up to the first point of landing on shore, keep their fins attached naturally to the body, allowing longitudinal cuts in the muscle area adjacent to the fins of each shark, provided that the fins are not totally separated from the carcass. The competent authorities of the CPCs shall develop the mechanisms for compliance control and data collection necessary to ensure compliance with this provision.

4. ter. CPCs shall inform the Commission from 1 January 2018 of the selected management method for sharks in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 4 bis of this resolution that they will require of their vessels for each authorised fishing gear, reporting annually whether the chosen management is maintained or changed. CPCs shall seek to change to the method of fins attached. The forms for providing data to the Commission shall specify the methods utilised and the information derived from it shall be considered for maintaining a suitable assessment of these methods as components of the necessary scientific recommendation in the management of these species. The Commission shall develop a characterisation analysis of the longline fleet that is active in the EPO to adequately differentiate its impact on the fisheries covered by the Convention and shall present its results to the Scientific Advisory Committee in the year 2019.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico

24-28 July 2017

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 F-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

**RESOLUTION TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF TUNA
FISHING VESSELS ON SEA TURTLES**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd Meeting:

Considering the adverse effects of fishing for tunas and tuna-like species on the populations of sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) through capture and mortality;

Deeply concerned that the Eastern Pacific leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) population has declined by more than 90% over the last three decades and is critically endangered.

Guided by work in recent history that has led to advancements in best practices and technologies to avoid interactions and/or reduce the severity of interactions with sea turtles, including:

- the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) *Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations* (2005) and their recommended implementation by regional fisheries bodies and management organizations;
- FAO Common Oceans workshops (2016) on the Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness, which identified the need to address sea turtle bycatch in longline fisheries;
- scientific studies that indicate that the use of large circle hooks both reduces the rate of interaction and the severity of injury and can lead to a decrease in the post-release mortality of incidentally-caught sea turtles;
- international research over the last decade on circle hooks and whole finfish bait that demonstrates a statistically significant decrease in sea turtle bycatch when such hooks are used in shallow and deep-set pelagic longline fishing; and
- International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) of Conservation Measure 3.6 *Transactions with Vessels Implementing Best Practices for Sharks and Sea Turtles*, which calls on processors, traders, importers and marketers and others in the seafood industry to conduct transactions only with longline vessels whose owners require the use of circle hooks and monofilament line, the implementation of best handling techniques, and avoidance of the use of shark lines;

Acknowledging that nearly every CPC has undertaken circle hook trials in their longline fisheries in the last decade;

Recalling the discussion at the 7th Bycatch Working Group and resulting recommendations (BYC-07);

Noting that increasing observer coverage on longline vessels from 5% to 20% would allow for more refined and targeted measures to address sea turtle bycatch; and

Affirming that additional measures should be undertaken to reduce sea turtle bycatch and mortality in tuna fisheries;

Has agreed as follows:

1. Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Parties, fishing entities and regional economic integration organizations (collectively “CPCs”) shall:
 - a. Report to the Director annually, by June 30 (beginning in 2018), in a standardized format to be developed pursuant to paragraph 4.a of this Resolution,
 - i. laws, regulations, and other measures in place to implement the *FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations*⁶ (2005).
 - ii. the following information on all observed sea turtle interactions in all gear types:
 - date
 - location (latitude, longitude)
 - species identification
 - size (curved carapace length)
 - capture and release condition (e.g., live/dead)
 - fishing gear type
 - hooking location, if applicable (e.g., flipper, mouth/jaw, swallowed)
 - amount of gear left on the animal, if applicable, prior to release (e.g., estimated amount of line)
 - b. Require fishermen on vessels targeting species covered by the Convention to follow sea turtle handling and release guidelines consistent with the FAO "Best practices for sea turtle handling and release" (beginning on page 62 of the 2005 Guidelines) when any sea turtle interaction occurs.
 - c. Require fishermen to carry and, when sea turtle interactions occur, employ the necessary equipment (e.g. de-hookers, line cutters, and scoop nets) for the prompt and safe release of incidentally-caught sea turtles.
 - d. Implement observer programs for fisheries under the purview of the Commission that may have impacts on sea turtles and are not currently being observed, taking into consideration economic and practical feasibility.
 - e. Continue to improve techniques to further reduce sea turtle bycatch in all gear types used in the EPO.
2. CPCs with purse seine vessels fishing in the Convention Area shall:

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0725e/i0725e.pdf>

- a. Require fishermen to avoid encirclement of sea turtles to the extent practicable.
 - b. Require fishermen to take actions necessary to monitor Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) for the entanglement of sea turtles.
 - c. Require fishermen to safely release all sea turtles observed entangled in FADs and report any information on cases of doing so to the Commission, along with the required reports in paragraph 1a.
 - d. Implement, whenever possible, modified FAD designs to reduce sea turtle entanglement.
3. CPCs with longline vessels fishing in the Convention Area shall require:
- a. Longline vessels to employ, and declare along with reports under 1a. of this resolution, at least one of the following mitigation measures:
 - a seasonal closure of fishing adjacent to leatherback inter-nesting hotspots as identified by the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles;
 - use of only circle hooks⁷ no smaller than 13/0
 - use of only whole finfish for bait; OR
 - another mitigation measure that has been reviewed by the IATTC scientific staff and approved by the Commission as capable of reducing sea turtle bycatch.
 - one such option, is for vessels fishing deeper than 100 meters, all hooks must be set below 100 meters depth.
4. Monitoring and Evaluation
- a. The Commission staff shall develop, no later than six months after the adoption of this resolution, and circulate for member approval, a standardized format for the reporting requirements of this measure as described in 1.a and 2.b.
 - All CPC reports shall be made available through a controlled-access portal on the IATTC website for review by other CPCs.
 - b. Based on these reports, the Commission staff, in conjunction with the Bycatch Working Group, shall report to the SAC every three years (with the first being in 2021) on the extent of implementation, areas needing improvement, the level of bycatch reduction that has been achieved since adoption, and recommendations for improvement including amendments to this measure.
5. Compliance
- a. The Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission

⁷ “Circle hooks” are defined as a hook with the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank to form a generally circular or oval shape.

(Implementation Review Committee) shall undertake a comprehensive review of compliance with the requirements of this resolution every three years.

- b. The Implementation Review Committee shall report to the Commission on that review and make recommendations of needed actions including areas to strengthen compliance with the resolution.
6. This resolution replaces Resolution C-07-03 To Mitigate the Impact of Tuna Fishing Vessels on Sea Turtles.
7. This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2019.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico

24-28 July 2017

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 G-1

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

IATTC RESOLUTION FOR AN IATTC SCHEME FOR MINIMUM
STANDARDS FOR INSPECTION IN PORT

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Goal: this Resolution is intended to fight against IUU fishing and contribute to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources in the IATTC Convention Area through strengthened, harmonized and transparent minimum standards for inspections.

In line with similar proposals adopted by other RFMOs, the most essential elements of the proposal is the inspection of vessels, designation of ports, prior notifications and reporting of possible infringements. It is therefore more in line with the requests from developing coastal CPCs as it also includes a number of simplified provisions in order to facilitate consensus at the IATTC.

In addition to that, it will be the first ever port inspection measure adopted by IATTC. Therefore it will ensure consistency with management measures taken in other RFMOs and improve the results of the measures aimed towards conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. This will contribute to more responsible management of the stocks under the IATTC's mandate.

This proposal incorporates comments made by Delegations during the 90th and 91st IATTC Meetings.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Deeply concerned that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing has a detrimental effect upon fish stocks, marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of legitimate fishers in particular in developing States,

Conscious of the role of the port State in the adoption of effective measures to promote the sustainable use and the long-term conservation of living marine resources,

Recalling that under the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the right to fish carries with it the obligation to do so in a responsible manner so as to ensure effective conservation and management of living aquatic resources,

Recognizing that measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing should build on the primary responsibility of flag States and use all available jurisdiction in accordance with international law, including minimum standards for inspection in port, coastal State measures, and measures to ensure that nationals do not support or engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

Recognizing that minimum standards for inspections in port provide a powerful and cost-effective means of preventing, deterring and eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

Aware of the need for increasing coordination at the regional and interregional levels to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing through minimum standards for inspection in port, and

Recalling the relevant provisions the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 24 November 1993, the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and other relevant international law,

Agrees as follows:

Assessment in Anticipation of Implementation

1. Following the adoption of this Resolution, the IATTC Secretariat will identify the needs of developing CPCs related to the implementation of this Resolution; to present options and facilities for capacity building for those CPCs that might require and desire such assistance; to identify and assess any other barriers to effective full implementation; and to develop solutions to any such barriers.
2. This assessment will be accomplished through consultations, through questionnaires sent to all developing CPCs as set forth in Annex 2, and through any other available information.
3. Within 60 days following the deadline for receipt of the completed questionnaires, the Secretariat shall provide all CPCs with a report summarizing the responses, identifying any developing CPCs that may not have responded, and providing a detailed description of identified barriers to implementation.
4. The Commission, at its annual meeting in 2018, shall review the assessment report of the Secretariat and any individual reports from developing CPCs, as provided in paragraph 32.

Scope

5. Nothing in this Resolution shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Commission (hereinafter referred to as "CPCs") under international law. In particular, nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to affect the exercise by CPCs of their authority over their ports in accordance with international law, including their right to deny entry thereto as well as to adopt more stringent measures than those provided for in this Resolution.

This Resolution shall be interpreted and applied in conformity with international law, taking into account applicable international rules and standards, including those established through the International Maritime Organization, as well as other international instruments.

CPCs shall fulfill in good faith any obligations ultimately assumed pursuant to this Resolution and shall exercise the rights recognized herein in a manner that would not constitute an abuse of right.

6. With a view to monitoring compliance with IATTC Resolutions, each CPC, in its capacity as a port CPC, shall apply this Resolution for an effective scheme of port inspections in respect of foreign fishing vessels carrying IATTC-managed species caught in the IATTC Convention Area (Convention Area) and/or fish products originating from such species caught in the Convention Area that have not been previously landed or transhipped at port, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels".
7. A CPC may, in its capacity as a port CPC, decide not to apply this Resolution to foreign fishing vessels chartered by its nationals operating under its authority and returning to its ports. Such chartered fishing vessels shall be subject to measures by the CPC which are as effective as measures applied in relation to vessels entitled to fly its flag.
8. Without prejudice to specifically applicable provisions of other IATTC Resolutions, and except as

otherwise provided in this Resolution, this Resolution shall apply to foreign fishing vessels equal to or greater than 20 meters in length overall.

9. Each CPC shall subject foreign fishing vessels below 20 meters length overall, foreign fishing vessels operating under charter as referred to under paragraph 7, and fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag to measures that are at least as effective in combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU)⁸ fishing as measures applied to vessels referred to in paragraph 8.
10. CPCs shall take necessary action to inform fishing vessels entitled to fly their flag of this and other relevant IATTC Resolutions.

Points of Contact

11. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall designate a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications pursuant to paragraph 17. Each CPC shall designate a point of contact for the purpose of receiving inspection reports pursuant to paragraph 28(b) of this Resolution. It shall transmit the name and contact information for its points of contact to the IATTC Director no later than 30 days following the entry into force of this Resolution. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the IATTC Director at least 7 days before such changes take effect. The IATTC Director shall promptly notify CPCs of any such change.
12. The IATTC Director shall establish and maintain a register of points of contact based on the lists submitted by the CPCs. The register and any subsequent changes shall be published promptly on the IATTC website.

Designated ports

13. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Resolution.
14. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall ensure that it has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections in every designated port pursuant to this Resolution to the greatest extent possible.
15. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall provide to the IATTC Director within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Resolution a list of designated ports. Any subsequent changes to this list shall be notified to the IATTC Director at least 14 days before the change takes effect.
16. The IATTC Director shall establish and maintain a register of designated ports based on the lists submitted by the port CPCs. The register and any subsequent change shall be published promptly on the IATTC website.

Prior notification

17. Each port CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall, except as provided under paragraph 18 of this Resolution, require foreign fishing vessels seeking to use its ports for the purpose of landing and/or transshipment to provide, at least 48 hours before the estimated time of arrival at the port, the following information:

- a) Vessel identification (External identification, Name, Flag CPC, IMO No, if any, and IRCS);

⁸ IUU fishing refers to illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing activities as defined in Annex 1.

- b) Name of the designated port, as referred to in the IATTC register, to which it seeks entry and the purpose of the port call (landing and/or transshipment);
- c) Fishing authorization or, where appropriate, any other authorization held by the vessel to support fishing operations on IATTC-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species, or to transship related fishery products;
- d) Estimated date and time of arrival in port;
- e) The estimated quantities in kilograms of each IATTC-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species held on board, with associated catch areas. If no IATTC species and/or fish products originating from such species are held on board, a 'nil' report shall be transmitted;
- f) The estimated quantities for each IATTC-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species in kilograms to be landed or transshipped, with associated catch areas.

The port CPC may also request other information as it may require to determine whether the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, or related activities.

- 18. The port CPC may prescribe a longer or shorter notification period than specified in paragraph 17, taking into account, inter alia, the type of fishery product, the distance between the fishing grounds and its ports. In such a case, the port CPC shall inform the IATTC Director, who shall publish the information promptly on the IATTC website.
- 19. After receiving the relevant information pursuant to paragraph 17, as well as such other information as it may require to determine whether the foreign fishing vessel requesting entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, the port CPC shall decide whether to authorize or deny the entry of the vessel into its port. In case the port CPC decides to authorize the entry of the vessel into its port, the following provisions on port inspection shall apply.

Port inspections

- 20. Inspections shall be carried out by the competent authority of the port CPC.
- 21. Each year CPCs shall inspect at least 5% of landing and transshipment operations in their designated ports as are made by foreign fishing vessels.
- 22. The Port CPC shall, in accordance with its domestic law, take the following, inter alia, into account when determining which foreign vessels to inspect:
 - a) Whether a vessel has failed to provide complete information as required in paragraph 17;
 - b) Requests from other CPCs or relevant regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) that a particular vessel be inspected, particularly where such requests are supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question;
 - c) Whether clear grounds exist for suspecting that a vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, including information derived from RFMOs.

Inspection procedure

- 23. Each inspector shall carry a document of identity issued by the port CPC. In accordance with domestic laws, port CPC inspectors may examine all relevant areas, decks and rooms of the fishing vessel, catches processed or otherwise, nets or other fishing gears, equipment both technical and electronic, records of transmissions and any relevant documents, including fishing logbooks, Cargo Manifests and

Mates Receipts and landing declarations in case of transshipment, which they deem necessary to ensure compliance with the IATTC Resolutions. They may take copies of any documents considered relevant, and they may also question the Master and any other person on the vessel being inspected.

24. Inspections shall involve the monitoring of the landing or transshipment and include a cross-check between the quantities by species notified in the prior notification message in paragraph 17 and the quantities which are landed, transhipped or held on board by the vessels. Inspections shall be carried out in such a way that the fishing vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience, and that degradation of the quality of the catch is avoided to the extent practicable.
25. On completion of the inspection, the port CPC inspector shall provide the Master of the foreign fishing vessel with the inspection report containing the findings of the inspection, including possible subsequent measures that could be taken by the competent authority of the CPC. The inspector shall sign the report. The Master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report, to contact the competent authority of the flag CPC. A copy of the report shall be provided to the Master.
26. The port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report electronically or by other means to the flag CPC point of contact and the IATTC Director no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port CPC should notify the IATTC Director within the 14 day time period the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted.
27. Flag CPCs shall take necessary action to ensure that Masters facilitate safe access to the fishing vessel, cooperate with the competent authority of the port CPC, facilitate the inspection and communication and not obstruct, intimidate or interfere, or cause other persons to obstruct, intimidate or interfere with port CPC inspectors in the execution of their duties.

Procedure in the event of infringements

28. If the information collected during the inspection provides evidence that a foreign fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the IATTC Resolutions, the inspector shall:
 - a) record the infringement in the inspection report;
 - b) transmit the inspection report to the port CPC competent authority, which shall promptly forward a copy to the IATTC Director and to the flag CPC point of contact;
 - c) to the extent practicable, ensure safekeeping of the evidence pertaining to such alleged infringement.
29. If the infringement falls within the legal jurisdiction of the port CPC, the port CPC may take action in accordance with its domestic laws. The port CPC shall promptly notify the action taken to the competent authority of the flag CPC and to the IATTC Director, who shall promptly publish this information in a secured part of the IATTC website.
30. Infringements that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the port CPC, and infringements referred to in paragraph 29 for which the port CPC has not taken action, shall be referred to the flag State and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State.. Upon receiving the copy of the inspection report, the flag CPC shall promptly investigate the alleged infringement and notify the IATTC Director of the status of the investigation and of any enforcement action that may have been taken within 6 months of such receipt. If the flag CPC cannot provide the IATTC Director this status report within 6 months of such receipt,

the flag CPC should notify the IATTC within the 6 month time period the reasons for the delay and when the status report will be submitted. The IATTC Director shall promptly publish this information in a secured part of the IATTC website. CPCs shall include in their Compliance questionnaire information regarding the status of such investigations.

31. Should the inspection provide evidence that the inspected vessel has engaged in IUU activities as referred to in Resolution C-05-07, the port CPC shall promptly report the case to the flag CPC and notify as soon as possible the IATTC Director, along with its supporting evidence.

Requirements of developing CPCs

32. On the basis of the outcome of the assessment exercise set forth in Annex 2 and in paragraphs 1 to 3, developing CPCs requiring assistance shall submit a plan of action for the implementation of this Resolution. CPCs shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to a port inspection scheme consistent with this Resolution. As of 1 January 2019, and following the result of the assessment of needs, the Special Sustainable Development Fund established by Resolution C-14-03, either directly or through supplementary voluntary contributions from CPCs, shall provide assistance to developing CPCs in order to, *inter alia*:
 - a) Develop their capacity including by providing technical assistance and establishing an appropriate funding mechanism to support and strengthen the development and implementation of an effective system of port inspection at national, regional or international levels and to ensure that adisproportionate burden resulting from the implementation of this Resolution is not unnecessarily transferred to them and
 - b) Facilitate their participation in meetings and/or training programmes of relevant regional and international organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of a system of port inspection, including monitoring, control and surveillance, enforcement and legal proceedings for infractions and dispute settlements pursuant to this Resolution.

General provisions

33. CPCs are encouraged to enter into bilateral agreements/arrangements that allow for an inspector exchange program designed to promote cooperation, share information, and educate each party's inspectors on inspection strategies and methodologies which promote compliance with IATTC Resolutions. A description of such programs should be provided to the IATTC Director which should publish it on the IATTC website.
34. Without prejudice to the domestic laws of the port CPC, the flag CPC may, in the case of appropriate bilateral agreements or arrangements with the port CPC or at the invitation of that CPC, send its own officials to accompany the inspectors of the port CPC and observe or take part in the inspection of its vessel.
35. Flag CPCs shall consider and act on reports of infringements from inspectors of a port CPC on a similar basis as the reports from their own inspectors, in accordance with their domestic laws. CPCs shall cooperate, in accordance with their domestic laws, in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from inspection reports as set out in this Resolution.
36. The IATTC Director shall develop model formats for prior notification reports and inspection reports required under this Resolution, taking into account forms adopted in other relevant instruments, such as international organisations and other RFMOs, for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the

Commission.

37. The Commission shall review this Resolution no later than its 2020 Annual Meeting and, if appropriate, taking into account developments in other RFMOs and/or international fora and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness. The Secretariat will report annually on the implementation of this measure.
38. This Resolution shall enter into force on January 1, 2020.

ANNEX 1

As defined by FAO in the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, IUU fishing means:

Illegal fishing refers to fishing activities:

- (1) conducted by national or foreign vessels in waters under the jurisdiction of a State, without the permission of that State, or in contravention of its laws and regulations;
- (2) conducted by vessels flying the flag of States that are parties to a relevant regional fisheries management organization but operate in contravention of the conservation and management measures adopted by that organization and by which the States are bound, or relevant provisions of the applicable international law; or
- (3) in violation of national laws or international obligations, including those undertaken by cooperating States to a relevant regional fisheries management organization.

Unreported fishing refers to fishing activities:

- (1) which have not been reported, or have been misreported, to the relevant national authority, in contravention of national laws and regulations; or
- (2) undertaken in the area of competence of a relevant regional fisheries management organization which have not been reported or have been misreported, in contravention of the reporting procedures of that organization.

Unregulated fishing refers to fishing activities:

- (1) in the area of application of a relevant regional fisheries management organization that are conducted by vessels without nationality, or by those flying the flag of a State not party to that organization, or by a fishing entity, in a manner that is not consistent with or contravenes the conservation and management measures of that organization; or
- (2) in areas or for fish stocks in relation to which there are no applicable conservation or management measures and where such fishing activities are conducted in a manner inconsistent with State responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law.

ANNEX 2

Assessment of Capacity to Implement

The Secretariat shall, within 30 days following adoption of this Resolution, transmit to all developing CPCs an assessment questionnaire designed to assess, for each obligation anticipated under this resolution, the extent to which each CPC:

1. Is already applying a particular obligation within laws and/or regulations;
2. For each obligation not already applied, the capacity of each CPC to implement it and the approximate time that will be required to do so;
3. For each obligation that a CPC deems inapplicable or unimplementable, request that the CPC provide the reasons for that determination.

The assessment questionnaire shall include the following obligations envisioned in this Resolution, *inter alia*:

1. The ability of the CPC to designate specific port(s) which foreign vessels may enter
2. The capacity of the CPC to inspect at least 5% of foreign vessels entering the designated ports
3. The capacity of the CPC to designate and empower a competent national authority to receive and process “Prior Notification” information as required in paragraph 18 from inbound foreign vessels
4. The capacity under national laws of a CPC to empower inspectors to execute the “Inspection Procedures” in paragraphs 23 to 27
5. The capacity of the CPC to implement the “Procedure in the event of infringement” set forth in paragraphs 28 to 31
6. The specific needs identified by the CPC for assistance in the areas of capacity building

Developing CPCs shall respond in full to the Assessment Questionnaire to the Secretariat within 90 days of receipt.

Within 60 days following the deadline for receipt of the completed questionnaires, the Secretariat shall provide all CPCs with a report summarizing the responses, identifying any developing CPCs that may not have responded, and providing a detailed description of identified barriers to implementation.

Attachment 3g

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

**Mexico City, Mexico
24-28 July 2017**

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 H-1

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

**RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING OBSERVER SAFETY AT
SEA**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Rationale: Observer programs collect data essential to the functions of the Commission and the safety of observers is critical to their ability to perform their duties. There are no established requirements for safety equipment for IATTC observer programs, and these requirements vary among the national observer programs. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission adopted minimum standards to improve observer safety at sea at its meeting in December 2015, as well as Conservation and Management Measure 2016-03 at its meeting in December 2016, which details specific procedures to enhance observer safety.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd Meeting:

Taking into account that observers collect data that is essential to the functions of the Commission and that the safety of observers is critical to their ability to perform their duties;

Recognizing that certain IATTC resolutions require longline, purse-seine, and transshipment carrier vessels to carry observers;

Concerned about the lack of requirements protecting the health and safety of observers for IATTC observer programs and by the variability in these requirements among the national observer programs;

Considering that consistent safety requirements should apply to all observers operating within the legal and institutional framework of the IATTC;

Further recognizing the commitments in Article 98 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to render assistance and protect human life, and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, as amended and overseen by the International Maritime Organization, which outlines the responsibilities of governments related to search procedures including the organization and coordination of actions, cooperation between States, and operating procedures for vessel operators and crew; and

Further noting the commitment in Article 94(7) of UNCLOS, regarding the duty of a State to cause an inquiry to be held into every marine casualty or incident of navigation on the high seas involving a ship flying its flag and causing loss of life or serious injury to nationals of another State;

Agrees that:

1. This Resolution applies to all IATTC observer programs, including the Regional Observer Program for transshipment, the national observer programs for longline vessels, and any future observer program established by the IATTC.
2. All IATTC observer programs shall ensure that, when observers embark on a vessel for a trip, they

are provided with (1) an independent two-way satellite communication device, and (2) a waterproof personal life-saving beacon. This may consist of a single device, such as a “Satellite Emergency Notification Device,” or a combination of an independent two-way satellite-based device, such as a satellite telephone, and a portable lifesaving beacon (e.g., Personal Locator Beacon or Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)). The devices provided by the observer programs must be included on a list of approved devices maintained by the IATTC and based on the input from the Agreement on International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) observer program staff, to ensure the reliability of the devices.

3. All IATTC observer programs must have a designated person or persons responsible for monitoring the signal from the observers’ satellite communication devices at all times.

4. All IATTC observer programs must have an established procedure for communications and actions for a designated person or persons per paragraph 3 above to contact the observer, the vessel, and, if necessary, the competent authority of the Member or Cooperating Non-Member (CPC) with jurisdiction over the vessel. This procedure must provide for regular contact with observers to confirm their health and safety status and clearly describe the steps that must be taken in the event of various emergencies, including situations where an observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety, or has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed while on board a vessel, and/or if the observer requests to be removed from the vessel prior to the conclusion of the fishing trip.

5. CPCs shall ensure that in the event an observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety, or has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed, a detailed action plan is in place that includes at a minimum the following:

- a. The responsibilities of the fishing vessel regarding ceasing fishing, search and rescue operations, notifications, cooperation in any investigations, necessary medical care, facilitation of any necessary disembarkation, and reporting requirements;
- b. The responsibilities of IATTC observer programs regarding any investigations, search and rescue operations, notifications, reporting requirements, and cooperation in any necessary procedures to facilitate the disembarkation of any observer;
- c. The responsibilities if they are involved as a port CPC; and
- d. The responsibilities if they are involved as a flag CPC.

CPCs shall submit their action plans to the Secretariat by June 1, 2018 for review and discussion by the Commission at its 2018 annual meeting.

6. All IATTC observer programs must provide safety training for observers, which must at a minimum meet the International Maritime Organization (IMO) safety training standards.

7. All IATTC observer programs must ensure that observers are only deployed on vessels that are outfitted with appropriate safety equipment, including the following: (1) A life raft of sufficient capacity for all personnel onboard and that has been inspected by relevant authorities; (2) Life jackets of sufficient number for all personnel onboard and be compliant with International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) standards; and (3) a properly registered EPIRB or a Search and Rescue Transponder (SART) that will not expire until after the observer deployment ends. All IATTC observer programs shall not deploy an observer on a vessel unless and until the observer is allowed to inspect all vessel safety equipment and document its status. Observers shall not be deployed on vessels with outstanding safety deficiencies.

8. Vessel owners, captains, and crew members shall be prohibited from obstructing, harassing, intimidating, interfering with, influencing, bribing, or attempting to bribe an observer in the performance of his or her duties.

9. CPCs and the Director shall compile any reports from observers of vessel owners, captains, or crew members obstructing, harassing, intimidating, interfering with, influencing, bribing, or attempting to bribe an observer in the performance of his or her duties, including any corrective action taken by the flag CPC or non-CPC. CPCs shall provide such reports to the Director three months prior to each annual Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (Review Committee). The Director shall transmit these reports to the Commission two months prior to each annual Meeting of the Review Committee, consistent with applicable confidentiality rules. These reports shall be reviewed at each meeting of the Review Committee.

10. Observers shall not be deployed on vessels where the CPC or non-CPC with jurisdiction over the vessel has previously failed to investigate any reported instance of observer interference, harassment, intimidation, assault, bribery, or unsafe working conditions or, where warranted, to take appropriate corrective action, consistent with their domestic law.

11. This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2019.

Attachment 3h

<p style="text-align: center;">INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION 92ND MEETING Mexico City, Mexico 24-28 July 2017</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PROPOSAL IATTC-92 K-1</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SUBMITTED BY MEXICO</p>

PROPOSAL FOR CONTRIBUTION BY THE IATTC TO THE AIDCP

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd meeting:

Believing that it is useful to strengthen the link between the IATTC and the AIDCP observer program;

Highlighting that the AIDCP observer program for its achievements has gained international recognition;

Noting with satisfaction that, in accordance with the objectives of the AIDCP, a significant reduction in the mortality of dolphins has been achieved and maintained for many years, which indicates that the fishery for tunas with purse seines does not generate negative pressure on the stocks of dolphins in the EPO;

Recognising that, through the international observer program established by the AIDCP, the IATTC acquires valuable data and information on the purse-seine fishery for tuna related to the catches of target species and also of the other associated and dependent species and bycatches, data which together support the achievement of the objectives of the Commission under the mandate of the Antigua Convention;

Taking into account that the 30% level of financing, was established in 1997 by the Commission and that it has not been increased since then;

Agrees:

1. To increase financing for the AIDCP program based on the forecast costs of the On-Board Observer Program. The amount of the IATTC portion of the costs related to the AIDCP program shall correspond to 40% of the budget starting in 2019 and until the Commission so decides and modifies according to need.

Attachment 3i

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

**Mexico City, Mexico
24-28 July 2017**

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 L-1

SUBMITTED BY MEXICO

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-11-08 ON OBSERVERS ON
LONGLINE VESSELS**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The current resolution C-11-08 on observers on longline vessels makes it obligatory to have a coverage of 5% of fishing effort made by its longline fishing vessels more than 20 meters long.

Within the recommendations for the current year on the longline fishery, the scientific staff of the IATTC has noted the following:

In Resolution C-11-08, the Commission established that “each CPC shall ensure that at least 5% of the fishing effort made by its longline fishing vessels greater than 20 m length overall carry a scientific observer”. 5% coverage is too low for calculating accurate estimates of the catches of species caught infrequently in those fisheries, such as some sharks of conservation concern; studies show that 20% coverage is the minimum level required for such estimates.

The staff maintains its recommendation of at least 20% observer coverage of longline vessels over 20 m length overall.”

In this context, it is considered advisable that the current resolution be modified in order to accommodate a necessary and greater coverage of 20% in a gradual manner.

The changes that should be made to the current resolution are indicated below.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd meeting:

Recognizing the need to improve the scientific information from the longline fishery on target species as well as comprehensive data on interactions with non-target species, in particular, sea turtles, sharks and seabirds;

Noting the need to ensure a uniform and equitable treatment of all tuna fishing vessels and fisheries that operate in the Antigua Convention Area;

Noting that large purse-seine vessels operating in the Antigua Convention Area have been required for many years to carry 100% scientific observers aboard, in accordance with the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program and that this effort has resulted in a greater knowledge of the fishery and its interactions;

Taking into account and reaffirming the recommendation by the Eighth Meeting of the Commission’s Scientific Advisory Committee that it be increased to 20% in order to collect more data on bycatches by longline vessels, and that the resulting operational data be submitted to the Commission;

Agrees that:

1. Each Member and Cooperating non-Member (CPC) shall ensure a gradual increase in the coverage by scientific observers on longline fishing vessels greater than 20 meters length overall so that:
 - a. from 1 January 2018, coverage shall be at least 10%.
 - b. from 1 January 2020, coverage shall be at least 15%.
 - c. from 1 January 2022, coverage shall be at least 20%.
2. Fishing effort shall be determined by the number of fishing days.
3. Each CPC shall ensure that the coverage by observers will be representative of the activities of its fleet.
4. Each CPC shall update the list of its vessels, indicating specifically which vessels are active, inactive, and/or sunk, and if possible inform the IATTC staff of the duration of their fishing operations.
5. The main task of the scientific observer shall be to record any available biological information, the catches of target fish species, species composition, and any available biological information, as well as any interactions with non-target species such as sea turtles, seabirds and sharks.
6. The Director, in cooperation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall review the reporting format detailing the required data to be collected by scientific observers on longline vessels and will communicate it to the Commission.
7. Scientific observers shall submit to the authorities of their flag CPC a report on these observations at the latest 30 days after the end of each fishing trip.
8. Every year, CPCs shall submit to the Scientific Advisory Committee, through the Director, by 31 March, the scientific observers' information on the previous year's fishery, in a format established by the Scientific Advisory Committee.
9. Evaluate the use of electronic monitoring systems in order to establish minimum standards and extend observer coverage in longline fisheries.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
5TH MEETING
Mexico City, Mexico
July 19th, 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the session	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Review of the financial audit report	
4. Review of budgets for 2018 and 2019	CAF-05-04
5. Financial contributions of Members:	
a) Regular budget (Resolution C-16-07)	CAF-05-05b
b) Special fund for promoting institutional capacity-building (Resolution C-14-03)	CAF-05-05c
c) Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution C-12-07)	
d) Other	
6. Other business	
7. Recommendations to the Commission	
8. Adjournment	

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Lillo Maniscalchi, of Venezuela, opened the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Examination of the financial audit report

It was reported that the financial audit report was provided to the Commissioners and Heads of Delegations in advance of the meeting. No comments were made.

4. Review of budgets for 2018 and 2019

Mrs. Nora G. Roa, of the IATTC staff, presented Document CAF-05-04, noting that the budget needs first to keep up with inflation, which affects all the operational expenditures related to the activities of the Commission, both at headquarters and abroad. Mrs. Roa explained the financial activity in 2016, the status

of the contributions for 2017 and the requested and projected budgets for 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Additionally, she mentioned that it is important to recall that the scope of activities of the Commission and its staff continues to grow, not only in accordance with the broader mandate derived from the Antigua Convention, but also in response to the wishes and demands of the Members. It is therefore essential that the Commission adopt the requested budget for 2018 of US\$ 7,258,413 so that the Commission and its staff fulfill their functions fully and efficiently.

It was also mentioned that it is of utmost importance that all contributions of Members contributions to the budget be paid in a timely manner; it was reported that a pending arrears to date (July 19) have diminished considerably compared to the previous year for the same period.

In response to a question from Japan, it was reported that the hiring of new staff was carried out to fill two vacancies left by two persons that retired: a scientist from the ecosystem area and a scientist associated with the Achotines laboratory. With regard to the salaries and benefits budget, it was clarified that salary increases were not being applied, only compensations resulting from inflationary increases.

The United States recalled that the Working Group on Bycatch recommended that it should meet annually, so that the corresponding forecasts should be made. They were informed that if the meetings were held in conjunction with others such as those of the SAC or the IATTC, the expenses would not be high. The United States also stressed that payments for such things as the pension fund should not be reduced, and suggested the convenience of a country offering to host the 2018 meeting, which would help reduce budgetary costs.

In response to a question from Japan regarding the establishment of a field office in Costa Rica and the related costs, it was mentioned that this issue was discussed at the SAC meeting, where it was mentioned that the provision of a building by Costa Rica would be taken advantage of and that, initially, funds from a FAO-GEF project would be used, so no budget would be required to operate for 2 years. After that period, the Commission would revisit the issue, that time with a plan based on the results already obtained.

Mexico recalled its proposal (IATTC-92 K-1) for increasing the contribution by the IATTC to the AIDCP from 30% to 40%, and requested that estimates for individual contributions by Members be presented based on the proposed increase. Japan and China mentioned that they were not in a position to accept this proposal. Several delegations mentioned that the proposal deserved consideration.

The European Union pointed out that it could not approve the budget until the Action Plan for the implementation of the Performance Review recommendations was reviewed, since some of them had budgetary implications. Consequently, the Committee initiated the review of the draft Action Plan and identified in general terms the following actions that could have budgetary implications:

- Consider the establishment of a new position of Communication Coordinator.
- Hire a professional recorder for meetings.
- Hire additional translators.
- Considerations related to the period during which the staff in retirement age would work as pre-retired alongside the new staff appointed to fill the corresponding positions.
- Hire a human resources specialist.

The European Union pointed out that the last item is of great importance, which is why the necessary budgetary forecasts for 2018 should be made.

The hiring of the consultant was discussed, to carry out in a preliminary stage a more specific and detailed evaluation of the needs and opportunities in terms of human resources. The possibility of allocating an amount of US\$ 100,000 for this purpose was considered. This amount would be added to the budget, in the

understanding that the final amount of the contract could be lower. Additionally, it was mentioned that the terms of reference should be prepared during the intersessional period so that an announcement would be made as soon as possible to select the person or entity that would be hired.

There were no concrete agreements in this regard.

5. Financial contributions of Members to the Commission

a. Regular budget (Resolution [C-16-07](#))

The Secretariat presented information on the Members' pending arrears, emphasizing that three Members—Colombia, Kiribati and Panama—are two years behind on their contributions. Also, including the payments outstanding for 2017, the total pending contributions add up to US\$ 3,774,479 as of May 31st, 2017, which is nearly equivalent to more than half of one year budget.

The European Union noted that, in accordance with Article XV, paragraph 4, of the Antigua Convention, members in arrears in the payment of their contributions by an amount equal to or greater than the total of the contributions due for two years, lose automatically their right to participate in decision-making, and that this provision should be applied in this meeting of the IATTC.

Colombia explained that it was in arrears due to critical economic and social situations in the country and that it was making efforts to regularize its payments. It also mentioned that pending arrears cases should be analyzed on a case-by-case basis and that it should be considered that both the financial regulations and the Antigua Convention establish that the Commission may take a different decision if it so wishes.

Panama recalled that at the previous meeting it had expressed its commitment to make annual payments that in 10 years would cover the outstanding balance of its arrears, while also paying its annual contributions; the delegation pointed out that the Commission had accepted this commitment and that, since then, Panama had complied with it and therefore should be granted equal participation in decision-making. Kiribati mentioned that it was making efforts to regularize its contribution payment and that it would make it effective during this IATTC meeting.

Many delegations expressed the importance of maintaining the right of participation of these three Members in decision-making; however, the matter remained pending for the Commission to decide.

b. Special Fund for promoting institutional capacity-building (Resolution [C-14-03](#))

Dr. Compeán, Director of the Commission, presented Document CAF-05-05b on the Special Fund established by Resolution C-14-03 for promoting institutional capacity-building in developing Members. He pointed out that the fund is provisioned with the 2% of the contributions of the Members and that if some Members do not pay, that income is not available.

He mentioned that, as stated in the Resolution, the plan of activities to be carried out in 2018 with the Fund's resources is presented in the document. These activities are as follows:

	Activity	Amount
1	Establishment of an annual IATTC scholarship for developing scientific capacity in developing CPCs.	US\$ 30,000
2	Development of an annual training course for creating capacity for developing CPCs, on matters such as sampling methods, stock assessment, and fisheries policy, among others.	US\$ 20,000
3	Development of a workshop in Central America for guidance on the various reports to be sent to the Secretariat under the various existing resolutions.	US\$ 40,000
4	Participation of representatives of developing Members in the annual meeting of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.	US\$ 45,000

Peru asked why the proposed workshop in activity 3 was limited to Central America. In response to a question from Guatemala, it was clarified that the fund did not cover research activities, which should be

considered under the research program.

The European Union mentioned that it did not have any objections regarding the proposed activities and that this was a decision for the beneficiaries to make; however, a general plan should be considered and included in a future budget. The United States acknowledged that the plan was balanced and did not support only participation in meetings, but was also directed toward the strengthening of the scientific capacity of developing Members.

c. Program to monitor transshipments at sea (Resolution [C-12-07](#)).

Ricardo Belmontes, of the IATTC staff, presented Document [CAF-05-05c](#). He recalled that the program has operated for about eight years and a half under a contract with the Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG) consortium which, in compliance with the three-year contract signed, would be providing its services at least until the end of 2019. For 2018, a budget of US\$ 1,300,000 is proposed, which includes a reserve of US\$ 200,000 to cover unforeseen expenses and costs at the beginning of 2018, as no new resources are arriving at the start of the year.

He also pointed out that, according to the trend of at sea observer requests trend and the associated costs this implies in 2017, it would be most likely that an additional contribution for the month of September be requested.

The Committee decided to recommend to the IATTC to approve a budget of US\$ 1,100,000 for 2018, without the US\$ 200,000 reserve. The Secretariat pointed out that, for 2018, this could entail the request of an additional contribution at the end of the year if there were not sufficient funds for the program payments.

6. Other matters

No other business was presented.

7. Recommendations to the Commission

The Committee agreed to submit to the Commission the following recommendations:

1. **IATTC budget for 2018:** approve the amount of US\$ 7,258,413, but not without first reviewing the budgetary implications of the implementation of the recommendations of the Performance Review (see draft Plan of Action).
2. **Special fund for promoting institutional capacity-building in developing CPCs:** approve the utilization of resources for 2018 as presented in table 5 of Document [CAF-05-05b](#).
3. **Transshipment at sea monitoring program:** approve a budget of US\$ 1,100,000 for 2018, and use the contribution-sharing formula that has been used to date.

8. Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on 19 July 2017.

Attachment 4b

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
8TH MEETING
Mexico City, Mexico
20-21 July 2017**

CHAIR'S REPORT

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2016:	
a. Report by the staff on compliance	COR-08-03
b. Review of the questionnaires completed by CPCs relating to Resolution C-11-07	
4. Identification of Members whose implementation of IATTC regulations is inadequate and mechanisms to improve compliance	
5. Consideration of the provisional IUU Vessel List	COR-08-05
6. Cooperating non-Members	COR-08-06
7. Other business	
8. Recommendations for the Commission	
9. Adjournment	

The 8th meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (Compliance Committee) was held in Mexico City July 20-21, 2017.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. David Hogan of the United States.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee adopted its agenda with no changes.

3. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2016

a) Report by the staff on compliance

The Secretariat presented the document COR-08-03, which summarized compliance with IATTC resolutions in 2016. Many Members asked questions, sought clarification and identified errors to be corrected.

b) Presentations by CPCs

The Committee heard presentations by each CPC present at the meeting, including explanations of certain responses to the compliance questionnaire, explanations and clarifications of certain cases that appeared in the compliance report, and follow up to prior cases. The Committee used the compendium of compliance matters to also help guide the discussion, and, after each CPC's presentation, other CPCs were provided the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

4. Identification of members whose implementation of IATTC regulations is inadequate and mechanisms to improve compliance

The Committee discussed institutional and systemic implementation issues, and offered suggestions on improving procedures, engagement and reporting by CPCs, and related matters. No individual CPCs were identified.

5. Consideration of the provisional IUU list

The Committee reviewed the document prepared by the Secretariat, COR-08-05, including information relating to Fiji's continuing proposal to de-list the vessel *Xin Shi Ji 16*, and heard presentations from Peru and Ecuador on Peru's proposal to add the vessel *Rossana L*. No recommendation on either proposal was agreed.

6. Cooperating non-members

The Committee reviewed document COR-08-06 concerning the renewal of Cooperating Non-Members to Bolivia, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia, and the addition of Chile as a Cooperating Non-Member. Indonesia did not send a delegation to the Committee's meeting so the Committee will await the participation of Indonesia, possibly in the plenary.

7. Other business

No other business was raised.

8. Recommendations

The Committee decided to present the following issues or recommendations to the Commission:

Matters, which were discussed but regarding which no recommendations were formulated:

1. The Committee discussed whether the Commission should evaluate and decide, at this meeting, on the appropriate minimum sea turtle data, including condition of sea turtles upon release, to be collected by longline observers, and to address raw data provision to the Secretariat.
2. The Committee discussed the views of some Members regarding the implications for tuna conservation and management of vessels that fish in both the EPO and the WCPFC area and which may move between these areas during closures and continue fishing. Members expressed differing opinions on whether the activities of such vessels have implications for compliance, conservation and/or management. It was recognized that this matter may be raised again at the Commission level.
3. Ask the Bycatch Working Group to consider stronger or new measures to implement the sea turtle conservation objectives and develop ideas to strengthen implementation of the reporting requirements.
4. Consider asking the Scientific Advisory Committee to evaluate whether the data fields on the longline observer forms provide the necessary data to measure implementation of the

Commission's conservation measures for sea turtles, and revise as needed.

5. The Committee discussed how the Commission could work on rules of confidentiality consistent with the relevant provisions of the Antigua Convention, including for the work and information of the Committee. This was supported by many delegations but some did not concur that this should be a committee recommendation. It was recognized that this matter may be raised again at the Commission level.
6. The Committee discussed its general affirmation of its deference to the IATTC's Director for configuring staff portfolios with regard to compliance and associated responsibilities pending the outcome of the Commission's discussion of the implementation of the action plan in the area of human resource planning.

Recommendations at itself and/or the Secretariat:

1. Consider whether the timing of the compliance reporting procedure is sufficient or whether more time is needed, and the implications of any change for the Secretariat or the Committee.
2. Consider altering the reporting schedule for Resolution C-07-03 by changing the annual nature of reporting if nothing changes in a CPC's implementation (or Commission).
3. Include the relevant provisions of Resolution C-13-03 in the section containing implementation reporting of C-05-02 in the compliance report and, as appropriate, the questionnaire, and add those provisions to the annual data provision letter from the Secretariat.
4. In future questionnaires and follow-up to reported cases of non-compliance, CPCs provide a rationale or more detail for determinations of "no infraction" and a rationale or more detail when reporting "non-applicable" in the questionnaire.
5. Explore options for improving the existing compliance review process, and include assessments in future compliance reports of historical progress in implementation and of trends in compliance, including tables in the compliance report showing historical implementation by CPCs since the entry into force of the resolutions. This should include specificity in the following areas:
 - a. Include reporting on implementation of the longline observer coverage requirement in Resolution C-11-08, and correct the 2016 report to include 2015 and 2016 data on implementation; and
 - b. Include information on the number of sets with incidents with sea turtles (contained in Figure 4.1 of the 2016 report presented at this meeting) relating to Resolution C-04-05 since its entry into force in 2004.
6. In future compliance reports, report the status of implementation of Recommendation C-12-11 (IATTC-WCPFC overlap area) and indicate, when appropriate, which set of measures the relevant Members have chosen to implement for their vessel in the overlap area in compliance with said recommendation.
7. In future compliance reports and questionnaires include reporting on bluefin tuna conservation measures (currently C-16-03).
8. Ensure scheduling of at least 2 full days for the Committee.

Recommendations to the Commission:

1. Consider a definitive treatment of the provisions of the conservation and management measure for tropical tunas to address the different views on the use and transfer of the longline catch limits for bigeye tuna.
2. Update the purse seine observer IATTC compliance summary form to allow captains the opportunity to review, provide comments and sign the form, and similarly update instructions to this effect in the observer manual.
3. Clarify the status, in terms of the prohibition of discards, of catch that is not landed but instead utilized aboard the vessel, for example, as bait on FADs.
4. Explore options for revising the resolutions on sharks to be clear, facilitate a common understanding, and align with Commission conservation and utilization objectives for fisheries that catch sharks, whether as target or bycatch.
5. Revise or specify the requirements in Resolution C-03-05 for all gears and fisheries (e.g., longline, artisanal) regarding length-frequency and catch and effort data, to strengthen the implementation of reporting requirements, balanced with practicality, in particular with regard to artisanal fisheries.
6. Maintain the IATTC's IUU list with no changes.
7. Renew Cooperating Non-Member status for Bolivia, Honduras and Liberia, and confer Cooperating Non-Member status upon Chile. Consider the request for renewal from Indonesia once the Indonesian delegation arrives for the IATTC plenary

9. Adjournment

The Committee was left open to await the participation of Indonesia to the plenary. The meeting was finally adjourned on 28 July at 6 p.m.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FLEET CAPACITY
18TH MEETING
Mexico City, Mexico
22-July 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

AGENDA

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Review of changes in the utilization of fleet capacity in the EPO	CAP-18-03
4. Review of pending capacity claims, disputes, adjustments, and requests according to the list presented at the 89 th meeting of the IATTC and referred to in document CAP-17 INF-A REV(May 14, 2016)	
4.1. Peru and Costa Rica pending capacity requests	
5. Progress in the implementation of a Capacity Management Plan in the EPO	
6. Recommendations to the Commission	
7. Other business	
8. Adjournment	

Opening of the meeting

Mr. Alfonso Miranda, from Peru, opened the meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted with a change in the order of items 4 and 5 of the agenda to first review the pending capacity issues before the item relating to the management plan for fishing capacity in the EPO. Likewise, the review of the cases of Peru and Costa Rica was specifically identified as a sub-item in the agenda.

Review of changes in the utilization of fleet capacity in the EPO

Dr. Guillermo Comepán, Director of the IATTC, presented document CAP-18-03 that describes the changes in capacity utilization in the last year. He pointed out that the active purse-seine capacity in the Regional Registry as of May 31, 2017 is 281,538 m³. The capacity of inactive or sunken vessels is 6,493 m³, and the available capacity derived from movements in the Regional Register is 14,330 m³, for a total

potential of 302,361 m³. When Resolution C-02-03 entered into force in June 2002, the active capacity was 218,482 m³, while the total amount of active and inactive capacity, plus that included in paragraph 10 of the Resolution, was 273,467 m³. Although the current operative capacity is below this level, this represents an increase in the potential total capacity of 28,894 m³.

Many delegations expressed concern about the continued increase in capacity and indicated that it is now time to implement measures to reduce capacity and implement a management plan.

4. Review of pending capacity claims, disputes, adjustments, and requests according to the list presented at the 89th meeting of the iattc

4.1 Peru and Costa Rica pending capacity requests

i. Peru

Peru made a presentation to justify its capacity request. It indicated that it had a reserve of 14,046 m³ mentioned in the footnote of paragraph 10 of Resolution C-02-03 and requested the allocation of 5,851 m³, which would be added to the 5,000 m³ already granted in 2011 in Resolution C-11-12 as amended in 2014 by Resolution C-14-05. It pointed out that it fishes 94% on schoolfish and 6% on FADs, for which reason it fishes mainly skipjack tuna, a species that is abundant in its jurisdictional waters seasonally or temporarily. Its current capacity is insufficient to prompt the development of tuna fishery in Peru. Peru has fully respected the management measures adopted by the Commission, in addition to having economic reasons that justify its request.

Several delegations expressed that this request has merits to be analyzed and acknowledged that it was presented with all the necessary elements for its analysis.

ii. Costa Rica

Costa Rica indicated that it is rethinking its policy to develop a tuna industry and its request is based on the footnote of Resolution C-02-03, reason for which it requests the allocation of 7,058 m³. Costa Rica has adopted several unilateral conservation measures and has banned fishing with FADs in its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It requires increasing its capacity and therefore the amount of catches in order to produce more raw material to supply its industry.

In response to a question from the United States as to whether they would use the capacity to transfer it to other countries, Costa Rica indicated that it is revising its legislation so that catches with that capacity be made in waters under its jurisdiction.

iii. Bolivia

Bolivia noted that it had been stripped of the capacity it had been assigned, and therefore, although it was not making a capacity claim, it requested the Commission to recognize the right to that lost capacity, its allocation and it would activate it only when appropriate management measures would be taken, which would ensure that tuna stocks would not be affected. Bolivia would be activating only 2,217 m³ of the 5,830 m³ it requests, considering always the conditions of the tuna resource as a priority.

iv. Colombia

Colombia noted that Bolivia's statement on the stripping of its capacity should not be discussed in this group but at a bilateral level and that the issue had already been discussed and resolved in the past. Colombia submitted its request for 4,772 m³, covered by the footnote of paragraph 10 of Resolution C-02-03. It requested that its statement be attached to the report (see Annex).

v. Honduras

Honduras indicated that it requested 3,000 m³, since it has only 141 m³ to date. It considers this amount reasonable and legitimate with a view at promoting its fishing sector and taking into account not only its condition as a developing country but also its status as a cooperating non-Member of the IATTC that is committed to compliance with the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.

vi. Nicaragua

Nicaragua recalled that it requested 4,200 m³, taking into consideration its special needs and requirements, as well as its condition as a developing coastal country. It recalled that there is no categorization or priorities for the review of pending cases of capacity.

vii. El Salvador

El El Salvador recalled that it is requested 2,015 m³, taking into consideration its special needs and requirements, as well as its condition as a developing coastal country.

After these presentations were made, some Members stated that all requests should be analyzed as a single package, since they together amount to approximately 47,000 m³, and that they should be accompanied by conservation and management measures that compensate for the increase in capacity and greater fishing effort that such increase implies.

Peru stated that, in the various meetings of the Working Group, it was agreed that capacity requests should be addressed according to the categorization established in Costa Rica in 2011, with requests from the coastal countries mentioned in the footnotes in Resolution C-02-03, the first to be addressed.

The United States noted that some of the amounts of capacity that have been granted have not always led to the development of the national industry and have been transferred to other countries, so this element must be taken into account in the analysis of the possible allocation of new capacity, in addition to carrying out an analysis of the capacity loans and concessions made from one country to another and what is the income generated by that activity.

5. Progress in the implementation of a Capacity Management Plan in the EPO

Dr. Compeán recalled that there is a project funded by GEF-World Bank to carry out a study that links capacity with conservation and management measures and how to advance capacity management in the EPO. He noted that the terms of reference of the study, which will be assigned to the WWF, are not known.

Costa Rica proposed that an analysis be carried out by an external consultancy to address this issue and generate practical proposals to resolve this problematic issue in the Commission. After a long discussion, a series of recommendations were agreed upon for the Commission on how to continue the work.

6. Recommendations to the Commission

The Group made the following recommendations:

- a. The hiring of a group of consultants to recommend to the Commission on how to address operationally the solution to aspirations, requests and claims of capacity, as well as the management of existing capacity, in conjunction with management measures in accordance with the conditions of the resource and the special circumstances and needs of developing countries, particularly developing coastal countries and small island countries, in order to make compatible with them the solution to those capacity issues within the framework of overall capacity management plan based on the "*Elements for implementing a fleet capacity management plan in the IATTC*" set out in the document that was adopted in 2016.
- b. To instruct the Director to prepare, in consultation with all Members concerned, a baseline of terms of reference for the contracting of the group of consultants so that these terms are informed to the

CPCs and they may issue comments that strengthen those terms of reference. It is understood that such terms of reference will exclude the possibility for consultants to consider and give their opinion on the substantive and legal aspects of existing disputes.

- c. The results of the work carried out by the group of consultants will be analyzed in a specially convened CPCs workshop in order to recommend to the Commission concrete actions to resolve the capacity theme in harmony with the necessary conservation measures at a date and place that the Director will notify in a timely manner, within the framework of an overall capacity management plan based on the " *Elements for implementing a fleet capacity management plan in the IATTC*" set out in the document that was adopted in 2016.
- d. The results of the workshop should be presented to the Commission at the plenary meeting in 2018.

7. Other business

The European Union presented its proposal IATTC-92 PROP C-1 EUR Working group on allocation of fishing opportunities to be submitted to the plenary meeting of the Commission. It pointed out that it was about creating an institutional framework to advance in the discussion of this topic.

Some delegations pointed out that there was no consensus in the Commission to move forward in the work to design a system of catch quotas, so that the creation of the group might not be appropriate. Other delegations indicated that they would present their comments during the meeting of the IATTC. It was also pointed out that it might be preferable to strengthen the Working Group on Capacity by assigning this task to it. Algunas delegaciones señalaron que no existía consenso en la Comisión de avanzar en el trabajo para diseñar un sistema de cuotas de captura, por lo quizá no sería oportuno la creación del grupo. Otras delegaciones señalaron que presentarían sus comentarios durante la reunión de la CIAT. Igualmente se señaló que quizá sería preferible fortalecer el grupo de capacidad asignándole esta tarea.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on 22 July 2017.

Annex

Statement by Colombia

For the Government of Colombia, and according to what was stated at the Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity and the 88th Meeting of the Parties held in La Jolla, California, the meeting of the Parties is not the appropriate place to discuss the request from the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

For the Government of Colombia, head of Colombia's maritime authority—the General Maritime Directorate (DIMAR)—the registration process of the referenced vessels that granted them the Colombian flag was carried out in accordance with the proceedings established in the Colombian legislation in force for that date and in good faith.

For the Colombian Government, the certificates of cessation of flag are authentic since they are duly legalized by the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Finally, it is important to point out that the carrying capacity transferred from Bolivia is not part of the capacity reserve authorized for Colombia in the footnote of Resolution C-02-03 and it must be understood as an additional capacity that the country acquired through transfer, which has not been duplicated.

Attachment 4d

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
WORKING GROUP ON BYCATCH
7TH MEETING
La Jolla, California (USA)
5-6 May 2017

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

	Documents
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. General report on bycatch in the EPO (<i>IATTC staff</i>)	
4. Sea turtles:	
a. Report on the situation of sea turtles in the EPO, including bycatch and interactions:	
i. Presentation by Members of an overview of sea turtle bycatch and interactions in their fisheries	
ii. Updated report by the <i>pro tempore</i> Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (<i>Verónica Cáceres; Jeffrey Seminoff</i>)	CIT-CC8-2011-Tec.1
b. Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness Report and the Bycatch Mitigation Information System (BMIS) (<i>Dr. Shelley Clarke</i>)	
c. Review of the measures adopted in other tRFMOs on sea turtle bycatch and interactions	
d. Perspectives for future actions, including research	
5. Seabirds:	
a. Presentation by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)	
6. Sharks:	
a. Report on the situation of sharks in the EPO, including bycatch and interactions (<i>IATTC staff</i>):	
i. Updated purse-seine indicators for silky sharks in the EPO	SAC-08-06a(i)

ii. Updated results of the FAO-GEF shark project	SAC-08-06a(ii)
iii. Update on post-release mortality of silky sharks in the longline fishery	
7. Other business	
8. Recommendations to the Scientific Advisory Committee	
9. Adjournment	

The 7th meeting of the Working Group on Bycatch was held in La Jolla, California on May 5th and 6th, 2017. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the Working Group, Dr. Luis Fleischer, of Mexico. Mrs. Yesenia Chumbe, of Peru, was appointed as rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted with Guatemala’s request to make a presentation on its sea turtle protection program.

3. General report on bycatch in the EPO (*IATTC staff*)

Dr, Martin Hall, from the IATTC staff, presented a report on bycatch in the EPO focusing on sea turtles. Following this presentation, the ensuing debate focused mainly on the use of circle hooks and non-entangling FADs, and on the work in longline fisheries to protect sea turtles.

Regarding circle hooks, several participants stated that the cost of fish has contributed to the use of this kind of hook since the quality of the fish is higher, which encourages fishers to use them; their use has yielded good results and, in some countries, they are widely used. It was mentioned that, in Mexico, circle hooks were tested years ago; turtle bycatch was reduced, but billfish bycatch increased, so the country decided to use a combination of different types of hooks. The issue of fishers training—which should be continuous and permanent—was emphasized.

Regarding the use of non-entangling FADs in replacement of entangling FADs, it was agreed that it is very clear that progress should be made toward the widespread use of non-entangling FADs, as well as in preference of the use of the so-called “sausage” net, which contributes to the prevention of turtle entanglement.

Regarding the work done in longline fisheries for the protection of sea turtles, it was pointed out that the level of sampling with observers is 5%, which is very limited to know what really is happening in that fishery. Moreover, it was emphasized that more work should be done in terms of fishers training in the large longliners, since the work done is ten years old. The Secretariat recalled that, in order to work on a specific issue, the Members of the IATTC must request it because every initiative must be accompanied by financial resources that enable its implementation.

It was proposed to issue a recommendation on the increase of observer coverage in longline vessels and on the importance of having the raw data as collected by them and not a summarized report only. The IATTC scientific staff informed that this issue would be discussed in depth during the SAC meeting.

4. Sea turtles:

a) Report on the situation of sea turtles in the EPO, including bycatch and interactions:

i. Presentation by Members of an overview of sea turtle bycatch and interactions in their fisheries

Mr. Ricardo Belmontes, from the IATTC staff, presented information related to Resolution [C-07-03](#), which states on its second paragraph that CPCs are required to: “*Beginning in 2008, report to the IATTC annually by 30 June on the progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines, including information collected on interactions with sea turtles in fisheries managed under the Convention.*” He mentioned that only 11 CPCs have submitted their report, and he stressed the need of having a format that would enable the standardization of the information, which could be useful for the Working Group and the SAC. He concluded by mentioning that the various resolutions of the IATTC generally include the requirements of the FAO Action Plan.

Some participants reaffirmed the importance of having standardized data in the reports submitted by the countries; it was also clarified that the use of turtle excluder devices is a matter for other organizations, not the IATTC. One participant mentioned that there is a very good report from Portugal on the IATTC website that could be used as a basis for these reports.

Mr. Carlos Tejeda, of Guatemala, made a presentation that can be found on the following website: [TEDs and sea turtle bycatch management](#). He mentioned that the Guatemalan Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations (DIPESCA) has joined forces with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Guatemala’s National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP) to conserve, protect and recover sea turtle stocks by involving the fisheries sector in the practice of responsible fishing.

ii. Updated report by the *pro tempore* Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (Verónica Cáceres; Jeffrey Seminoff)

Dr. Verónica Cáceres and Dr. Jeffrey Seminoff, of the IAC Secretariat, made a presentation on the work carried out within the framework of the IAC for the protection of sea turtles, which can be found at the following website: [Conservation status and habitat use of sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific Ocean](#). It was highlighted that one of the objectives of the IAC 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 by IATTC vessels.*”

They made a series of recommendations, of which the Working Group highlighted the following four as potential areas of collaboration between the IATTC and the IAC, duly reviewed by the SAC.

- Establish a permanent bycatch working group composed of members of the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee, the IAC Scientific Committee, and relevant experts. The functions of this working group should include (but not be limited to): regularly assess patterns of sea turtle bycatch; identify areas of overlap between fishing activities and sea turtle habitats; and provide feasible recommendations for future bycatch reduction strategies.
- Improve on-board observer coverage of longline and purse-seine fishing vessel smaller than class 6 in order to collect additional data on sea turtle bycatch
- Develop a pilot study to evaluate the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of electronic monitoring of

longline vessels as tools for monitoring potential bycatch of marine turtles and other species of conservation concern, and expand the program based on results of the pilot study.

- Experiment with bycatch reduction mitigation measures, including actions in passive nets (e.g. light sticks/net illumination, reducing the time of immersion of the net, reduction of the floating line and using best practices for setting and retrieving nets), as well as implement appropriate mitigation methods that could be used by of fleet and gear types with emphasis in the areas with the most probability of interaction with sea turtles.

b) Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness Report and the Bycatch Mitigation Information System (BMIS) (Dr. Shelley Clarke)

Dr. Shelley Clarke, of the WCPFC, reported on the Bycatch Mitigation Information System (BMIS) that is used by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), which is an online resource for fishery managers, scientists, fishermen and the general public and that has the potential to facilitate to participants in tuna fisheries the understanding of bycatch-related topics and, therefore, the adoption of better conservation and management measures.

The BMIS is a database with information on mitigation and management of bycatch of species such as sharks, seabirds and sea turtles caught incidentally in fisheries targeting highly migratory species such as tuna and billfish.

The BMIS can be accessed through the WCPFC website: <http://bmis.wcpfc.int/index.php>.

c) Review of the measures adopted in other tRFMOs on sea turtle bycatch and interactions

On this issue again, Dr. Shelley Clarke, of the WCPFC, reported that a second Workshop on Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness in the WCPFC was held from November 3rd to November 8th at the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in Hawaii. Representatives from 21 countries and organizations participated in both workshops and contributed valuable data that can be used toward the protection of sea turtles. The workshops were supported by the ABNJ (Common Oceans) Tuna project and the Pacific Community (SPC). The goal of evaluating mitigation effectiveness in longline fisheries was achieved by analyzing more than 2,300 interactions of longline fishing gears with leatherback, loggerhead and green turtles throughout the Pacific.

The results of the workshop can be found on the following website: [Workshop report](#). This report will be presented to the WCPFC Scientific Committee in August 2017 and it may be useful when reviewing current sea turtle conservation and management measures.

d) Perspectives for future actions, including research

Mrs. Christina Fahy, of the United States, made a presentation on [sea turtles in United States fisheries](#). She pointed out that there are several species of sea turtles that are endangered or depleted, such as Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, olive ridley and hawksbill turtles. In the United States, 5 main actions are carried out for their protection: reducing fisheries interactions; improving the protection of nesting beaches as well as of their reproduction; international cooperation; monitoring and research; and public commitment. In particular, she referred to the research work on net illumination to reduce bycatch, which has provided data on bycatch reduction of species like turtles, sea lions and dolphins.

She mentioned that 2 vessels were hired for this research; therefore, no work has been developed in commercial fisheries; this is still in the experimental stage. Questions were raised about experimentation

costs and the durability of the lights. The cost of the lights has decreased from \$US 15 to \$US 1, and they last for approximately 6 months. The United States representatives offered to present in the future a table with more precise and detailed figures on costs.

5. Seabirds

a) Presentation by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

Mr. Marco Favero, of the ACAP Secretariat, made a presentation on the work carried out under this Agreement in terms of seabird protection in commercial fisheries. He made four recommendations to the Working Group, which were retaken to be presented to the SAC for consideration. These recommendations are detailed under item 8 of this report and are related to the following topics:

- Publication of tools and guidelines for the protection of incidentally caught seabirds
- Improving the information provided in annual reports (species, bycatch, etc.).
- Analyzing the level of implementation of Resolution C-11-02 for its updating.
- Considering the use of hook shielding devices as a mitigation method.

Regarding the second item, several participants encouraged ACAP to also invite countries that fish tuna with longlines in the IATTC area to increase the required level of observer coverage in longline vessels and thus improve the quantity and quality of the data available on the interaction of longline fisheries with seabirds.

6. Sharks

a) Report on the situation of sharks in the EPO, including bycatch and interactions (*IATTC staff*):

i. Updated purse-seine indicators for silky sharks in the EPO

The Director commented that, in the IATTC, there are 3 categories of fisheries interacting with sharks:

- Purse-seine vessels with no direct catch and with good information collected through a 100% observer coverage in class-6 vessels (over 363 t carrying capacity).
- Fisheries targeting sharks, with respect to which the IATTC has no competence and therefore no information.
- Longline fisheries (no direct catch) where information should be improved since, currently, there is only a 5% observer coverage.

He recalled that an assessment of the status of silky and hammerhead sharks has been requested, which is complicated because there is no complete information on longline vessels and there is very little information about hammerhead sharks since purse-seine vessel bycatch is minimal. He recalled that this issue will be discussed at the SAC meeting and Document [SAC-08-08a \(i\) Updated indicators for silky sharks in the EPO](#) was prepared. Additionally, Resolution [C-16-05](#) has been adopted in order to have more information by requiring the CPCs that their fishermen collect catch data for silky and hammerhead sharks and submit them to the IATTC in accordance with IATTC data reporting requirements.

He also recalled that there is already a Resolution focused on silky shark—Resolution [C-16-06](#)—which includes the prohibition of retaining on board, transshipping, landing, or storing, in part or whole, carcasses of silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) caught by purse-seine vessels in the IATTC Convention Area.

The Resolution also states that longline vessels shall not include sharks as a fishing target in their fishing licenses and that they shall limit silky shark bycatch to a maximum of 20% of the total catch by fishing trip in weight.

ii. Updated results of the FAO-GEF shark project

The IATTC scientific staff commented that, through the project funded by FAO-GEF, work with sharks is being supported and great progress has been made in terms of data collection, which has allowed the discussion of management measures of some shark species in the Commission. The staff pointed out that this funding is not endless, and that funding should be sought to cover future activities or fund existing ones.

The participant from Costa Rica thanked the support the IATTC has given his country to carry out shark-related work and pointed out that the establishment of a IATTC field office in Punta Arenas would be very useful tool and hence the good results of shark data collection work, not only in Costa Rica, but in Central America. He therefore requested that the proposal already submitted in the Commission be approved.

iii. Update on post-release mortality of silky sharks in the longline fishery

The IATTC scientific staff mentioned that the issue of longline fishery and sharks will be discussed in depth at the SAC meeting in the following days. There is already a document on this matter that can be found at: [SAC-08-07e Establishing minimum data standards and reporting requirements for longline observer programs under resolution C-11-08](#). This document discusses the need for data and ways for collecting them.

7. Other business

No other business was discussed.

8. Recommendations to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

The working group issued the following recommendations to the SAC for consideration:

- In order to obtain more information on bycatch by longline vessels, consider increasing the current 5% to 20% observer coverage based upon the recommendation of the IATTC scientific staff, as well as request the submission of the operational-level data recorded by observers on board.
- Develop and adopt a general format for reporting on the implementation of FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations, as mandated by Resolution C-07-03, as well as improving compliance with the submission of reports.
- Ensure that such reports are made available to CPCs through a controlled-access page on the IATTC website.
- Analyze the level of implementation of Resolution C-07-03 regarding the application of measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch, with a view to its updating, if necessary.
- Foster cooperation with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection of Sea Turtles (IAC), and in particular:
 - i. Strengthen cooperation between the two organizations in marine turtle protection activities; continue to invite the IAC to participate in the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee and recommend that the IATTC participate in relevant meetings of the IAC.

- ii. Recommend that IATTC and IAC Secretariats work together to continue supporting training in best practices for safe handling and release of marine turtles caught incidentally.
 - iii. Encourage sea turtle bycatch mitigation tests, for example, through using net illumination and reducing the time that nets are submerged.
 - iv. Encourage the IATTC to collaborate with the IAC scientific committee to identify bycatch hotspots in leatherback inter-nesting areas.
- In relation to seabird bycatch:
 - i. Post on the IATTC website already developed existing tools and guidelines, for example, for the use and removal of hooks from incidentally caught birds.
 - ii. Improve the level of information provided in annual reports (species, zero incidental catch, stratified data).
 - iii. Analyze the level of implementation of Resolution C-11-02, for example, regarding mitigation measures used, materials used, etc., with a view to its updating, if necessary.
 - iv. Consider, as an alternative mitigation method, the use of hook shielding devices.
 - Encourage pilot projects with electronic observers, mainly on longline vessels, and suggest CPCs to include in their national reports summary information on the use of electronic observers.
 - Recommend that the Working Group continue meeting at least once a year.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 on May 6th, 2017.

Attachment 4e

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FADs
Mexico City, Mexico
July 2017

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP
DURING THE 62ND MEETING OF THE IATTC**

The Group held its second meeting in two parts during 2017. The first part was held on 7 May 2017 in La Jolla, California, and the second, on 21 July in Mexico City. The main topics covered in this report are the following:

1. New regulatory framework of the Group
2. Actions carried out by the Group, and
3. Workplan 2017-2018.

1. New regulatory framework of the group

The Commission amended Resolution C-15-03 *on the collection and analyses of data on fish-aggregating devices* in June 2016 during its 90th meeting. The amendments were set out in Resolution C-16-01, which incorporates new aspects such as the permanent nature of the Working Group and the possibility of presenting its reports to both the SAC and the Commission, in addition to tasking it with linking its work with that of other similar working groups established in other RFMOs (primarily the WCPFC) and to modify its terms of reference.

The terms of reference of the Group include the following new responsibilities:

- Develop formats for the submission of data and definitions of terms related to FADs fishing (e.g. biodegradable FADs, non-entangling FADs, etc.).
- Identify priority areas for research.
- Prepare annual reports for the SAC.
- Identify and review possible FADs management measures in coordination with the scientific staff and the Scientific Advisory Committee, and make recommendations to the Commission, as appropriate.

2. Carried out actions

Work with other RFMOs. Information on FADs generated by other RFMOs is regularly posted on the BASECAMP site; several members of the Group participated in the joint meeting on FADs held in May 2017 in Madrid, Spain.

Report to the SAC. Recommendations were submitted to the 8th meeting of the SAC held in La Jolla, California, which can be consulted on the Commission's website [FAD-02\(1\) – Conclusions and recommendations](#). These recommendations were the result of the work at the first part of the meeting held in May 2017 and were reviewed and approved by the SAC.

Data collection form. A [Fish-aggregating device form](#) was developed, which is available on the Commission's website.

Definitions related to FADs. Work was done on definitions, which can be found on the BASECAMP site of the Group. Guidance from the Commission is requested regarding the mandate and scope of the definitions. There are different positions within the Group: some think the definitions should be limited to the terms or concepts included in the Resolution, while others believe that other terms—such as active FADs among others—should also be addressed.

Research plan. A research plan has been designed, which includes the following three priority areas:

- a) The impact of FADs on target tuna species (skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin). The scientific staff of the IATTC has almost already resumed the proposed projects.
- b) The impact of FADs on biodiversity. In this area, an attempt is made to estimate the bycatch and discards by species, as well as to identify hot spots.
- c) The impact of FADs on the ecosystem. In this area, it is intended to work with biodegradable FADs, which is already taking place in a project funded by the European Union. Likewise, an attempt is being made to develop a pilot project of FAD retrieval in sensitive areas, which would be addressed as a FAD recovery feasibility study. Costs in excess of a reasonable amount are not expected (around 50 thousand dollars).

Identification of potential management measures for FADs. The Group is already working on this and, in general terms, has identified 4 goals in the regulation of FADs:

- Reduce FAD fishing efforts in purse-seine vessels.
- Minimize the mortality of small yellowfin and bigeye tuna.
- Reduce bycatch of non-target species.
- Reduce other impacts on the ecosystem.

In order to develop or reach a possible conclusion on the tools or measures that will enable the achievement of the aforementioned goals, a questionnaire was designed and implemented, with the participation of 21 persons, including people related to fishery management, science, NGOs and industry. The preliminary results of the questionnaire identify mainly the following measures in order of preference, combining aspects of control, acceptance, applicability and effectiveness.

- Apply temporal closures
- Limit fishing capacity
- Establish fixed time-area closures
- Develop release practices
- Use non-entangling FADs
- Limit the number of FAD sets

3. 2017-2018 work plan

Work will be done in the following areas and activities:

- Work with other RFMOs.
- Report on the development of similar work in other RFMOs.

- Participate in joint tuna RFMO meetings on FADs.
- Data collection
 - Evaluate the implementation of the new FADs inventory and activities format.
 - Develop a common database for the management of information on FADs.
 - Organize training workshops that help vessel captains and crew to properly fill out these formats.
- Research
 - Prepare work plans and budgets for priority FADs research projects, and identify possible sources of alternative funding.
- Management
 - Analyze pros and cons of the different potential management measures that have been identified.
 - Continue the work of developing definitions of terms related to FADs.

Finally, the Group would continue its work through the BASECAMP site focusing on five areas: data collection, research, management, cooperation with other RFMOs and general coordination. The Group would have two face-to-face meetings during 2018: one in May before the SAC meeting and another one in July or August before the IATTC annual meeting.

Attachment 5a

CHILE'S STATEMENT AT THE 92ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IATTC

Mr. President,

Considering this is the first time our delegation speaks at this, the 92nd annual meeting of the Commission, first and foremost, please let me thank the IATTC Secretariat for the invitation made to our country to participate as a Cooperating Non-Party of this organization; additionally, I would like to thank the Mexican Government for the excellent organization and hospitalities during this event.

Mr. President, Chile is very honored to participate in this opportunity and we are grateful for the support of our request to become a Cooperating Non-Member. I would like to point out that previously, in 2015 and 2016, we participated as observers in the IATTC annual meetings.

Chile places great value on the management of fishery resources focused on the sustainability of fish stocks; these management decisions need to be based on the best scientific information available, thus acknowledging our responsibility and role as a riparian State, as well as the need to cooperate in accordance with the regulations of international law resulting from the instruments in force of which Chile is part.

After having participated in the IATTC for three years, we want to keep increasing our cooperation. In this regard, as we stated on our request letter, we express the commitment of our country to comply with the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC, and, as we stated at the Meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission, we will respect the reporting, compliance and participation requirements.

In order to implement our new status, and based on the good and not-so-good experiences at national and international level we have gained from participating as a member state in some Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, we would like to respectfully voice our opinion on some of the measures the Commission is considering for approval, notwithstanding the special characteristics of the management of each fishery.

We would like to support the proposal submitted to the Commission regarding the minimum standards for inspection in port. Chile is a member of FAO's Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which is currently in force and has 48 State Parties, several of which are Members of the IATTC. We believe this proposal is of great importance for combating illegal fishing in the Eastern Pacific Ocean through the adoption of minimum measures of port access for foreign fleets without affecting the sovereign rights of the port States established by international law.

Chile understands the importance of cooperating to exchange experiences and build capacities to effectively implement port control measures for foreign fishing vessels. In late June, a South-South Cooperation Tour was organized by FAO and the Government of Chile; representatives of the fisheries authorities from Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua,

Panama, Peru and the Dominican Republic participated in the event to develop technical assistance and training for the development of joint actions aimed at preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing. This is one of the several cooperation actions our country has conducted in this regard, convinced of the importance of collaborative regional work.

Once again, Chile would like to thank the contracting parties of the IATTC, who we consider relevant partners in the convergence of the diversity of Latin America's foreign policy, as well as the important relationship we maintain with other parties of the IATTC.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Attachment 5b

COLOMBIA STATEMENT

Thank you, Mr. President.

For the Government of Colombia, and according to what was stated at the Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity and the 88th Meeting of the Parties held in La Jolla, California, the meeting of the Parties is not the appropriate place to discuss the request from the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

For the Government of Colombia, head of Colombia's maritime authority—the General Maritime Directorate (DIMAR)—the registration process of the referenced vessels that granted them the Colombian flag was carried out in accordance with the proceedings established in the Colombian legislation in force for that date and in good faith.

For the Colombian Government, the certificates of cessation of flag are authentic since they are duly legalized by the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Finally, it is important to point out that the carrying capacity transferred from Bolivia is not part of the capacity reserve authorized for Colombia in the footnote of Resolution C-02-03 and it must be understood as an additional capacity that the country acquired through transference, which has not been duplicated.

I request the President to include this statement in the minutes.