

SUMMARY OF PRIORITY ISSUES AT THE 89TH INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA
COMMISSION MEETING

- Adoption of a measure for the conservation of silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*): Stock status indicators for silky sharks suggest that the northern and southern stocks in the eastern Pacific Ocean are in decline. At the 2014 IATTC meeting the European Union submitted a proposal (which was not adopted) that would prohibit the retention of silky sharks, require vessels to release silky sharks unharmed to the extent practicable, and require members to record, the number of releases of silky sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to IATTC.
- Adoption of a measure prohibiting on the retention of shark fins that are not naturally attached: At the 2014 IATTC meeting the European Union submitted a proposal (which was not adopted) to prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and require that all sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached through the point of first landing. (Shark fins could be partially sliced through and folded against the carcass to facilitate on-board storage.)
- Adoption of a measure to implement best practices to reduce incidental mortality of seabirds in most pelagic longline fisheries: The United States intends to submit amendments to [Resolution C-11-02](#) on seabirds at the 89th meeting. Recommended measures (see [SAC-05 INF-E](#)) include branch line weighting, night setting, and bird scaring lines (streamer lines). (At its April 2015 meeting, the Council heard a presentation from Mr. Ed Melvin, Washington Sea Grant, on recent research findings relevant to mitigating seabird takes, see [Agenda Item F.1](#).) The IATTC scientific staff has also recommended expanding the area of application to include additional waters in the North Pacific.
- Adoption of a port inspection scheme: In 2014, the European Union submitted a proposal (which was not adopted) intended to combat IUU fishing through the development of a port inspection scheme. This is a key element of the of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' [Port State Measures Agreement](#), which the United States played a leading role in the negotiating.
- Adoption of improvements to the IATTC's illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) listing procedures: In 2014 the U.S. and Panama submitted a proposal (which as not adopted) to improve the existing IATTC [Resolution C-05-07](#) to establish an IUU vessel list in the IATTC and harmonize the contents of the measure with similar measures in other RFMOs.

The [minutes of the 87th IATTC meeting](#) include the proposals referenced above.