COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

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12 July 2016
Ref.: 0379-410

To: Commissioners

cc: Bolivia, Honduras, Indonesia, Liberia

From: Guillermo Compeán, Director

Re: Resolutions adopted by the IATTC at its 90th Meeting

Please find attached for your information and consideration the text of the seven resolutions that were adopted by the Commission in La Jolla, CA at its 90th Meeting.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-01

AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION C-15-03 ON THE COLLECTION AND ANALYSES OF DATA ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

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

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

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

Attentive to the provisions of IATTC Resolution C-99-07 on measures related to the regulation of FADs*;*

Agreeing that, to accurately provide the scientific advice necessary to effectively manage tuna fisheries in the EPO, it is necessary for the scientific staff of the IATTC to have access to, and analyze, the relevant data regarding such fisheries and gears, and for Commission Members to put in place measures as needed to collect such information in their fisheries;

Acknowledging that observers currently collect data on FADs in the EPO that have been examined by the IATTC staff (Document SAC-02-13) and that the Commission has adopted measures for further research on FADs; the significant effect that FADs may have on bigeye tuna spawning biomass, according to IATTC estimates (Document SAC-03-06); that skipjack tuna is captured on FADs and in unassociated schools in the EPO (Document SAC-03-03), and according to IATTC estimates, its exploitation rate has been increasing in recent years (Document SAC-03-07);

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

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

Noting that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) has recommended that the Commission should strengthen the work on FADs by holding a meeting involving managers, scientists, and other stakeholders;

Noting that, based on recent scientific analysis, the development of improved FAD designs, in particular non-entangling FADs, both drifting and anchored, helps reduce the incidence of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles and other species;

Further noting that whale sharks are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, including from fishing, and noting the ecological and economic value these species can bring to the EPO; and

Concerned about the potential effects of purse-seine operations on the status of whale sharks when deliberately or accidentally set upon;

AGREES:

1. For the purposes of this Resolution, the term "Fish-Aggregating Device" (FAD) means anchored, drifting, floating or submerged objects deployed and/or tracked by vessels, including through the use of radio and/or satellite buoys, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for purse-seine fishing operations.

SECTION 1. FAD DATA COLLECTION

2. Beginning 1 January 2017, CPCs shall require the owners and operators of all purse-seine vessels flying their flag, when fishing on FADs in the IATTC Convention Area, to collect and report the information contained in Annex I. The data may be collected through a dedicated logbook, modifications to regional logsheets, or other domestic reporting procedures.
3. CPCs shall provide the data collected for the previous calendar year, pursuant to Paragraph 2, which are available at the time of submission, to the Director. CPCs shall submit the data to the Director no later than 60 days prior to each regular meeting of the SAC.
4. No later than the IATTC annual meeting in 2018, the scientific staff of the IATTC, in coordination with the SAC, shall present to the Commission the preliminary results of its analyses of the information collected pursuant to Paragraph 2, and shall identify additional elements for data collection, as well as specific reporting formats, necessary to evaluate the effects of the use of FADs on the ecosystem of the EPO fishery. The analyses shall also incorporate information from data on FADs collected by observers through the *Flotsam Information Record*.
5. In addition, no later than the IATTC annual meeting in 2018, the scientific staff of the IATTC, in coordination with the SAC and taking into account the outcomes of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs, shall present to the Commission initial recommendations based on information collected, based on this resolution and through other mechanisms, for the management of FADs, including possible effects of FADs in the tuna fishery in the EPO. The Commission shall consider adopting management measures based on those recommendations, including a region-wide FAD management plan, and which may include, *inter alia*, recommendations regarding FAD deployments and FAD sets, the use of biodegradable materials in new and improved FADs and the gradual phasing out of FAD designs that do not mitigate the entanglement of sharks, sea turtles, and other species.
6. The scientific staff of the IATTC, in coordination with the SAC, shall also formulate recommendations for regulating the management of the affected stocks for presentation to the Commission, on the basis of the results of its analyses of the collected FAD information. Such recommendations shall include methods for limiting the capture of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna associated with fishing on FADs.
7. In 2018, compliance with the FAD reporting requirements of this Resolution will be comprehensively reviewed by the *Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures adopted by the Commission* and presented to the Commission.
8. Data collected pursuant to this resolution shall be treated under the rules established in the IATTC Resolution on Confidentiality.

SECTION 2. FAD IDENTIFICATION

9. No later than 1 January 2017, CPCs shall require the owners and operators of their applicable flagged purse-seine fishing vessels to identify all FADs deployed or modified by such vessels in accordance with a Commission identification scheme detailed in footnote 1 of Annex 1.

SECTION 3. NON-ENTANGLING FADS

10. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, the design and deployment of FADs should be based on the principles set out in Annex II.
11. Annex II is consistent with the 2015 recommendations of the scientific staff of the IATTC. The scientific staff of the IATTC, in coordination with the SAC, shall continue to review research results

on the use of non-entangling material and biodegrable material on FADs, and shall provide specific recommendations no later than the 2018 IATTC annual meeting, consistent with Paragraph 5.

SECTION 4. WHALE SHARKS

12. CPCs shall prohibit their flag vessels from setting a purse-seine net on a school of tuna associated with a live whale shark, if the animal is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.
13. CPCs shall require that, in the event that a whale shark is not deliberately encircled in the purse-seine net, the master of the vessel shall:
    a. ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure its safe release; and
    b. report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag CPC, including the number of individuals, details of how and why the encirclement happened, where it occurred, steps taken to ensure safe release, and an assessment of the life status of the whale shark on release (including whether the animal was released alive but subsequently died).

SECTION 5. *AD HOC* PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FADS

14. An *ad hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs (Working Group) is established.
15. This Working Group shall be multi-sectorial, involving various stakeholders such as scientists, fishery managers, fishing industry representatives, administrators, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and fishers. Expressions of interest to participate in the Working Group shall be provided to the Director, who shall inform CPCs and the Chair of the FADs Working Group.
16. To the highest degree possible, the Working Group shall conduct its work electronically or, if convenient and cost-effective, in targeted face-to-face meetings that take place in conjunction with other Commission meetings.
17. The Working Group shall report on a regular basis to the Commission and present an initial report of its findings at the 2017 meeting of the SAC.
18. The Terms of Reference of the Working Group are those indicated in Annex III.
19. The Working Group shall liaise, as far as possible, with other similar working groups on FAD management established in other tuna regional fisheries management organizations (tuna RFMOs), in particular the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).
20. The IATTC, at its 2017 annual meeting, will review the progress and outcomes of the Working Group and will decide on the necessity for its continuation.
21. This Resolution replaces Resolution C-15-03.

Annex I

CPCs are required to ensure their vessel owners and operators record and report to the appropriate national authorities any interaction with FADs, using a standard format to be developed by the Commission staff.

For each interaction with a floating object, the following information shall be recorded:

i. Position;
ii. Date;
iii. Hour;
iv. FAD identification[1];
v. FAD type (*e.g.*, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD);
vi. FAD design characteristics (dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure);
vii. Type of the activity (set, deployment, hauling, retrieving, loss, intervention on electronic equipment, other (specify));
viii. If the activity is a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and bycatch; and
ix. Characteristics of any attached buoy or positioning equipment (positioning system, whether equipped with sonar, *etc*.).

Annex II

Principles for design and deployment of FADs

1. If a flat raft is used as a FAD, the surface structure should not be covered, or only covered with material that attempts to minimize entanglements.
2. Any subsurface component of the FAD should be constructed in a manner designed to avoid entangling marine life.
3. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, the use of natural or biodegradable materials (such as hessian canvas, hemp ropes, *etc*.) for drifting FADs should be promoted.

Annex III

The objectives of the Working Group are the following:

1. Collect and compile information on FADs in the EPO, including but not limited to data collected by the IATTC and reports prepared by the scientific staff of the IATTC;
2. Review the FAD data collection requirements established in this Resolution to assess the need for revision;
3. Develop data reporting formats and definitions of terms related to FAD fishing (*e.g*. biodegradable FADs, non-entangling FADs, *etc*.), to implement obligations under this Resolution, in cooperation

[1] CPCs shall obtain unique alphanumeric codes from the IATTC staff on a periodic basis and distribute those numbers to the vessels in their fleets for FADs that may be deployed or modified, or in the alternative, if there is already a unique FAD identifier associated with the FAD (*e.g*., the manufacturer identification code for the attached buoy), the vessel owner or operator may instead use that identifier as the unique code for each FAD that may be deployed or modified.
The alphanumeric code shall be clearly painted in characters at least 5 cm in height. The characters shall be painted on the upper portion of the attached radio or satellite buoy in a location that does not cover the solar cells used to power the equipment. For FADs without attached radio or satellite buoys, the characters shall be painted on the uppermost or emergent top portion of the FAD. The vessel owner or operator shall ensure the marking is durable (for example, use epoxy-based paint or an equivalent in terms of lasting ability) and visible at all times during daylight. In circumstances where the observer is unable to view the code, the captain or crew shall assist the observer (*e.g*. by providing the FAD identification code to the observer).

with the scientific staff, to be submitted to the Commission for consideration;

4. Compile information regarding developments on FADs in other tuna RFMOs;
5. Compile information regarding developments on the latest scientific information on FADs, including information on non-entangling FADs, and identify priority areas for research;
6. Prepare annual reports for the SAC, including specific recommendations, as appropriate; and
7. Identify and review possible FAD management measures, in coordination with the scientific staff and the SAC, and make recommendations to the Commission, as appropriate.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-02

RESOLUTION ON A HARVEST CONTROL RULE FOR TROPICAL TUNAS (YELLOWFIN, BIGEYE AND SKIPJACK)

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 90th meeting:

Aware of its responsibility regarding the scientific study of tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area, and for adopting conservation and management measures for those resources,

Recognizing that the sustainability of the resource can be reduced if the increase in fishing effort is considerable, and

Aware that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase, and

Bearing in mind that Article 7.5.3a of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing indicates that regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) should determine stock-specific target reference points, and, at the same time, the action to be taken if they are exceeded, and

Bearing in mind also that Article 7.5.3b of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing indicates that RFMOs should determine stock-specific limit reference points, and, at the same time, the action to be taken if they are exceeded; when a limit reference point is approached, measures should be taken to ensure that it will not be exceeded, and

Taking note of the variety of opinions that exist regarding the appropriate target reference points relating to the level of fishing mortality or the level of biomass that allow the long-term sustainable exploitation of the fish stocks, with the best possible catches; and on appropriate limit reference points related to the maximum values of fishing mortality or the minimum values of biomass, which should not be exceeded, and

Recognizing that, for the fishery for tropical tunas in the Convention Area, decision rules based on the precautionary principle will have to be developed to ensure that management objectives are achieved, including those deriving from the limit and target reference points adopted, and

Bearing in mind that, on the basis of the best available scientific information and the precautionary approach, the IATTC has used as an operational harvest control rule (HCR) limiting fishing mortality (F) at levels that do not exceed the level corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and

Considering that the Commission, during its 87th annual meeting, adopted interim limit and target reference points for yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna, and

Bearing in mind that the IATTC scientific staff indicates in Document SAC-07-07g, that the appropriateness of the operational HCR currently used with regard to the limit reference points has not been investigated in depth; therefore a more comprehensive management strategy evaluation (MSE) is necessary to evaluate the HCR; and alternative HCRs should be considered that include hard and soft limit reference points, that use reference points based on biomass, and that establish well-defined scientific management recommendations in the case that the reference points are exceeded.

Resolves as follows:

1. For the purposes of this Resolution, the following definitions[1] apply:
   a. A limit reference point is a conservation reference point based on a level of spawning biomass (S_{LIMIT}) or fishing mortality (F_{LIMIT}) that should be avoided because going beyond it could endanger the sustainability of the stock; $\underline{F}_{0.5R0}$ and $S_{0.5R0}$ assuming steepness h = 0.75 were adopted by the 87th meeting of the IATTC as interim limit reference points for tropical tunas in the EPO.
   b. A target reference point is a management objective based on a level of spawning biomass (S_{TARGET}) or a fishing mortality rate (F_{TARGET}) that should be achieved and maintained. S_{MSY} and F_{MSY} were adopted by the 87th meeting of the IATTC as interim target reference points for tropical tunas in the EPO.
   c. Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) are decision rules that aim to achieve the target reference point and avoid the limit reference point by specifying pre-agreed management actions.
2. The recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff on conservation measures for the stocks of tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack), shall take as their technical basis the limit and target reference points adopted provisionally.
3. The harvest control rule (HCR) recommended by the scientific staff for the purse-seine fishery for tropical tunas shall be adopted, in accordance with the following principles:
   a. The scientific recommendations for establishing management measures in the fisheries for tropical tunas, such as closures, which can be established for multiple years, shall attempt to prevent the fishing mortality rate (F) from exceeding the best estimate of the rate corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (F_{MSY}) for the species that requires the strictest management.
   b. If the probability that F will exceed the limit reference point (F_{LIMIT}) is greater than 10%, as soon as is practical management measures shall be established that have a probability of at least 50% of reducing F to the target level (F_{MSY}) or less, and a probability of less than 10% that F will exceed F_{LIMIT}.
   c. If the probability that the spawning biomass (S) is below the limit reference point (S_{LIMIT}) is greater than 10%, as soon as is practical management measures shall be established that have a probability of at least 50% of restoring S to the target level (dynamic S_{MSY}) or greater, and a probability of less than 10% that S will descend to below S_{LIMIT} in a period of two generations of the stock or five years, whichever is greater.
   d. For fisheries that use gears other than purse-seine nets, the recommendations by the IATTC scientific staff on additional management measures shall be as consistent as possible with those adopted for the purse-seine fishery, while taking account of the impact of those fisheries on the species compared with that of purse-seine fishery.
4. The scientific staff of the Commission shall carry out additional assessments of these HCRs and alternatives, which shall be presented to the Scientific Advisory Committee for examination in order to allow the Commission to adopt a permanent HCR.
5. The IATTC shall continue to promote, encourage, and insist on compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the WCPFC in their objectives and efficacy with regard to the tropical tuna stocks.
6. The Director shall communicate this Resolution to the Secretariat of the WCPFC.

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[1] Other definitions :

F_{MSY}: fishing mortality rate corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield;

B_{MSY}: spawning biomass corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield;

$S_{0.5r0}$: spawning biomass corresponding to that which produces a 50% reduction in recruitment as calculated in a Beverton-Holt spawner-recruit model with steepness of 0.75;

$F_{0.5R0}$: fishing mortality that causes spawning biomass to be reduced to $S_{0.5r0}$

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-03

RESOLUTION ON PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 90th Meeting:

Taking into account that the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is caught in both the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Expressing concern that the latest stock assessment in 2016 by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) shows the following:

- The spawning stock biomass (SSB) declined steadily from 1996 to 2010
- The decline appears to have ceased since 2010, although the stock remains near historically low levels and is experiencing exploitation rates above all calculated biological reference points except F_{MED} and F_{loss};
- If the low recruitment of recent years continues, the risk of the SSB falling below its historically lowest observed level would increase; and
- Further reductions in fishing mortality, particularly of juveniles, would contribute to achieving the recovery objective, *i.e*., rebuilding the SSB to the historical median by 2024 with a probability of at least 60%.

Recognizing that the 2012 stock assessment by the ISC showed that further reductions in fishing mortality and catch over the whole range of ages should be considered in both Commissions to reduce the risk of the SSB falling below its historically low level.

Recalling that Article VII, paragraph 1(c) of the Antigua Convention provides that the Commission shall "*adopt measures that are based on the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention and to maintain or restore the populations of harvested species at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield...*";

Recognizing also that the impact of the fishery for Pacific bluefin tuna in the WCPO on SSB is proportionally much greater (84%) than in the EPO fisheries (16%), and that its rate of increase in recent years has also been comparatively much greater;

Affirming that it is necessary to adopt comparable, compatible, and rigorous management measures, taking into account the catch in the EPO and WCPO fisheries in both Commissions (IATTC and WCPFC) that have the responsibility and competence over this resource, in order to reduce the fishing mortality throughout its range and to ensure to the rebuilding of the stock;

Noting that, consistent with guidance from the 89th Meeting of the IATTC, the Chairman of the IATTC wrote to the Executive Director of the WCPFC on 1 December 2015, exhorting the WCPFC to consider at its annual meeting, among other things, working on the development of a coordinated rebuilding and management plan for the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna, and that the IATTC shall ask the WCPFC for a joint meeting with all interested parties after the stock assessment by the ISC in 2016, in order to adopt equivalent reference points;

Noting further that, in a 24 June 2016 communication from the Chairman of the Northern Committee (NC) of the WCPFC to the Director of the IATTC, the NC Chairman proposed a joint IATTC/NC

meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna management, and proposed further that it be held in conjunction with the next meeting of the NC (NC12) in Fukuoka, Japan, in August 2016; and

Acknowledging once again the importance for both Commissions taking complementary and effective measures to reduce the fishing mortality of Pacific bluefin tuna throughout the entire range of age classes, and the importance of moving forward with such a Joint IATTC/NC meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna management at the earliest time practicable;

Resolves as follows:

1. In order to review the current management measures, notably the initial rebuilding target, and to promote the objectives of rebuilding the Pacific bluefin stock and a long-term management framework for the stock and associated fisheries, CPCs shall coordinate with the WCPFC, through a series of joint meetings to occur at least annually, beginning with the first meeting in August 2016, and continuing until CPCs have accomplished the objectives.
2. The Director, on behalf of the Commission, shall respond to the communication from the Chairman of the NC, agreeing to an initial Joint IATTC/NC working group meeting, with the following comments concerning structure and objectives:
    a. IATTC agrees to hold the joint meeting during NC12.
    b. The joint meetings shall be co-chaired by one representative from the IATTC and NC, respectively.
    c. Meetings shall be open to observers.
    d. The outcomes of the meetings shall be directly reported to the NC and IATTC so they may be considered for adoption through IATTC Resolutions and WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures;
    e. The objectives of the joint meetings are the following:
        i. To review the current management measures and the initial rebuilding target, and discuss at this first joint meeting (i) the conduct of the meeting(s) under joint chairmanship; (ii) the respective roles and responsibilities of the ISC and the IATTC scientific staff, and ways to promote further cooperation between the two; and (iii) how future joint meetings will be held, including a commitment to holding the joint meeting on an annual basis.
        ii. To reach agreement that the basin-wide rebuilding plan for Pacific bluefin and long-term management framework will be harmonized across the Pacific, and will be designed to return the population to a target reference point to be agreed.
        iii. To reach agreement that the joint meeting shall develop advice for the two Commissions consistent with the objective that the IATTC and WCPFC are able to adopt harmonized management objectives with precautionary levels of risk; target and limit reference points that are based on best scientific practices and the best available science, the respective Convention mandates, and appropriate candidate harvest control rules that include pre-agreed management actions; and
        iv. To reach agreement that the candidate harvest control rules will be tested through a Management Strategy Evaluation, and then a harmonized final harvest control rule will be proposed for adoption by the respective Commissions.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-04

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

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission:

Resolves as follows, in order to amend Resolution C-05-03*:*

1. Paragraph 8 is replaced by the following paragraph:

   "8. CPCs shall, where possible, undertake research to:

   a. identify ways to make fishing gears more selective, where appropriate, including research into alternative measures to prohibiting wire leaders;

   b. improve knowledge of key biological/ecological parameters, life-history and behavioural traits, and migration patterns of key shark species;

   c. identify key shark mating, pupping, and nursery areas; and

   d. improve handling practices for live sharks to maximise post-release survival."

2. Current paragraph 9 of Resolution C-05-03 is deleted.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-05

RESOLUTION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SHARK SPECIES

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Noting that sharks are part of the pelagic ecosystems in the IATTC Convention Area and are caught by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species and in fisheries targeting sharks;

Recalling that under the Antigua Convention, "*fish stocks covered by this Convention*" means "*stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area*", and that under Article VIII, paragraph 1 (c), the Commission shall "*adopt measures to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention*";

Further recalling that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f) of the Antigua Convention establishes that the Commission shall "*adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by the Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened*";

Recognizing that the IATTC Fishery Status Reports show the silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) and the hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna spp.*) as the shark species most frequently caught by purse-seine vessels fishing for tuna in the Convention Area,

Further recognizing that the *Specifications for data provision*[1] circulated by the Director on 25 March 2016 identify silky and hammerhead sharks as among the "*principal species known to be caught by vessels and gears fishing for species under the purview of the Commission in the Convention Area*";

Noting the commitments that IATTC Members have made regarding shark conservation in other IATTC resolutions, including Resolution C-11-10 on the conservation of oceanic whitetip sharks and Resolution C-05-03 on the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries in the Convention Area; and

Further noting the IATTC staff's 2016 Conservation Recommendations for the release of sharks caught by purse-seine vessels and for prohibiting the use of shark lines by longline vessels;

Agrees that:

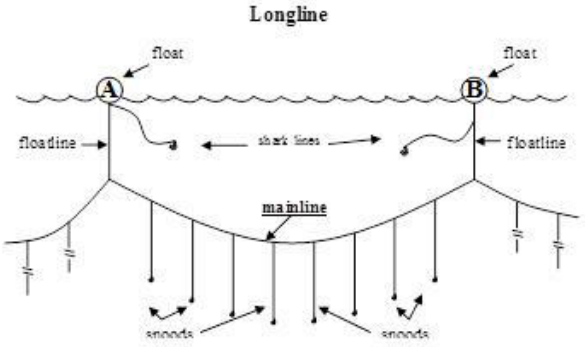
1. The IATTC scientific staff shall develop a workplan, with a timeline to share with the Commission in advance of the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2017, for completing full stock assessments for the silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) and hammerhead sharks (*i.e., Sphyrna lewini*, *S. zygaena* and *S. mokarran*). The workplan shall clearly identify any data requirements needed to complete the stock assessments for these species and the action plan for meeting the timelines in the workplan.
2. CPCs shall require their fishers to collect and submit catch data for silky and hammerhead sharks, and shall submit the data to the IATTC in accordance with IATTC data reporting requirements. CPCs shall also record, through observer programs or other means, for purse-seine vessels of all capacity classes, the number and status (dead/alive) of silky sharks and hammerhead sharks caught and re-

[1] http://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/Misc/Data-provisions-requirements-2016ENG.pdf

leased, and report it to the IATTC.

3. CPCs shall require purse-seine vessels flying their flag to follow safe release requirements for all sharks, except those retained aboard the vessel. Any shark (whether alive or dead) caught in the Convention Area that is not retained must be promptly released unharmed, to the extent practicable, as soon as it is seen in the net or on the deck, without compromising the safety of any persons. If a shark is alive when caught and is not retained, the shark must be released by using the following procedures, or equally effective means:
   a. Sharks must be released out of the net by directly releasing them from the brailer into the ocean. Sharks that cannot be released without compromising the safety of persons or the sharks before being landed on deck must be returned to the water as soon as possible, either utilizing a ramp from the deck connecting to an opening on the side of the vessel, or through escape hatches. If ramps or escape hatches are not available, the sharks must be lowered with a sling or cargo net, using a crane or similar equipment, if available.
   b. The use of gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments is prohibited for the handling of sharks. No shark may be lifted by the head, tail, gill slits, or spiracles, or by using bind wire against or inserted through the body, and no holes may be punched through the bodies of sharks (*e.g.*, to pass a cable through for lifting the shark).
   c. No whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) may be towed out of a purse-seine net, *e.g.*, using towing ropes.
4. CPCs shall prohibit longline vessels flying their flag and targeting tuna or swordfish in the Convention Area from using "shark lines" (individual lines attached to the floatline or to the floats directly, and used to target sharks; Figure 1).
5. This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2018.

Figure 1. Schematic diagram of a shark line.



INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-06

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR SHARK SPECIES, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE SILKY SHARK (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), FOR THE YEARS 2017, 2018, AND 2019

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 90th meeting:

Considering that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f), of the Antigua Convention indicates that the Commission shall "*adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by [the] Convention*";

Recalling Article IV, paragraph 3, of the Antigua Convention, which states that "*where the status of target stocks or non-target or associated or dependent species is of concern, the members of the Commission shall subject such stocks and species to enhanced monitoring in order to review their status and the efficacy of conservation and management measures, revising those measures regularly in the light of new scientific information available*";

Recognizing that silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) are the shark species most commonly caught as bycatch by purse-seine vessels in the Convention Area;

Recognizing that measures should be implemented to allow silky shark populations to rebuild in the Convention Area; and

Aware of the need to establish conservation measures for the protection of sharks, especially the silky shark;

Agrees as follows:

1. Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) shall prohibit 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.

2. CPCs shall require all longline vessels whose fishing licences do not include sharks as a fishing target but catch sharks incidentally, to limit bycatch of silky sharks to a maximum of 20% of the total catch by fishing trip in weight. The 20% limit is set as an interim limit in the absence of data and scientific analysis on which to base conservation and management measures, and will be revised, based on recommendations by the staff, once improved species-level catch and composition data are available.

3. CPCs shall require their vessels using surface longlines[1] to limit the catch of silky sharks of less than 100 cm total length to 20% of the total number of silky sharks caught during the trip.

4. CPCs shall subject the fisheries referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 to effective monitoring measures to determine if the 20% maximum is exceeded, such as through port inspections and review of observer data, and shall report to the Commission information on percentages reached, in accordance with

[1] For the purposes of this resolution, surface longlines are those in which the majority of hooks fish at depths shallower than 100 meters, in normal circumstances, and target species other than swordfish.

IATTC data submission requirements.

5. CPCs shall require vessels to not fish in silky shark pupping areas, as may be adopted by the Commission, in accordance with the recommendation of the IATTC scientific staff, in coordination with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), and.

6. For those multi-species fisheries using surface longlines that have captured more than 20% of silky sharks in weight on average, CPCs shall prohibit the use of steel leaders during a period of three consecutive months each year. The average proportion of silky sharks in the catch will be calculated from data of the previous calendar year. New vessels entering the multi-species fisheries affected by this Resolution and those for which no data are available from the period immediately prior shall be subject to the provisions of this paragraph.

7. The IATTC scientific staff, in coordination with the SAC, shall recommend the most appropriate period for the purposes of paragraph 6 on the basis of the analysis of the data provided by CPCs to be taken into consideration in the revision of this measure.

8. Vessels of less than 12 m length overall using manually-operated fishing gear (*i.e*. without mechanical or hydraulic winches) and that do not deliver to motherships at any time during the fishing trip are excluded from the application of this resolution. For this excluded fleet, CPCs shall work with the Commission's scientific staff on the immediate establishment of data-collection programs, which shall be presented at the meeting of the SAC in 2017.

9. CPCs shall notify the Director, before 1 October of each year, the single period of restricted use of steel leaders referred to in paragraph 6 which will be observed for the following calendar year.

10. CPCs shall keep a record of the vessels and the period to which each vessel operator or owner has committed for the enforcement of this resolution.

11. CPCs shall require the collection and submission of catch data for silky sharks, in accordance with IATTC data reporting requirements. CPCs shall also record, through observer programs and other means, for purse-seine vessels of all capacity classes, the number and status (dead/alive) of silky sharks caught and released, and report it to the IATTC.

12. The Commission shall prioritize research by the scientific staff in the following areas:

    a. Identification of the pupping areas of the silky shark.

    b. Mitigation of bycatch of sharks, especially in longline fisheries, and survival of sharks caught by all types of gears, giving priority to gears with significant catches. Survival experiments should include studies of the effects on survival of shorter sets and the use of circle hooks.

    c. Improve handling practices for live sharks to maximise post-release survival.

    d. The appropriateness of the percentage limit on silky sharks catch established in paragraphs 2 and 3.

13. This Resolution shall be reviewed annually at the meeting of the SAC, in order to evaluate the adequacy of the measures, notably those in paragraphs 2, 3 and 6.

14. This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2017, and shall be reviewed at the IATTC annual meeting in 2019.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California, USA
27 June-01 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-07

FINANCING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California, USA, on the occasion of its 90th 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-04-04; 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$ 6,737,489 for fiscal year (FY) 2017.
2. That the Members shall contribute to the Commission's budget for FY 2017 in accordance with the following schedule:

	FY 2017 (US$)
Belize	35,387
Canada	117,004
China	149,021
Colombia	279,534
Korea	185,629
Costa Rica	70,861
Ecuador	1,171,914

	FY 2017 (US$)
El Salvador	62,460
United States	1,746,553
France	99,939
Guatemala	40,993
Japan	351,207
Kiribati	33,424
Mexico	909,706
Nicaragua	58,702
Panamá	477,072
Peru	61,979
Chinese Taipei	167,589
European Union	295,377
Vanuatu	48,658
Venezuela	374,480
Total	**6,737,489**