

DRAFT

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

94th MEETING

Bilboa, Spain

22-27 July 2019

RESOLUTION C-19-XX

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING LONGLINE VESSELS FISHING FOR
NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE IN THE IATTC CONVENTION AREA
NORTH OF THE EQUATOR**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Recalling Resolution C-05-02

Recalling further its responsibility for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area, and for the formulation of recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) with regard to the conservation and management of these resources;

Observing that the 2017 stock assessment of North Pacific albacore from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) indicates that North Pacific albacore tuna is neither being overfished nor is it in an overfished state, however, it is likely being fully exploited;

Considering that the ISC is expected to complete a full new stock assessment in 2020;

Recognizing the importance of working with the Western and Central Pacific Fishing Commission (WCPFC) and its Northern Committee (NC), as provided for

in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage North Pacific albacore tuna throughout its range;

Noting the work of the WCPFC NC in implementing the WCPFC's Conservation and Management Measure CMM 20056-03 on North Pacific albacore;

Recalling further Article 22(4) of the WCPFC Convention provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks which occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Being concerned that the troll and baitboat catch of North Pacific albacore has declined approximately 30% during the 2017 and 2018 fishing seasons in the IATTC Convention area North of the Equator;

Being cognizant that since the passage of Resolution C-05-02 the nations fishing for North Pacific albacore have been diligent in managing their troll and baitboat fleets to not exceed their effort in 2005, as required by that Resolution;

Being exceptionally concerned that information on the expenditure of effort by longline vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore in the Convention area North of the Equator is either confusing and/or incomplete.

The IATTC therefore resolves that:

1. All CPCs shall limit the number of their flag longline vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore to the number of vessels and the amount of effort expended by these vessels to that ~~that~~ existed in 2005 North of the Equator.

2. The provisions of Paragraph 1 shall apply to those vessels chartered by CPCs and such vessels shall be included in the limitation on longline vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore North of the Equator.