

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS) ACTIVITIES

IATTC Plenary Meeting Outcomes

The U.S. delegation attended the 2025 annual meetings of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program, including their associated subsidiary committees and working groups, in Panama City, Panama from August 25 to September 5, 2025. The Head of Delegation and Federal Alternate Commissioner, Drew Lawler, was supported by NMFS West Coast Region, International Affairs, Trade and Commerce, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, General Counsel, Department of State, and U.S. Coast Guard, along with the U.S. Commissioners representing commercial, recreational, and non-governmental organization interests and additional representatives of industry and civil society.

There were 19 proposals put forward for the consideration of the IATTC. The meeting was dominated by intertwined negotiations of the FY26 budget and tropical tuna management. The Commission ultimately adopted a revision of the existing tropical tuna measure that was set to expire in 2026 with a new measure that extends through 2028 with triggers for possible adjustments based on the result of the management strategy evaluation for bigeye tuna.

The IATTC scientific staff presented information from the fishery in 2024, showing a record-breaking catch for tropical tuna caught in the eastern Pacific Ocean. In addition, and in response to a recent yellowfin stock assessment showing the stock in healthy condition, the IATTC staff recommended a potential reduction in purse seine closure periods for up to 10 days. The Commission ultimately adopted a Resolution that includes a reduction in closure days of 8 days in response to this recommendation from the IATTC scientific staff. The Resolution includes a one-time fee on purse seine vessel owners based on cubic meters of well volume to pay for a skipjack tagging survey that the IATTC scientific staff recommended to be an urgent priority.

The Commission ultimately adopted six Resolutions and Commission officers were re-elected to their roles for another term. The IATTC Executive Director, Dr. Arnulfo Franco, was re-appointed to another four-year term.

The following Resolutions were adopted, and will be posted on the [IATTC Resolution website](#):

1. Updated three-year tropical tuna management measure,
2. Fish Aggregating Device retrieval measure,
3. Three-year rollover of silky shark provisions,
4. South Pacific Albacore Joint Working Group Terms of Reference,
5. Amended consolidated shark management resolution to allow for pilot of new safe handling/release practice,
6. Amended capacity loans and chartering resolution,
7. Legal framework simplification process, and
8. FY26 Budget.