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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS
Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Groups Joint Session
Eighth Meeting of the Aquaculture Subject Group (AS) Thirty meeting of the Fisheries Subject Group (FS)
28- 30 June 2023
Meeting place: Hybrid - NEAFC headquarters London, United Kingdom/Webex
Relevant activities carried out by IATTC during the intersessional period (July 2022-June 2023)
Author: Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

1. Introduction

Established in 1949, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) is the regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) responsible for the long-term conservation and sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like species, associated species and their ecosystems, throughout the Eastern Pacific Ocean, from Canada, in the north, to Chile, in the South.

IATTC adopts an extended range of conservation and management measures for tuna and tuna-like species, tropical tunas in general as well as specific measures for bluefin tuna, yellowfin, tuna, albacore tuna and bigeye tuna. Other resolutions regulate bycatch and establish conservation measures for associated species (to the exception of dolphins which are covered by the AIDCP): sharks and rays, seabirds and sea turtles.

Its mandate and competence are therefore much broader than the reference in its name to tropical tunas – inherited from a distant past – would seem to indicate. It also provides the Secretariat of the 1998 Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP). The first objective of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) is to reduce incidental dolphin mortalities in the purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean

The IATTC, through the Ashotines Laboratory is also a major contributor of research in the early life history of tropical tunas. The Ashotines Laboratory was established as part of the IATTC's Tuna-Billfish Program. It is one of the few research facilities in the world designed specifically for studies of the early life history of tropical tunas. Little is known from studies of live tunas of

their reproductive activities or early life history (egg, larval, and early-juvenile stages), and for that reason the IATTC established a research laboratory to focus on these aspects of tuna biology.

This report summarizes the IATTC relevant activities since CWP-27 in June 2022.

2. Review of relevant IATTC activities since CWP-27 (2022)

In support to SDG14, IATTC has ongoing tasks and programs related to data collection and data dissemination of fisheries information. It includes the implementation of harmonized data reporting templates and data storage systems based on code lists, dictionaries and standards promoted by the CWP.

Latest developments and improvements related to CWP are :

- Additional **data quality controls, data collation and data reconciliation workflows** to ensure data received from CPCs, observers, canneries, vessels and other partners is of best quality.
- Standardization and harmonization (ASFIS, ISSCFV, ISSCFG, ISO3) of our **reference lists**: <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Data>
- Participation to the **Global Tuna Atlas** and enhancements of our public domain data to adhere to CWP standards: <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Data/Public-domain>
- Participation to the **FIRMS project** with regularly updated resources and fisheries

New projects since CWP-27 include :

- **Vessel Monitoring Scheme (VMS)** database to collect vessels positions on a timely manner.
- Collection of standardized data related to **FADs** (deployment, recovery, positions of drifting FADs, technologies to remotely and electronically identify FADs to improve data collection).
- **1st workshop on improvement in data collection** for industrial longline fishery to expand data reporting for target and bycatch species. It will be followed by a second workshop early 2024 to discuss data collection for small purse seiners.
- **Development of AI-based smart tools to accurately identify target species**. The beta version will be tested over the summer by observers.
- **Use of drones to run dolphin surveys** and to study the separation of dolphin mothers and their calves during purse-seine operations on dolphin-associated tuna.
- **Pilot study of electronic monitoring (EM)** of the activities and catches of longline vessels to establish what data EM can collect aboard longline vessels greater than 20 meters length with as much precision as the observers.
- Data collection program to collect **transshipment harmonized information** from onboard observers in collaboration with MRAG.
- An **individual vessel limit (IVL) scheme** for bigeye tuna requiring additional port sampling and access to reliable and regularly updated datasets is in place. The Commission can increase the closure of the vessel if the limit has been reached.

- **Development of new statistical models to investigate and correct the possible bias** in tuna catch composition, resulting from data loss during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2021.
- Development and implementation of a **regional shark fishery** sampling program to improve the monitoring and assessment of shark stocks. Using EASI-Fish, assessment of the efficacy of the management measures for reducing fishing impacts on shark species.
- **Identifying operational characteristics associated with mobulid bycatch** to develop mitigation options and reduce mobulid mortality.
- **Inclusion of the tagging data** to develop skipjack stock assessment and skipjack growth estimates
- **Exploratory assessment for bigeye** to study juvenile movements between WPO and EPO
- **Improvement of yellowfin** stock assessments by exploring new models.
- **Monitoring of the south swordfish stock** by using abundance indicators to improve the assessment.

Since the **release of the new website for the Commission** in May 2022, it continues to be developed to provide generic information available to the public and new secured pages available to stakeholders and our partners. It includes the redesign of the datasets and the use of the latest technologies:

- Port State Measures fact sheets: <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Management/PSM>
- Species fact sheets: <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Resources/Species>
- Vessel register with different category-based listings: <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Management/Vessel-register>
- Secured access for vessel owners and CPS to relevant and updated information (Captain list, closure, compliance, country pages, best scientific estimates (BSE), Bigeye catch limit)