



COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Groups - Joint Session

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IATTC activities report to CWP

Author: IATTC Seretariat

I. 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-26 in 2019 and new updates since November 2021.

II. Review of relevant IATTC activities since CWP-26 (2019 - 2021)

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 include:

- Setting up of **management strategy evaluations (MSE)** to test harvest control rules and other management strategies for its effectiveness in attaining management objectives
- Implementation of an **individual vessel limit (IVL) scheme** for bigeye tuna requiring access to reliable and regularly updated datasets
- Development of minimum standards for the implementation of an **Electronic Management System (EMS)** for the longline and purse-seine fleets and to evaluate the types of data that can be reliably collected
- Phase 2 of the IATTC multi-year regional **tuna tagging program** including data analysis.
- Data collection for the **sampling program for shark catches** of artisanal fisheries in Central America: Development of new questionnaires and a new data submission protocol
- Mandatory collection of standardized data related to **FADs** (deployment, recovery, positions of drifting FADs, strandings of FADs, evaluate the suitability of different technologies to remotely and electronically identify FADs to improve data collection)
- Data collection program to collect **transshipment** harmonized information in collaboration with MRAG.
- **Port State Measures**: developing a data collection strategy for collecting port access information and adopting minimum standards for port inspections to fight against IUU

A major progress since the last meeting in November 2021 has been the **release of the new website for the Commission** in May 2022. It includes the redesign of the datasets and the implementation of a new web platform based on the latest technologies:

- Development of a new vessel register: <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Management/Vessel-register>
- Port State Measures fact sheets: <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Management/PSM>
- Species fact sheets: <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Resources/Species>
- Projects list: <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Research/Project>
- Better dissemination of tuna-related data and information (tuna catches, statistical dashboards, meetings, reports and publications)
- New interfaces to access harmonized datasets (public domain data, reference codes, APIs)

- Secured access for vessel owners and CPS to relevant and updated information (Captain list, closure, compliance, country pages, etc....)