

**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER (CHINESE TAIPEI)
ON THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

1. The 2016 annual meeting (the 90th meeting) of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was held in La Jolla, California(USA) on 22 June to 1 July 2016.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of 20 Members of the Commission: Belize, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union, France, Guatemala, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, and Venezuela. Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia attended as observers. Several international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations were also represented.

Cooperation between IATTC and CCSBT

3. No matter related to cooperation between IATTC and CCSBT was discussed in the meeting.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

4. There was no new additional vessel proposed to be included in the IATTC IUU vessel list in the meeting. Therefore, the Commission decided to maintain the current IUU vessel list as it was.

Adopted Resolutions

5. Seven resolutions were approved:
 - (a) *Amendment to Resolution C-15-03 on the collection and analyses of data on fish-aggregating devices(FADs)*: IATTC adopted Resolution C-15-03 on the FADs data collection and analyses in 2015. However, the Commission considers that it is necessary to provide accurately scientific advice to effectively manage tuna fisheries as soon as possible. Thus, the Commission agreed to advance the schedule from 2019 to 2018 for the implementation of some provisions and amend the terms of reference of the ad-hoc permanent working group to make the progress moving forward.
 - (b) *Resolution on a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) for Tropical Tunas (Yellowfin, Bigeye and Skipjack)*: The IATTC required the scientific staff of the Commission to use the limit and target reference points as technical basis to carry out additional assessments of the HCRs and alternatives.
 - (c) *Resolution on Pacific Bluefin Tuna*: The Commission agreed that it is necessary to hold a joint meeting with WCPFC, to reach agreement on the basin-wide rebuilding plan and long-term management framework for Pacific bluefin tuna.
 - (d) *Amendment to Resolution C-05-03 on the Conservation of sharks caught in*

association with fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: The Commission agreed to amend the existing Resolution, request CPCs shall, where possible, undertake shark researches on specific topics/fields.

- (e) *Resolution on the management of shark species:* The Commission agreed that CPCs shall collect and submit catch data of silky and hammerhead sharks to the IATTC, as well as to require purse-seine vessels to follow safe release requirements for all sharks and prohibit longline vessels targeting tuna or swordfish in the Convention Area from using "shark lines".
- (f) *Conservation measures for shark species, with special emphasis on the silky shark (Carcharhinus falciformis), for the years 2017,2018 and 2019:* In consideration that silky sharks are the most commonly bycatch species by purse-seine vessels, the Commission agreed CPCs to prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, or storing , in part or whole, carcasses of silky sharks caught in the IATTC Convention Area. Furthermore, all longline vessels whose fishing licenses do not include sharks as a fishing target are required to limit bycatch of silky sharks not more than 20% of the total catch by fishing trip in weight. In addition to that, the surface longliners are required to limit the catch of silky sharks less than 100 cm total length to be less than 20% of the total number of silky sharks caught during the trip.
- (g) *Financing for fiscal year 2017:* The Commission agreed its budget of US\$6,737,489 for fiscal year 2017, with a decreased budget of 36,743 US dollars compared with the 2016 budget.

Other Issues Discussed

6. Several other proposals were also discussed, including port state measures, seabird mitigation measures, permissibility of discard, conservation of Pacific bluefin tuna, tuna conservation program for 2017-2019, boarding and inspection procedures, longline observer coverage and observer safety at sea, etc. However, no consensus was reached on these issues. Due to there are plenty of unresolved issues, the Commission agreed to suspend, but not adjourn the meeting, which will be resumed during the week of 12-14 October 2014 in La Jolla, California(USA).