

**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER (TAIWAN)
ON THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

1. The 2019 annual meeting (the 94th meeting) of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was held in Bilbao, Spain from 22 to 26 August 2019.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of 19 Members of the Commission (Kiribati and Panama were absent). Bolivia, Chile, 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 before and during the meeting. Therefore, the Commission decided to maintain the current IUU vessel list as it was.

Adopted Resolutions

5. Eight resolutions were approved
 - (a) *Amendment to Resolution C-18-05 on the collection and analyses of data on fish-aggregating devices*: The commission agreed that observers on purse-seine vessels shall be responsible for collecting all the information on FADs since 1 January 2020; if there is no observer onboard, the captain shall be responsible for recording the information on the FAD form developed by the IATTC staff. In addition, CPCs are required to submit the data to the Director of IATTC no later than 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).
 - (b) *Amendment to Resolution C-15-01 on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the Eastern Pacific Ocean*: The commission agreed to the procedures for cross-listing IUU vessels from other organizations.
 - (c) *Financing for fiscal year 2020*: The Commission agreed its budget of US\$8,133,836 for fiscal year 2020.
 - (d) *Resolution to mitigate impacts on sea turtle*: The Commission agreed that since 1 January 2021, CPCs with longline vessels fishing for species covered by the IATTC Convention shall require owners/operators of longline vessels fishing in a shallow-set manner to employ at least one of the following mitigation measures: use only large circle hooks, use only finfish for bait, or another

mitigation measure that has been approved by the Commission. In addition, the Commission agreed that the Bycatch Working Group and SAC shall analyze scientific information regarding different circle hooks sizes and their effectiveness at mitigating sea turtle bycatch and provide a recommendation to the commission in 2021 for minimum hook size as well as a schedule for implementation.

- (e) *Amendment to the Resolution C-16-06 conservation measures for shark species, with special emphasis on the silk shark (Carcharhinus falciformis), for the years 2020 and 2021:* In consideration that silky sharks are the most commonly bycatch species by purse-seine vessels, the Commission agreed that if silky sharks are unintentionally caught and frozen as part of purse-seine vessel's operations, the whole silky shark must be surrendered to the governmental authorities. Furthermore, CPCs that allow retention of silky sharks by their longline vessels, shall ensure compliance with the measures established by means of control and inspection mechanisms.
- (f) *Conservation of whale sharks:* The commission agreed CPCs shall prohibit their vessels from setting a purse-seine net on a school of tunas associated with a live whale shark. The provisions of the Resolution already prevails as a part of other Resolution, yet become independent one for clarification.
- (g) *Terms of reference for management strategy evaluation workshops:* Acknowledging the IATTC scientific staff plan to convene a series of MSE Workshops beginning in 2019, the commission agreed the terms of reference for MSE Workshops, which include the priority, meeting arrangement, objectives, tasks, and reviewing and reporting procedures of the workshop.
- (h) *IATTC Resolution on scientific observers for longline vessels:* The commission agreed that The IATTC staffs shall prepare a draft proposal for the development of minimum standards for the implementation of an EMS for the longline fleets.

Other Issues Discussed

6. Several other proposals were also discussed, including port state measures, marine pollution, confidentiality in the use of information on compliance, etc. However, no consensus was reached on these issues.

Place and date of next meeting

7. The venue and date of the next meeting of the IATTC was not decided.