

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF BIGEYE TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

21 June 2001

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), having responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like fishes of the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), which for the purpose of this resolution is the area bounded by the coastline of the Americas, the 40°N parallel, the 150°W meridian, and the 40°S parallel, and for the formulation of recommendations to the High Contracting Parties with regard to these resources, and having maintained since 1950 a continuing scientific program directed toward the study of those resources:

Recognizing the uncertainties about the life history parameters of the bigeye stock in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and

Therefore recommends to the High Contracting Parties and non-Parties under whose jurisdiction vessels operate in the EPO that they agree that:

1. The purse-seine fishery which takes bigeye tuna shall be closed if the Director determines, based on the best scientific and fishery data available, that the catch of bigeye tuna less than 60 centimeters has reached the level achieved in 1999, in which case he shall advise all Parties that the purse-seine fishery on floating objects shall close two weeks after such determination. However, in no event shall the fishery be closed before November 1, 2001.
2. Each Party shall send to the Director information on the legal and administrative provisions for implementing the closure, at the latest 10 days after its entry into force.
3. Non-Parties shall be requested and encouraged to comply with the requirements and commitments of this resolution.