

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION  
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

**71<sup>a</sup> REUNION – 71<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)  
6-7 OCT 2003

**RESOLUTION C-03-12**

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

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):*

*Recalling* that the *Resolution on the Conservation of Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean* approved by the IATTC at its 69<sup>th</sup> meeting in Manzanillo, Mexico, encouraged states and fishing entities with large-scale tuna longline vessels (LSTLVs) to undertake initiatives similar to that of Japan, *i.e.* reduction by 20% of its fleet, in accordance with FAO International Plan of Action,

*Being aware* with grave concern that, despite the above Resolution, the catch of bigeye tuna by LSTLVs and their fishing capacity are still growing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO),

*Having responsibility* for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like fishes of the EPO, 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,

*Notes* that the tuna resource of the EPO supports one of the most important surface fisheries for tunas in the world,

*Recognizes* that, based on past experience in the fishery, the potential production from the resource can be reduced by excessive fishing effort,

*Notes* that in the years from 1980 through 2002, excepting 1987, the Director recommended conservation measures to the Commissioners, and that in turn such measures were approved by the Commissioners for recommendation to their respective governments,

*Believing* that it is important to follow a precautionary approach when addressing conservation and management measures for the tuna resource of the EPO, and

*Considering* that the studies of yellowfin and bigeye tuna presented at this meeting show that, the current fishing effort (2000-2001 average) would be above the average maximum sustainable yield levels for both species if recruitment is strongly dependent on the amount of spawning.

*Resolves:*

1. That this resolution is applicable in 2003 and 2004 to purse-seine vessels fishing for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tunas, and to longline vessels in 2004.
2. Pole-and-line and sportfishing vessels are not subject to this resolution.
3. That the fishery for tunas by purse-seine vessels in the following area be closed from 0000 hours on 1 December to 2400 hours on 31 December 2003:

From the intersection of longitude 95°W with the west coast of the Americas south to latitude 10°N, then west to longitude 120°W, then south to latitude 5°S, then east to longitude 100°W, then north to latitude 5°N, then east to longitude 85°W, and finally north to the intersection with the west coast of the Americas.

4. That the fishery for tunas by purse-seine vessels in the EPO, defined as the area bounded by the coastline of the Americas, the 40°N parallel, the 150°W meridian, and the 40°S parallel, be closed

from 0000 hours on 01 August 2004 to 2400 hours on 11 September 2004.

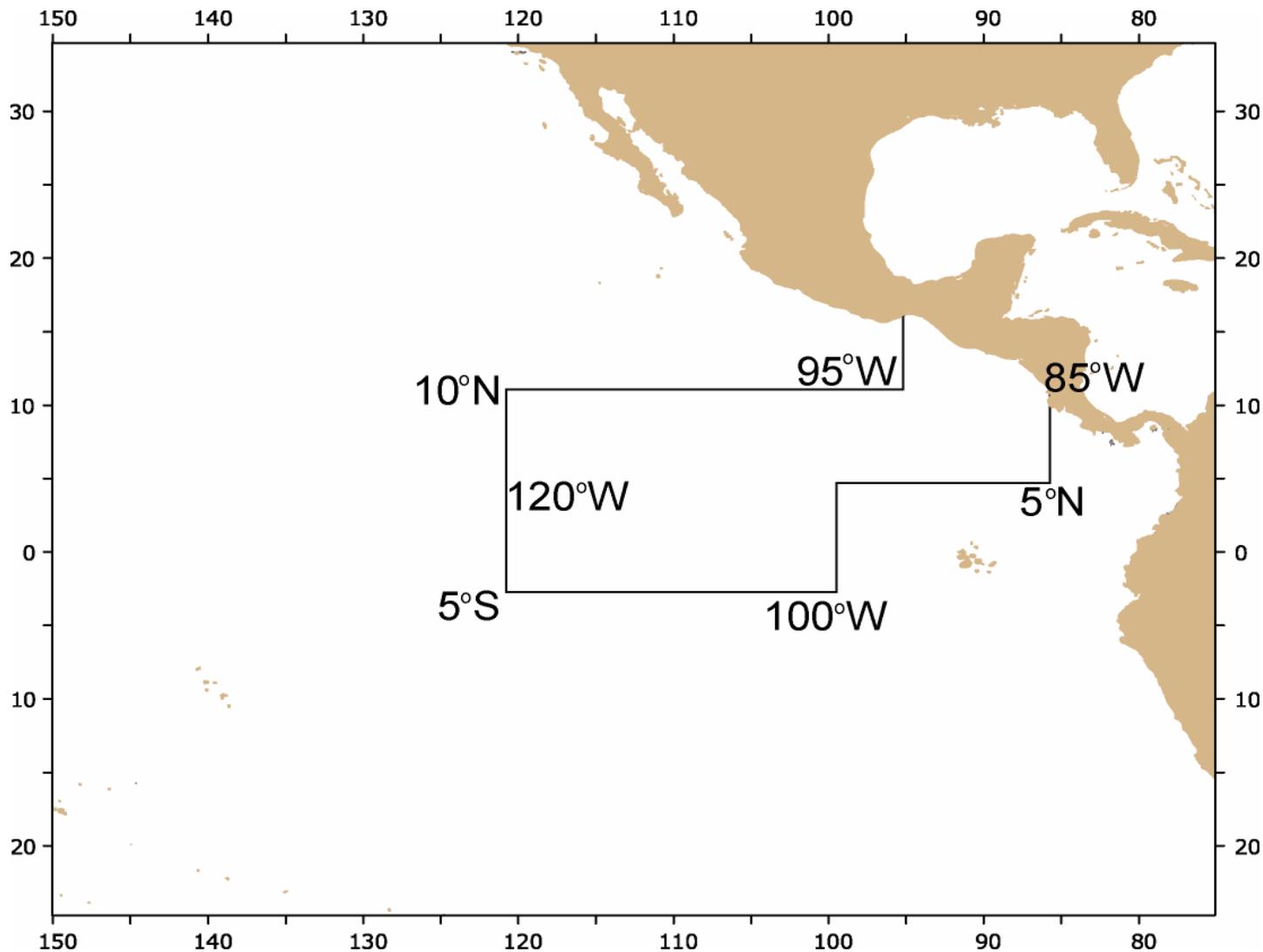
5. To prohibit landings, transshipments and commercial transactions in tuna or tuna products that have been positively identified as originating from fishing activities that contravene this resolution in 2003. The Director may provide relevant information to the Parties to assist them in this regard. The Commission shall develop transparent and non-discriminatory criteria and procedures to adopt trade restrictive measures consistent with international law and the provisions of the World Trade Organization to promote compliance in the EPO.
6. Each IATTC Party, cooperating non-party, fishing entity or regional economic integration organization (collectively “CPCs”) shall, for purse-seine fisheries:
  - 6.1. No later than 45 days before the date of entry into force of a closure:
    - 6.1.1. take the legal and administrative measures necessary to implement the closure;
    - 6.1.2. inform all interested parties in its national tuna industry of the closure;
    - 6.1.3. inform the Director that these steps have been taken.
  - 6.2. For the 2004 closure, ensure that at the time the closure begins, and for the entire duration of the closure, all purse-seine vessels fishing for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas flying its flag in the EPO are in port, except that vessels carrying an observer from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program may remain at sea provided they do not fish in the EPO. The only other exception to this provision shall be that vessels carrying an observer from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program may leave port during the closure, provided they do not fish.
7. That each CPC shall take the measures necessary to ensure that its total annual longline catch of bigeye tuna in the EPO during 2004 will not exceed that in 2001<sup>1</sup>. Each CPC with LSTLVs shall provide monthly reports to the Director.
8. This resolution shall not be considered to prejudice any future arrangements by the Commission for the conservation of bigeye and yellowfin tuna.
9. That measures for the conservation of tunas in the EPO for 2005 shall be adopted at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Commission, taking into account the scientific advice of the Commission staff, in accordance with the usual practice.

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<sup>1</sup> The Parties acknowledge that France, as a coastal State, is developing a tuna longline fleet on behalf of its overseas territories situated in the EPO.

Zona de veda, establecida por la Resolución C-03-12 sobre la conservación de atunes aprobada en la 71ª reunión de la CIAT, para la pesca por buques atuneros cerqueros, desde las 0000 horas del 1º de diciembre hasta las 2400 horas del 31 de diciembre de 2003

Closure zone, established by Resolution C-03-12 on tuna conservation approved at the 71st meeting of the IATTC, for fishing by tuna purse-seine vessels, from 0000 hours on 1 December to 2400 hours on 31 December 2003



C-03-12 Conservation resolution