

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

85TH MEETING

Veracruz, Veracruz (Mexico)

10-14 June 2013

RESOLUTION C-13-02

MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico, on the occasion of its 85th Meeting:

Taking into account that the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is caught in both the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Affirming that it is necessary to take precautionary management measures throughout the range of the resource to contribute to the stability of the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna;

Recognizing that the impact of the fishery for bluefin tuna in the Western and Central Pacific is much greater than in the EPO fisheries, and its rate of increase in recent years is greater (Document IATTC 83-05, page 75);

Putting on record again that the conservation measures adopted in the Western and Central Pacific are more important, due to their magnitude and composition, for the conservation of these stocks, and those that are currently in force may not be sufficient to reduce the total fishing mortality of this stock;

Encouraging both Commissions to take complementary and effective measures to reduce the mortality of bluefin tuna throughout the entire spectrum of ages, especially juveniles;

Urging all IATTC Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) involved in this fishery to participate in a fair and equitable manner, and without exceptions, in the discussion and adoption of conservation measures applicable to the stock throughout its entire range;

Mindful that these measures are intended as an interim means for exercising caution towards assuring sustainability of the Pacific bluefin tuna resource and urging comparable action by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and that future conservation measures should be based not only on these interim measures, but also on development of future scientific information and advice of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) and the IATTC scientific staff;

Taking into account the IATTC scientific staff's conservation recommendation for the Convention Area (Document IATTC 83-05c) as well as those adopted by the WCPFC, and committed to maintaining fishing activity at sustainable levels;

Recognizing that, although they are not comparable in their effectiveness, the WCPFC adopted conservation and management measures for bluefin tuna in 2012 (CMM 2012-06) and that in turn, the IATTC approved at its 83rd annual meeting in 2012 measures that include all the commercial fleets that catch that resource in the EPO for the 2012-2013 period; and therefore urges its counterparts to establish management and regulatory measures in all the WCPFC commercial fleets.

Noting that the ISC recently carried out an assessment of this resource in the North Pacific, which advises that the current 2010 biomass is at the lowest historical levels;

Recalling that the IATTC adopted Conservation and Management Measure for bluefin tuna (Resolution C-12-09) at its 83rd Meeting in 2012 which limits commercial catches to 10,000 metric tons for the period 2012-2013, of which 3,295 remain to be fished in 2013;

Resolves as follows;

1. In the IATTC Convention Area, the commercial catches of bluefin tuna by all the CPCs during 2014 shall not exceed 5,000 metric tons.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, any CPC with a historical record of eastern Pacific bluefin catches may take a commercial catch of up to 500 metric tons of eastern Pacific bluefin tuna annually.
3. CPCs shall take the measures necessary to ensure that the total catch of Pacific bluefin in the Convention Area in 2014 does not exceed the catch limit. For this purpose, each CPC shall report its catches to the Director in a timely fashion, weekly. The Director will send a first notice to the CPCs when 50% of the quota is reached. He will likewise send similar notices when 60%, 70%, and 80% of the quota is reached. When 90% is reached, the Director will send the corresponding notice to all CPCs, with a projection of when the quota established in paragraph 1 will be reached, and the CPCs will take the necessary internal measures to avoid exceeding the limit.
4. The Commission shall again ask the WCPFC to adopt appropriate and effective stock building targets, mandatory measures, and a definitive schedule for implementation of, those measures, at its 2013 Regular Annual Session to address the impact of the fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific on the Pacific bluefin stock.
5. Based upon actions and measures adopted by the WCPFC, as referenced in paragraph 4, and appropriate analysis thereafter by the ISC, the scientific staff of the IATTC shall assess, by means of projected simulations, the status of the bluefin tuna stock both with and without the adopted WCPFC and IATTC measures. These assessments shall be presented at the next meeting of the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee in 2014.
6. On the basis of the scientific reviews and advice referred to in paragraph 5, the Commission shall analyze the degree to which the adopted and implemented measures are sufficient to achieve a recovery of the bluefin tuna resource, and shall consider an appropriate bluefin tuna measure for the EPO for 2015 as an equitable part of the total Pacific bluefin tuna conservation and management measure and, as appropriate, for future years.