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Relevant activities carried out by IATTC during the intersessional period (June 2023-July 2025)
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1. Introduction

Established in 1949, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) is the regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) responsible for the long-term conservation and sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like species, associated species and their ecosystems, throughout the Eastern Pacific Ocean, from Canada, in the north, to Chile, in the South.

IATTC adopts an extended range of conservation and management measures for tuna and tuna-like species, tropical tunas in general as well as specific measures for bluefin tuna, yellowfin, tuna, albacore tuna and bigeye tuna. Other resolutions regulate bycatch and establish conservation measures for associated species (to the exception of dolphins which are covered by the AIDCP): sharks and rays, seabirds and sea turtles.

Its mandate and competence are therefore much broader than the reference in its name to tropical tunas – inherited from a distant past – would seem to indicate. It also provides the Secretariat of the 1998 Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP). The first objective of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) is to reduce incidental dolphin mortalities in the purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

The IATTC, through the Achotines Laboratory is also a major contributor of research in the early life history of tropical tunas. The Achotines Laboratory was established as part of the IATTC's Tuna-Billfish Program. It is one of the few research facilities in the world designed specifically for studies of the early life history of tropical tunas. Little is known from studies of live tunas of their reproductive activities or early life history (egg, larval, and early-juvenile stages), and for that reason the IATTC established a research laboratory to focus on these aspects of tuna biology.

This report summarizes the IATTC relevant activities since June 2023.

2. Review of relevant IATTC activities since 2023

IATTC has ongoing tasks and programs related to data collection and data dissemination of fisheries information. It includes the implementation of harmonized data reporting templates and data storage systems based on code lists, dictionaries and standards promoted by the CWP.

Latest developments and improvements related to CWP are :

- Additional data quality controls, data collation and data reconciliation workflows to ensure data received from CPCs, observers, canneries, vessels and other partners is of best quality.
- Standardization and harmonization (ASFIS, ISSCFV, ISSCFG, ISO3) of our reference lists: <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Data>
- Participation to the Global Tuna Atlas and enhancements of our public domain data to adhere to CWP standards: <https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Data/Public-domain>
- Participation to the FIRMS project with regularly updated resources and fisheries

New projects or developments since 2023 include:

- Bigeye and skipjack benchmark assessment
- South Pacific swordfish assessment
- Workshop on fisheries stock assessment good practices
- Evaluation of the post-release survival of silky sharks captured by longline fishing vessels
- Vulnerability assessment of elasmobranch bycatch
- Vulnerability assessment and efficacy of potential conservation measures for the east Pacific leatherback turtle stock
- Renewal of the MOU with ACAP to reduce seabird bycatch
- Development of a workplan to promote climate resilient fisheries
- Develop and test non-entangling and biodegradable FADs to assess the degradation of new BioFAD surface components that reduce ocean debris and pollution
- Establishment of the Electronic Monitoring plan and strategy
- Additional studies on dolphins:
 - Close-kin mark recapture to assess population abundance
 - Second trial dolphin survey in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) to fully field-test the drone protocol and study cow-calf separation
- 18 shark species and 6 ray species under the purview of the IATTC to prioritize research and management
- New Enhanced Monitoring Program to collect morphometrics data and redefine our port sampling program
- New tagging studies and databases on sharks and rays
- Development of new web portals to improve data collection and dissemination (port sampling, tagging, reporting)