

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

72ND MEETING

LIMA (PERU)
14-18 JUNE 2004

RESOLUTION C-04-07

**RESOLUTION ON A THREE-YEAR PROGRAM TO MITIGATE THE
IMPACT OF TUNA FISHING ON SEA TURTLES**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Considering the possible adverse effects of tuna fishing on the populations of sea turtles in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO); and

Further considering the recommendation of the 4th Meeting of the Working Group on Bycatch in January 2004;

Adopts the following program:

**THREE-YEAR PROGRAM TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF TUNA
FISHING ON SEA TURTLES**

**A. COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON
INTERACTIONS WITH SEA TURTLES**

1. For the purpose of collection of statistically reliable scientific data regarding bycatch of sea turtles from fisheries

- a. Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Parties, fishing entities and regional economic integration organizations (collectively "CPCs") are encouraged to collect, and provide to the IATTC, all available information on fishery interactions with sea turtles in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), including both incidental and direct catches and other impacts on sea turtle populations.
- b. CPCs should develop other techniques, including electronic and other monitoring devices, to improve the collection of scientific data regarding sea turtle bycatch.

2. High priority of research in coastal habitat areas of sea turtles

Interested CPCs, in cooperation with the IATTC, should assign a high priority to conducting research on the interaction between small-scale artisanal fisheries and bycatch of sea turtles in coastal areas.

3. Review of information and data on sea turtles

CPCs and, as appropriate, the IATTC should review available information and data regarding:

- a. biology of sea turtles, including, but not limited to, behavior, diet selection, migration pattern, and nesting areas and nursery grounds.
- b. all sea turtle conservation efforts undertaken by CPCs and other organizations.

To this end, the IATTC should intensify, as appropriate, cooperation with FAO, other regional fisheries management organizations and organizations for sea turtle conservation.

B. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR REDUCING SEA TURTLE BYCATCH

1. Review of effectiveness of mitigation measures

The Commission should review the effectiveness of the mitigation measures and their impact on catches of both sea turtles and target species.

2. Improvement of fishing gears

CPCs and the IATTC should continue to improve techniques to further reduce sea turtle bycatch, and should expeditiously undertake research to determine the effectiveness of the use of circle hooks and other measures in reducing the incidental catch and mortality of sea turtles, and assess their effects on the catch of target species.

C. INDUSTRY EDUCATION

1. Preparation and distribution of informational materials

CPCs and the IATTC should continue wide distribution of informational materials to fishermen who operate in the EPO to assist them in treating incidentally-caught sea turtles properly to improve their survivability.

2. Convening meetings for fishermen

CPCs and the IATTC should continue and expand organization of seminars for fishermen to enable them to treat incidentally-caught sea turtles properly to improve their survivability.

D. CAPACITY BUILDING IN COASTAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Commission should establish a voluntary fund to assist coastal developing CPCs in improving conservation of sea turtles.

E. REPORTING

CPCs should report to the IATTC, in a timely manner, as appropriate, information relevant to this program.