

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

73RD MEETING

LANZAROTE (SPAIN)
20-24 JUNE 2005

RESOLUTION C-05-03

**RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS CAUGHT IN
ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Recalling that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks calls on States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt a National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

Considering that many sharks are part of pelagic ecosystems in the Convention area, and that sharks are captured in fisheries targeting tunas and tuna-like species;

Recognizing the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, as part of shark conservation and management;

Concerned that an extensive unregulated shark fishery is reported to be conducted in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) by a large number of shark-fishing vessels, including some slightly smaller than 24 m length overall, about which the Commission has little information;

Noting that the IATTC has adopted, in its Consolidated Resolution on Bycatch, a requirement for fishermen on purse-seine vessels to release unharmed non-target species, to the extent practicable, including sharks, and that governments with longline fleets also provide the required bycatch information as soon as possible;

Believing that specific measures to be respected by vessels of all fishing gears are necessary for the conservation of sharks in the EPO;

Resolves as follows:

1. Each Party and co-operating non-party, co-operating fishing entity or regional economic integration organization (collectively "CPCs") should establish and implement a national plan of action for conservation and management of shark stocks, in accordance with the *FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks*.
2. In 2006, the IATTC, in cooperation with scientists of CPCs and, if possible, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, shall provide preliminary advice on the stock status of key shark species and propose a research plan for a comprehensive assessment of these stocks.
3. CPCs shall take the measures necessary to require that their fishers fully utilize any retained catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, and skins, to the point of first landing.
4. CPCs shall require their vessels to have onboard fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.

5. The ratio of fin-to-body weight of sharks described in paragraph 4 shall be reviewed by the Working Group on Stock Assessment and reported back to the Commission in 2006 for revision, if necessary.
6. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, landing or trading in any fins harvested in contravention of this Resolution.
7. In fisheries for tunas and tuna-like species that are not directed at sharks, CPCs shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, to the extent practicable, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.
8. CPCs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gears more selective.
9. CPCs are encouraged, where possible, to conduct research to identify shark nursery areas.
10. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the collection of data on shark catches.
11. Each CPC shall annually report data for catches, effort by gear type, landing and trade of sharks by species, where possible, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data. CPCs shall send to the IATTC Secretariat, by May 1, at the latest, a comprehensive annual report of the implementation of this Resolution during the previous year.
12. Paragraphs 2-11 of this resolution apply only to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IATTC.