

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP ON FLEET CAPACITY IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

JUNE 1998

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), having responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like fishes of the eastern Pacific Ocean, and for recommending proposals, based on scientific evidence, for joint action by the High Contracting Parties designed to keep the populations of fishes covered by the Convention at levels of abundance that will permit the maximum sustainable catches;

Expresses concern that, if the carrying capacity of the fleet is allowed to increase without restriction beyond its current level, the tuna stocks in the eastern Pacific Ocean may be reduced to levels less than those capable of producing the maximum sustainable yields;

Concludes that measures should be taken to limit the growth in capacity of the international tuna purse-seine fleet operating in the eastern Pacific Ocean;

Agrees to establish, as soon as possible, a working group of its member governments, open to other governments of coastal states and other States and regional economic integration organizations whose vessels are operating in the tuna fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, to evaluate measures for achieving the objectives of this resolution, and to report on the results of its work to the IATTC as soon as possible. In formulating its recommendations for any such measures, both interim and long-term, the working group shall use as a basis the legitimate interests and rights of coastal states, the operational capacity of each fleet as of June 12, 1998, as well as appropriate consideration of historical participation in the fishery.