

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

RESOLUTION ON BYCATCH

June 2001

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), meeting in San Salvador, El Salvador, on the occasion of its 68th Meeting:

Recalling and reaffirming the Resolution on Bycatch adopted at the 66th Meeting of the Commission in June 2000;

Has agreed as follows:

1. To continue the program requiring the full retention and landing of tunas and the release, to the extent practicable, of non-target species, as described in that Resolution, for one additional year, beginning January 1, 2002;
2. To instruct the Director to continue the research program outlined in paragraph 6 of that Resolution;
3. To provide to the Director relevant information collected by national observer programs related to the implementation of that Resolution;
4. The Bycatch Working Group should meet during the first half of 2002 to review the results of the first year of the bycatch reduction program. Based on that review, as well as the Director's report on the work carried out pursuant to paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of that Resolution, presented to the Commission prior to and during its 68th Meeting, the Working Group shall recommend to the Commission the development of additional measures, as appropriate, for implementation by 1 January 2003. The goal of any such measures should be to reduce to the maximum extent practicable the bycatch of juvenile tunas and other non-target species.
5. To request that the Director seek the cooperation of vessel owners to explore ways to reduce and, to the extent practicable, eliminate the entanglement of sea turtles in webbing attached to Fish-Aggregating Devices and to provide any information on these efforts to the Working Group on Bycatch at its next meeting.