

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
69TH MEETING
MANZANILLO (MEXICO) 26-28 JUNE 2002

**RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF YELLOWFIN AND
BIGEYE TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, having responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like fishes of the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), which for the purpose of this Resolution is the area bounded by the coastline of the Americas, the 40° N parallel, the 150° W meridian, and the 40° S parallel, and for the formulation of recommendations to the High Contracting Parties with regard to these resources, and having maintained since 1950 a continuing scientific program directed toward the study of those resources,

Notes that the tuna resource of the EPO supports one of the most important surface fisheries for tunas in the world, and

Recognizes that, based on past experience in the fishery, the potential production from the resource can be reduced by excessive fishing effort,

Notes that in the years from 1980 through 2001, excepting 1987, the Director recommended conservation measures to the Commissioners, and that in turn such measures were approved by the Commissioners for recommendation to their respective governments, and

Believing that it is important to follow a precautionary approach when addressing conservation and management measures for the tuna resource of the EPO, and

Recognizing Japan's initiative to reduce the number of large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels in its fleet by 20% (132 vessels) by the scrapping of vessels in accordance with the FAO Plan of Action,

Considering that the studies of yellowfin and bigeye tuna presented at this meeting show that, the current fishing effort (2000-2001 average) would be above the average maximum sustainable yield levels for both species if recruitment is strongly dependent on the amount of spawning.

Resolves:

1. That a limitation on the catches by purse-seine tuna-fishing vessels in the EPO is necessary before the end of 2002;
2. That the fishery by purse-seine tuna-fishing vessels in the EPO be closed from 0000 hours on 1 December to 2400 hours on 31 December 2002;
3. To discourage landings and commercial transactions in tuna or tuna products originating from fishing activities prohibited by this resolution. The Director may provide relevant information to the Parties to assist them in this regard.
4. Each Party shall:
 - 4.1. On or before 1 October 2002, inform all interested parties in its national tuna industry of the closure, and send a copy of this notice to the Director.
 - 4.2. Ensure that at the time the closure begins, and for the entire duration of the closure, all purse-seine tuna-fishing vessels flying its flag in the EPO are in port. The only exception to this provision shall be that vessels carrying an observer from the AIDCP On-Board Observer Program may leave port during the closure.

4.3. Take the relevant measures and inform the Director of these on or before October 1, 2002.

5. Longline, pole-and-line and sportfishing vessels are not subject to the measures above.
6. States and fishing entities with large-scale tuna longline vessels are encouraged to undertake initiatives similar to that of Japan with respect to fleet reduction in the EPO, and not to increase their fishing effort in the EPO.
7. That all Parties and other interested States work diligently to achieve the implementation of such a program for the conservation of the tuna resource for 2002.