

	IATTC	Area of Competence	Objectives	Organizational Structure	Scientific Regime
RFMO Structure	<p>Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)</p> <p>Headquarters: La Jolla, California, USA.</p> <p>Convention: Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC Convention). 1999 Protocol to Permit REIO Membership (not in force).</p> <p>Signed: May 31, 1949, Washington DC, USA.</p> <p>In Force: March 3, 1950. Associated with 1997 Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) in force in 1999.</p> <p><i>Amended by 2003 Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention (Antigua Convention) (closed for signature December 31, 2004 not yet in force).</i></p> <p>www.iattc.org</p>	<p>Generally considered to be the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).</p> <p><i>Precisely defined under Antigua Convention to be: along the 50° N parallel from the coast of North America to the intersection with 150° W, and from that line to the intersection with 50° S and from that line to its intersection with the coast of South America (extends the notional IATTC boundaries by 10° both N and S).</i></p>	<p>To maintain populations of yellowfin and skipjack tuna as well as other species taken by tuna vessels in EPO and to cooperate in gathering and interpreting data to facilitate management of stocks at levels permitting MSY year after year.</p> <p><i>Antigua Convention: to ensure long-term conservation and sustainable use of tunas and other species taken by tuna-fishing vessels in the EPO, in accordance with relevant rules of international law.</i></p> <p>AIDCP key objectives are to: progressively reduce and eliminate incidental dolphin mortalities in tuna purse-seine fishery in Area; seek ecologically sound means of capturing large yellowfin tunas not in association with dolphins; ensure long-term sustainability in Area; avoid, reduce and minimize bycatch and discards of juvenile tunas and non-target species.</p>	<p>IATTC: Commission (Work Plan includes Tuna-Billfish Program and Tuna-Dolphin Program); National Sections; Permanent Working Group on Compliance; Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties; Working Group on By-Catch (WG-Bycatch); Working Group on Stock Assessments (WG-SA); Permanent Scientific Staff; and, Secretariat (Director).</p> <p>AIDCP: International Review Panel (IRP); Scientific Advisory Board; Tuna Tracking WG; WG to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin-Safe Certification Program; WG on Financing and Vessel Assessments; Joint WG on Fishing by Non-Parties.</p> <p>IATTC provides Secretariat for AIDCP.</p>	<p>Large Permanent Scientific Staff with offices in major fishing ports. WG- Bycatch; WG-Limit Reference Points; and WG-SA. Director and Scientific Staff provide advice to Commission after review by WG-SA.</p> <p>IATTC collaborates on stock assessment with: SPC (for bigeye and billfish), and ISC; with EC and Chile for swordfish pursuant to Southeast Pacific Swordfish Arrangement (SPSA). All Members have equal access to scientific information.</p> <p><i>Antigua Convention includes a Scientific Advisory Committee to review research programs, stock assessments, research and recommendations of Scientific Staff.</i></p>
	The Fishery EA and PA	<p>Key Species and Gear</p> <p>Highly Migratory Fish Stocks: Yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, skipjack, bonito, Pacific bluefin tuna, sailfish, billfishes including marlin and swordfish.</p> <p>Gear: Purse-seine, longline, pole-and-line, trolling and others.</p>	<p>Stock Status</p> <p>Above B_{MSY}: Skipjack- $F < F_{MSY}$ level stock abundant; Southern stock-catches $< MSY$, Striped marlin: (tentative conclusion 2004), Swordfish; At AMS: Yellowfin tuna; Below B_{MSY}: Bigeye tuna (2003 biomass at lowest levels since 1975); Fully exploited: Albacore Northern stock – $F > F_{MSY}$ Status uncertain: Blue marlin – stock appears to be fully exploited; Black marlin or sailfish – no recent assessment.</p> <p>(Yellowfin and bigeye purse-seine fisheries are managed by closed seasons; longline fishing for bigeye is managed by quota limits).</p>	<p>Bycatch</p> <p>Dolphins, turtles, seabirds, sharks, other non-target species and juvenile target species. 2004 Resolution on bycatch requires CPs, Cooperating NCPs, Fishing Entities and REIOs to reduce incidental mortality of juvenile tuna, release unharmed non-target species and reduce turtle bycatch and interactions with FADs. Under 2004 Resolution, adopted 3 year program to mitigate turtle bycatch. In 1999, AIDCP replaced voluntary La Jolla Agreement to provide measures to mitigate the effect of purse-seining on dolphin stocks.</p>	<p>Ecosystem Approach (EA)</p> <p>EA is envisaged in Article II. Advice to Commission now includes information on ecosystem effects of fishing. For yellowfin and bigeye, Commission adopted Resolutions to reduce bycatch in purse-seine fisheries; improve longline technology; develop ecosystem models for tropical EPO; and investigate how habitat affects juvenile tuna.</p> <p><i>EA is envisaged in Article VII of Antigua Convention.</i></p>
Participation	<p>Members / Contracting Parties</p> <p>IATTC: Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, <i>Japan</i>, <i>Mexico</i>, Nicaragua, Panama, <i>Peru</i>, Spain, USA, Vanuatu, Venezuela.</p> <p>AIDCP: Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, EC, Guatemala, Honduras, <i>Mexico</i>, Nicaragua, Panama, <i>Peru</i>, USA, Vanuatu, Venezuela.</p> <p>Bold: ratified UNFA <i>Italics: ratified</i> FAO Compliance Agreement</p>	<p>Cooperating Non-Members</p> <p>IATTC Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (NCPs): Canada, China, the EC, Honduras, <i>Republic of Korea</i>. Cooperating Fishing Entities: Chinese Taipei (Fishing Entity of Taiwan).</p>	<p>Membership</p> <p>Membership is open to States (not REIOs) whose nationals participate in fisheries in Area upon CPs' unanimous consent. Members pay dues, participate in data collection and research. States may become Cooperating NCPs to Convention as well as to AIDCP.</p> <p><i>Antigua Convention provides for REIOs as does the 1999 Protocol (not yet in force).</i></p>	<p>Participation Criteria</p> <p>Each CP may establish Advisory Committee (AC) for its National Section; AC may attend non-Executive sessions and address sessions at Chair's discretion. Each CP is Member of Permanent Compliance WG. Cooperating NCPs Fishing Entities participate in meetings as observers; must report fisheries statistics & research programs in Area; comply with all conservation measures & resolutions; and, inform IATTC of compliance measures (VMS, Observer Programs, Inspections). Status is reviewed annually. Purse-seine capacity Resolution prohibits new vessels without corresponding reduction of existing fleet; and, new entrants to the purse-seine fishery must make arrangement with existing participants to enter.</p>	<p>Transparency</p> <p>Publicly accessible website. Meeting minutes, reports and scientific information available online. NCPs, IGOs, NGOs, and owners of tuna vessels fishing in EPO under jurisdiction of any CP can participate as observers with 120 days prior notice and upon unanimous decision of Parties. Observers may present orally at Commission meetings subject to Chair's discretion, provided no Member objects. Chair must give prior approval for circulation of documents by observers.</p> <p><i>Under Antigua Convention, NGOs must give 50 days notice to participate in meetings and may attend provided less than 1/3 of Members object.</i></p>
	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	<p>Data Collecting and Reporting</p> <p>Fishery dependent data (from vessels, managers and processing facilities) is provided to IATTC Scientific Staff. 2004 Resolution on catch reporting requires Director to report annual catches of Convention species by flag and gear type to Parties by June 1 of following year. Tagging program is in place to collect data on tuna populations.</p>	<p>Observer Program</p> <p>Since 1994, 100% observer coverage on purse seine vessels (> 363 Mt) with at-sea reporting by observers and weekly data submission to Secretariat. No observers on longline and small purse-seine vessels. 70% of observers are employed by IATTC, the remainder by national Observer Programs. AIDCP Parties may maintain own national Observer Programs (e.g. Colombia, Ecuador, EU, Mexico, and Venezuela), provided they collect and report information in same standard as IATTC observers. IATTC runs Observer Program on cost- recovery basis for AIDCP.</p>	<p>Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)</p> <p>By January 1, 2005, where possible, CPs must establish VMS. Each CP and Cooperating NCP must provide progress report on VMS to Director by May 31, 2005. Based on these reports, Commission will discuss how best to proceed with VMS to support conservation and management program at June 2005 Annual Meeting.</p>	<p>Enforcement</p> <p>IATTC established: Register of tuna fishing vessels active in Area (1999); Register for large purse-seine vessels authorized to fish in Area (2002); "positive" list of longline vessels > 24 m authorized to fish in Area (2003); and List of IUU vessels. There is also a sighting and reporting system for vessels operating in Area (2004). Director notifies flag States of non-compliant vessels. Flag States then order vessel to withdraw from Area. There is no at-sea inspection scheme for non-flag States. On board observers report possible infractions, which are investigated by the flag States and reviewed by Compliance Committee. (IRP reviews AIDCP infractions.)</p>
Other Governance Efforts and Challenges		<p>Decision Making</p> <p>Decisions, resolutions, recommendations and publications are approved by consensus. There is no objection or opting out procedure. All Resolutions are binding (recommendations are non-binding). All management measures apply equally inside EEZ and on high seas. CPs enforce management measures within EEZ.</p> <p><i>There is no opting out clause in Antigua Convention.</i></p>	<p>Dispute Settlement Mechanism</p> <p>There is no formal dispute settlement mechanism.</p> <p><i>Article XXV of Antigua Convention outlines dispute settlement: Member may consult with another Member to resolve a dispute; disputes unable to be resolved by Members may be referred by mutual consent to a non-binding ad hoc expert panel.</i></p>	<p>Cooperative Efforts</p> <p>Annual meetings. Since 2000 meets yearly with tuna RFMOs to discuss common concerns. Cooperates with other tuna RFMOs on: vessel register; big eye tuna review (2004); and ad hoc consultations on fleet capacity with WCPFC. Consultation with CCAMLR on seabird bycatch (2005).</p> <p>Secretariat chaired RFB meeting for 2 years and is actively involved in FIRMS to provide comprehensive global reporting system. Collaborates on stock assessments and scientific research with other organizations and countries (e.g. SPC, ISC, SPSA, PICES and CPPS), as well as oceanic information and training (CPPS).</p> <p><i>Article XXIV of Antigua Convention obligates Commission to cooperate where necessary with other fishery organizations / arrangements in order to achieve Convention objectives. Such arrangements are being discussed with WCPFC.</i></p>	<p>Efforts to Strengthen RFMO</p> <p>Modernized 1949 Convention adopting Antigua Convention in 2003 (if ratified, would address most UNFA provisions). Ratified and implemented AIDCP. Improved transparency. Included ecosystem effects of fishery in science mandate and developed biological reference points (BRPs). Considered MSY a catch limit, rather than target. Established time-area closures and 2005 catch limits for bigeye. Adopted Resolutions limiting fleet capacity for purse-seine vessels. Established 3 year program to reduce turtle bycatch. Made efforts to mitigate bycatch of juvenile target species. Improved compliance and enforcement framework, e.g. IPOA-IUU. Established vessel register for large purse-seine, large longline vessels, and IUU vessel list. Established IUU vessel sighting and reporting procedure. Improved NCP flag-State enforcement of unauthorized fishing in Area. Established 2003 bigeye Statistical Documentation Program. Expanded data collection / analysis through Observer Program, FIRMS and tagging programs. Implemented at-sea observer reporting on large purse-seine vessels. Improved data provision data by CPs. Enhanced inter-RMFO cooperation.</p>