

## 100<sup>th</sup> Inter-America Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) meeting update

The 100<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) concluded on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022 with decisions made on harvest strategies, at-sea transshipment and compliance reforms.

The IATTC agreed to establish an ad hoc working group on electronic monitoring (EM), with goals of improving data collection and oversight of vessels. The EM working group is set to be established in 2023 and will initiate work after the 101st annual meeting of the IATTC. The EM pilot is continuing its [workstream](#) with Taiwanese, Ecuadorian, Costa Rican and now Vanuatu flagged vessels.

The IATTC has not followed the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) in prohibiting at-sea transshipment. Instead, the IATTC has updated their transshipment procedures to align with ISSF best-practices in order to address the risks associated with at-sea transshipment, such as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The additions include requirements for vessel IMO numbers, electronic transmission of notifications, the instalment of vessel monitoring systems (VMS) on carrier vessels of all sizes, and the shortening of deadlines regarding transshipment declarations.

In response to stock status changes, the IATTC has agreed to adopt a harvest strategy for North Pacific Albacore and demonstrated a new commitment to its sustainable management.

The IATTC has introduced several compliance reforms. These updated measures include improving the follow-up and reporting of infractions, heightened detail in compliance reports, better presentation to facilitate reviews, the development of improvement plans and capacity building and systems to highlight patterns of infractions.

No amendments were made regarding FAD management. The IATTC still allows netting within FAD construction and has yet to publish a definition of biodegradable FADs.

Other topics that were not addressed at the 100<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IATTC include adopting better protection measures for sharks and other bycatch species that interact with EPO purse seine and longline fisheries, stronger shark finning regulations, and alterations to increase observer coverage requirements.