



August 15, 2024

ATTN: Heads of Delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

**22 Environmental Organizations Call on the IATTC  
to Adopt Interim Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program Standards**

Increased observer coverage, including electronic monitoring (EM) is critical to effective fisheries management, compliance monitoring, and independent verification of catch, effort, species composition and bycatch. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) agreed to develop and adopt interim EM Standards this year. Further, we understand the EM Working Group has made good progress towards that goal.

Therefore, at its 102<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting in September 2024, we call on the Commission to **adopt interim electronic program standards and to allow EM to be used to achieve observer coverage requirements beginning in 2025.**

In addition to EM program standards, we also ask the IATTC to:

- **Maintain the current tropical tuna management measures in C-21-04 for up to three more years,** and annually review the measures and adopt revisions, if needed, based on the stock status indicators for the three tropical tuna species.
- Adopt additional measures to **strengthen FAD management.**
- **Establish and convene a scientist-manager dialogue group to advance management procedures,** including the bigeye management procedure, which is scheduled to be adopted in 2025.
- **Adopt effective measures to control catch of Southern Albacore** and work with the WCPFC to develop a stock-wide management procedure.
- **Adopt mandatory and science-based guidelines for avoidance, safe handling, and release of captured sharks and other non-target species** as agreed to in Paragraph 12 of C-23-07.

As a delegate to the IATTC, we urge your government to support efforts to adopt proposals or take other actions to address the important issues noted above this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

