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**Proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the
International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like
Species in the North Pacific Ocean¹**

IATTC

March 2006

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Draft

Proposed Memorandum of Understanding between The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

Recognizing that the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and Costa Rica establishing an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission has the responsibility, *inter alia*, to:

- promote, carry out and coordinate scientific research concerning the abundance, biology and biometry in the Convention Area of fish stocks covered by the Convention and, as necessary, of associated or dependent species, and the effects of natural factors and human activities on the populations of these stocks and species, and
- establish a comprehensive program for data collection and monitoring which shall include such elements as the Commission determines necessary;

and that the IATTC has maintained an active research program in the eastern Pacific Ocean since 1950.

Further, recognizing that the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “the ISC”):

- Was established to enhance scientific research and cooperation for conservation and rational utilization of the species of tuna and tuna-like fishes which inhabit the North Pacific Ocean during a part or all of their life cycle;
- Was established to create the scientific groundwork, if at some point in the future, it is decided to create a multilateral regime for the conservation and rational utilization of these species in this region;
- Is establishing a central database to support the scientific research of the Committee and continues to consider establishing a permanent Secretariat;

The IATTC and the ISC, the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), have therefore reached the following understanding.

Part II: Framework for Mutual cooperation

The IATTC and ISC will:

- Encourage reciprocal consultations and regular contacts on matters of common interest regarding scientific research on highly migratory tuna and tuna-like fish resources;
- Regularly exchange meeting reports, information, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of common interest;
- Cooperate in assessment of stocks that occur in the north eastern Pacific during part or all of their life cycle, in particular those listed in the Annex to this MOU.
- Routinely exchange fishery data, in accordance with the rules and procedures for data confidentiality adopted by each organization, to minimize duplicative data collection efforts and enhance fishery monitoring and stock assessment; and
- Strive to develop compatible data codes and data standards to facilitate data exchange, to the extent practicable.

The Director of the IATTC and his designated staff will be invited to participate in the plenary meetings of the ISC and its Working Groups.

The Chairman of the ISC will be invited to observe the annual meetings of the IATTC and to participate in the work of the Stock Assessment Working Group.

Part IV: Administrative Arrangements

- This MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of the responsible representatives of the IATTC and ISC.
- This MOU may be modified by written agreement of both IATTC and ISC and when signed by the responsible representative in each organization. The modified MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of both.
- Either the IATTC or ISC may terminate this MOU by providing 30 days written notice to the other of its intention to withdraw from this MOU.
- A full review of the terms and operation of the MOU and its Annexes will be conducted by the signatories as soon as practicable after three years from the date of its signature by the IATTC and the ISC, and subsequently every three years.

Part V: Signature

Signed on behalf of the IATTC and the Interim Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean:

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Director
IATTC

Chair
International Scientific Committee for
Tuna and Tuna-like Species
in the North Pacific

Annex

- North Pacific Albacore
- Pacific bluefin tuna
- Swordfish
- Blue and striped marlins
- Pelagic elasmobranches

Other species may be added to the list with the mutual concurrence of the Parties to this MOU.
