

Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtle

19th Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee
November 7-9, 2022 - Videoconference

CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.9

SC19 Chair: Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos, Delegate from Chile
SC19 Vice chair: Mr. Heriberto Santana, Delegate from México
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Report 19th Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee (SC19)

The Nineteenth Meeting of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Scientific Committee (SC19) was held via videoconference using Zoom Pro, on November 7-9th 2022. The meeting sessions began at 10:00 AM EST.

The meeting was held with the participation of 14 IAC Parties delegates and their advisors, observers from the governments of Canada, Trinidad y Tobago and Guyana, representatives from Intergovernmental Organizations such as the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), SPAW Protocol and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), and IAC accredited observers for a total of 56 participants. The IAC Parties represented were: Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, United States, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Caribbean Netherlands, Dominican Republic and Uruguay (*Annex I-Participant List CIT-CC19-2022. Inf.1*).

The Chair, Ms. Leslie Bustos and Vice Chair, Mr. Heriberto Santana, gave welcome remarks and guided the discussions. The following recommendations and agreements were adopted.

19th Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee Recommendations and Agreements

1) Adoption of the SC19 Agenda

The agenda was adopted without change. The IAC Secretariat was the meeting rapporteur (*Annex II- Agenda CIT-CC19-2022.Doc.1*)

2) Implementation of the Scientific Committee SC Work Plan 2021-2022 and Update of the SC Work Plan 2022-2024

The Scientific Committee Chair, Ms. Lezlie Bustos presented the SC compliance report 2022 (*Annex III-CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.2*) with a total of 23 activities. The SC Work Plan was updated by including the activities from the Working Groups (WG) that included the agreements and the recommendations from the SC19 (*Annex IV- Work Plan CIT-CC19-2022.Doc3*)

The following activities were included in the SC Work Plan 2022-2023:

- 1) Virtual technical exchange of information with emphasis in longline data collection from the IAC with the participation of the Fisheries WG, technicians from the RFMOs and IAC.
- 2) Activities from the WG about Sea turtle collisions with tourist and fishing boats.
- 3) Include in the agenda for the Annual Meeting of the SC, research presentations that 2 or 3 countries reported in their IAC Annual Report.
- 4) Meeting of the IAC-ACAP Working Group to plan activities for 2023 the first week of December 2022.

Honduras sent their comments to this report recommending that due to changes in government and constant change in technical personnel it is recommended to carry out meetings with new staff that will be working on IAC matters to learn about the work plan.

3) Presentation of the Consultative Committee Report (CCE)

The CCE Chair, Mr. Eduardo Ponce presented the progress in the activities from the CCE Work Plan and the collaborative work with the CCE Fisheries WG and Exceptions WG from the Scientific Committee. The report from the CCE15 is available in this link:

http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/comite-consultivo/15reunion/CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.13_Final%20Report_ENG_27_April.2022.pdf

EXCEPTIONS

4) Proposal for a content and format for Panama, Guatemala and Costa Rica to report the implementation of their Exception Management Plan.

The SC Chair informed that the new Resolutions on Exceptions were adopted by the COP10, it requests the Exception WG from the Scientific Committee to prepare an evaluation format for the Exception Management Plan from each country, in order for Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama could report their advances in their implementation. The resolutions provided a maximum time lapse of three (3) years for Guatemala and Panama to present their Management Plan for their Exception, time that will expire in June 2025.

The delegate from Panama, Mr. Marino Abrego, informed that their Exception Management Plan has been elaborated with a consultancy study and validated with the community of Isla Cañas. The Ministerial Resolution in Panama to adopt the Plan is currently in a revision process. Panama agreed to share the Exception Management Plan that is in revision with the Scientific Committee and the Exception WG for their observations, once the SC meeting is over.

The delegate from Guatemala, Ms. Airam López, mentioned they have received the support from national researchers to initiate the elaboration of their Exception Management Plan, a list of available information and information that needs to be generated was created, taking into account the local communities and the extension of the exception, which covers all the Pacific Coast of Guatemala. Guatemala will elaborate a draft of their Management Plan by March 2023.

The Exception WG coordinator, Ms. Airam López, presented the list of 25 indicators to evaluate the implementations from the Exception Management Plans and the three Exception Resolutions that were adopted at COP in 2022. The WG should evaluate the Management Plan every five (5) years, and as a first step, 25 indicators were proposed from which each country would establish the ones that applies to them and the common indicators will be selected to develop the evaluation format. The delegate informed that

the presentation of these indicators represents the first step in the process, it is expected to receive the feedbacks from the Scientific Committee, taking into account the capacity for each country to collect the data. (Annex V-Indicators for the evaluations of the Exceptions)

Panama and Costa Rica agree with the indicators proposed because they are in accordance with the implementation of their management plans. The delegate from Costa Rica, Mr. Didiher Chacón, mentioned that not all indicators apply to the three countries, for example the ones related with arribadas that aren't present in Guatemala and where the geographic implementation is more extensive in comparison to the other two countries.

The delegate from the United States, Mr. Jeffrey Seminoff, added that in addition to the indicators it would be important to include monitoring protocols, especially in the context of the arribadas. He suggested to include information about the data collection, whether there is a marking program, and others. Costa Rica mentioned that based on these indicators that serve as a guide to obtain the minimum necessary information, it is expected that the countries will include the information about protocols and methodologies they used in their management plans.

The delegate from the Caribbean Netherlands, Ms. Julia Horrocks, consulted if it would be necessary to provide a minimum number of indicators that the countries needs to report. The United States mentioned the importance to establish a minimum number of indicators, and to take into account that not all indicators have the same level of importance, such as the case of the number of females and nests, which should be priority, versus others like the rules for tourist visits. He suggested to identify the key indicators and the ones that should be a priority for each country to respond.

Costa Rica agrees the need to establish indicators that would respond to the necessity of each country, according to their capacity and conditions, likewise, the corresponding methodology on the management plan and which indicators are their priority for example: the number of harvest nest from the total of laid nests, the number of females, if the country has the capacity to make the counting, among other, and also taking into account that not all indicators will be reported during the first years of implementation of their management plan.

The delegate from Guatemala, Mr. Sergio Hernández, consulted if there would be an indicator regarding natural predation, and if it is going to be used the number or percentage in order to make the value more precise. Costa Rica noted that in the indicator #9 about predation the topic of natural predation could be included, although the effects of illegal exploitation are the ones of more relevance for the IAC. The scale to be used for the measurements will be later established, given the fact that the topic is still in progress.

Panama mentioned there has been some challenges implementing the methodology but they have been receiving support from students and they still are looking for ways to create their capacity to allow them to manage the area of 14 kilometers of beach of their exception.

The SC Chair suggested differentiates indicators by categories of solitaire counting or arribada countings. Costa Rica added that given that these indicators were approved by their Management Plan of Costa Rica, the other two countries could define the indicators that best apply to them. The Secretariat Assistant, Ms. Luz H. Rodriguez suggested as a next step, that each country should select the indicators that applies to them in order for the WG could properly structure the evaluation.

Agreement 1: The Exception WG will use as inputs the indicators from Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala presented at the SC19 Scientific Committee meeting and will work intersessionally preparing the format to evaluate the exceptions management plan, to be presented at the SC20 in 2023.

Agreement 2: Guatemala will prepare a draft for its Exception management plan by May 2023 and it will discuss it at the meeting with the Exception WG for comments. Guatemala will present the draft for its Management Plan at the Scientific Committee SC20, 2023.

Agreement 3: Panama will send its Exception management plan at the Scientific Committee the first week of December 2022, for comments. The proceedings for this agreement will continue according to Panama's Exception Resolution. This agreement had been executed, given the fact that at the moment of the finishing of this report. [Panama sent its Exception Management Plan for revision at the SC and the Exception WG on December 9th, 2022.](#)

IAC ANNUAL REPORT

5) Questionnaire for the IAC Annual Report for the Implementation of Resolution on Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles

The delegate from Uruguay, Ms. Cecilia Lezama, mentioned that following the mandate of the new Fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 adopted at the COP10, the WG developed a questionnaire so that it complies with the mandates of the new Resolution, which substituted the Resolution from 2006. The WG in charge of the questionnaire conformed by: Ms. Cecilia Lezama, delegate from Uruguay at the SC and the CCE, Mr. Gilberto Sales, delegate from Brazil at the CCE and the delegate from Argentina at the SC, Victoria González Carman (*Annex VI-Proposal questionnaire for the IAC Annual Fisheries Resolution*)

Uruguay explained that at the Consultative Committee they were already developing a process with the minimal data to characterize fisheries that interact with sea turtles in the countries of IAC. This process was transformed in a survey that was sent to the delegates of the CCE on the first semester of this year in order to have a preliminary idea on its functionality. The questionnaire for the Annual Report was restructured to in order to comply with the new Resolution, incorporating the characterization survey to simplify the fisheries information requested. The questionnaire was put up to the test with the delegates of the Consultative Committee in charge of deliver the information of the IAC Annual Report, and in this meeting the respective revision by the IAC Scientific Committee was made.

The assistant for the Secretariat added that, given the fact that the work plan from the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee (CCE) has establish the goal to fill out a single format to collect the fisheries information, Mr. Gilberto Sales, coordinator for the Fisheries WG from the CCE, was invited to participate in the preparation for this questionnaire.

The United States greeted the WG for the work done and manifested that the final product will be of great use. The delegate mentioned that there is a concern of how it is going to be used and how the requested fisheries information is going to be analyzed, noting that each year the IAC Annual Report tends to become more extensive, and therefore, it may reduce the possibility for the countries to respond and if they do, it may affect that they respond in the timeframe assigned.

The delegate from Uruguay, mentioned that the initial focus was to reflect the terms of the Resolution in the questionnaire, but she shared the concern of the United States delegate, because up to this point, there hasn't been any discussion on how the fisheries information will be analyzed. Taking into account that the Annual Report becomes longer each year, an attempt was made to simplify the information to facilitate the delegates to fill out the Annual Report. For this reason, the survey/questionnaire was divided into sections,

from the most general to the most specific to give the countries the opportunity to provide the basic information.

The delegate from Brazil, Mr. Gilberto Sales, added that by principle it was accomplished to include what was requested by the Resolution. In reference to the format about the characterization of the fisheries, Mr. Sales noted that the objective is to have a broader vision of the interactions with different fisheries, that uses the same fishing gears but that interacts differently with sea turtles. The idea is that fisheries can be analyzed under the scope of their interactions with sea turtles and to observe year by year if there is any evolution in the form in which these interactions are presented, for example, about the age range and the species. This format also takes into account that not all fisheries have on board observers and as a result, other monitoring methodologies are included.

Mr. Heriberto Santana, agrees with the United States, in the need to clarify the type of analysis that is going to be used, and he proposes the same process used with the Industrial Longlines, focusing the format towards the report of data about fisheries with drift nets, given the evidence related to the threat to sea turtles.

United States, coincided with Mexico in that the first step will be to identify fishing gear priorities and then, identify which information is required to obtain this data and with this elaborate the format, taking into consideration the amount of fisheries that can exist within one country, while trying to be efficient with the reported information.

Argentina added that in the process of preparation of this format, it observed the great variety and asymmetry with regards to the fisheries of some countries with respect to others. Therefore, in addition to comply with the Resolution, the objective is to identify the gaps and strengths that is available in the fisheries information. The delegate suggested that the first step before establishing a common fishery is to know exactly, with the help of the questionnaire from the Annual Report, which ones are the fisheries shared by a great deal of countries that interact with sea turtles, and once established, know which information from them is available in each country. For example, if it would be the case, the countries from the north with more information, could aid the countries from the south with less information available. The delegate also mentioned that although the table/format seems to be complicated, it is in fact easy to complete, and with the information from a year, and the years after, the fisheries and the fishing gear with the most representative information for all the countries can be identified.

The delegate from Brazil, emphasized that the idea is to utilize the concept of fisheries based upon its interactions with sea turtles. It could be difficult to prioritize only on drifts nets because, with respect to interactions with sea turtles, there could be many different fisheries using drifts nets, but with differences in areas, target fishing, age of sea turtle captured, species, which could imply that each country would have different priorities.

He also added that the format can be fill up gradually, that it should not be necessary for the countries to fill it up completely in the first year, the country can begin with the information that it considers a priority. The delegate coincided in the sense that using the drifts nets as a first approximation could work, taking into consideration that they exist all along the IAC region, with respect to their interactions with sea turtles. Another priority that can be made is with respect to shared fisheries, as the example of Brazil-Uruguay or Chile-Peru. Mr. Sales specified that fishing gear can also be used as a reference, but the point to be achieved is to take into account the concept of fisheries based not only on the gear but also on the area, the species of sea turtles to which those gears interact with, the age of turtle that interacts with them, and so forth.

United States agreed in that given the extension of the IAC region, a single fishing gear would have different impact on sea turtles depending on the area. It also thanks for the clarifications, indicating that now it is

better understood that the idea is to obtain a global panorama of the IAC region, to identify the concordances between countries regarding fishing gears that interact the most with sea turtles, which has a great value and which could be obtained with the help from the proposed format.

The United States proposal is to request the country to write down the data from the first five fisheries with the most interactions with sea turtle, making it more feasible to fill up the information and that allows identifying common fisheries with most interactions.

Mexico agrees with the United States proposal and pointed that with respect to the methodology to analyze the data, he recommends to do the same exercise done with the information from industrial longline, using fake data to make the analysis. Mr. Santana proposed that the WG from the Consultative Committee and the Scientific Committee work as group for this matter.

Uruguay and Brazil, agreed with United States in that each country choses and prioritize five of their fisheries using criteria like the level of interaction, the biological value of the captured sea turtle, level of endangerment of the specie, interaction with more than one specie. Taking into consideration Mexico's suggestion, it could be possible to invite countries that use oceanic drifts nets to consider them among their priorities, given the fact that they are extremely impactful. Mr. Sales, expressed his compromise to continue working together with the Fisheries WG of the Scientific Committee.

The Chair from the SC proposed as the first agreement from the format/table from the fisheries questionnaire proposed by the WG, to ask the IAC countries the information from its five prioritized fisheries taking into account criteria like the level of interaction with fisheries, number of species interacting with that fishery and the state of conservation of the species that interact with that fishery and the classification of the age range of the sea turtles. It is recommended that the countries indicate the criteria used to prioritize their five reported fisheries. The delegate from Brazil suggested that each country make their priorities with these criteria, and in case of doubts regarding the level of interaction reported, to utilize the type of measurement considered to be appropriate, for example, the mortality index.

The Chair asked how to prioritize fisheries that are monitored from the ones that are not, but that are known to be of high interaction with sea turtles. For this the delegate from Brazil CCE mentioned that the idea is that the country starts reporting preliminary information from general knowledge, without worrying if the fisheries are monitored or not. The Chair suggested that –fisheries monitoring status-should not be considered as a priority criteria in order to reduce the bias with respect to fisheries that are not monitored.

Panama had suggested include the number of sea turtle by species and by fishing gear. Brazil CCE clarify that the idea is to work by the index of capture that the country can report, and not to use net value to facilitate that the Parts bring their available information. For example, an index will include the number of turtles capture with respect to the effort, which will give a more comparable data. The delegate from Uruguay mentioned that it is not necessary to include any more fields to the table/format.

Dr Shane Griffiths, representative of the IATTC, suggested using the FAO codes for the names of sea turtle species, to standardize the information with other organizations. The Secretariat assistant indicated that this is not very feasible, since the current codes for the sea turtle species name in the IAC Annual Report are used throughout the entire report.

The Chair of the SC, consulted about the last two columns of the table, in relation to mitigation and monitoring, the answer is "yes" only when an established regulation is given, or it can also be because there is a one-year project in execution in which certain methodologies such as the use of cameras are being tested. Argentina, indicated that this is one of the important aspects when requesting the information year

by year, it will be to report the information available for the year of the Annual Report, thus when gathering the information throughout the years, the duration of the mitigation and monitoring effort will be obtained.

The delegate of Brazil CCE, indicated that the WG of fisheries will carry out a final revision of the format/table to take into account the comments of the United States. The United States expressed its agreement regarding the responses to the comments on the table/format that his delegation expressed, and requested that once the final table with the adjustments is available, it be sent for final comments.

The Chair proposed the adoption of the questionnaire and asked to prepare a preliminary to the table/format indicating the proposed criteria for each country to prioritize fisheries that interact with sea turtles and leaving space for the country to indicate whether it used these or other criteria when making the selection. Uruguay, Brazil and Peru agreed.

Regarding the proposal to carry out an analysis with hypothetical data, Dr. Gil Sales, Brazil CCE added that in this case there are no clear data to carry out a hypothetical statistical analysis since this is a qualitative characterization, it would be the task of each country, according to their own analysis, indicate which are the fisheries with the greatest interaction, according to their own catch indices. Mexico suggested specifying the standard data that countries should use to establish catch indices. In response, Brazil suggested that the country indicate the data used or the unit of effort to establish the indices, and in this way compare indices instead of data, making it easier for countries to report these indices.

The President proposed as a second agreement that with the information received in the next Annual Report, a preliminary analysis will be prepared to present to the Scientific Committee in 2023.

The WG responsible for this questionnaire undertook the responsibility to make the adjustments considering the comments and suggestions received.

The Secretary, Ms. Verónica Cáceres indicated that if the document (fisheries resolution questionnaire) is going to be circulating again with the Scientific Committee for approval, the term is one week, since these questions must be included in the IAC Annual Report. She suggested a thorough review to avoid having to delete questions after they are incorporated into the Annual Report. In this regard, Uruguay reflected on whether the review time would be sufficient to ensure that the content is ready. The President agreed with this reflection and then suggested that the members of the Fisheries WG review the questionnaire a second time and for the next Scientific Committee 2023 the final revised questionnaire will be presented, and it is recommended to include their questions in the Annual Report of the IAC.

The options were presented to adopt the questions from the fisheries questionnaire for the IAC Annual Report, without the data table, or not make any changes to the current IAC Annual Report and postpone the discussion to the next Scientific Committee 2023. The Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts, Dr. Eduardo Ponce, proposed to bring the discussion with the adjustments to the 2023 Consultative Committee meeting, and the Chair of the SC suggested that it will be included in the CCE agenda to present the exercise of fisheries WG with the existing data. A consultation was held on both options and delegates agreed not to make any changes to the IAC Annual Report on this issue at this time.

Agreement 4 SC19 recommended not making changes in the IAC Annual Report to the current questionnaire regarding Fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7.

Agreement 5 The fisheries working group will use the questionnaire of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 presented to SC19 as a base document and will analyze it taking into account the comments received. The WG will prepare a recommendation for the CCE 2023 (60 days before the meeting) and a final proposal to present the questionnaire in the SC20-2023, to consider its inclusion in the Annual Report of the IAC 2024.

6) Impact of boats on sea turtles due to unregulated recreational activities related to tourism in the Dominican Republic

Ms. Danneris Baez, delegate from the Dominican Republic, presented the problem that is being reported in the Alta Gracia Province, from El Cortesito Beach to Cabeza del Toro (approximately 10 km) in the Bávaro Arrecifal Lagoon. Here, it has been reported what is probably the highest concentration of green turtles on the island, threatened by the high-speed transit of tourist boats and aquatic activities, which cause mutilation and death of sea turtles. The report titled "Impact of boats on sea turtles due to unregulated recreational activities related to tourism in the Dominican Republic" was presented to the Scientific Committee with the aim of calling attention to include this threat within the IAC management priorities (*Annex VII - Report Dominican Republic*).

The Vice Ministry of Coastal and Marine Resources of the Dominican Republic has developed a proposed resolution to protect three essential areas for sea turtles in the Bávaro Reef Lagoon and requests the IAC to include the threat of these collisions and contribute with recommendations for the management of the problematic in the Dominican Republic and in other countries where it also occurs. The Chair of the CC indicated that it should be known if this situation is occurring in other countries, in order to consolidate support for the Dominican Republic.

The delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands, Dr. Julia Horrocks, indicated that this is a significant problem in Barbados, where she lives, around the activity called "swimming with turtles." This occurs in areas where fishermen dump the gills of fish into the water, which attracts green turtles, which in turn attract tourist boats, creating a scenario where there are a large number of boats moving where there are people and turtles in the water generating a risk for everyone and where the turtles are run over by the boats. For this, a draft code of conduct has been prepared for the boats that operate in these areas, which includes the use of buoys, to demarcate navigation channels, marked with signs that indicate the presence of sea turtles on the surface, not allowing people throwing food in the water to avoid attracting turtles next to the boats, speed limits in the area, not allowing fishing in the back of the boats, among others. Dr. Horrocks offered to share the document with the Dominican Republic.

The delegate of Mexico, Dr. Heriberto Santana indicated that it is necessary to take into account not only tourist boats but also fishing boats. In Mexico, there are areas where the abundance of turtles is such that not only the turtles are harmed by collisions, but also the propellers of the boats that are damaged by the impacts. In Oaxaca, sea turtles are a nuisance to fishermen, therefore it is important to work on this problem, helping to avoid impacts on turtles, as well as damage to fishermen's boats. The delegate of Mexico proposed creating a working group to address this issue.

Costa Rica has responded to the problem through zoning regulations included in the management plans of protected areas. This includes navigation passageways, navigation speed limits, and color-coded marking buoys. The buoys are made with wooden molds, to create the concrete pieces that go to the bottom, where a rope that supports the flotation buoy is attached. All this is accompanied by training and a certification is offered. All boat captains/drivers must take a course on environmental measures to receive their license to sail.

The delegate from Costa Rica suggested including in the Resolution being drafted by the Vice Ministry in the Dominican Republic, not allowing the coincidence of tourist activities with nesting seasons, which is when the number of sea turtles in the coastal zone increases. Also, if feeding zones have already been determined, indicate that they are areas of incompatible use for tourist activities.

Costa Rica also referred to the problem that is generated when sea turtles are attracted near boats using bait, either intentionally or accidentally, such as when fishermen clean fish for sale. He noted that this topic would be an opportunity for the Convention to urge countries not to allow the intentional aggregation of sea turtles as a tourist attraction target in the water, as this increases negative interactions with vessels. Understanding the urgency of the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica highlighted the opportunity that is presented at this time for the countries of the Convention to harmonize management measures, regulating interests, uses and behaviors. The Dominican Republic appreciated the contributions.

The United States suggested preparing a red paper, the IAC Secretary suggested that, based on the document presented for this meeting by the Dominican Republic, the working group be formed to prepare a technical document or guidelines on the subject for all the IAC countries. The request for support to the Dominican Republic was reiterated to review the Resolution that is being prepared in this country explaining the situation and the actions that will be required.

Regarding this point, SC19 established the following activities to include in the work plan of the Scientific Committee:

Agreement 6: The Scientific Committee formed the working group on collisions of tourist and fishing boats with sea turtles.

Members of the Working Group: Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Caribbean Netherlands, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica.

Objective: Compile regional information (IAC Countries and others) with the measures that apply to regulate these activities and mitigate its threat.

ACTIVITIES

1. Select a coordinator at the first WG meeting.
2. The WG will prepare a technical document with general guidelines to mitigate the threat so that each country can implement them as appropriate and the technical document will be presented at CC20 2023.
3. The WG will do a technical review of the regulations that the Ministry of the Environment of the Dominican Republic is preparing on this issue.
4. The WG will operate for 1 year and/or until they complete their task and they will evaluate whether or not it should be maintained.

7) Questionnaire for the IAC Annual Report for follow-up on the implementation of the Resolution for the Conservation of the Leatherback Turtle of the Eastern Pacific

The Chair of the CC indicated that the questionnaire to follow up on the Resolution for the Conservation of the EP Leatherback CIT-COP10-2022-R6, adopted by COP10 in June 2022, was prepared by the Working Group made up of delegates of the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee, and it is presented for approval of the CC19 and its inclusion in the Annual Report of the IAC (*Annex VIII – Questionnaire for monitoring the Leatherback OPO Resolution*)

The United States expressed its concern about knowing the use that will be given to the information requested in the questions, given the length of the questionnaire and especially with regard to information on fisheries. The Chair explained that this questionnaire is more detailed given that when the previous EP Leatherback Resolution was evaluated, many gaps were found that made it challenging to evaluate the status of the implementation of the resolution, which is necessary considering the critical status of this population.

Section 5 of the proposed questionnaire regarding interaction with fisheries was discussed. In order to adopt each paragraph in plenary the Chair consulted the CC for each section. With this exercise, sections 1 to 4 of the questionnaire proposed by the WG were adopted. The formula proposed by the United States on “Emergence Success” was noted for future WG consideration, in question 11 of Section 2.

The discussion on Section 5 began with the consultation from the Chair of the CC on, question 24, as to whether the size of the fleet refers to the vessels registered or to those that operate in the year reported in the report. Dr. Griffiths from IATTC, also inquired whether effort data will be used to estimate a catch rate in terms of number of turtles/fleet trip and recommended the use of coarser (higher resolution in English) data., such as number of days instead of number of trips, to facilitate standardization of information between different fisheries. The thicker the data, the more reliable the catch indices. Mexico agreed that each fishery uses different ways of measuring its fishing effort, the information more macro is in terms of days fished.

The coordinator of the WG, Dr. Bryan Wallace, indicated that what is sought with the request for this information is to facilitate the analysis of bycatch rates and for this reason information on the number of leatherback turtles captured will be requested further down in the questionnaire. It is important to take into account the amount of effort in relation to the number of turtles observed. He agrees with giving options, so that countries can provide their effort data, and supports the idea that countries obtain this information efficiently, for this reason the option of number of trips is given, because it is the metric that is most commonly reported. The delegate from Chile of the CCE, Dr. Paula Salinas, added that the idea is to request the information that the countries can respond to according to their capacities, in order to be able to evaluate it after five years. It was agreed that countries have both options to respond in terms of their effort, either in number of trips or in number of days.

The Chair of the CC and the delegate of Ecuador, Mr. Marco Herrera supported the use of the fishing days metric, since a trip can consist of several days or tasks, making standardization more difficult. The Chair also consulted how this information on effort by fishing gear will be related to the number of sea turtles, since the latter is requested in a general way and not by fishing gear.

Dr. Griffiths added that to get an estimate of the catch it is necessary for countries to report their effort in terms of fleet size and options for number of days fishing or number of trips. The Chair of the CC agreed that this would guarantee being able to make the estimate with the data that is found later on the questionnaire. United States, referred to the discussion on fisheries from the previous day and indicated that, if a large amount of information is to be requested, it should be requested comprehensively, with a proposal similar to the one discussed regarding the Resolution on Fisheries. Uruguay agreed with the United States and proposed further discussion on the subject, involving all the groups that have to do with the subject in order to simplify the information requested, without losing the emphasis on the Pacific leatherback turtle.

The delegate from Chile, Dr. Salinas, agreed to re-evaluate the information requested from the countries. The idea is to have concrete information to carry out the analyzes to respond to the Resolution. The Chair of the CC supported the review of the table on fisheries, discussed the day before, so that it incorporates information on leatherback EP.

Ecuador suggested a differentiation between industrial and artisanal fisheries, and reducing the number of fisheries to be reported, from five to three. The Secretariat suggested that in order to resolve this point regarding fishing data to consider using the table discussed the previous day, limiting it only to the leatherback of the EP, taking into account that the countries where this resolution applies have favorable access to fishing information. Dr. Salinas added that what is important is that data can be obtained with which an analysis can be carried out, such as those suggested in the table on effort.

Dr. Griffiths emphasized the importance of being clear about the information you want to obtain in terms of effort and suggested combining the metrics requested in questions 27 and 28 (as columns) with the table in question 24. This will help improve the table and perhaps include other species of sea turtles. Regarding the fields on fishing effort, Dr. Griffiths suggests that the country can mark whether it is using the number of trips or number of days metric, and if it is not reporting any of the metrics, indicate “n/ a” to make it clear that it is not a field that you forgot to answer and thus facilitate the analysis. In the short term, this will also make it possible to identify the metrics most used by the countries, so that in the future the analysis can be concentrated on the one that is most representative for all the countries. Dr. Griffiths indicated that the CIAT has been developing similar exercises and therefore shares the suggestions. Chile agreed, as did Ecuador, who also suggested including the target fishing in the table, in order to have a differentiation in terms of associated fauna, that is, incidentally caught sea turtles.

Caribbean Netherlands, indicated that information on strandings or nesting females with injuries caused by fisheries would be important to know. The IAC assistant, Ms. Rodríguez, indicated that one of the sections in which similarities were found between the Fisheries Resolution and the EP Leatherback Resolution is on the subject of stranding, which is why the stranding section is included in the questionnaire on fisheries that was discussed the day before. Dr. Horrocks added that counting females with injuries caused by fisheries is an efficient way to estimate bycatch, especially if there is already monitoring of nesting females. It is understood that questions cannot be added to the Annual Report that are not contemplated within the adopted Resolution.

The Chair indicated that it is evident a reorganization of the fisheries information section of the questionnaire, this should be included in the discussions on fisheries the day before, to ensure that the questionnaires of both Resolutions –Fisheries and EP Leatherback - are connected. Having heard the points of view of the members of the SC, it is recommended that Section 5 of the questionnaire of the Leatherback EP Resolution remain pending adoption and not to include them in the Annual Report of the IAC at this meeting SC19 and will be resumed in 2023. The coordinator of the fisheries WG, Dr. Heriberto Santana, and the IAC Secretariat, invited Dr. Shane Griffiths to participate in the discussions on the subject and he agreed to support the process.

The delegates from Chile, Dr. Salinas and from Mexico, Mtra. Laura Sarti, who prepared the Leatherback EP Resolution questionnaire, agreed that sections 1 - 4 of the questionnaire be adopted and leave section 5 on fisheries for discussion at later stage. (*Annex VIII – Questionnaire for monitoring the EP Leatherback Resolution*)

Agreement 7: The SC19 adopted sections 1 to 4 of the questionnaire for EP Leatherback Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6, for inclusion in the 2023 IAC Annual Report.

Agreement 8: The fisheries section and interactions with EP leatherback, of the questionnaire of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6, presented to SC19, will be analyzed by the Fisheries WG and EP Leatherback WG, taking into account the fisheries resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7, so that the request for information will be harmonized, to be included it in the IAC Annual Report in 2024. The proposal of the Working Groups will be presented to the Consultative Committee of experts in 2023 (60 days before CCE16) and Scientific Committee SC20-2023 for its final adoption.

Agreement 9: The EP Leatherback WG recommends that, once this is finalized the information on fisheries and their interaction with EP leatherbacks is to be included in Part VI of the IAC Annual Report, to follow Ecuador's request at COP10.

Agreement 10: Dr. Shane Griffiths will support the preparation of the fisheries questionnaires for the IAC Annual Report, as a member of the SC Fisheries working group.

FISHERIES AND THEIR INTERACTION WITH SEA TURTLES

8) Update of the database on sea turtle interactions with industrial longline fisheries in IAC Countries (IAC Annual Reports 2020, 2021 and 2022)

The SC Vice Chair, Dr. Heriberto Santana, delegate from Mexico and coordinator of the Fisheries WG, presented a summary of the analysis of the data that has been collected in the last three years and the data that was obtained for the first time, from fishing vessels with less than 20 meters in length . He indicated that catch rates are being determined based on the number of turtles caught per number of hooks. Dr. Santana indicated that with these data it will be possible to begin to carry out interannual analyzes that will make it possible to make more specific recommendations for the conservation of sea turtles.

The United States indicated that this is a good example of an analysis and use of IAC Annual Report data can be approached, and it would be very helpful if something like this could be achieved with the fisheries data that the Fisheries Resolution is trying to collect. Regarding the circular hook sizes in the analysis, Dr. Santana clarified that there is still some confusion with the hook codes that countries use, and indicated that in the IAC Annual Report Parties are asked to use the hook catalog of the IATTC to ensure standardization in the responses.

Guatemala thanked Mexico for the presentation and suggested that a technical exchange be carried out to show the use of fishing data and the value of including them in the IAC Annual Report so that the Scientific Committee analyzes them and prepares recommendations.

Agreement 11: The Fisheries WG will continue to include the information from the IAC Annual Reports into the database created for this purpose and maintained by Dr. Santana, until the presentation of the first analysis with information for five years in 2026 (IAC Annual Reports 2020-2025) .

Agreement 12: Carry out a technical exchange (virtual meeting) with emphasis on the collection of longline data, with the participation of the Fisheries WG, technical staff from RFMOs with which the IAC has MoUs and the IAC Parties (fisheries agencies) interested, in order to draw attention to the need to include fishing information in the IAC Annual Report to help the analyzes of the Fisheries WG that are needed to follow-up with the IAC Resolutions.

Agreement 13: SC19 recommends that IAC Parties continue to include information on longline fisheries in the IAC Annual Report.

9) Progress report and proposal for the "IAC Manual for the Safe Handling and Release of Sea Turtles on Board of Fishing Vessels"

The Chair of the SC reminded the Committee that in SC18 2022 the Fisheries WG agreed on an activity under the coordination of Ecuador and Chile, and carried out a review of several manuals on the handling and release of sea turtles with the objective of updating the technical document 8 " Recommendation of Manuals on Management of Sea Turtles on Board of Fishing Vessels". From there the idea of integrating the best information available in a document aimed at fishermen was developed. To achieve the objective, the IAC Secretariat secured an internship with support of Ms. Isabel Rodríguez, who worked for 3-4 months on a proposal for a manual that the progress on this document will be presented at this meeting.

The assistant of the IAC Secretariat presented the contents proposed by the WG that Ms. Rodríguez used as a guide to prepare the draft presented to SC19. The most representative information from previously reviewed manuals was included.

The Chair of the SC and Dr. Horrocks delegate of Caribbean Netherlands congratulated Ms. Rodriguez. Dr. Horrocks indicated that this is a very appropriate document. Mexico, invited Ms. Rodríguez to continue supporting the development of the manual. The delegate of Ecuador, Jennifer Suarez, thanked her for making a reality the initial idea that the working group had.

Honduras sent comments to this report that recommends that the manual should not be too long and should be creative, so that coastal communities and local governments will understand it.

Agreement 14: The Fisheries WG will meet to make decisions on the next steps regarding illustrations, final contents and management of authorship of the manual on Management of Sea Turtles on Board of Fishing Vessels. A preliminary document will be presented at the CC20 meeting in 2023. It was agreed that Ms. Isabel Rodríguez and PhD student Sofia Jones will support the Fisheries WG in the preparation of the Manual.

LOGGERHEAD TURTLE (*Caretta caretta*)

10) Update of the technical document "Conservation Status of the Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the IAC Countries"

The Chair of the SC indicated that the report on the status of the species is updated every 4 years in accordance with the Resolution on the Conservation of the *Caretta caretta*, however last year the SC extended the deadline for this update. The delegate of Belize, coordinator of the WG, Ms. Kirah Forman, and Dr. Seminoff from the United States, presented the progress.

Ms. Forman indicated that this is the second update of this document, its first edition was presented by the WG in 2012, following the mandate in the Resolution for the conservation of the Loggerhead Turtle (CIT-COP7-2015-R3). The delegate presented the format in which the document is organized where the information is reported for each country regarding the areas of occurrence in territorial waters and the specific threats within these areas; where applicable, nesting information is included for all beaches where information is available. For some countries, there are information gaps and in several cases, this is due to an interruption in monitoring due to the sanitary measures of 2020 COVID. For several countries, however, data was obtained for 2021. The report includes graphs where you can access the results of the analyzed information showing nesting trends, these graphs will continue to be updated every four years.

For the SC19 meeting, it is expected to obtain the approval of all the countries to adopt this document. The United States invited countries that want to update information to send it as soon as possible to finalize the document. He also thanked the contributions from all the countries and especially from Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina and the Caribbean Netherlands, which made it possible to update the maps and improve the text.

The assistant to the Secretariat highlighted the efforts of the United States and Belize, since the update has been a great challenge and invited the other delegates of the SC to support this group. The SC Chair suggested that the coordination to update this document be on rotation among the WG member countries to which the loggerhead Resolution applies, so that other SC delegates participate in the exercise.

The United States, stressed that this is a document of high scientific quality that is at the level of the reports prepared by the IUCN Sea Turtle Specialist Group, and of which the IAC Convention should be very proud. The Secretariat thanked the Scientific Committee for this work and indicated that the Secretariat takes advantage of any opportunity to showcase the work carried out by the delegates of this Scientific Committee, who, with their own efforts, time and to the extent of their possibilities, are preparing products of great technical value.

Agreement 15: The coordinators of the WG, Belize and the United States, will send the final document "Conservation Status of the Loggerhead Turtle" to the Secretariat in March 2023 to approve it intersessionally with the SC. The recommendations in this document will be presented at the IAC COP11-2024.

CLIMATE CHANGE

11) Progress report on the Implementation of the Pilot Project on Climate Change on Nesting Index Beaches. CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.6

The coordinator of the Climate Change Working Group, Dr. Julia Horrocks, delegate from the Caribbean Netherlands, presented the progress report on this Pilot Project to collect environmental data on nesting index beaches. Dr. Horrocks indicated the importance of monitoring data such as sand temperature, due to the impact it has on the production of male and female sea turtles. Dr. Horrocks stressed that the importance of this project is that the information is taken on the same beach each year to make interannual comparisons of the data from each site. (*Annex IX – Climate Change Pilot Project Progress Report*)

The WG coordinator recommended that the countries that have already established data collection in their countries share the reports or publications related to the group, she also invited the countries to collect other environmental data, including the physical description of the beaches of nesting and trends in terms of the width of dry beach that are also part of the information to be collected. Dr. Horrocks recommended that after the end of the pilot project, if the collection of this information is to continue in the long term, it will be important to seek consistent financial support to implement the project as such. Honduras delegation that sent comments to the report said that the information in Honduras is from different sea turtle field stations. There is a need to know how to produce better data according to IAC requirements.

The IAC Secretary congratulated the working group for the progress, indicating that the work carried out by this group was shared in the side event "Interactive Dialogue on the Importance of Wetlands for Climate Change and Ecosystem Services ", where the IAC was invited as presenter in the framework of the Ramsar COP14 in Geneva, this event took place on November 7th, one day before this WG progress report. This presentation had positive reactions from the high-level representatives of different countries in the Caribbean and the Secretary took the opportunity to invite non-party countries of the IAC to participate in the pilot project. The Secretary indicated that the representative of Barbados mentioned that she will interested to be included in this invitation to report from her country.

The SC Chair congratulated the coordinator and the WG for the information they are sharing, since it will be of value for the climate change adaptation actions that the countries implement. Belize added that as mentioned in the report, they have also suffered losses of dataloggers, to overcome the situation they take the surface temperature of the sand as soon as nests are found, and this is taken into account as the initial temperature, this has allowed them to be consistent despite the loss of dataloggers . Belize added that they have 3-4 years of temperature data that they could share, and in which they have noted that the records start above the pivot point. The WG coordinator, Dr. Horrocks, thanked Belize for sharing the data, emphasizing that it is better to have one data than no data, and invited the delegate to review the protocol and use the dataloggers throughout the nesting season to still obtain better information.

Dr. Horrocks recommended that the collection of these data be included in the monitoring of nesting beaches and that support be given to countries that have not been able to start collecting data due to lack of financial resources. The WG agreed on the following:

Agreement 16: The seven IAC Countries participating in the pilot project (Ecuador, the United States, Costa Rica, Mexico, the Caribbean Netherlands, Panama, and the Dominican Republic) will continue to report information to the WG coordinator, through the Secretariat, no later than July 30th of each year, until completing the pilot project in 2025.

Agreement 17: The Climate Change WG will meet in the first quarter of 2023 for an exchange of ideas on the achievements and challenges of the pilot project, including new countries that want to participate.

Agreement 18: It is recommended to consider seeking funding to support countries that are facing challenges due to lack of funds.

Agreement 19: SC19 recommends that environmental data collection protocols be included into regular monitoring programs of nesting beaches.

NESTING BEACHES

12) Validation of the list of Nesting Index Beaches in the IAC Countries

The SC Chair pointed out that the WG on Nesting on Index Beaches has been updating the information on nesting in the IAC Annual Reports since 2014, and the technical document is updated every 5 years, the next update will be in 2023, with the data corresponding to the Annual Reports from 2009 to 2022.

The Secretary's assistant, Ms. Rodriguez, presented the final list of index beaches after having requested their review from each IAC country. She emphasized that once the IAC online report is active online, this list of beaches cannot be edited. That is why the information has been requested once again this year 2022. The SC delegates were reminded of the importance of this information to update the document used to monitor nesting in the IAC region. Analysis of Nesting Data on Beaches IAC Index (2009-2020) [CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.19](#) : was last updated in 2021, at the request of the COP. The coordinator of the WG, Dr. Seminoff, reminded all to follow the criteria to establish index beaches, recommended by the Convention. These are included in the Annual Report and in the technical document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 Selection of Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Guidelines for Data Collection. Panama requested to include Playa Soropta in its list. The updated list of beaches is published on the IAC website http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/IAC_Index_Beaches_List_adopted_FP_November_15_Dec9.2021_EN_G_SPA_FINAL.pdf (*Annex X - List of IAC Index Beaches*)

Agreement 20: The SC19 validated the nesting index beaches for their inclusion in the Annual Report of the IAC, so that the countries report their data.

Agreement 21: SC19 recommends that IAC Parties continue to include their nesting data from index beaches in the IAC Annual Report.

13) First International Sampling of Marine Litter on Pacific Beaches between Mexico and Chile with the collaboration of Citizen Scientists, and its importance for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Region

Dr. Martin Thiel, director of the Científicos de la Basura collective, presented the results of a sampling - carried out on the Pacific Coast of Latin America to determine how much garbage there is and what is the composition of this garbage, to establish the sources, with the collaboration of citizen scientists. Plastics and cigarette butts were the most common items, representing a great threat to sea turtles. It was emphasized that the samplings are only carried out on beaches close to the communities and never in areas where wildlife occurs, such as sea turtle nesting beaches.

Based on this research, educational material was developed, such as the booklet “The Brotherhood of the Turtles” available at <https://zenodo.org/record/7081049#.Y2qzduzLdkx> . The final report of this sampling and the instructions to participate in this collaborative research that is now being carried out worldwide, can be found on the web page <http://www.cientificosdelabasura.cl/es/muestreo/> Dr. Thiel invited CC19 delegates to participate in this activity and highlighted the dedication of the large number of volunteers who have been part of it.

RESEARCH IN IAC MEMBER COUNTRIES

The Secretariat carried out a review of the research reported in the IAC Annual Reports and invited researchers from Argentina and Brazil to present their work. The SC Chair proposed to continue with this activity and invited the SC colleagues to do presentation each year at SC of the research reported in the IAC Annual Reports, this is to be done in alphabetical order. At the next SC meeting, Belize, Chile and Costa Rica will be invited to present their research at SC20-2023.

14) Evaluation of the impact of fisheries on sea turtles present in Argentine waters.

The PhD student, Sofia Jones, from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Museum of the National University of La Plata presented her degree work, whose objective is to determine the scope of the incidental captures of sea turtles in the different fishing fleets in the Buenos Aires coast, its impact on populations and possible mitigation measures. The work is done with commercial and artisanal fleets using bottom trawls. The minimum information requested from the fishermen was the species, the state, the area, the fishing effort and the depth, which was provided by WhatsApp, facilitating constant contact with the fishermen, whose response was positive. Fishermen are willing to release the turtles and the researcher has dedicated herself to providing training on good handling and release practices, including identification material and infographics to help fishermen.

Panama, Uruguay, Ecuador, the Caribbean Netherlands, Peru and the Chair of the Consultative Committee congratulated Mr. Jones for her work and invited her to participate in the preparation of the IAC manual on best practices mentioned above.

15) Integrated evaluation proposal between stranding records and industrial fishing activities in Southern Brazil.

The Doctoral candidate Gabriel Fonseca from the Federal University of Paraná and the Environmental Technician from the ICMCB-TAMAR Center presented the research proposal based on an analysis of stranding data related to remote monitoring of industrial fisheries to support the management and management processes of activities that interact with threatened species. The objective of the research is fishing mitigation and investigation of incidental captures of sea turtles in priority fisheries, by studying the spatial relationship between stranding data and remote monitoring data on industrial fishing vessels using VMS (Vessel monitoring System) from the public databases of these two programs, between the states of São Paulo and Santa Catarina. Priority industrial fisheries include trawls, coastal gillnets, and longlines. Preliminary results are providing valuable information to focus research efforts and develop a drift model to determine sea turtle mortality point and stranding prediction models.

Mexico and Uruguay congratulated the researchers and consulted on the study of environmental effects and the classification of fisheries according to vessel size, respectively. The researchers noted that the area and amount of data available is large enough to reduce the impact of environmental phenomena such as La Niña and El Niño (ENSO-El Niño Southern Oscillation) on the modeling results. It was clarified that according to current legislation these fisheries are described as industrial fisheries.

Agreement 22: Each year, the Scientific Committee will include in its agenda the presentation of the research of two or three countries reported in the IAC Annual Report.

Agreement 23: The SC20 2023 agenda will include Belize, Chile and Costa Rica presentations of national research reported in the IAC Annual Report. The countries will send to the Chair of the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat, the title of their presentations 60 days before the meeting, to include them in the agenda.

16) Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the IAC and Stetson University

Stetson University Law School Dean and Professor, Theresa J. Pulley Radwan and the Secretary of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) signed the Memorandum of Cooperation adopted by the IAC Parties at the 10th Conference of the Parties COP10, in June 2022. Stetson University through the Institute of Biodiversity of the Faculty of Law, has been collaborating with IAC since 2011, hosting the 7th Meeting of the Consultative Committee in 2014 and the 14th Meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2019. Stetson students have supported IAC in research of legal instruments related to sea turtles in IAC countries, and have participated in several IAC meetings as accredited observers.

This Memorandum of Cooperation will provide the basis for the Stetson University Law School Biodiversity Institute to continue supporting the IAC and its Secretariat on issues such as: consultations on issues that require legal expertise, research assistance and hosting conferences and meetings of the Convention. This relationship will contribute to the objectives of the IAC and will benefit Stetson students, who will have the opportunity to observe and learn how a regional agreement on the environment works.

17) Implementation of the IATTC-IAC MoU : EASI- Fish Model

The SC Chair indicated that the SC members sent their comments to the drafts of the publications resulting from the last phase of the project on vulnerability assessment of the EP Leatherback using the EASI- Fish model, a collaboration between the IATTC and the IAC.

IATTC scientist Dr. Shane Griffiths, stressed that the countries provided important data not only for the EASI- Fish , but also to prepare the new distribution model of the species EP leatherback. The team prepares scientific papers that have been accepted for publication in the scientific journal Endangered Species Research, showing the range of the EP leatherback and the impacts of fisheries within this range.

The delegate from Peru, Dr. Javier Quiñones, added that, for the first time, this model allowed the inclusion of smaller-scale fisheries, which also made it easier to visualize a more complete distribution of the EP leatherback. The delegate indicated the great collaborative achievement that this process meant, thanks to the IATTC-IAC MoU. The Chair agreed with this assessment and highlighted the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding and their implementation.

18) Implementation of the ACAP-IAC MoU

The SC Chair noted that the new delegate from Argentina, Dr. Victoria González Carman, held meetings with the Secretariat and with the ACAP representative, Dr. Marco Favero to continue efforts to implement the MoU between the two organizations. The WG in charge of this issue is coordinated by Argentina.

Dr. Victoria González Carman, shared her expertise of more than 15 years studying sea turtle ecology to understand the role of aggregations in distribution limits. Recently, she have been working with the cultural

and social roots of conservation problems. Dr. González Carman recently joined the working groups on loggerhead turtles and fisheries and sent her contributions to the documents presented at this meeting.

Regarding the WG previously established by Argentina within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding IAC -ACAP, the delegate will convene a WG meeting to build an agenda and requested that this activity will be included in the SC work plan.

The ACAP representative Dr. Favero presented his approval to contribute to the establishment of concrete actions within the framework of the MoU. Dr. Favero sees great potential to collaborate in the field of international organizations, particularly the IATTC, to strategically address common problems, such as observers and data collection on incidental mortality of megafauna. A concrete and effective proposal would be the presentation of joint documents addressing transversal problems that affect various species, generating critical mass for consideration in the RFMOs.

ACAP has been discussing electronic monitoring and artificial intelligence (AI) issues that can complement the work of onboard observers. This is an emerging topic where there is much to learn and prepare for the future. ACAP has already developed a compilation with guidelines. Dr. Favero indicates that the IAC is more advanced on the issue of requesting industrial fishing data and progressing towards artisanal fisheries, from which ACAP could learn.

Honduras delegation sent a comment to this report stating that countries like Honduras it will be difficult to implement new technologies like ME due to cost and technical capacity, so funding sources are very necessary.

ACAP will have its Advisory Committee meeting in May 2023 and it would be an interesting opportunity to present a joint document with these specific actions that would be of interest to both organizations. At the request of the Chair of SC19, Dr. Favero indicated that these types of documents, if translation is required, must be sent 60 days before the meeting, which would be mid-March 2023.

The IAC Secretary, Ms. Verónica Cáceres, proposed that the preparation of this document be one of the agenda items of the WG meeting to include it in the work plan, as well as the joint strategy in the RFMOs. Dr. Favero indicated his availability to support the WG.

The delegate from Argentina, coordinator of the IAC-ACAP WG, agrees with discussing the issues of synergies at the IATTC level and the contributions of the IAC regarding the collection of information on artisanal fisheries.

Peru pointed out the collaborative work that is being carried out with ACAP and Chile, with whom they also share problems of bycatch in longlines with *Caretta caretta* and *Dermochelys coriacea*. He proposes that this could be another of the topics to work on in the WG and requests to continue contributing to it.

The Secretariat will support the coordination of the first meeting on December 2022 with Chile, Peru, Mexico, Ecuador and Argentina, in which the topics proposed in the work plan will be addressed.

Agreement 24: The ACAP-IAC working group will meet in the first week of December 2022, to resume activities under the coordination of Argentina. The WG met on December 1st 2022.

19) Adoption of agreements and recommendations of CC19

The Chair of SC19 read the agreements and presented them to the consideration of the Committee for comments or suggestions. The agreements were adopted by the Scientific Committee (*Annex XI – SC19 Agreements and Recommendations*)

20) Election of Chair and Vice Chair (2022-2024)

The Secretary, Ms. Cáceres thanked the Chair, Lezlie Bustos and the Vicechair, Heriberto Santana, for their guidance of the last two years of effective support to the SC, and shared with the SC that in consultation with both colleagues, they are willing to continue if the SC decides it.

Panama proposed the current Chair and Vice Chair to continue in these positions for two more years, the Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica and other SC delegates supported the proposal and highlighted the excellent work carried out by them.

Agreement 25: The SC19 elected for the second consecutive time, Ing. Lezlie Camila Bustos as Chair and Dr. Heriberto Santana as Vicechair of the IAC Scientific Committee for two years (2023 and 2024 meetings).

21) Preparation of the Next Meeting (SC20) proposals for venue and date

Agreement 26: The Secretariat will consult with the IAC Focal Points about their possibilities to host SC20 for a face-to-face meeting in 2023. The Secretariat will give timely notice of the responses. If there is no response from one of the countries offering to host, this committee will continue to meet in a virtual format.

Annexes

Annex I – List of Participants CIT-CC19-2022-Inf.1

Annex II – Agenda CC19 CIT-CC19-2022- Doc.1

Annex III – Report on the Implementation of the Scientific Committee Work Plan 2022

Annex IV – Scientific Committee Work Plan 2022-2024 CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.3

Annex V – IAC Exceptions evaluation tool (Indicators)

Annex VI – Questionnaire to follow up on the Implementation of the Resolution on Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7

Annex VII - Impact of unregulated recreational and tourist activities vessels on sea turtles in the Dominican Republic

Annex VIII – Questionnaire to follow up on the implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6

Annex IX – Progress report on the Pilot Project to Collect Environmental Data on Index Nesting Beaches (August 2022)

Annex X – List of IAC Index Nesting Beaches – Updated 2022

Annex XI – SC19 Agreements and Recommendations

Annex XII – Photos SC19

ANNEX I – Participant List SC19/ CIT-CC19-2022-Inf.1

No.	PAIS/COUNTRY	NOMBRE/NAME	ORGANIZACIÓN/INSTITUTION	E-MAIL
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34	Brasil	Gilberto Sales	ICMBIO	gilberto.sales@icmbio.gov.br
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36	Canada	Robynn Laplante	Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Government of Canada	Robynn-Bella.Smith-Laplante@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
37	Canada	Paige Crowel	Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Government of Canada	Paige.Crowell@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
38	Canada	Koren Spence	Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Government of Canada	Koren.Spence@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
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(61 participants) 30 SC delegates and advisers -14 countries-, 4 CCE delegates, 18 Observers, 4 Invited speakers, 5 IAC,				

Agenda 19th Scientific Committee Meeting

Day 1 / Time 10:00 am EST – 3:00 PM EST (Washington DC)

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Welcome remarks, introduction of participants, adoption of the SC19 agenda an election of rapporteur - *Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos, Scientific Committee Chair SC19 and Dr. Heriberto Santana, Vice Chair SC19.*
CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.1 Agenda
CIT-CC19-2021-Inf.1 Participants List

**COMPLIANCE WITH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2021-2022
PROGRESS, AND RESULTS**

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Report on the implementation and Results from the SC Work Plan. *Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos, SC Chair and Dr. Heriberto Santana, SC Vicechair*
CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.2 – Scientific Committee Activities Report

12:00 – 12:30 p.m. Updating of the Scientific Committee Work Plan 2022-2024
CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.3 – Work Plan SC 2022-2024

12:30 – 01:00 p.m. Break

EXCEPTIONS

01:00 – 01:40 p.m. Draft form with the minimum data for Guatemala, Panama, and Costa Rica to report the implementation of their Exceptions Management Plan. *Exception WG – Ms. Airam López Roulet*

IAC ANNUAL REPORT

01:40 – 02:30 p.m. Questionnaire for the IAC Annual Report, to follow up on the implementation of the Resolution on Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles. CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.4
Fisheries WG- Ms. Cecilia Lezama

02:30 – 03:00 p.m. Impact of vessels for unregulated recreational and tourist activities on sea turtles in the Dominican Republic. CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.7
Ms. Dannerys Báez and Mr. Ricardo Rodríguez - Delegation from the Dominican Republic

IAC ANNUAL REPORT

- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Questionnaire for the IAC Annual Report, to follow up on the implementation of the Resolution on Conservation of EP Leatherback CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.5
Leatherback Task Force Working Group

FISHERIES INTERACTIONS WITH SEA TURTLES

- 11:00 -11:30 a.m. Presentation on the updates to the database on interactions between sea turtles and observed longline fisheries in the IAC Countries. (IAC Annual Reports 2020, 2021 and 2022)
Fisheries WG-Dr. Heriberto Santana, SC Vice Chair.
- 11:30 – 12:00 p.m. Progress report and draft of the “IAC Manual for Sea Turtles Safe Handling and Release, on board Fishing Vessels”.
Ms. Isabel Rodríguez and Fisheries WG-Ms. Jennifer Suárez and Ms. Lezlie C Bustos.

- 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. Break

LOGGERHEAD TURTLE (*Caretta caretta*)

- 12:30 – 01:20 p.m. Update Technical Document “Conservation status of the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the IAC Countries” *Caretta caretta WG - Ms. Kirah Foreman and Dr. Jeffrey Seminoff*

CLIMATE CHANGE

- 01:20 – 01:40 p.m. Progress report on the Implementation of the Pilot Project on Climate Change at Nesting Index Beaches. CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.6
Climate Change WG – Coordinator Dr. Julia Horrocks
- 01:40 – 01:50 p.m. Break

NESTING BEACHES

- 01:50 – 03:00 p.m. Validation of the list of Index Nesting Beaches in the IAC Countries
Nesting data WG - Dr. Jeffrey Seminoff and Luz Rodriguez
- First International Sampling of Marine Litter in Beaches of the Pacific Between Mexico and Chile with the Collaboration of Citizen Scientists, and its Importance to the Region Sea Turtle Conservation.
Científicos de la Basura – Dr. Martin Thiel

IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS REPORT

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Report of the Consultative Committee of Experts – CCE15
Dr. Eduardo Ponce, CCE Chair
CIT-CCE15-2021-Doc.9 – Report CCE15

COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

11:00 – 11:40 a.m. Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the IAC and Stetson University.

Professor Theresa J. Pulley Radwan
Interim Dean and Professor of Law
Stetson University College of Law

Ms. Veronica Caceres Chamorro
Secretary of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)

RESEARCH IN THE IAC COUNTRIES

11:40 – 12:00 p.m. Assessment of the impact of fisheries on Sea Turtles present in Argentinian waters.
PhD. Candidate Sofia Jones
Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo – Universidad Nacional de la Plata.

12:00 – 12:20 p.m. Proposal for a comprehensive assessment of stranding records and industrial fishing activities in the south of Brazil.
PhD. Candidate Gabriel Fonseca - PGSISCO da UFPR
Environmental Technician - João Luiz A. de Camargo – ICMCB-Centro TAMAR

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

12:20 – 01:00 p.m. Adoption of agreements and recommendations from the SC19
01:00 – 01:30 p.m. Break

OTHER BUSINESS

01:30 – 02:00 p.m. Other business

Election Of SC Chair And Vice Chair

02:00 – 02:30 Preparation of the next meeting (SC20) proposal of venue and dates
02:30 p.m. Closing remarks

Report on the Implementation of the Scientific Committee Work Plan 2022

Presented by Ing. Lezlie Camila Bustos SC Chair and Dr. Heriberto Santana SC Vicechair

The following document is presented by the Scientific Committee Chair and Vicechair. The report lists the activities of the IAC Scientific Committee (SC) Work Plan 2022. The report includes the proposed activities and the status of implementation that is defined by the color green is “completed”; yellow is in “progress”, and red is “no execution/no action”. Texts in blue show updates added after the SC19 meeting.

The table below was organized by the topic using as reference the Scientific Committee Work Plan adopted at COP10 document CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.3. Per recommendation of IAC COP9, this report is to be presented at the Meetings of the IAC Scientific Committee and the IAC COP.

To implement the activities reported here the SC Working Groups carried out the following meetings during the inter-sessional period:

Number of meetings of the SC working groups in 2022: Fisheries WG (7), EP Leatherback WG (5), Exceptions WG (2), Climate Change (1 via e-mail), WG *Caretta caretta* (e-mail), and SC Chair/Vice Chair and IAC Secretariat (3 meetings).

The WG Coordinators are invited to review the activities of their WG in this document, should they need to be updated, please notify the IAC Secretariat to make the edits accordingly. The WG Coordinators are invited to provide any updates during the review of this documents at the SC19 meeting.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF IAC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2022

Proposed Activities		Status – December 14, 2022	2022	2023	2024
Exceptions					
1.	Assessment of Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala exception management plan every five years. Prepare a form to assess each country exception management plan every five years.	<p>Exceptions WG meet in July 2022 to discuss the steps to prepare a form with the minimum information and data contents to be included in the Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan.</p> <p>Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala submitted to the SC19, the indicators to be used by the working group to prepare the form to evaluate the implementation of the Exception Management Plans and present it to the SC20-2023.</p> <p>Responsible: Costa Rica (Coordinador), Guatemala (Coordinador), Caribbean Netherlands, Brazil, Panama, and Mexico. (CCE).</p>			
2.	Panama and Guatemala present their Exception management Plan to the SC	<p>Guatemala should present its Exception Management Plan to the SC no later than June 2025.</p> <p>Guatemala presented a progress report at the SC19-2022, and will prepare a draft for May 2023.</p>			
		<p>Panama reported to COP10.2 (2022) that their Exception Management Plan for Isla Cañas is included in the new law for the protection of sea turtles in Panama, this law is currently is in review to be approved by Panama Congress.</p> <p>Panama submitted its Exception Management Plan on December 9th 2022 for the WG to send their comments not later than January 5th, 2023.</p>			
IAC Website and News Bulletin					
3.	The delegates of the Scientific Committee will provide to the IAC Secretariat news from their countries to include in the IAC Newsletter - Monthly	<p>News updated on the website. Three news bulletin were prepared in 2022. http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin-eng.htm</p>			
Fisheries					
4.	Fisheries WG delegate-Mexico, will prepare the report on data analysis of observer data for longline fisheries including data 2020 - 2025 from IAC Annual Report.	<p>The analysis was updated with longline data from 2020, 2021 and 2022 IAC Annual report.</p> <p>The delegate from Mexico presented a progress report to SC19-2022. The final report will be presented in 2025.</p> <p>Responsible: Mexico (SC)</p>			
5.	Carry out a technical exchange (virtual meeting) focused on longline data collection, with the participation of the fisheries WG, RFMOs technicians with which the IAC has MoUs, and IAC countries interested (fisheries agencies).	<p>Guatemala proposed this activity to call the attention to the need of including fishing information in the IAC Annual Report for the preparation of the analyses by the IAC fisheries WG, required to monitor the Resolutions</p>			

Proposed Activities		Status – December 14, 2022	2022	2023	2024
6.	Develop a data collection form. Develop a method to analyze data on the interaction between sea turtles and gillnets according to Resolution on Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7	The SC and CCE Fisheries WG will develop a proposal to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in the IAC Annual Report. Responsible: WG Fisheries Consultative Committee Consultative Committee should indicate the deadline and time frame for this activity to be completed.			
7.	The Fisheries WG SC and CCE will prepare questions to follow up on implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 in IAC Annual Report	The Fisheries WG prepared the questions to follow up on the implementation of Fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7. The questionnaire presented by the Fisheries WG was not adopted by the SC19-2022. The WG will prepare a recommendation for the CCE2023 and a final proposal for the SC20-2023. There were no modifications to the IAC Annual Report. Responsible: Uruguay (SC) and Brazil (CCE)			
8.	Fisheries WG proposed to prepare IAC Manual for best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles that interact with fishing gear.	Discussion at SC18 on how to carry out the drafting of the IAC Manual for best practices in safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing operations, by an analysis of manuals that already exist. The WG, comprised of Ecuador and Chile, met twice in 2022. The Secretariat secured support from a volunteer to prepare the draft of the document that will be presented to SC19 (2022) Ms. Isabel Rodríguez, prepared and presented a draft manual to the SC19. The fisheries WG will meet to decide on the next steps regarding illustrations, final contents, and authorship. A preliminary document will be presented at the SC20 in 2023. Ms. Isabel Rodriguez and Ms. Sofia Jones, will become part of the group in charge of the manual. Responsible: Delegate from Ecuador			
Index Beaches Conservation Status					
9.	Collect information on annual nesting in index beaches of IAC countries using the form developed by the SC, and the data from the IAC Annual Report. The Technical Document “IAC Index Beach Data Analysis” is updated every 5 years. Next update will be in 2023.	The WG has been updating the Technical Document “IAC Index Beach Data Analysis” since 2014. The WG will ask SC delegates to make sure that the nesting data from their countries is available in the IAC Annual Reports to prepare the updated technical document in 2023. A validation of a definitive list of index beaches included in the annual report was carried out and the delegates were reminded that this list cannot be modified once the report is activated. Responsible: USA Delegate, Ecuador Delegate and the Secretariat			
Climate Change					
10.	Follow up and provide support to countries implementing the “Pilot Project for IAC Parties to collect	The WG Coordinator sent a survey in 2022 to the participant countries to follow up on their environmental data collection.			

Proposed Activities		Status – December 14, 2022	2022	2023	2024
	<p>environmental data in their index nesting beaches”.</p> <p>Convene annual meetings of the WG.</p> <p>Final report on f the Pilot Project presented to SC in 2025.</p> <p>Pilot Project countries: Caribbean Netherlands, USA, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Panama</p>	<p>The WG Coordinator presented a progress report on the implementation of the Pilot Project at SC19- 2022.</p> <p>The seven participant Parties (Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and the United States) will continue reporting information not later than July 30th, until the completion of the pilot project in 2025.</p> <p>The WG will meet in the first quarter of 2023.</p> <p>Responsible: Delegate Caribbean Netherlands - Coordinator</p>			
Eastern Pacific Leatherback <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>					
11.	<p>The Scientific Committee review the articles for journal submission on EP leatherback EASI-Fish model and a habitat distribution model.</p>	<p>The delegates from Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and the USA provided comments to the draft publications on the IAC-IATTC EP leatherback EASI-Fish model and the species distribution model that will be submitted to scientific journals in 2022.</p> <p>Objective: two publications submitted to journals</p> <p>Responsible: Leatherback Task Force Coordinator (CCE)</p>			
12.	<p>Prepare questions to follow up on implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 EP Leatherback in IAC Annual Report</p>	<p>The EP Leatherback Task Force prepared the questions to follow up on the implementation of the resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6.</p> <p>SC19 adopted sections 1-4 of the questionnaire presented by the WG. Section 5 on EP leatherback incidental captures in fisheries will be assessed within the context of the Fisheries Resolution in 2023.</p> <p>Sections 1-4 of the questionnaire on the EP Leatherback Resolution were included in the online annual report 2023.</p> <p>Responsible: Mexico (CCE) and Chile (SC)</p>			
Sea Turtle Conservation Status					
13.	<p>Update report CIT-CC13-2016-Tec.13: Status of Loggerhead Turtles in IAC countries. This report is updated every 4 years. Working Group: Mexico, Brazil, Belize, USA. Coordinator USA and Belize.</p>	<p>The WG will present the updated Technical Document Status of Loggerhead Turtles in IAC countries to the SC19 (2022).</p> <p>The final report will be submitted to the Secretariat in March 2023, for publication in the IAC website.</p> <p>Responsible: Belize and USA</p>			
14.	<p>Compile regional information (IAC Countries and other) with the measures used to manage these activities causing collision of vessels with sea turtles and prepare recommendations to mitigate this threat.</p>	<p>The SC19 formed the working group to address the threat of tourist and fishing vessels collisions with sea turtles.</p> <p>The following activities were included in the SC work plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A coordinator will be appointed at the WG first meeting. 2. Prepare an IAC technical document with general guidelines to mitigate this threat, for each country to implement as appropriate, and will present it at the SC20 2023. 			

Proposed Activities		Status – December 14, 2022	2022	2023	2024
		<p>3. The WG will support a technical review of the regulation that is being prepared by the Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment regarding this issue.</p> <p>4. The WG will operate for a year until their tasks are finished and will assess if it needs to continue working or not</p> <p>Members: Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Caribbean Netherlands, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica.</p>			
15.	Recommendations on sea turtle's conservation status using technical documents presented to the COP when applicable.	<p>The SC will present recommendations to COP11 (2024) from the following technical documents:</p> <p>- Status of Loggerhead Turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) in IAC countries</p>			
Collaboration with Other Organizations and Strategic Alliances					
16.	Resume activities with the working group to implement actions identified in SC18 under IAC-ACAP MoU	<p>The coordinator of the WG – Argentina convened the WG to begin the implementation of activities under IAC-ACAP MoU on December 1st, 2022 and agreed on a work plan to present to ACAP's Advisory Committee in 2023.</p> <p>The coordinator presented a progress report to SC19.</p> <p>Working Group: Argentina (Coordinador), Chile, Peru, Mexico, and Ecuador.</p>			
17.	Implementation of IAC - ACAP MoU	<p>The WG Coordinator (2021) and ACAP's delegate identified at the SC18 as priority activities the following: Prepare guidelines for electronic monitoring for sea turtles, and identification of priority geographical areas of interest for ACAP and IAC species.</p> <p>A progress report was presented at the SC19, concluding that these activities would be reassessed.</p> <p>The WG was reactivated to begin implementing activities (see No.16) and met on December 1st, 2022 to agree on a work plan were Monitoring Electronic will be considered.</p> <p>Responsible: Argentina</p>			
18.	Implementation of IAC - Ramsar MoU - Update Technical Document Wetlands of International Importance and Sea Turtle Conservation	<p>The IAC and Ramsar Secretariat will update the technical document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.6 "Wetlands of International Importance and Sea Turtle Conservation" with information from Dominican Republic and other sites in 2022-2023.</p> <p>Responsible: IAC and Ramsar Secretariats</p>			
IAC Annual Report					
19.	Assess IAC Annual Report questionnaire -SC and CCE will prepare questions for IAC Annual Report to follow up on the implementation of the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2	<p>The SC19 (2022) reviewed the following:</p> <p>-Progress on the form to evaluate the Exceptions management plans (See No.1) which will be presented in 2023.</p> <p>-Questionnaire to follow up on the implementation of Fisheries impacts Resolution (See No.7) which was not adopted and will be discussed intersessionally to present a proposal to the SC in 2023.</p> <p>-Questionnaire to follow up on the implementation of EP Leatherback Resolution (See No.12) where sections 1-4 were adopted and included in the Annual Report.</p> <p>Expected result: SC19 recommends IAC Annual Report questionnaire to be updated with new questions.</p>			

Proposed Activities		Status – December 14, 2022	2022	2023	2024
20.	Include in the agenda of the Scientific Committee meeting a presentation of a research reported by two or three countries in their IAC Annual Reports.	Every year 2 or 3 countries will present their research. It was decided to follow an alphabetical order. Argentina and Brazil presented their research in 2022. Belize, Chile and Costa Rica will present their research in 2023.			
Projects					
21.	Recommend high priority projects to apply for funds and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives.	No recommendation for new projects from the Scientific Committee to date.			
IAC Experts Directory					
22.	Update the directory of experts on the IAC areas of interest.	Experts Directory updated on the website to January 2023			
Capacity Development					
23.	Technical support from SC members in workshops and training on subjects that the Parties identified and for which funding is available.	Nothing to report			
Recommendations from COP and Consultative Committee of Experts					
24.	Address COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly.	The request from IAC COP10 has been addressed by the SC – See No.19			
IAC Technical Documents					
25.	Prepare technical documents as needed.	Technical documents 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of Loggerhead Turtles in IAC countries (See No.13) Draft manual of best practices for sea turtles safe handling that interact with fishing gear (See No.8) 			
Scientific Committee Work Plan					
26.	Report on the implementation status of the SC Work Plan	Report on the Implementation of the SC WP 2022 was presented to SC19. Responsible: IAC SC Chair and Vicechair			
27.	Update the Scientific Committee Work Plan	Work Plan revised at the 19th Scientific Committee meeting 2022			
28.	Convene meetings of SC Working Group to follow up on the implementation of the WP.	Number of meetings SC Working Groups as of December 2022: Fisheries WG (7), EP Leatherback WG (5), Exceptions WG (2), Climate Change WG (1 via e-mail), <i>Caretta caretta</i> (email exchanges), CIT-ACAP (1), SC Chair / Vicechair and IAC Secretariat (3 meetings). Responsible: SC Chair / Vicechair, WG Coordinators with support of IAC Secretariat.			

ANNEX IV – Work Plan CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.3

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2022-2024

This document includes the IAC Scientific Committee Work Plan 2022-2024. Texts in blue show the new activities to be completed by the Scientific Committee, text in green are the activities completed in the meeting (SC19). Activities without changes or permanent are in black.

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
EXCEPTIONS				
Exceptions WG	Assessment of Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala exception management plan every five years.	1) The Exceptions WG prepare a form to assess each country exception management plan every five years. The assessment form is presented in 2022 to the SC19.	1) Form to assess the exception management plan in every country, approved by the SC and agreed with the countries with exceptions.	1) 2022-2023
Panama and Guatemala	Exception Management Plan	2) Panama and Guatemala present their Exception Management Plan for the Scientific Committee review according to Resolutions CIT-COP10-2022-R3 and CIT-COP10-2022-R4 no later than June 2025. 3) Progress report presented by countries as needed.	2) Exception Management Plan for Guatemala and Panama, respectively. 3) Progress report presented to SC19 and SC20 in 2022 and 2023, respectively.	2) 2022-2025 3) 2022 and 2023
IAC WEBSITE AND NEWS BULLETIN				
Scientific Committee, and Secretariat	IAC website and news bulletin	1) Every month, the SC will provide news relevant to IAC Parties to the Secretariat for the IAC News Bulletin.	1) Updated news in the IAC website, and regular publication of the IAC's News Bulletin.	Permanent

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
FISHERIES				
Fisheries WG	Interactions with observed longline fisheries	1) Analysis of observer data on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longlines based on IAC Annual Report data from 2020-2025. Responsible: Mexico - Dr. Heriberto Santana. 2) Present Report to COP with data from annual reports (2020-2025)	1) Recommendations from the SC to the report regarding interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline (2020-2025). 2) Report and recommendations presented to the COP.	1) 2022-2025 2) 2025
Fisheries WG	Technical Exchange	3) Carry out a technical exchange (virtual meeting) focused on longline data collection, with the participation of the fisheries WG, RFMOs technicians with which the IAC has MoUs, and IAC countries interested (fisheries agencies).	3) Virtual meeting with the participation of the fisheries WG and technicians from RFMOs and the IAC.	3) 2022
Fisheries WG SC and CCE	Interactions with gillnets	4) The SC and CCE Fisheries WG Will develop a proposal to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in the IAC Annual Report.	4) Proposal to the Scientific and Consultative committees to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in IAC Annual Report according to the Resolution on Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7.	4) 2022-2023

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
Fisheries WG SC and CCE (Uruguay and Brazil)	Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7; IAC Annual Report	5) Prepare questions to follow up on implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 to be included in IAC Annual Report.	5) The SC 19 recommended Questions for IAC Annual Report to follow up with implementation of fisheries resolution.	5) 2022-2023
Fisheries WG; Ecuador's delegate	Safe handling and release of sea turtles that interact with fishing gear	6) Prepare IAC Manual for best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles that interact with fishing gear.	6) Preliminary version of the IAC Manual on best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally captured in fisheries, for review by the Scientific Committee in 2023.	6) SC20 -2023
CONSERVATION STATUS IN INDEX NESTING BEACHES				
Nesting Beaches WG (Coordinator Jeff Seminoff USA, Ecuador and Secretariat)	Conservation Status in Index Nesting Beaches	1) Collect information on annual nesting in index beaches using the form developed by the SC, and the IAC Annual Report. The Technical Document on IAC Index Beaches is updated every 5 years. Next update in 2023.	1) Technical Document IAC Index Beach Data Analysis 2009-2022 using the latest data from IAC Annual Report 2023, to present to the Scientific Committee (2023) and the COP.	1) SC20- 2023
CLIMATE CHANGE				
Climate Change WG Coordinator Julia Horrocks (Caribbean Netherlands, USA, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Dominican Republic).	Climate Change; Pilot Project	1) Follow up and support the countries that are implementing the pilot project. 2) Organize two annual meetings to assess progress and follow up via email. 3) Present the final report on the implementation of the Pilot Project to the Scientific Committee 2025.	1 y 2) Coordinator of WG presents progress report from countries implementation. 3) Report on 5 year implementation of the pilot project.	1) 2021-2023 2) Permanent 3) SC22 - 2025

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>				
Fisheries and EP Leatherback WG	EP Leatherback, IATTC, and EASI-Fish	1) The Scientific Committee reviews the articles to be presented to journals regarding the EASI-Fish model and a habitat distribution model.	1) Publication in journal with the results from the EASI-Fish model and the habitat distribution model.	2022
EP Leatherback WG	Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6; IAC Annual Report	2) Prepare questions to follow up on implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 to be included in the IAC Annual Report.	2) The SC19 adopted the questions on the implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution in the IAC Annual Report questionnaire, Sections 1-4.	2022-2023
SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION STATUS				
<i>Caretta caretta</i> WG (Mexico, Belize, Brazil, and USA).	<i>Caretta caretta</i> ; conservation status report; Update 2021	1) Update report CIT-CC13-2016-Tec.13: Status of Loggerhead Turtles (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) Within Nations of the IAC every 4 years according to Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3.	1) Report updated in 2021 to present it to the CCE18 and the COP10.2. The deadline was extended to the CC19 (2022) for the working group to complete the task.	1) 2021-2022
WG Collision with recreative and fishing vessels (Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Caribbean Netherlands,	Threats; Collisions with vessels	2) A coordinator will be appointed at the WG first meeting. 3) The WG will prepare an IAC technical document with general guidelines to mitigate this threat, for each country to implement as appropriate, and will present it at the SC20 2023.	2) WG formation and appointment of coordinator 3) Technical document compiling regional information (IAC countries and other) with the measures that apply for the management of these activities and mitigate this threat.	2) 2022-2023 3) CC20-2023 4) 2023

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
Mexico, Belize and Costa Rica)		4) The WG will support a technical review of the regulation that is being prepared by the Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment regarding this issue. The WG will operate for a year until their tasks are finished and will assess if it needs to continue working or not	4) Comments to the regulation prepared by the Dominican Republic.	
Scientific Committee Chair	Sea turtle's conservation status	5) Prepare recommendations on sea turtle's conservation status using technical documents to the COP when applicable.	5) Recommendations on sea turtle conservation status as technical documents presented to COP. 6) Conservation Status of <i>Caretta caretta</i> to be presented to COP11.	5) Permanent 6) 2024
COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS				
Working Group Coordinator Victoria Gonzalez Carman (Argentina, Chile Peru, Mexico, and Ecuador).	Collaboration with ACAP	1) Reactivate working group to implement activities identified in the SC18 to carry out jointly with ACAP. 2) Organize WG meetings, starting on December 2022.	1) Collaboration activity with ACAP implemented by the Scientific Committee WG. 2) The WG Coordinator (Argentina) will present a progress report to SC20-2023.	1 y 2) 2022-2024 2) 2023
Scientific Committee and Secretary	Collaboration MoU with Ramsar; Recommendation from COP; joint activity.	3) RAMSAR: Based on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Resolution on Sea Turtles, the Scientific	3) Document on wetlands of importance for sea turtles IAC-RAMSAR updated when RAMSAR is available to do it.	3) 2022-2023

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
		Committee identifies a collaborative activity.		
Scientific Committee	Collaborative work with International Organizations.	4) Include topics that improve and activate collaboration with international organizations.	4) Recommendations on collaborative work identified.	4) Permanent
ANNUAL REPORTS				
Scientific Committee	Annual Reports	1) Analyze the IAC Annual Report technical information.	1) Report on the analysis of technical information from the IAC Annual Reports with recommendations to the Parties when needed.	1) Permanent
Scientific Committee	Annual Report Format	2) Assess the Annual Report current questionnaire. 3) Prepare with the CCE the new questions to IAC Annual Report Format according to COP10.2 adopted resolutions.	2) Recommendations of changes to the Annual Report questionnaire as needed. 3) 2023 Annual Report questionnaire updated accordingly with the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2	2) Permanent 3) 2022-2023
Scientific Committee	Research reported in the annual report	5) Include in the agenda of the Scientific Committee meeting a presentation of a research reported by two or three countries in their IAC Annual Reports.	4) Presentations of research in the IAC Countries during the Scientific Committee meetings.	4) Permanent

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
PROJECTS				
Scientific Committee	High priority projects; Recommendations	1) Recommend high priority projects to apply for funds and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives.	1) Projects proposals developed by the Scientific Committee when needed. Recommendations on high priority projects when needed.	Permanent
EXPERTS DIRECTORY				
Scientific Committee, Secretary	IAC Experts Directory	1) Review and update the IAC Expert Directory.	1) Updated directory available on IAC's website.	Permanent
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT				
Scientific Committee	Capacity development	1) Support from Scientific Committee members in workshops and training on topics identified by IAC Parties and those for which funding is available.	1) Strengthening capacities on topics related to sea turtles in the IAC Parties.	Permanent
RECOMMENDATIONS COP AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE				
Scientific Committee	Recommendations from COP and CCE	1) Address the COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly.	1) Recommendations submitted to the COP and the Consultative Committee of Experts, as needed.	Permanent
TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS				
Scientific Committee	Technical documents	1) Develop technical documents as needed 2) IAC Best practices Manual for safe handling and release of sea turtles, draft presented to SC20	1) Technical documents available at the IAC's website and shared with IAC Parties. 2) Draft of manual best practices for sea turtles presented to SC20-2023	1) Permanent 2) 2023

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN				
Scientific Committee Chair	Implementation status of SC Work Plan	<p>1) Prepare an annual report with the implementation of the SC work plan and present to SC meeting.</p> <p>2) Prepare report on the implementation of the SC work plan bi annual and present to IAC COP11.</p>	<p>1) Implementation of SC WP report presented to SC 19, and SC20.</p> <p>2) Report on implementation of SC work plan presented to COP11 (2022, 2023, 2024).</p>	<p>1) 2022 - 2023</p> <p>2) 2024</p>
Scientific Committee	SC Work Plan	3) Update the SC Work Plan following IAC guidelines and the COPs Resolutions.	3) Scientific Committee biennial work plan including actions, timetable, and responsibilities.	Permanent
Scientific Committee Chair, Secretariat	SC Working Group meetings	4) Convene working groups meetings to follow up on work plan	4) Number of meetings of the SC working groups in 2022: Fisheries WG (7), EP Leatherback WG(5), Exceptions (2), Climate Change (1 via e-mail), IAC-ACAP (1), SC Chair / Vicechair and IAC Secretariat (3 meetings)	2022

ANNEX V – PROPOSAL IAC Exceptions evaluation tool (Indicators) - These are not final. They will be revised by IAC Consultative Committee and the final indicators will be approved in 2023

Indicator/Percentage of annual compliance		Costa Rica		Guatemala		Panama	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Biologic	X			X		X
2		X		X			X
3		X			X		X
4		X		X			X
5		X		X		X	
6		X		X		X	
7		X			X		X
8		X		X			X
9		X			X		X
10		X		X		X	
11		X			X	X	
12		X			X		X
13				X		X	
14				X		X	
15				X		X	
			X		X		
16	Socioeconomics	X		X			X
17		X		X			X
18		X		X			X
19		X			X		X

20	Handling	Lists alternative economic activities to the egg trade			X			X
21		There is a Legal Framework developed and in practice	X		X			X
22		There is a harvesting protocol	X			X		X
23		There is an eggs transportation protocol	X		X			X
24		There is an eggs handling protocol (sanitary and commercial)	X			X		X
25		There are control and surveillance procedures	X		X			X
26		There is a commercialization protocol	X		X			X
27		There is a traceability protocol	X		X			X
28		There is a handling protocol (collection and harvest)			X			X
29	Ecotouristics	There are regulations for tourist visits to <i>arribadas</i>	X			X		X

Annex VI – Questionnaire to follow up on the Implementation of the Resolution on Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7

Note from the Secretariat: This questionnaire was not adopted by the SC19 2022 comments from the US delegation are included here.

This document will be revised by IAC Consultative Committee in 2023 for approval, This is not the final version.

CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.4

Questionnaire to Follow up on the Implementation of the Resolution on Adverse Impacts of Fisheries to Sea Turtles for the IAC Annual Report

Prepared by the Fisheries Working Group Delegates

Lcda. Cecilia Lezama¹, Dr. Gilberto Sales² y Dr. Victoria González³

1. Delegate from Uruguay, Scientific Committee
2. Delegate from Brazil, Consultative Committee of Experts
3. Delegate from Argentina, Scientific Committee

The Resolution [CIT-COP10-2022-R7](#) adopted at the 10th Conference of Parties requests the Scientific and Consultative Committees to prepare a questionnaire to follow up on the implementation of the Resolution to be included in the IAC Annual Report. This questionnaire was prepared by the fisheries working group to address this request, and it is presented for consideration of the Scientific Committee.

Comment US Delegate: It seems like the form would collect useful general information about a Party's fisheries that interact with sea turtles and their implemented (or not implemented) fisheries monitoring/mitigation activities, which could allow for targeted information sharing and training. The form/request is very comprehensive and given the number of fisheries (as defined in the document) we have in the US and the number of institutions involved in collecting data/conducting research (fisheries and stranding), it is unlikely that we would be able to comprehensively collate the information requested, particularly for the first year completing the form. A few comments/questions below -

The Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 states that "The Scientific Committee will prepare a report every five (5) years with the fisheries information provided by IAC Parties in the Annual Report for consideration of the Parties." But, it does not include how the information provided by the Parties would be analyzed in the report, or how the reports would/would not show progress with the goals of Resolution over time? Perhaps in reported increased use of mitigation measures, or increasing monitoring in fisheries with sea turtle interactions over time?

Recommendation to the IAC Scientific Committee:

1. Review the questions taking into account that they are in line with the Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6. Should you have edits or comments send them to the IAC Secretariat by October 21th 2022.
2. Adopt the questionnaire and recommend it to be included it in the IAC Annual Report.

Comment US DEL: The Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 states "ENCOURAGE all IAC Parties whose fisheries have interactions with sea turtles prioritize the following actions to monitor and mitigate sea turtle bycatch:

a. Systematically collect statistically robust data to estimate sea turtle bycatch in fishing operations."

It's not clear how the form assesses whether monitoring is "statistically robust" and how the Scientific Committee would use the responses in the form to make recommendations. The form asks (in the table) for the Parties to note the Methods used for monitoring, but it doesn't include a question to describe how statistically robust these methods are (for example, if observed, what is the % observer coverage, etc.). This could be answered in question #4, but would be quite lengthy (particularly for the US), so it might be more useful to collect additional standard information about the monitoring programs.

IAC ANNUAL REPORT- New Questions proposed

Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 – Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles

Following the Resolution for the Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles CIT-COP10-2022-R7, please answer the following questions, if applicable in your country, considering the fisheries definition adopted in the Convention Work Plan 2022-2024.

Fishery: A fishing activity that takes place in a **specific area**, using a **specific fishing gear**, **targeting certain species**, and **interacting with one or more species of sea turtles in different life stages.**

If Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 does not apply in your country write “not applicable” _____

INTERACTION BETWEEN SEA TURTLES AND FISHERIES

1. Are there in your country interactions between sea turtles and fisheries (of any kind)?

- Yes
- No

2. Is there in your country a fisheries definition different from the one included here? (Note: This question will not be included in IAC Annual report, it is only asked now per request of the Fisheries WG for testing the questionnaire only)

- Yes
- No

If the answer is "Yes" please write the definition used by the national authority

MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION ON INTERACTIONS

3. Does your country collect information on interactions between sea turtles and fisheries?

- Yes
- No

4. Indicate who are the actors (e.g. academy, government, NGOs, a collaboration) implementing monitoring programs on interactions between sea turtles and fisheries. Provide some details about the programs (Name of the project, term of the project, objective, entities involved, results, if known, etc.)

5. Please fill out the following table describing each fishery that interacts with sea turtles in your country. Write “unknown” when information is not available. Add more lines as needed. (use a filter on the 5 fisheries with highest interactions?) Use hypothetical data to establish the method.

Fishery (describe the fishing gear or the specific name used for the fishery in your country)	Target species (Scientific and common name)	Area (e.g. Gulf of Mexico; North Coast of Bahia-Brasil)	Sea turtle species more frequently impacted <i>Dc</i> = <i>Derموchelys coriacea</i> <i>Ei</i> = <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Cc</i> = <i>Caretta caretta</i> <i>Cm</i> = <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Lo</i> = <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> <i>Lk</i> = <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> (Use FAO code for species)	Size class Indicate the species and size classes affected	Size of the vessels (Write the range, in meters, of the size of the vessels operating in this fishery)	Estimated total number of vessels that operated in the last year	Method to collect the information From the list, please indicate all which apply in your country Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onboard observers • Survey in landing points • Radiocommunication • Electronic monitoring • Logbook on board • No data is collected regarding sea turtle incidental captures and mortality. 	Implementation of mitigation measures YES/NO. Specify which. In the year of this report	Vessels remote monitoring (e.g.: VMS – Vessel Monitoring System) YES/NO
Example. Artisanal longline	Dorado	Bay of the good souls	Dc, Cm, Cc	Cc = juveniles Dc = adults Cm = juveniles	Min: 4 Max: 40	12	No data is collected regarding sea turtle incidental captures and mortality.	Yes – fish bait	No

COMMENTS US DELEGATION TO CONSIDER: This table is complex and will require a lot of effort to get this information together.

It would be helpful to understand how each piece of information requested will be used either

- i. To help provide sea turtle expertise to inform Countries' government of concerning bycatch numbers
- ii. An analysis (with consistent information collected) that will bring about a decision to progress reducing sea turtle bycatch

In some areas, that species may have a high impact to that fishery but the population is very low. It would be helpful to understand the analysis that may result with this table to have a consistent data collection in 5 years.

Size of the vessels (Write the range, in meters, of the size of the vessels operating in this fishery) : Could this be simplified to artisanal versus industrial. How could an analysis be translated to a conservation action with this information.

Estimated total number of vessels that operated in the last year: Same comment as previous. This would have to be reported with estimated observer coverage and consistent bycatch to understand the impact of the total number.

Implementation of mitigation measures : This is a question that is multi-facted and perhaps should be broken down to help analyze better mitigation strategies. My recommendation is to clarify that this question involves reducing the sea turtle interaction (preventing turtles from being bycaught) : what would be most helpful to know? i. is the mitigation measure voluntary, ii. if so, what percent of the fishery is incorporating the voluntary mitigation measures iii. is there a fishery regulation in place that requires mitigation in this particular fishery, iv.. Is there dedicated law enforcement to implement the regulations or what are the gaps in meeting compliance.

Vessels Remote Monitoring: ICCAT and IATTC require this. How will the IAC use this information to inform sea turtle conservation? Perhaps a follow up question to start to analyze IUU fishing? Is that the intent of this question?

MITIGATION OF SEA TURTLE BYCATCH

6. Does your country implement measures to mitigate sea turtle bycatch?

- Yes
- No

7. Is your country conducting research (testing) on measures to mitigate sea turtle bycatch?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is "Yes" please indicate which measures to mitigate sea turtle bycatch are being tested in your country, by fishery and target species.

8. In your country, are there best practices to mitigate post-capture mortality?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is "Yes", indicate which are the best practices used in your country, by fishery and target species.

9. In your country, is there research to identify new techniques and/or measures to reduce post-capture mortality of sea turtles?

- Yes
- No

10. In your country, is there research to evaluate post-capture mortality?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is "Yes", provide information.

MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION ON STRANDING

11. Does your country collect information on sea turtle stranding?

- Yes
- No

12. How is information on stranding collected? (choose all that are applicable)

COMMENT US DELEGATION: In question #12 - because this question says choose all that apply, I could see a Party answering both the first and second choice (and potentially the third choice), as different areas/beaches might have different levels of monitoring. This question doesn't necessarily assist in determining whether these are "statistically robust data collection methods for stranded turtles". If systematic monitoring is in place, it doesn't allow for an explanation of what is considered systematic (% of days, etc. monitored), and what proportion of areas/beaches have that level of monitoring vs. different levels of monitoring. It seems like more information would be needed?

RESPONSE: Based on the resolution, the questions were designed to obtain basic information that the working group thought that the countries could provide an insight.

- Continuous and systematic monitoring within the framework of governmental programs (e.g. beach census)
- Systematic monitoring within the framework of specific research projects (e.g. particular projects lead by the scientific sector and the NGOs)
- Opportunistic monitoring (e.g. Isolated/fortuitous reports)
- Other – please indicate below

13. Is the information on stranding used to assess the impact of fisheries on sea turtles?

COMMENT US DEL: In question #13 - it might be useful to include a follow-up question: If yes, how are the stranding data used to assess the impacts of fisheries on sea turtles?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is "Yes" how is the stranding data used to assess the impacts of fisheries on sea turtles?

14. Indicate who are the actors (e.g. academy, government, NGOs, a collaboration) implementing sea turtle stranding monitoring programs. Provide some details about the programs (Name of the project, term of the project, objective, bodies involved, results, if known, etc.)

15. Is there another type of information on stranding that you would like to share? (e.g. geographic area, stranding rate, species composition. Include it below. *Note: this is not requested in the Resolution, but will be used by the SC and CCE fisheries working group.*

16. In your country, has there been training on good practices for sea turtles incidentally captured safe handling, and release, for the period reported in this annual report?

- Yes
- No

17. Who has received the training? (training target audiences). Choose all that are applicable.

- Onboard observers
- Collector of fishing information in ports
- Fishermen or fishing crew
- Park rangers
- Environmental police/Conservation Officers
- Other

If your answer is “Yes” provide information on the target audience, the number of people trained, frequency of training. Indicate the objective of the training provided.

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18. In regarding to capacity development to the fishing sector (fisherman and crew) indicate:

Number of fisherman registered in the country	
Number of fisherman that received training in the year of the report	
COMMENT US DEL: Indicate how this information will be used or analyzed to i. inform the country on carrying out the measures in the resolution or ii. Consistently analyzed to revise the conditions in the resolution to promote sea turtle conservation	

19. Indicate the objective of the training / capacity development carried out (choose all that apply)

- Removal of hooks
- First Aid to injured sea turtles
- Disentanglement
- Install sea turtle excluder device in nets
- Other (especific)

Indicate other type of training carried out in the year of this report if necessary

--

PARTICIPATION IN RFMOs

20. Has your country supported the IAC Secretariat in the implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding between the IAC and some Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and other entities relevant to the Convention in the year corresponding to this report?

- IATTC
- ICCAT
- ACAP
- CPPS
- RAMSAR
- SPAW
- OSPESCA
- Other

If the answer is “Other”, indicate the type of support that was provided.

ANNEX VI – Impact of unregulated recreational and tourist activities vessels on sea turtles in the Dominican Republic

CIT-CC19-2022-Doc.7

Impact of vessels on sea turtles by unregulated recreational activities related to tourism in the Dominican Republic

Vice Ministry of Marine and Coastal Resources

Ricardo Rodríguez and Dannerys Báez

This report has been prepared by the delegation of the Dominican Republic to incorporate and highlight a new threat to sea turtle conservation of marine turtles, following the request presented to the IAC 10th Conference of the Parties COP10-II recently held in Panama. The COP10 recommendation was to present the issue for the knowledge of the Scientific Committee at its 19th Meeting to generate recommendations and exchange opinions.

As part of the IAC COP10 requests, the CC is asked to consider the Dominican Republic presentation and discuss the ways the issue is addressed in the IAC countries, towards collaboration and greater attention to the matter.

Introduction

The Dominican Republic is recognized as one of the most attractive tourist destinations for holidays throughout the Insular Caribbean (Central Bank, 2021). As a result of the increasing tourism, particularly in the east of the country, water activities have not only increased, but have become the most common tourist offer in the coastal area of this zone.

To carry out both recreational and commercial activities, tourist service companies use different types of boats for scuba diving, snorkeling, speedboat or catamaran trips, fishing, among others, putting pressures on ecosystems health and their vulnerable species.

Although an accurate census of the different types of vessels is not available, it is estimated that around 400 vessels operate in the area, and that an approximately 1,000,000.00 (one million people) visit the area each year. Altogether, recreational activities in the marine area represent more than US\$40,000,000.00 (forty million US dollars) a year (Asociacion de Empresas de Transporte Acuatico de Bávaro, Punta Cana, 2022).

Legal Framework

In the Dominican Republic, there is a legal framework that protects sea turtles, such as the fisheries law 307-04, which prohibits fishing for non-authorized species and contemplates that catching different species of sea turtles place them in danger of extinction. In addition, Resolution 0046/2018 approves the manual for the protection, conservation, and management of sea turtles in the Dominican Republic.

Description of the problem

In La Altagracia province, eastern region of the Dominican Republic, there have been reports of three species of sea turtles. On the coastal section of approximately 10 km long, from Playa el Cortecito to Cabeza de Toro, it is found probably the most important concentration of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), which have been threatened by collisions with vessels transiting the area at high speeds, causing serious injuries, mutilations or even the death of the animals. The area known as Laguna Arrecifal de Bávaro is an ecological zone of particular importance as an aggregation and foraging zone for sea turtles.

Although an accurate census of the different types of vessels is not available, it is estimated that around 400 vessels operate in the area, and that an approximately 1,000,000.00 (one million people) visit the area each year. Altogether, recreational activities in the marine area represent more than US\$40,000,000.00 (forty million US dollars) a year (Asociacion de Empresas de Transporte Acuatico de Bávaro, Punta Cana, 2022).

According to information provided by the Fundación Ecológica Arrecifes de Bávaro, it is estimated that in the area there is a permanent population of approximately 50 specimens of green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), with around 15 and 20 individuals found in a 100m² radius in the last 3 years, making this area one of the most important unprotected places for this species in the Dominican Republic. The Fundación also reported 13 to 16 sea turtle death every year, as a result of collisions with vessels.

Actors involved

Among the actors involved in the issue, which in turn would be a fundamental part while seeking for solutions, we can mention the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Dominican Navy, the Dominican Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Specialized Corp of Tourist Safety and Fundación Ecológica Arrecifes de Bávaro, the latter has shown its will to collaborate in management through shared governance. The actions mentioned by those involved would include, zoning of the

area by placing buoys to define a navigation channel for the vessels, as well as the regulation to establish speed limits for the vessels that operate in the area.

Mitigation or prevention measures adopted

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has received numerous complaints regarding the situation in this area of the country and in response, the Vice-Ministry of Coastal and Marine Resources has developed a resolution draft establishing regulations to protect three areas critical for sea turtles and other species protected in the Bávaro Reef Lagoon. Fundación Ecológica Arrecifes de Bávaro has been active and interested in following up on this case and actively participating in finding solutions.

With regards to Sea Turtles that are ill, seized, harmed or recovered from fishermen's nets, the National Aquarium, through the Centre for Aquatic Species Recovery and Rescue (CERREA in Spanish) is the official institution in charge of providing assistance. There, sea turtles are healed and treated by a group of veterinarians, based on a protocol that includes measurement, weighing, feeding, date of admission at the time of their capture and subsequent release (Environmental Technical Regulation for the Management and Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Dominican Republic approved by Resolution 0008/2020).

Requests to the IAC Scientific Committee

This report intends to point out and include a new threat, to the list of threats to sea turtles addressed by the IAC, with the purpose of exchanging opinions and recommendations that lead to solutions to mitigate this issue, and in the case that this threat exists in another country, we can count with pre-established measures to act in a specific and organized way.

Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6: Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Section 1.- Monitoring of nesting of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback

1. Does your country have Eastern Pacific leatherback nesting beaches?

- Yes
- No

If you answer ‘No’ continue to next section.

2. Does your country protect leatherback nests at the nesting beaches?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “Yes,” describe (500 words maximum)

3. Has your country developed and implemented strategies to ensure and increase hatching success and hatchlings production?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “Yes,” describe the strategies used (500 words maximum)

4. Has your country taken conservation measures for the protection of nesting beaches and their associated habitats?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “Yes,” describe the conservation measures used (500 words maximum)

5. Has your country identified and included new EP leatherback turtle nesting beaches in the national programs to protect and monitor nests, females, and hatchlings?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “Yes,” list the new nesting beaches identified

6. Has your country reported the new nesting beaches for EP leatherback identified above in in Part V of the IAC Annual Report?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “No,” request the IAC Secretariat to add the new beaches to Part V in the IAC Annual Report. Even if these beaches are not considered as Index beaches it is important to obtain this information.

7. Has your country identified or is it planning to implement economic alternatives in local communities in areas adjacent to nesting beaches, with the goal of reducing the pressure on the EP leatherback?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “Yes,” describe the economic alternatives identified (500 words maximum)

MONITORING ACTIVITES IN NESTING BEACHES (*Taken from Annex II Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6*)

8. Indicate the number of leatherback beaches monitored during the year reported in this Annual Report

Numbers only

9. Which methods are used to monitor nesting in beaches in your country? (choose all that apply)

- Nest/tracks count morning monitoring
- Nest/tracks count night monitoring
- Nest/tracks and nesting females count morning monitoring
- Nest/tracks and nesting females count night monitoring
- Aerial census of tracks (indicate frequency in the box below)
- Use of drones (indicate frequency in the box below)
- Other

Indicate other methods used (if necessary)

10. Describe the challenges in your country to address the questions in this section which answer is “No/None”. Please indicate the number of the question to which you are referring. (max 500 words)

Section 2.- Activities for protection and predation control on nesting beaches of Eastern

Pacific Leatherback

PROTECTION ACTIVITIES IN NESTING BEACHES (Taken from Annex II Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6)

(Use “not available” if there is no information)

11. Protection of nests - If the value is unknown, answer “not available”	
Indicate the techniques used to protect nests in your country during the nesting season (Ex: protected areas, relocation in hatcheries, and other)	
Percentage (%) of the total of nests protected in the beaches monitored in the nesting season (Including: protected areas, relocation in hatcheries, and other)	
Total number of nests <i>in situ</i> in the beaches monitored (<i>In situ</i> = nests left where the turtle laid the eggs)	
Percentage (%) of average hatching of <i>in situ</i> nests , in the beaches monitored, using the following formula: % of hatching = total of hatchlings that hatched/total eggs <u>If the total of hatchlings hatched is not available</u> % of hatching = total of shells/total of eggs If the country uses another way to calculate % of hatching, please describe it	

12. Percentage (%) of average hatching in **nests relocated** using the following methods in the beaches monitored

- Answer those that apply with the %
- If data is not available answer “not available”
- If the method is not used answer “not applicable”

<i>Hatcheries</i>	
<i>Boxes</i>	
<i>Same beach</i>	
<i>Other Which and percentage</i>	

ACTIVITIES TO CONTROL NEST PREDATION IN BEACHES MONITORED

(Taken from Annex II Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6)

13. Activities to control nest predation carried out in the year of this report (choose all that apply)

- Population control of feral, domestic, and introduced animals.
- Protection of nests with mesh /screen
- None

Specify other activities to control nest predation (if applicable)

--

14. Activities to control poaching of nests carried out in the year of this report (choose all that apply)

- Beach patrols by police authorities
- Beach patrols by organized community groups
- Nest relocation
- Presence of monitoring and research teams during the nesting season
- Alert mechanism to report threats to sea turtles and environmental complaints.
- Other (please specify)
- None

Specify other activities to control poaching (if applicable)

15. Describe the challenges in your country to address the questions this section that the answer is “No/None”. Please indicate the number of the question to which you are referring. (max 500 words)

NOTE: The data on index nesting beaches will continue to be reported in Part V of the Annual Report

Section 3.- Critical areas and aggregation areas for Eastern Pacific Leatherback

16. Has your country identified critical areas in the distribution range of the EP leatherback in national waters that require spatial and temporal management to reduce leatherback bycatch?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “Yes,” describe and if needed, attach supplementary information

17. Has your country identified adult and juvenile aggregation sites, migration routes, and other sites of importance for conservation in national waters which could be subjected to measures for spatial and temporal management of threats?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “Yes,” describe and if required, attach supplementary information

18. Has your country taken part in research projects / collaborations to identify critical locations in international waters that are important for the conservation of the species?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “Yes,” describe and if required, attach supplementary information (500 words)

Section 4.- Prohibitions for the consumption and use of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback (parts and derivatives, capture, transportation, and trade)

19. Does your country identify areas where consumption and illegal use of EP leatherback occurs?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “Yes,” describe the areas where consumption and illegal use occurs, the frequency of occurrence, and efforts to reduce this threat (500 words max)

20. Does your country carry out awareness and enforcement campaigns to stop consumption and illegal use of EP leatherbacks, in the areas identified in the question above?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “Yes,” list the campaigns for the year of this report (500 words max)

Section 5.- East Pacific Leatherback interactions with fisheries

Note from Secretariat: This section was not adopted by the SC19. This section will be assessed in the context of the Fisheries Resolution at later time at the 2023 Consultative Committee.

FISHERIES INFORMATION

Note: The industrial longline information requested here is available for you report it in the IAC Annual Report (Part VI – Fisheries Information)

21. In your country, are there interactions between fisheries with EP leatherback?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

22. Choose the **fishing area** where the fisheries operate (choose all that apply)

- Coastal (up to 12 miles)
- Oceanic (further than 12 miles)

23. Choose the **fishing gear** interacting with EP leatherbacks (choose all that apply)

- Artisanal longline
- Industrial longline
- Gillnet
- Bottom trawl net
- Trawl nets
- Other

Indicate target species of the fisheries above

24. Indicate **fishing effort** in the year of this report for all the fisheries apply, using the metrics applicable (please report fleet size and at least one of the other metrics).

COMMENT SC 19: CC19 – Look to combine 24, 27 and 28 in one table and include all sea turtles. This would connect the number of turtles with the fisheries reporting the caught.

Also, request a n/a when the question does not apply to avoid guessing on whether it was forgotten.

Add target species

	Operative fleet size the year of this report (number of boats)	Number of fishing days
Artisanal longline		
Industrial longline		
Gillnet		
Bottom trawl net		
Trawl nets		

Use the box below to indicate other fishing gear that interacts with sea turtles, and other metric to report fishing effort if needed.

FISHERIES BYCATCH MONITORING

25. Does your country systematically (permanent) collect data on EP leatherback bycatch?

- Yes
- No

26. Indicate the **monitoring effort of bycatch in the year of this report**, according to the metrics applicable in your country (use “not applicable” for those not used in your country).

Monitoring effort (metrics)	TValue
COMMENT US DEL: It may be difficult to conduct an analysis across the population if dealing with just numbers. Could it be % of total?	
Number of observers at port	
Number of fishermen logbooks recorded in the year	
Percentage of trips of the fleet with onboard observers (%)	
NPercentage of self-reporting sheets registered (%)	
NPercentage of vessels using electronic monitoring system (%)	
There is no program to monitor sea turtle bycatch in the country (indicate with X)	

27. Does your country identify and report the **fate of sea turtles bycaught** and retained on board fishing vessels?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is “Yes” describe which is the most frequent fate

--

28. EP Leatherback bycatch in the year reported	Total/estimated number of EP leatherback turtle (If you do not have this information write ND = no data)
Number of EP leatherbacks bycaught in the year reported here	
Number of EP leatherback released alive in the year reported here	
Number of EP leatherback released dead in the year reported here	

REDUCTION OF IMPACTS OF BYCATCH ON THE EP LEATHERBACK

29. Choose the types of fishing gear **modification/measures used** to **reduce EP leatherback bycatch** and indicate if its use is mandatory or voluntary, and the percentage of vessels using it.

Modification/Measure	Percentage of vessels using it	Mandatory (yes/no)	Voluntary (yes/no)
TEDs			
Large circle hooks			
Bait			
LED lights			
Spatial and or/time closures			
Soaking time reduction			
Other (indicate which one below)			

If the answer is other, please indicate which measure is used If there are challenges to implement any of these gear modification measures please indicate them in the box below.

30. Which of the following is your country implementing to promote best practices for safe handling and releasing of incidentally captured turtles (EP leatherback) and bycatch reporting in the year of this report? (Choose all that apply)

- Communication program with the fishing fleet to promote best practices
- Projects to promote exchange between fishermen at **national** to share experiences on reduction and mitigation of EP leatherback bycatch
- Projects to promote exchange between fishermen at **regional** level to share experiences on reduction and mitigation of EP leatherback bycatch
- On board equipment and educational material
- Other
- No activity to promote best practices was carried out in the year

If the answer is “other” briefly describe (500 words)

**PILOT PROJECT TO COLLECT ENVIRONMENTAL DATA ON INDEX NESTING BEACHES
SUMMARY AUGUST 2022**

Prepared by the members of the Climate Change Working Group

Dr. Julia Horrocks (WG Coordinator) and Dr. Jeffrey Seminoff

IAC Party Focal Points from the Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and the USA notified the IAC Secretariat of their intention to implement the Pilot Project to Collect Environmental Data on the Index Monitoring Beaches. The following is a brief summary of the information submitted from the Parties on their selected beaches, data collected, challenges encountered and recommendations.

EI Hawksbill; CC loggerhead; CM green/black turtle; LO Olive ridley; LK Kemp's ridley; DC leatherback.

Caribbean Netherlands – Beaches: Klein Bonaire (EI, CC, CM), Playa Chiktu (CM, CC) and the southern beaches of Bonaire (CC, EI, CM). Ninety-four dataloggers have been deployed, some in the open beach and some in the shade. None have been retrieved as yet.

Costa Rica - Beaches: Playa Nombre de Jesús and Ostional (LO, CM), Guanacaste (Pacific coast). The project was implemented in 2021. Data on sand temperature and nest temperature were obtained at one or two locations on Playa Nombre de Jesús. Data were collected for at least 6 months at Ostional.

Dominican Republic – Beach: Manresa Rompeolas beach, Santo Domingo Este (DC, CM, EI). The pilot project has not yet started for administrative reasons, but there is a postgraduate student interested in undertaking sand temperature monitoring.

Ecuador – Beaches: Quinta Playa and Las Bachas in the Galapagos (CM). Ecuador is thinking about adding other beaches on the Ecuadorian mainland that are important for other species' nesting. Monitoring of the beaches began in 2021, beginning in January and ending in May. Temperature monitoring has not yet been possible due to a lack of funding to buy the dataloggers.

Mexico – Beach: Rancho Nuevo (LK, CM, CC). Mexico reported on the environmental characteristics of the 30-km index beach, and sand temperatures of 34 dataloggers deployed on 17 transects across the beach between May and August over the 5-year period (2017-2021). Data were collected hourly and average daily temperatures across all 17 dataloggers were provided, as well as sand temperatures in the corral. Summarised data were provided from a manuscript (Presz, K. *et al* in prep).

Panama – Beaches: Playa La Marinera (Guánico Abajo, Tonosí, province of Los Santos) and Playa Isla Cañas (Isla Cañas, Tonosí, province of Los Santos) on the Pacific coast and Playa Chiriquí (Changuinola, Bocas del Toro) and Playa Armila (Tubualá, Guna Yala) on the Caribbean coast. These beaches support nesting by DC, EI and CM. Park rangers supported by students from the University of Panama have been identified to

undertake the studies at Playa La Marinera and Isla Cañas on the Pacific coast. Playa Chiriquí on the Caribbean coast is monitored by Sea Turtle Conservancy. Ten HOBOS will be provided to STC to monitor sand temperature. Biology students from the University of Panama will be deploying 10 HOBOS at Playa Armila. The equipment has been obtained. Guidance is being provided by Rotney Piedra. The students are seeking approval to start working on these sites for their preliminary projects. It is anticipated that consistent monitoring will soon be underway.

USA – Beach: Mona Island, Puerto Rico (EI). The Mona Island Hawksbill Research Group has been collecting clutch, sand, air and seawater temperatures since 2002. A report was submitted showing the average daily temperatures of 6 dataloggers for the deployment period December 2020 to August 2021 (Diez & van Dam, 2022); the peak nesting season is typically August/September. The dataloggers (HOBO Water Temperature Pro v2, Onset Corp) were set to record temperatures hourly, one recording air temperature and five recording sand temperature at nest depth (approx. 50 cm), under vegetation. The dataloggers were re-deployed, after data were downloaded.

Challenges:

Lack of funding to purchase temperature dataloggers and to engage personnel. The need for identification of funds to implement the pilot project was raised. Furthermore, due to the Covid pandemic, there were budget cuts in some countries, and restrictions on importation of equipment.

Identification of personnel to participate in the projects was difficult for some Parties, particularly to monitor the more isolated and distant beaches.

More frequent and stronger swells and storms, causing beach erosion and sometimes exposing dataloggers or washing them away.

Dataloggers were reported to be displaced by nesting turtles, as well as poachers and curious persons.

Recommendations:

Share preliminary reports and other publications from Parties who have been monitoring sand temperature prior to the onset of the Pilot Project (e.g., Costa Rica, Mexico and USA)

Explore ways to camouflage the dataloggers to prevent persons from pulling them up.

Identify funding to allow more consistent support of the pilot projects.

Encourage Parties to collect the other environmental data requested, including physical descriptions of the nesting beach(es) and trends in dry beach width.

**Inter-American Convention for the Protection and
Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)
Scientific Committee 19th Meeting
November 7-9, 2022**

CIT-CC19-2022-Inf.3

List of index sites for each sea turtle species for each IAC country within which sea turtle nesting occurs (Updated on November 9 2022)

El siguiente listado es resultado de la consulta realizada por la Secretaría de la CIT a los Puntos Focales de CIT. La selección de las playas está orientada por el documento técnico CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selección de Playas Índices en la Región de la CIT y guía para colecta de información. [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/tecnicos/CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 GT Tendencias Anidacion CIT Final Oct 29.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/tecnicos/CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5_GT_Tendencias_Anidacion_CIT_Final_Oct_29.pdf)

The following table is the result from the IAC Secretariat consultation process with IAC Focal Points. The guidelines to select index nesting beaches used for the table are available in the technical document [CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 "Selecting Index Nesting Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines"](#)

Nombre de la Playa/Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible / Responsable
Belize (2)		(1)	(1)	(1)			
Gales Point			X				
Ambergris Caye		X		X			
Brazil (12)	(2)	(1)	(7)	(12)	(3)		
Comboios	X			X			
Povoação	X			X			
Interlagos (Previously Busca Vida, Santa Maria)			X	X			
Guarajuba (Previously Barra Jacuipe, Guarajuba, Itacimirim)			X	X			
Brazil (12)	(2)	(1)	(7)	(12)	(3)		
Praia do Forte			X	X			
Farol (Previously Barra do Furado, Farol, Farolzinho, Maria Rosa)				X			

Nombre de la Playa/Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible / Responsable
Berta			X				
Pipa			X				
Mangue Seco					X		
Coqueiros					X		
Pirambu					X		
Trindade Island		X					
Caribbean Netherlands (3)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(1)			
Klein Bonaire, Bonaire		X	X	X			Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire
Zeelandia, St. Eustatius	X	X					St Eustatius Sea Turtle Conservation Program
Playa Chikitu, Bonaire		X					
Costa Rica – Pacífico/Pacific (9)	(1)	(5)			(4)		
Isla Murcielago		X					
Nancite*					X		
Naranjo		X			X		
Cabuyal		X					
Nombre de Jesús		X					
Punta Pargos		X					
Playa Grande	X						
Ostional*					X		
Hermosa					X		
Costa Rica – Atlántico/Atlantic (4)	(3)	(1)	(1)				
Tortuguero	X	X					
Pacuare Norte	X						
Mondonguillo	X						
Cahuita			X				
Ecuador (12)		(7)	(1)		(10)		
La Botada (Manabí)					X		MAE (Pacoche)

Nombre de la Playa/Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible / Responsable
San Lorenzo (Manabí)					X		MAE (Pacoche)
Mar Bravo (Sta. Elena)		X			X		MAE(REMACOPSE)
Punta Brava (Sta. Elena)		X			X		MAE (REMACOPSE)
Tres Cruces (Sta. Elena)		X			X		MAE(REMACOPSE)
Playa Rosada (Sta. Elena)		X			X		MAE (REMACOPSE)
Galerita (Esmeraldas)		X			X		MAE Reserva Marina Galera San Francisco
Quingue (Esmeraldas)					X		MAE Reserva Marina Galera San Francisco
Las Palmas (Esmeraldas)					X		MAE Refugio de Vida Silvestre Manglares Estuario del Rio Esmeraldas
Portete (Esmeraldas)					X		MAE Refugio de Vida Silvestre Manglares Estuario del Rio Muisne
Quinta Playa (Galápagos)		X					MAE (DPNG)
Las Bachas (Galápagos)		X					MAE (DPNG)
Guatemala (2)	(1)				(2)		
Hawaii	X				X		ARCAS
La Barrona					X		
Honduras – Atlántico/Atlantic (3)	(1)		(2)				
Pumkin Hill, Utila			X				
Plaplaya	X						
Cayos Cochinos			X				
Honduras – Pacífico/Pacific (2)					(2)		
Punta Ratón					X		
El Venado					X		
México – Atlántico/Atlantic (11)		(10)	(3)	(8)		(5)	
Rancho Nuevo, Tamps		X		X		X	CONANP
Barra del Tordo, Tamps		X		X		X	CONANP
Altamira, Tamps		X		X		X	CONANP

Nombre de la Playa/Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible / Responsable
Miramar, Tamps						X	CONANP
Las Coloradas/Rio Lagartos, Yuc		X	X	X			CONANP
Lechuguillas, Ver		X	X			X	CONANP
Isla Aguada, Camp		X	X				CONANP
Xcacel, Q. Roo		X		X			Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México
Chemuyil, Q.Roo		X		X			Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México
Xel Ha, Q. Roo		X		X			Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México
Aventuras DIF (Previously Puerto Aventuras) Q. Roo		X		X			Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México
México – Pacífico/Pacific (6)	(5)	(3)			(4)		
El Verde, Sin	X				X		CONANP
Tierra Colorada, Gro	X	X			X		CONANP
Cahuitán, Oax	X						CONANP
Escobilla, Oax*	X				X		CONANP
Barra de la Cruz, Oax	X	X			X		CONANP
Colola, Mich		X					Univ. Michoacana SNH
Panamá – Atlántico/Atlantic (4)	(3)	(1)	(4)	(1)			
Cayos Zapatillas (B. del Toro)			X				
Playa Chiriqui (B. del Toro)	X	X	X	X			
Playa Armila o Pito (GunaYala)	X		X				
Playa Soroopta (B. del Toro)	X		X				
Panamá – Pacífico/Pacific (2)		(2)			(2)		
RVS Isla Cañas		X			X		
Playa La Marinera		X			X		
República Dominicana (13)	(6)	(5)	(5)				
Cabarete	X						
Isla Saona		X	X				
La Vacama	X						
El Valle	X	X					

Nombre de la Playa/Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsable / Responsible
Guibia, Distrito Nacional			X				
Manresa	X	X					
Sans Souci		X					
Mosquea (Parque Nacional Jaragua)							
Bahía de las Águilas	X		X				
Macao	X						
Palmar de Ocoa			X				
Isla Catalina		X	X				
Playa Bonita							
United States – Atlántico/Atlantic (7)	(5)	(4)	(3)	(4)		(1)	
Culebra Island, Puerto Rico	X						
Vieques Island, Puerto Rico	X	X	X				
Mona Island, Puerto Rico			X				
Buck Island Reef National Monument, U.S. Virgin Islands	X	X					
Sandy Point NWR, U.S. Virgin Islands	X	X	X				
Florida Index Beaches	X	X		X			
Georgia Index Beaches				X			
North Carolina Index Beaches				X			
South Carolina Index Beaches				X			
South Padre Island (Texas)						X	
United States – Pacífico/Pacific (2)		(1)	(1)				
French Frigate Shoals (HI)		X					
Hawaii			X				
Venezuela (13)	(6)	(4)	(4)	(5)			

Nombre de la Playa/Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible / Responsable
Querepare (Edo. Sucre)	X			X			CICTMAR
Cipara (Edo. Sucre)	X			X			CICTMAR
Macuro (varias playas cercanas, Edo. Sucre)	X	X	X				ONDB-MPPA
San Juan de las Galdonas (Edo. Sucre)							
El Moro de Puerto Santo (Edo. Sucre)							
El Agua (Edo. Nueva Esparta)	X						ONDB-MPPA
Parguito (Edo. Nueva Esparta)	X						
Parque Nacional Archipiélago Los Roques (varios cayos)			X	X			INPARQUES, Fundación Científica Los Roques
La Sabana (Edo. Vargas)	X						ONDB-MPPA, Consejo de Pescadores
Playa Cuyagua (Parque Nacional Henri Pittier)		X	X	X			INPARQUES, Fundación Ecodiversa, Lideres de la Comunidad
Playa Uricaro y otras (Parque Nacional Henri Pittier)		X	X	X			INPARQUES, Fundación Ecodiversa, Lideres de la Comunidad
RFS Isla de Aves		X					ONDB-MPPA Dependencias Federales
Playa Grande Choroní (Edo. Aragua)							

ANNEX XI – Agreements and Recommendations 19th Scientific Committee Meeting (SC19)

Agreements and Recommendations
IAC 19th Scientific Committee Meeting (SC19)

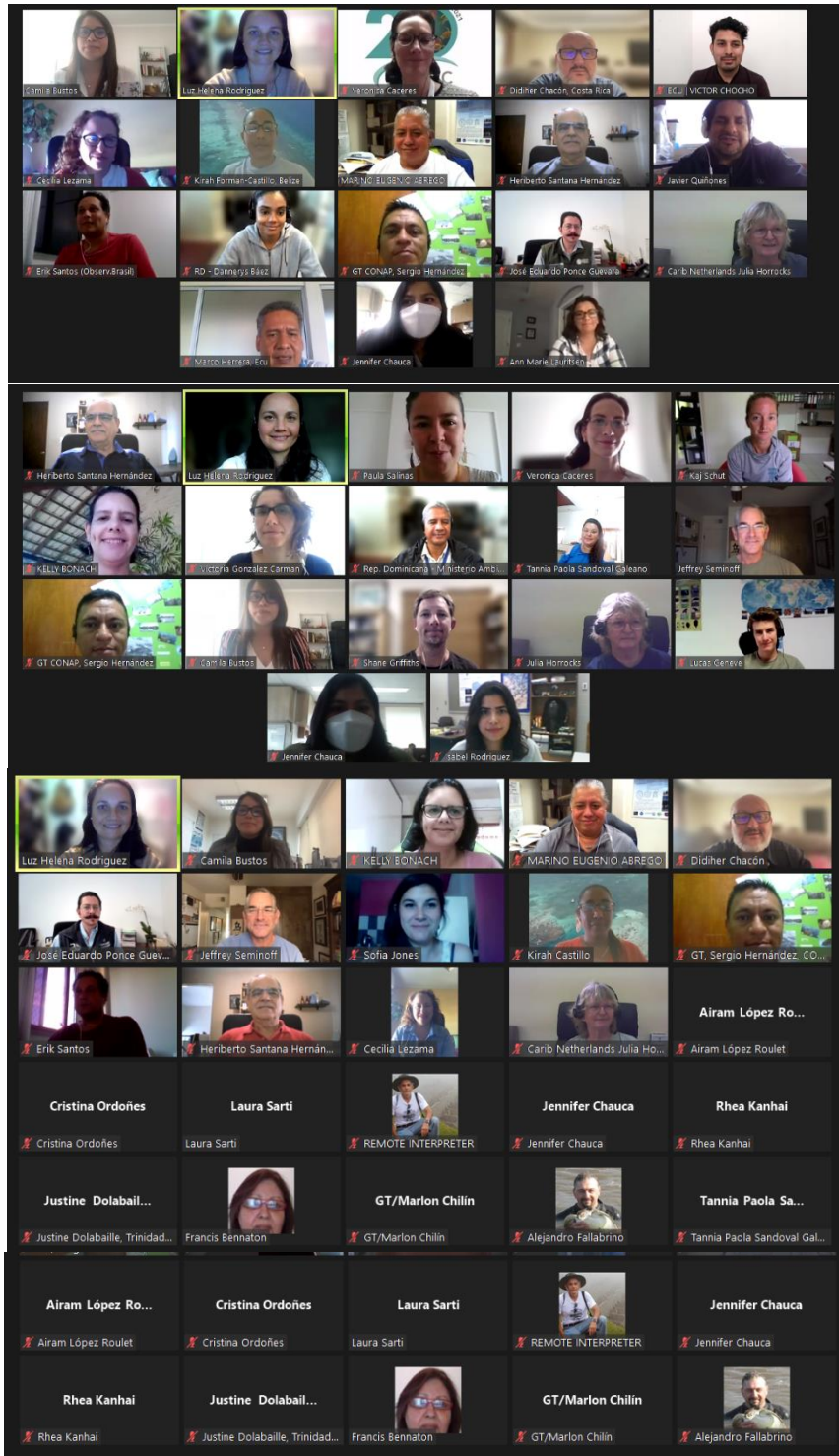
EXCEPCIONES/EXCEPTIONS		
1	El grupo de trabajo de Excepciones utilizará como insumo los indicadores de Costa Rica, Panamá y Guatemala presentados en la reunión del Comité Científico CC19 y trabajará intersesionalmente en la preparación del formato para evaluar los planes de manejo de las excepciones, para presentarlo al CC en 2023.	The Exceptions working group will use the indicators from Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala presented at the Scientific Committee meeting SC19, and will work intersessionally to prepare the form to evaluate the exceptions management plan evaluation form, to present it to the SC in 2023.
2	Guatemala preparará un borrador del plan de manejo de la Excepción para mayo del 2023 y discutirlo en una reunión con el grupo de trabajo de Excepciones para comentarios. Guatemala presentará el borrador del plan de manejo ante el Comité Científico CC20, 2023.	Guatemala will prepare its Exception management plan draft for May 2023 and will discuss it in a meeting with the Exceptions working group for their comments. Guatemala will present its draft management plan to the Scientific Committee CC20-2023.
3	Panamá enviará su plan de manejo de la excepción al Comité Científico la primera semana de diciembre 2022 para comentarios. Se seguirá el procedimiento de acuerdo a la Resolución de Excepciones de Panamá. Panamá envió su Plan de Manejo de la Excepción el 9 de diciembre del 2022.	Panama will submit their exception management plan to the Scientific Committee the first week of December 2022 for comments. The procedure will be followed according to Panama’s Resolution on Exceptions. Panama submitted its Exception Management Plan on December 9 th , 2022.
INFORME ANUAL/ANNUAL REPORT		
4	PESQUERÍAS - El CC19 recomendó no realizar cambios en el informe anual de CIT al cuestionario vigente referente a la Resolución de Pesquerías CIT-COP10-2022-R7.	FISHERIES – The SC19 recommended not to make changes in the IAC Annual Report to the current questionnaire regarding Fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7.
5	PESQUERÍAS - El grupo de trabajo de pesquerías utilizará el cuestionario de seguimiento de la Resolución CIT-COP10-2022-R7 presentado al CC19 como documento base y lo analizará teniendo en cuenta los comentarios recibidos durante el CC19. El GT preparará una recomendación para el CCE 2023 (60 días antes de la reunión) y una propuesta final para presentar el cuestionario en el CC20-2023, para considerar su inclusión en el Informe Anual de la CIT 2024.	FISHERIES – The fisheries working group will use the questionnaire to monitor Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 presented to the SC19 as a base document, and will analyze it taking into account the comments received during SC19. The WG will prepare a recommendation for the CCE 2023 (60 days before the meeting) and a final proposal to present the questionnaire to the SC20-2023, for them to consider its inclusion in the IAC Annual Report 2024.
6	COLISIONES - El Comité Científico conformó el grupo de trabajo sobre colisiones de embarcaciones turísticas y pesqueras con tortugas marinas. Miembros: República Dominicana, Guatemala, Países Bajos del Caribe, México, Belize, Costa Rica. Objetivo: Compilar información regional (Países de CIT y otros) con las medidas que aplican para el ordenamiento de estas actividades y mitigar esta amenaza. ACTIVIDADES 6. Seleccionar un coordinador en la primera reunión del GT.	COLLISIONS – The Scientific Committee formed the working group on tourist and fishing vessels collisions with sea turtles. Members: Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Caribbean Netherlands, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica. Objective: Compile regional information (IAC Countries and other) with the measures used to manage areas and mitigate this threat. ACTIVITIES 1. A coordinator will be appointed at the WG first meeting.

	<p>7. El GT preparará un documento técnico de la CIT con lineamientos generales para mitigar la amenaza para que cada país los implemente según sea apropiado y lo presenta en el CC20 2023.</p> <p>8. El GT apoyará la revisión técnica de la reglamentación que está preparando el Ministerio de Ambiente de República Dominicana, sobre esta problemática.</p> <p>9. El GT operará por 1 año y/o hasta que cumplan con su tarea y evaluarán si debe mantenerse o no.</p>	<p>2. The WG will prepare an IAC technical document with general guidelines to mitigate this threat, for each country to implement as appropriate, and will present it at the SC20 2023.</p> <p>3. The WG will support a technical review of the regulation that is being prepared by the Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment regarding this issue.</p> <p>4. The WG will operate for a year until their tasks are finished and will assess if it needs to continue working or not.</p>
7	BAULA OPO - El CC19 adoptó las secciones 1 a 4 del cuestionario de seguimiento de la Resolución Baula OPO CIT-COP10-2022-R6, para su inclusión en el informe anual CIT 2023.	EP LEATHERBACK – The SC19 adopted sections 1 to 4 of the questionnaire to monitor the EP leatherback Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 for inclusion in the IAC Annual Report 2023.
8	BAULA OPO - La sección de pesquerías y su interacción con laúd OPO, del cuestionario de seguimiento de la Resolución CIT-COP10-2022-R6, presentado al CC19, se va a analizar por el GT Pesquerías y GT Baula, tomando en cuenta la resolución de pesquerías CIT-COP10-2022-R7, para que en la medida de lo posible se armonice la solicitud de información, para incluirla en el Informe Anual de CIT en 2024. La propuesta de los Grupos de Trabajo será presentada al Comité Consultivo de expertos en 2023 (60 días antes del CCE16) y Comité Científico CC20-2023 para su adopción final.	EP LEATHERBACK – The section on interactions between fisheries and the EP leatherback in the questionnaire to monitor Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 presented to the SC19, will be analyzed by the EP leatherback and the fisheries working groups, taking into account the fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 to, as much as possible, harmonize the request for information, for inclusion in the IAC Annual Report 2024. The Working Groups’ proposal will be presented to the Consultative Committee in 2023 (60 days before the meeting) and to the Scientific Committee SC20-2023, for final adoption.
9	BAULA OPO – El grupo de trabajo recomienda que, una vez definida, la información sobre pesquerías y su interacción con laúd OPO sea solicitada en la Parte VI del Informe Anual de la CIT, siguiendo la solicitud de Ecuador en la COP10.	EP LEATHERBACK – The working group recommends that, once established, the information about fisheries and their interactions with EP leatherbacks is requested in Part VI of the IAC Annual Report, following Ecuador’s request at the COP10.
10	BAULA OPO – El Dr. Shane Griffiths apoyará la preparación de los cuestionarios sobre pesquerías para el Informe Anual de la CIT, como miembro del grupo de trabajo de Pesquerías.	EP LEATHERBACK - Dr. Shane Griffiths will support the preparation of the fisheries questionnaires for the IAC Annual Report, as a member of the Fisheries working group.
PESQUERÍAS Y SU INTERACCIÓN CON TORTUGAS MARINAS FISHERIES AND THEIR INTERACTION WITH SEA TURTLES		
11	PALANGRE - El grupo de trabajo de Pesquerías continuará incorporando la información de los informes anuales de la CIT en la base de datos, hasta presentar el primer análisis con la información de cinco años en 2026 (Informes Anuales de la CIT 2020-2025).	LONGLINE – The Fisheries Working Group will continue including the information from the IAC Annual Reports in the database, until the first five years’ analysis is presented in 2026 (IAC Annual Reports 2020-2025).
12	PALANGRE - Llevar a cabo un intercambio técnico (reunión virtual) con énfasis en la colecta de datos de palangre, con la participación del GT pesquerías, técnicos de OROPs con los que la CIT tiene MoU y los países parte de CIT (agencias pesqueras) interesados, a fin de llamar la atención a la necesidad de incluir la información pesquera en el Informe Anual de la CIT para que ayude en la preparación de los análisis del GT de pesquerías	LONGLINE – Carry out a technical exchange (virtual meeting) focused on the longline data collection, with the participation of the fisheries WG, technicians of the RFMOs with which the IAC has MoUs, and IAC countries interested (fisheries agencies), with the aim of calling attention to the need of including fishing information in the IAC Annual Report for the

	de la CIT, necesarios para el seguimiento de las Resoluciones.	preparation of the analyses by the IAC fisheries WG, required to monitor the Resolutions.
13	PALANGRE – El CC19 recomienda a los países que continúen incluyendo la información sobre pesquerías de palangre en el Informe Anual de la CIT.	LONGLINE – The SC19 recommends that the countries continue including their information on longline fisheries in the IAC Annual Report.
14	MANUAL - El GT de pesquerías se reunirá para tomar decisiones sobre los próximos pasos en cuanto a ilustraciones, contenidos finales y manejo de autorías. Un documento preliminar se presentará en la reunión del CC20 en el 2023. Se acordó el apoyo de la licenciadas Isabel Rodríguez y a la estudiante de Doctorado Sofia Jones, al GT de pesquerías en la preparación del Manual.	MANUAL – The fisheries WG will meet to decide on the next steps regarding illustrations, final contents, and authorship. A preliminary document will be presented at the SC20 in 2023. There was agreement on the support from Ms. Isabel Rodriguez and the PhD student Sofia Jones, to the Fisheries WG in the preparation of the Manual.
TORTUGA CABEZONA/LOGGERHEAD TURTLE		
15	Los coordinadores del grupo de trabajo, Belice y Estados Unidos, enviarán el documento final a la Secretaría en marzo del 2023. Las recomendaciones de este documento se presentarán en la 11ª COP.	The working group coordinators, Belize and United States, will submit the final document to the Secretariat in March 2023. The recommendations in this document will be presented to the COP11.
CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO/CLIMATE CHANGE		
16	Las siete Partes participando en el proyecto piloto (Ecuador, Estados Unidos, Costa Rica, México, Países Bajos del Caribe, Panamá y República Dominicana) continuarán reportando información a la coordinadora del GT, por medio de la Secretaría, a más tardar el 30 de julio de cada año, hasta completar el proyecto piloto en el 2025.	The seven Parties participating in the pilot project (Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and the United States) will continue reporting information via the Secretariat to the WG coordinators every year, not later than July 30 th , until the completion of the pilot project in 2025
17	El GT se reunirá en el primer trimestre del 2023 para un intercambio de ideas sobre los logros y retos del proyecto piloto, incluyendo nuevos países que quieran participar.	The WG will meet in the first quarter of 2023 to continue exchanging ideas regarding achievements and challenges, including any new countries that would like to participate.
18	Se recomienda considerar la búsqueda de financiación para apoyar a los países que están enfrentando retos debido a la falta de fondos.	It is recommended to consider seeking funding to support those countries facing challenges due to lack of funds.
19	El CC19 recomienda que se integren los protocolos de colecta de datos ambientales en los programas de monitoreo regular de las playas de anidación.	The SC19 recommends including environmental data collection protocols in their regular nesting beach monitoring programmes.
PLAYAS DE ANIDACIÓN / NESTING BEACHES		
20	El CC19 validó las playas índices de anidación para su inclusión en el Informe Anual de la CIT, para que los países reporten sus datos.	The SC19 validated the index nesting beaches list for inclusion in the IAC Annual Report 2023, and for countries to report their data.
21	El CC19 recomienda a las Partes que continúen incluyendo sus datos de anidación de las playas índice en el Informe Anual de la CIT.	The SC19 recommends that the parties continue to report nesting on index beaches in the IAC Annual Report.
INVESTIGACIÓN EN PAÍSES DE LA CIT RESEARCH IN IAC COUNTRIES		
22	Cada año, el Comité Científico incluirá en su agenda la presentación de las investigaciones de dos o tres países, reportada en el Informe Anual de la CIT.	Every year, the Scientific Committee will include in its agenda presentations from two or three-3 countries, of research reported in their IAC Annual Reports.

23	<p>En la agenda del CC20 del 2023 Belice, Chile y Costa Rica incluirán las presentaciones de investigaciones nacionales reportadas en el Informe Anual de la CIT.</p> <p>Los países enviarán a la presidencia del Comité Científico y la Secretaría, el título de sus presentaciones 60 días antes de la reunión, para incluirlas en la agenda.</p>	<p>In the agenda of the SC20-2023 Belize, Chile, and Costa Rica will include presentations of national research reported in their IAC Annual Reports.</p> <p>The countries will send the presentation titles to the Scientific Committee Chair and the Secretariat 60 days before the meeting, to be included in the agenda.</p>
<p>COLABORACIÓN CON ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES COLLABORATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</p>		
24	<p>El grupo de trabajo ACAP-CIT se reunirá en la primera semana de diciembre 2022, para retomar actividades bajo la coordinación de Argentina. El GT se reunió el 1 de diciembre del 2022.</p>	<p>The ACAP – IAC working group will meet in the first week of December 2022 to resume activities under the coordination of Argentina. The WG met on December 1st, 2022.</p>
25	<p>El CC19 eligió por segunda vez consecutiva a la Ing. Lezlie Camila Bustos como Presidenta y al Dr. Heriberto Santana como Vicepresidente del Comité Científico por un periodo de dos años.</p>	<p>The SC19 elected Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos as Chair and Dr. Heriberto Santana as Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee for the second consecutive term for a period of two years.</p>
26	<p>La Secretaría consultará a los puntos focales ser sede para la reunión presencial en el 2023. La Secretaría dará aviso oportuno sobre las respuestas. De no establecerse una sede continuaremos con el formato virtual.</p>	<p>The Secretariat will consult focal points regarding hosting the next face-to-face meeting in 2023. If a host cannot be established, we will continue with the virtual format.</p>

ANNEX XII – Photos from the 19th IAC Scientific Committee Meeting



Group picture 19th Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee – November 7-9, 2022

Signing of Memorandum of Cooperation with Stetson University within the framework of the IAC 19th Scientific Committee Meeting (SC19)



Signing of Memorandum of Cooperation by the IAC Secretariat, Ms. Veronica Caceres (left) and the Interim Dean of Stetson University College of Law Professor Theresa J. Pulley Radwan (right)