



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
Thirteenth Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts
April 14th, 2020 - Videoconference

CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.7

Report of the 13th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts

Opening Remarks

1. The 13th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (CCE13), was held by video conference on April 14th, 2020. Welcome remarks were given by Mr. Paul Hoetjes, CCE Chair, and Ms. Veronica Caceres, IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*.

Agenda Adoption and Participants Introduction

2. Delegates from thirteen (13) IAC member countries attended the meeting representing Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Guatemala, and the United States. The CCE sectorial members from the scientific community, industry, and non -governmental organizations (NGO) sectors attended as well, with a total of 32 participants (*Annex I.A – List of Participants CIT-CCE13-2020-Inf.1*).

3. The CCE13 adopted the agenda with no changes (*Annex I.B - Agenda CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.1*)

Report on compliance with the Consultative Committee Work Plan.

4. The CCE annual report on compliance with the work plan was requested by IAC Parties at COP9, to follow up on the activities and progress of the Committees. The Chair of the CCE presented the report, the plenary discussed the activities carried out in the CCE work plan 2019, and decided on new activities to be included in the work plan for 2020. (*Annex II –CCE Implementation Report CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.2*)

Consultative Committee Work Plan Update (2020-2021)

5. The CCE Work Plan was updated with the inclusion of the following:

6. The formation of a working group to follow up on the implementation of the Resolution for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback (CIT-COP9-2019-R2). The working group tasks include promoting the collaboration with SPAW Protocol according to COP10 Decisions of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/3) to “work closely with the IAC and call on key countries

(Trinidad and Tobago, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, and Canada) to cooperate with the SPAW Protocol and IAC, to identify and address the threats to the North-West Atlantic leatherback population”. Promote collaboration with WIDECASST and the World Wildlife Fund, as they are preparing a protection/management plan for this species. The working group will present a report in 2021. Those CCE delegates interested in being members of this group should communicate their intention to IAC Secretariat *PT* within the 30 days after this meeting (Annex VII - **Agreement 2**). By the moment of adoption of this document on May 15, only the United States expressed interest to become part of the group.

7. The CCE agreed in the proposal by Mexico, to request the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Task Force to assess the progress in the implementation of the five-year strategic actions included in the EP Leatherback Resolution, as the IAC Parties must be informed of the activities carried out by the IAC Task Force, the Laud OPO network and others as appropriate, in compliance with the Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2. (Annex VII - **Agreement 3**)

8. The formation of a working group to discuss and address the need and mechanisms to collect sea turtle bycatch data from small-scale fisheries in the IAC countries. This follows up a recommendation from Brazil’s delegate, Dr. Gilberto Sales, who proposed further discussion on this matter. The scientific sector delegate from Mexico, Dr. Eduardo Cuevas, suggested considering the use of surveys with fishers to collect this information. The CCE delegates from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Caribbean Netherlands, Peru, Panama, and the industry sectorial sector representative, Ms. Nina Pardo, agreed to become members of the group (Annex VII-**Agreement 7**). Peru also requested including Ms. Marilu Bouchon (IMARPE) and the delegate to the IAC Scientific Committee, Dr. Javier Quiñones.

9. The CCE adopted their Work Plan Annex III – *CCE Work Plan 2020-2021 CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.3*

Recommendations from the 16th Scientific Committee Meeting

a. Implementation of Resolution on Exceptions five-year reports from IAC countries

10. **Panama** - The Scientific Committee Chair Mr. Diego Albareda (Argentina) apologized for the delay in providing the CCE a completed document with the Scientific Committee (SC) recommendations to Panama on time for this meeting. The SC Chair requested one month from the time of this meeting to finish the analysis of the exception report by Panama and provide the recommendations. Subsequently, the CCE will have two weeks for comments. (**Agreement 1 Annex VII – Agreements and Recommendations CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.6**). By the moment of adoption of this document (May 15), the CCE had not received the recommendations for Panama.

11. **Guatemala** – The delegate from Guatemala, Ms. Airam Lopez, informed that Guatemala is working to collect the pertinent data for their exception with the support of a scientific study, and expects to have the results to present their official exception report in June.

12. **Costa Rica** – The IAC Secretary *PT*, informed that Costa Rica will present their exception report this year. The report will be analyzed to receive recommendations at the 17th Scientific Committee meeting, and will subsequently submit them to the next CCE14.

b. IAC Annual Report Table to follow up on the compliance with the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution

13. The table was adopted with no changes. The delegate from Mexico, M.Sc. Laura Sarti clarified the first question in this form regarding that all the countries should collaborate with outreach and lobby to countries that are no members of the IAC. The table will be included in the IAC Annual Report (*Annex IV – NWA Leatherback Resolution Table CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.6*) (*Annex VII Agreement 4*).

c. IAC Annual Report Table to gather data on sea turtle bycatch in industrial longline fisheries

14. The delegate from Caribbean Netherlands, Mr. Yoeri de Vries, requested clarification on why the information was limited to vessels >20 m, and in the use of the term hooks per basket (HPB) as a fisheries unit. To answer the first question the Scientific Committee Chair explained that the information in the table was harmonized with the one requested by the IATTC, which is limited to vessels over 20 m. The delegate from Brazil clarified that the term HPB is used by the IATTC and ICCAT and it refers to the number of hooks between floats in longline fishing gear.

15. The delegate from the Caribbean Netherlands pointed out that considering the intention of signing an MoU with ICCAT it is important to keep in mind that this RFMO works with vessels over 12 m, which means that this type of (small-scale) fishery should be taken into consideration.

16. Brazil mentioned that it is important to address this matter as vessels less than 20 m can have a significant impact on sea turtles, particularly on leatherbacks, he suggested beginning a discussion of this matter in this Committee. Chile, Costa Rica, and the Caribbean Netherlands agreed. The delegate from Costa Rica, Mr. Jose Miguel Carvajal, added that vessels less than 20m correspond to artisanal fisheries, and there are big information gaps regarding sea turtle bycatch and agreed that further discussion in the Committee on how to obtain information from these fisheries, including the creation of observer programs, should be a priority.

17. The SC delegate from Chile, Ms. Leslie Bustos, added that the request of information on small-scale vessels pushes managers and decision-makers to focus their attention on the issue regarding data deficiency in artisanal fisheries.

18. The delegate from the Caribbean Netherlands added that regarding data on sea turtle bycatch in small-scale fisheries, he would advise making use of the expertise and network that exists at the regional fisheries bodies (RFBs), especially from those related to small-scale fisheries. These bodies have the best available knowledge and network in order to develop, apply, and review methodologies on data gathering and monitoring. A linkage could be made between the IAC small scale fisheries working group, the Secretariats, and/or relevant working groups at regional fisheries bodies such as WECAFC (Spanish: COPACO).

19. From the discussion, the CCE Chair proposed forming the working group to address small scale fisheries data collection, and this was included in the Work Plan of the CCE.

20. The table to gather sea turtle bycatch data on industrial longline fisheries was adopted including additional information requested by Chile (i.e. target species and tagged sea turtles captured). The table will be included in IAC Annual Report. By request of the delegate from the Dominican Republic, Mr. Sixto Inchaustegui, a note will be included to indicate that this table should not be filled out by countries without industrial longline fisheries such as the Dominican Republic (*Annex V – Longline Fisheries Form CIT-CC16-2019-Doc.7*) (**Annex VII Agreement 5 and Agreement 6**)

d. IAC Annual Report Tables to gather sea turtle bycatch data on gillnets

21. The Chair of the Scientific Committee was not present at the moment of this discussion, he sent a message to the IAC Secretariat in regards to this recommendation from the SC Committee, stating that given the significant number of comments from the Consultative Committee regarding the gillnet data collection tables proposed by the Scientific Committee, it became obvious that there is more work to be done from the Scientific Committee. He proposed that the Scientific Committee will consider the comments from CCE to the tables presented, and will prepare a new proposal. (**Annex VII Agreement 8**)

e. Updates in the report on Green Turtle nesting status in the Southeastern Pacific

22. The delegate from the United States, Ms. Ann Marie Lauritsen, clarified that the document was developed by the Scientific Committee in response to the apparent decline of nesting observed previously in the nesting beaches in Ecuador and Costa Rica. The report includes new information that explains the current situation and it may not need further detail.

23. The delegate from Mexico, Dr. Laura Sarti, suggested including as a threat the mass mortality of juveniles and sub-adults (individuals between 58 and 64 cm) by consumption of red tide algae given the segment of the population impacted, and because it is becoming a recurrent event. She recommends including this addition in the paragraph referring to climate change.

24. Regarding the recommendations section, Costa Rica mentioned that given that the study involves three countries, and considering that the conclusions indicate a decline in Costa Rica's population, the first paragraph should include all index beaches in the region and not exclusively those from Ecuador.

25. The members of the Consultative Committee will submit their final recommendations to this document within the 30 days following this meeting (**Annex VII – Agreement 9**).

f. Proposal to change the date for annual report submission 2020

26. Given the new information request included in the IAC Annual Report at this meeting, the submission date is recommended to be extended to June 30th, 2020 (**Annex VII - Recommendation 5**)

IAC Collaboration with International Organizations

a. Memorandum of Understanding IAC- ICCAT

27. The delegate from the Caribbean Netherlands stated that MoU text should be as brief as possible to increase the chances of adoption by RFMOs, given the level of scrutiny of the terms, therefore he recommended removing some paragraphs in the preamble. The delegate also pointed out that the next ICCAT meeting might include several overdue items, therefore, any document presented needs to be as concise as possible.

28. Brazil suggested adding in paragraph 12 that “this is an advantage to achieve sustainability in the fisheries, in the long term”.

29. The delegate from Ecuador, Mr. Eduardo Espinoza, suggested mentioning the IAC-ICCAT MoU in the document. The IAC Secretary clarified that the text was developed following the MoU ACAP-ICCAT to facilitate adoption and that it will be desirable to limit the inclusion of new paragraphs.

30. The draft MoU was recommended for review by the IAC Focal Points (Annex VII-**Recommendation 1**).

b. Memorandum of Understanding IAC- Stetson University

31. Ecuador highlighted the benefits of the logistic support provided by Stetson University as a host of previous meetings of the IAC Convention.

32. The CCE agreed on the valuable collaboration of Stetson University and recommended to begin the process to draft an MoU for IAC Parties consideration (Annex VII - **Recommendation 2**)

c. Strategy to work with RFMOs – Report

33. The NGOs sectorial delegate, Ms. Rebecca Regnery presented the report as follows:

34. Out of the five tuna RFMOs, there are three that are of interest to the IAC: the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). All of them had measures to reduce impacts on sea turtles that were 10 years old. The IAC under the coordination of the Secretariat *PT* and Dr. Bryan Wallace has carried out great efforts to convince these RFMOs to update their measures. NOAA has also led efforts to improve these measures in the last 10 years. WCPFC approved stronger measures in December 2018. This adoption was important for the IATTC as countries such as Japan, China, and Korea have vessels traveling from the Eastern to the Western Pacific, and insisted that measures in both RFMOs were the same to avoid inconsistencies.

35. Last July (2019), and after more than a decade, the IATTC adopted new measures. This was the third year in which the USA lead the proposal for stronger measures in the IATTC and the countries members of the IAC that are also members of the IATTC played a key role in this adoption namely, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, and Venezuela. In November (2019), a proposal supported by United States, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Curacao, the Netherlands, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Ecuador, and Nicaragua was presented in the ICCAT but the Asian blocked it and we will continue working towards getting it approved.

36. The CCE scientific sector representative and Coordinator of the EP Leatherback Task Force, Dr. Bryan Wallace reported on the implementation of the IAC EP Leatherback TF through an official collaboration between the IAC and the IATTC which was only possible because of the MoU IAC-IATTC. The delegate highlighted that such a very unique Convention having this type of connection with an RFMO is exceptional. Dr. Wallace, thanked the delegates for the comments provided to the document product of this collaboration “Vulnerability Status and Efficacy of Potential Conservation Measures for the East Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) stock using the EASI-Fish Approach” as this document was reviewed by delegates of the Scientific and Consultative Committees, as well as of the EP Leatherback Task Force. The comments were submitted to the IATTC for their consideration. The document will be presented at the Commission’s bycatch working group meeting in 2020.

37. Dr. Wallace, recognized the dedicated work of Ms. Regnery, the Secretary, Ms. Veronica Caceres, and the delegates for helping with the lobby for the adoption of the IATTC Sea turtle Resolution, and thanked for the opportunity to work with a solid partner to comply with the objectives of the Convention.

IAC Communication Strategy

38. The delegate from Costa Rica, Mr. Rotney Piedra, presented the IAC Communication Strategy coordinated by Costa Rica that will benefit all the IAC Countries and the Convention itself. The delegate from Panama, Mr. Marino Abrego, stated that Panama and Costa Rica Ministries of Foreign Affairs are already working together in the implementation of the strategy.

39. Panama underlined they are committed to the strategy, their main objective is Colombia accession to the IAC, and are already working to achieve it.

40. Brazil informed that diplomats from the country are approaching Suriname and Guiana to encourage membership in the IAC.

41. The United States, and the NGO Sectorial delegate, Dr. Diego Amorocho, thank the presentation and the development of the strategy

42. Costa Rica extended the invitation to all the countries to get involved in the implementation of the communication strategy. The CCE Chair congratulated and thanked Costa Rica and invited the countries to support the strategy and provide infographics, posters, and other communication material that they have available (**Annex VII - Recommendation 3 and Recommendation 4**).

IAC Online Report

43. The IAC Secretary assistant, Ms. Luz Rodriguez, informed that the Secretariat Pro Tempore has held seven meetings to comply with the initial phase of the implementation process which is adapting the questionnaire to the online system. It is expected that by May the first tests can be carried out with the Scientific Committee Working Group in charge. After these tests, all focal points and staff from the countries in charge of filling out the IAC Annual Report will receive the corresponding training to use it.

Compliance with IAC Resolutions According to the Parties IAC Annual Reports

44. The IAC Secretary assistant Ms. Luz Rodriguez presented the report on the compliance with the IAC Resolutions based on the information provided by the Parties in the IAC Annual Reports during the last five years (2015-2019). She clarified that given that not all countries have submitted their Annual Reports every year some of the results can be biased by the lack of information. (*Annex VI – IAC Resolutions Compliance Report*)

45. The scientific sector delegate, Dr. Wallace, congratulated Ms. Rodríguez's efforts to gather this information of importance to the CCE and the IAC. He suggested improving the analysis of the results by separating those countries that didn't submit their report as non-compliant instead of unknown and offered support to improve this analysis. The IAC Secretariat PT welcomed and accepted this help.

46. Ecuador highlighted how sometimes fisheries authorities don't provide the information regarding fisheries data therefore it is not possible to report it. Ms. Rodriguez added that in that case, it is possible to clarify the situation in the report to provide more insight to those analyzing it.

47. The Secretary *PT* asked CCE to remind the IAC Parties to submit their information in the IAC Annual Report and to consider the recommendations presented (*Annex VII - Recommendation 6*).

Recommendations to COP10

48. Presentation of a report on the implementation progress of the EP Leatherback Resolution strategic actions

49. Presentation of draft Memorandum of Understanding between IAC and Stetson University

Next Meeting and Other Business

Election of CCE Chair and Vice-Chair

50. Mexico was proposed to be the Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts. Mexico's delegate, Mr. Santos Hernández Lopez, informed that consultation will be made with the respective environmental, fisheries, and foreign affairs agencies to obtain approval from his

country to accept the position. A response is expected in approximately 30 days. The delegate from Ecuador, Mr. Eduardo Espinoza, thanked the nomination and accepted the position as Vice-Chair of the CCE (Annex VII - **Agreement 10**).

51. The next meeting tentative date will be in February or the beginning of March 2021 (Annex VII-**Agreement 11**).

Farewell and Thanks to Dr. Paul Hoetjes

52. The delegates expressed their gratitude to Dr. Paul Hoetjes for his collaboration, support, and significant contributions to sea turtle conservation during his 15 years working with the IAC as the Caribbean Netherlands Focal Point. The CCE wished him the best for his retirement. Dr. Hoetjes also expressed his gratitude and offered his help and advice when needed.

Annex I.A CIT-CCE13-2020-Inf. 1

List of Participants 13th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE13)

Country	Name	Institution	E-mail
Delegates by Country			
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Scientific Committee			
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CCE Sectorial Members			
NGO			
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*32 participants

Annex I.B - CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.1

Agenda CCE13

April 14th, 2020 - 10:00 AM EST Time-Washington DC

- 10:00-11:00 Connection of participants to videoconference (Vidyo)
- 11:00-11:30 Opening remarks, adoption of the agenda and introduction of participants - Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) Chair, *Paul C. Hoetjes* [CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.1](#)
- 11:30-12:00 Report on the 12th Consultative Committee Meeting - [CIT-CCE12-2019-Doc.7](#)
- a) Report on compliance with the Consultative Committee Work Plan. [CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.2](#)
 - b) Consultative Committee Work Plan Update (2020-2021) [CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.3](#)
- 12:00-13:00 Recommendations from the 16th Scientific Committee- Scientific Committee Chair, *Diego Albareda*
- a) Exceptions: Recommendations from the Scientific Committee on the exceptions in Panama and Guatemala. [CIT-CCE13-2020- Doc.4](#)
 - b) IAC Annual Report: Table to follow up on the implementation of the Resolution for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback ([CIT-CC16-2019-Doc.6](#))
 - c) IAC Annual Report: Tables to follow up fisheries resolution to collect information on fisheries interactions with sea turtles in longlines and gillnets for the IAC Annual Report 2020 ([CIT-CC16-2019-Doc.7](#) and [CIT-CC8-2011-Doc.9](#))
 - d) Technical Document: Update of the report on Green Turtle nesting status in the Southeastern Pacific. [CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.5](#)
- 13:00-13:45 Break – Lunch
- 13:45-14:45 IAC Collaboration with International Organizations and preparation for participation in 2020 meetings. Mechanisms to implement the IAC Memorandums of Understanding.
- a) Review draft Memorandum of Understanding IAC – ICCAT [CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.5](#)
 - b) Communication strategy to increase IAC membership and/or to collaborate on sea turtle conservation matters with non-member countries. – COP Chair, *Rotney Piedra*
 - c) Report on the implementation of the strategy to work with RFMO’s 2019 - 2020. Bryan Wallace, Rebecca Regnery, Secretary *PT*.
- 14:45-15:00 IAC Annual Report: Progress on the implementation of the online system for the IAC Annual Report – Secretary *PT*
- 15:00-15:20 Report on Resolutions Compliance based on IAC Annual Reports – *Secretariat Pro Tempore* Proposal of Resolutions and Recommendations to consider for the COP10 agenda. We invite the CCE to include proposals as needed.
- 15:20-16:00 Adoption of recommendations from the meeting
- 16:00-17:00 Preparation of next meeting and Other Business
-CCE Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Meeting documents

Type of Document	Name	Number
Work Documents – Consultative Committee (in blue in the agenda)	Agenda	CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.1
	Report on compliance with the Consultative Committee Work Plan.	CIT-CCE12-2019-Doc.2
	Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan	CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.3
	Recommendations from the Scientific Committee on the exceptions in Panama	CIT-CCE13-2020- Doc.4
	Draft MoU – IAC - ICCAT	CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.5
Work Documents – from Scientific Committee	Table to follow up on the implementation of the Resolution for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback	CIT-CC16-2019-Doc.6
	Interactions with fisheries table for the IAC Annual Report 2020 - Longline	CIT-CC16-2019-Doc.7
	Interactions with fisheries tables for the IAC Annual Report 2020 - Nets	CIT-CC8-2011-Doc.9-Annex III
	Update on the status of Green Turtles nesting population in Galapagos	CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.5
Reference Documents	Report of the 12 th CCE meeting http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/comite-consultivo/12reunion/CIT-CCE12-2019-Doc.7_Final_Report_Web_29.05.19_.pdf	CIT-CCE12-2019-Doc.7
	Report of the 16 th IAC Scientific Committee Meeting	CIT-CC16-2019-Doc.11

Annex II - CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.2

Report on the Implementation of the Consultative Committee Work Plan 2019-2021

The following document is presented by the Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts and the Secretary *Pro Tempore*. It lists the activities adopted during the CCE12 (2019) and the COP9 of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles included in the IAC Consultative Committee Work Plan, and the actions required to comply with this plan according to the current status indicators where **green** is “completed”; **yellow** is in progress; **red** is no execution/no action. **Blue** shows the items to be determined during the CCE13. The list is organized by theme and divided into two columns one for the activity and the other for the reason of the current status shown by the respective color.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status – April 14 th , 2020
Exceptions		
1.	Follow up on the progress of the implementation of recommendations to Panama exception.	Review of CC recommendations to the exception in Panama.
2.	Follow up on the progress of the implementation of recommendations to Guatemala exception.	Follow up on request from Secretary <i>PT</i> and Scientific Committee to Guatemala to present the 5-year report on the exception.
3.	Follow up on the progress of the implementation of recommendations to Costa Rica.	No new recommendations were submitted by the Scientific Committee to Costa Rica in 2019
4.	Report to COP on the use of sea turtles or their products in the Exceptions for Parties (when new exceptions are presented).	No new exceptions have been presented
Website and IAC News Bulletin		
5.	Every month, the Parties will send relevant news for the IAC's Newsletter to Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> .	2020 news bulletins in preparation. More proactivity from the Parties sending their national news to the Secretary <i>PT</i> is required.

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status – April 14 th , 2020
Implementation EP Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R2)		
6.	Implementation of IATTC-IAC	IATTC: Members of the Consultative Committee (B. Wallace and R. Regnery) and the Secretary <i>PT</i> provided technical information, attended meetings; and supported the adoption process of a resolution to mitigate sea turtle bycatch in the IATTC (2019)
7.	Implementation of IATTC-IAC	IATTC: B. Wallace is working with IATTC scientists on a Leatherback EP model that will be presented at the meeting of the IATTC working group on bycatch in 2020.
8.	Carry out annual meetings of the Leatherback Task Force.	Annual meeting to review document on EP Leatherback vulnerability analysis (April 2020)
9.	The leatherback task force will prepare a report with the assessment of the compliance with the EP leatherback Resolution strategic actions to be presented to COP10.	A report presented to COP10 with the results of the assessment of the compliance with strategic actions.
Annual Report and Resolutions Compliance		
10.	Each country CCE delegate supports the Focal Point to prepare the IAC Annual Report.	2019: 10 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and the United States</i>). 2018: 11 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, México, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela</i>).
11.	Assess the current Annual Report form	CCE assesses the form proposed by the Scientific Committee with tables on the Fisheries Resolution and provides recommendations to the IAC Parties to include it in the IAC Annual Report.
12.	Review the table on compliance with the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution.	CCE Recommends: Table on NWA Leatherback Resolution adopted for IAC Annual Report 2020.
13.	Preparation of a report to COP on compliance with resolutions.	Report on resolutions compliance presented at COP10.
14.	Report on the compliance with agreements at the COP, and with the CCE work plan activities.	Report on compliance with the work plan activities presented to COP.

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status – April 14 th , 2020
Collaboration with International Organizations		
15.	Recommend and promote alliances and synergies with relevant international organizations to accomplish the IAC objectives.	Identification of synergies with similar organizations to share information (CITES, SPAW, CIAT, CPPS, WIDECAS, ACAP, ICCAT, OSPESCA, OLDEPESCA, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, and CMS).
16.		SPAW Protocol: Participation of IAC Consultative Committee Chair (P. Hoetjes) in Cartagena Convention COP (2019), to support including a recommendation to SPAW protocol to work with the IAC in the implementation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle in countries that are no-members of the IAC.
17.		ICCAT: CCE Vice-Chair and Sectorial delegates (A. Fallabrino and B. Wallace) supported the Secretary <i>PT</i> on presenting the proposal to negotiate an MoU with ICCAT, and support the review of the resolution on sea turtle bycatch in ICCAT fisheries, at ICCAT Commission annual meeting in November (2019).
18.		LAUDOPO: CCE Sectorial delegate (B. Wallace) promotes supporting the IAC with a technical collaboration with the network.
19.		CCE Delegate from Costa Rica (Rotney Piedra) presented the importance of the IAC collaboration in Mexico's Regional Sea Turtle Symposium.
20.		CCE Delegate from Mexico (Laura Sarti) promoted the participation of the IAC Secretary in Mexico's Regional Sea Turtle Symposium (2019).
21.		MTSG: The delegate from Brazil, Mr. Joca Thome, is in contact with the CCE sectorial members to establish a collaboration with MTSI-IUCN and will report progress in the CCE 2020.

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status – April 14th, 2020	
22.	Develop and review MoU drafts with relevant organizations identified.	Review of draft MoU with ICCAT and recommendations to IAC Focal Points	
23.		Discussion on draft MoU with Stetson University	
Recommendations from COP and CCE			
24.	Address COP requests and draft Resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	Convey recommendations from the SC on critical areas for the conservation of the Northwest Atlantic leatherback to COP (2021)	
IAC Technical Documents			
25.	Develop technical documents as needed.	Review of the updated technical document “ <i>Green Turtle Nesting Trends in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: Status Update and Conservation Priorities</i> ”	
IAC Expert Directory			
26.	Review and update the IAC Expert Directory.	Experts Directory updated on the website to April 9, 2020. http://www.iacseaturtle.org/directorioExpertos-eng.htm	

Annex III – Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan (2020-2021) – CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.3

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Consultative Committee of Experts	Exceptions	1) Follow up on the progress of Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama exceptions, and other cases presented. 2) The Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare a report to the COP on the use of sea turtles or their products in the Exceptions for Parties (when new exceptions are presented).	1) Report to COP on the progress of Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala exceptions (if needed). 2) Report on new exceptions presented for COP considerations.	1) 2020 2) Permanent
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	IAC Website & Newsletter	1) Every month, Parties will send to Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> relevant news for the IAC's Newsletter.	1) IAC website updated with the IAC's Newsletter and other documents of interest.	Permanent
Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group	Eastern Pacific Leatherback	1) Follow up on the implementation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R2). 2) Carry out annual meetings of the Leatherback Task Force. 3) The leatherback task force will prepare a report with the assessment of the compliance with the EP leatherback Resolution strategic actions to be presented to COP10.	1) Report on compliance with strategic actions presented to COP10.	2020, 2021

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Working Group	Northwest Atlantic Leatherback	Promote collaboration with the SPAW Protocol, WIDECAS, WWF, and other organizations working on the protection of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback.	Report on the progress of the collaborative work to protect the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback with the SPAW Protocol, WIDECAS, WWF, and other organizations.	2021 – CCE14
Small-Scale Fisheries Working Group	Small-Scale Fisheries	Discuss the need, mechanisms, and feasibility regarding data gathering on sea turtles bycatch in small scale fisheries.	Report with the results from the discussion	2020 – SC17 2021 – CCE14
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Communication Strategy	The CCE delegates will send outreach material on sea turtles to Costa Rica to be used in the Convention Communication Strategy.	Outreach material produced by IAC Parties included in the Convention communication strategy portfolio.	2020-2021
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Annual Report	1) CCE delegate from each country will provide support to the Focal Point to prepare the IAC Annual Report.	1) IAC Annual Report submitted annually	Permanent
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Annual Report	1) Assess the current Annual Report form.	1) Recommendations for changes to the Annual Report format as required.	2021
Consultative Committee of Experts	Work plan	1) Update the CCE work plan following the recommendations of the Parties.	1) CCE biennial work plan updated with activities, timetable, and responsible.	Permanent
Consultative Committee of Experts	Collaboration with International Organizations	1) Recommend and promote alliances and synergies with relevant international organizations to accomplish the IAC objectives.	1) Identification of synergies with similar organizations to share information (CITES, SPAW, CIAT, CPPS, WIDECAS, ACAP, ICCAT, OSPESCA, OLDEPESCA, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, and CMS).	2021

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Consultative Committee of Experts	Collaboration with International Organizations	1) Develop and review MoU drafts with relevant organizations identified. 2) Support the Secretariat <i>PT</i> in the preparation of the MoU with Stetson University.	1) Documents presented to COP for consideration. 2) Draft MoU with Stetson University to be presented to the COP10	1) Permanent 2) 2021-CCE14 and COP10
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	Drafting Resolutions and Recommendations to COP	1) Address COP requests and draft Resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	1) Resolutions and draft recommendations presented to COP as needed.	Permanent
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Technical Documents	1) Develop technical documents as needed.	1) Technical documents available on the IAC website and shared with IAC Parties.	Permanent
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	IAC Experts Directory	1) Review and update the IAC Experts Directory.	1) Updated directory available on IAC's Website.	Permanent
Consultative Committee of Experts Resolution Compliance Working Group	Resolution compliance	1) The Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare a report to the COP on the compliance of the Parties with the IAC resolutions and agreements made by the COPs, when necessary.	1) Report on resolution compliance presented at COP when necessary.	Permanent

Annex IV – CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.6

**Table to follow up on the Implementation of Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R2
Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback in the IAC Annual Report**

CIT-COP9-2019-R2: Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP9-2019-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLIANT WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
Note: Question 1 must be answered by all IAC Parties, please skip the rest of the questionnaire if the Resolution is not applicable in your country.				
1. Has reached out to Canada, Guyana, French Guiana, Trinidad & Tobago, and/or Suriname to inform these nations about the critical situation of the population and priority actions for the conservation of leatherbacks in the NW Atlantic?				
IS COMPLIANT WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
2. Has implemented techniques to reduce leatherback bycatch and mortality in fisheries, following the UN-FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations?				
3. Have fishery observer programs that comply with the minimum standards for scientific observer coverage that have been established by pertinent Regional Fishery Management Organizations?				
4. Has implemented laws and regulations related to Northwest Atlantic leatherback conservation, particularly related to fisheries bycatch and marine protected areas?				
5. If your country has Northwest Atlantic (NWA) Leatherback turtle nesting beaches:				
5.1. Has your country implemented conservation measures for the protection of the NWA leatherback nesting beaches and associated habitats?				
5.2. Does your country have a monitoring and tagging program at the NWA leatherback nesting beaches?				
6. Is your country collecting data on interactions of the NWA leatherback with fishing fleets? Report interactions of the species with industrial longline vessels in Annex 3 of this report.				

(*) Specify actions implemented, the name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative), and duration.

Annex V – CIT-CC16-2019-Doc.7

Annual Summary Reporting Template for Fleet Information and Observer Data for Longline Vessels >20m Operating in the IAC Region

Table 3: IAC Form to report interactions of sea turtles with industrial longline fisheries (vessels >20m)			
Member country	Country name	The table does not apply	
Target Species	e.g. Multiple		

FLEET INFORMATION (vessels >20m)						
Period covered	Shallow sets (<15 HPB/HBF ¹ or <100m max hook depth)			Deep sets (≥15 HPB/HBF or ≥100m max hook depth)		
	date range mm/dd/yyyy–mm/dd/yyyy			date range mm/dd/yyyy–mm/dd/yyyy		
Area fished	from (XXX) ^o W to (XXX) ^o W and from (XXX) ^o S/N to (XXX) ^o S/N			from (XXX) ^o W to (XXX) ^o W and from (XXX) ^o S/N to (XXX) ^o S/N		
	Total Fleet	Observed	% observed	Total Fleet	Observed	% observed
No. of vessels that fished	60	3	5	90	8	8.9
No. of trips	150	15	10	300	10	3.3
No. of effective fishing days	3700	238	6.4	800	22	2.8
No. of sets	4000	800	20	1000	25	2.5
No. of hooks (in thousands) ¹ <i>If unknown, approx. no. of hooks/set, using a *</i>	700	120	17	300	12	4
Predominant ² hook type/size (IATTC code)	C-40	J-02		C-33	C-33	
Predominant bait type ³	SQ	SQ		M	M	

SEA TURTLE SPECIES (vessels >20m)						
Taxa - Sea turtles	No. of Individuals Observed					
	Shallow sets (<15 HPB/HBF ¹ or <100m max hook depth)			Deep sets (≥15 HPB/HBF or ≥100m max hook depth)		
	Released Alive	Released Dead	Released Condition Unknown	Released Alive	Released Dead	Released Condition Unknown
Leatherback (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)						
Loggerhead (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)						
Green (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)						
Olive ridley (<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>)						
Kemp's ridley (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)						
Hawksbill (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)						
Notes (e.g. Tagged turtles, etc.)						

¹ Hooks per Basket / Hooks Between Float

² Predominant indicates most common, e.g. >50%

³ Bait code: SQ – squid (e.g. Cephalopods), M – mackerel (e.g. Scomber spp.), A – artificial lure (e.g. plastic jig)

Annex VI

Compliance with IAC Resolutions According to the Parties IAC Annual Reports (2015-2019)

The IAC Secretary assistant, Ms. Luz Rodríguez, presented the report on the compliance with the IAC Resolutions based on the information provided by the Parties in the IAC Annual Reports during the last five years (2015-2019). She clarified that given that not all countries have submitted their Annual Reports every year some of the results can be biased by the lack of information as only six of the 16 IAC Parties (i.e Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, United States, Mexico, and Caribbean Netherlands) have submitted their report every year during the period of the analysis (Figure 1).

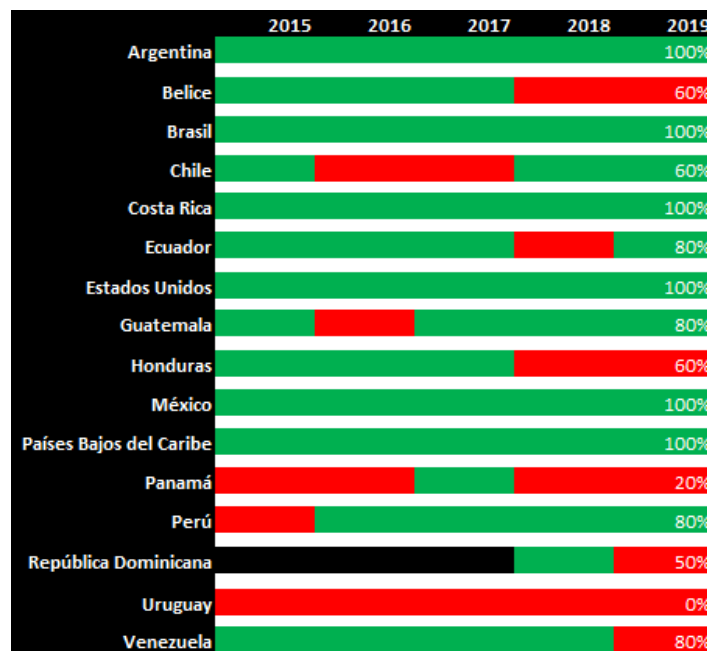


Figure 1. Annual Reports submitted by Party during the last five years (2015-2019). In red are the years when the annual report was not submitted. The Dominican Republic joined the IAC in 2017, their first report was in 2018.

In general, the EP leatherback resolution had more compliance, followed by the hawksbill, fisheries, and loggerhead resolutions, respectively (Figure 2). Given the importance and the frequent mention of the issue on sea turtles interactions with fisheries, the analysis focused on the Fisheries Resolution (CIT-COP3-2006-R2). Answers to questions in this resolution show compliance of 39% in 2019, and it must be considered that six of the 16 countries did not submit the report that year.

The analysis also focused on those questions in which answers have shown <50% of compliance (Figure 3) in the last five years. Ms. Rodríguez called the attention on the question about gillnets as it is not clear if the countries do not have the information available to report it, or the fisheries do not exist.

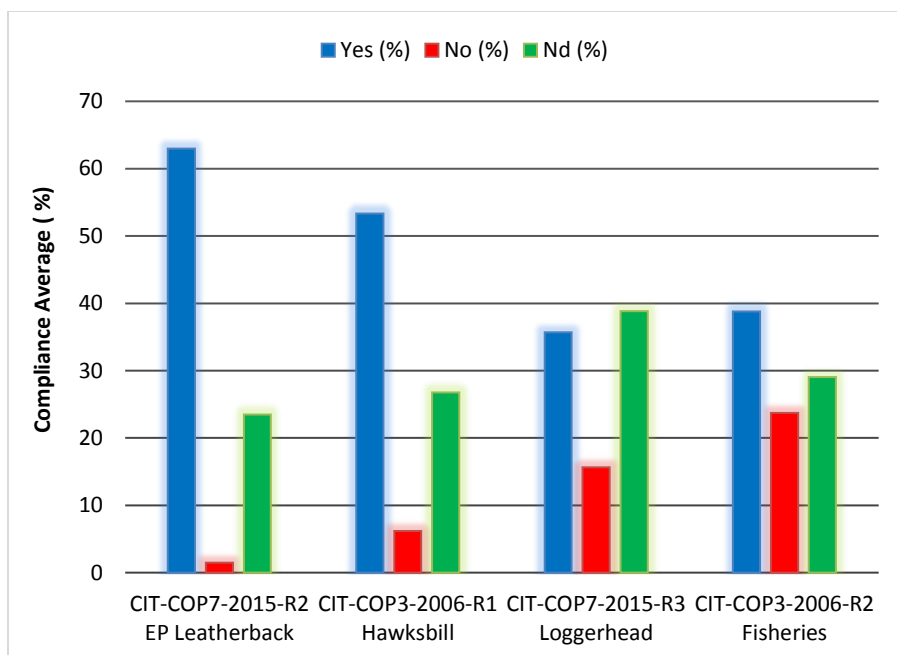


Figure 2. Average percentage of compliance with the IAC Resolutions (2015-2019)

A. RESEARCH AND MONITORING OF THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF FISHERIES ON SEA TURTLES	
a. Information on non-Party vessels	19%
b. Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information	24%
B. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE FOLLOWING FISHERIES	
c. Gillnets	44%
c. Other fishing gear	31%
C. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS	
d. Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles	38%

Figure 3. Questions with least compliance in the last five years (2015-2019)

Recommendations

From the results, it was recommended to analyze compliance with each question in the Resolutions per country to identify where the Parties are showing difficulties to comply with the resolutions. Also, it was requested that parties submit their annual reports every year to facilitate the analysis of the information by any of the IAC subsidiary organs.

Annex VII – CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.6

CCE13 AGREEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the agreements and recommendations adopted by the 13th Meeting of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE13), held with the participation of delegates from 13 IAC countries (i.e. Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Guatemala, and the United States) and the members from the Scientific, NGO, and Industry sectors.

Exception in Panama

Agreement 1. The Scientific Committee (SC) will analyze the comments from the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) to Panama's 5 years of implementation of the exception report. The Scientific Committee will take 30 days to prepare a document with recommendations to Panama (May 15, 2020). Panama's exception recommendations will be transmitted to Panama Focal Point. By the moment of adoption of this document, the CCE has not received the recommendations for Panama.

Working Group Northwest Atlantic Leatherback

Agreement 2. CCE formed the Working Group to follow up on resolution Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback. The WG will prepare its work plan before the end of 2020. The CCE members that wish to participate in the working group will notify their intention within the 30 days following the CCE meeting. By the moment of adoption of this report, only the delegate from the United States has expressed her interest to become part of the group.

EP Leatherback Task Force

Agreement 3. The Eastern Pacific Leatherback Task Force will assess the implementation progress of the five-year strategic actions in the EP Leatherback Resolution and will present a report in the next CCE14 and at the COP10.

IAC Annual Report

Agreement 4. The CCE adopted the table to follow up on the implementation of the Resolution for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback (CIT-CC16-2019-Doc.6) without changes for its inclusion in the IAC Annual Report 2020.

Agreement 5. The CCE adopted the form to collect information on interactions between sea turtles and commercial longline fisheries (vessels >20 m) prepared by the Scientific Committee to follow up on the implementation of the IAC Resolutions on Fisheries and the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback. The form was adopted with the addition of fields for target species and comments to include the number of sea turtle incidentally caught that had monitoring

tags. Also, a note will be included to indicate that this form only applies to countries with this type of fisheries. The form will be included in the IAC Annual Report 2020.

Agreement 6. The CCE requested that in their 2020 meeting (SC17) the Scientific Committee prepares the methodology for the analysis of the data that the IAC countries will provide in the long line form adopted in Agreement 5.

Data Collection on Small Scale fisheries

Agreement 7. It was agreed to establish a working group in the Consultative Committee to address data collection in small-scale fisheries, including subjects such as the implementation of observer programs, the use of on-board electronic monitoring devices, and collaborations with WCFP/COPECO. The delegate from the Scientific Sector Mr. Eduardo Cuevas will share the survey forms used to obtain information on artisanal fisheries in Mexico. This WG should discuss the need, mechanisms, and feasibility to collect information on artisanal fisheries, to then present a report with the results of the discussion to the IAC Scientific Committee 2020 (SC17), and the Consultative Committee 2021 (CCE14).

Working group members: Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and the Industry Sectorial representative, Ms. Nina Pardo.

Data collection of sea turtle interaction with Gillnets

Agreement 8. The CCE did not adopt the format to gather data on gillnets, proposed by the Scientific Committee in the document CIT-CC8-2011-Doc.9. The CCE requested the Scientific Committee to prepare a more concise and less complex form, provide an explanation on the purpose of the data that will be gathered, and provide the methodology that will be used to analyze it. The new gillnet form will be discussed at the CCE in 2021 (CCE14).

Technical Document: report on Green Turtle nesting status in the South-eastern Pacific. CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.5

Agreement 9. The CCE acknowledged the updates on the Green Turtle nesting status in the Southeastern Pacific. The CCE will send final comments to SC Chair to include them in the document and present the final report within the 30 days following this meeting (not later than May 14th). The CCE requested the IAC Secretariat to send the final document to the IAC Parties for information, and include it as a technical document on the IAC website.

IAC Collaboration with International Organizations and Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding IAC – ICCAT CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.5

Recommendation 1. The CCE agreed with the MOU IAC-ICCAT draft text after approving the modifications provided by Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica and Brazil, and recommended the IAC Focal Points to consider its adoption, to begin the discussion with ICCAT Secretariat.

Memorandum of Collaboration IAC – STETSON UNIVERSITY

Recommendation 2. The CCE recommended the IAC COP to consider an MOU with Stetson University. The CCE requested the IAC Secretariat to prepare together with Stetson University a draft MOU, and once it is completed share it with the CCE for a final review. The CCE recommends IAC Focal Points to consider the advantages of this MOU and its adoption.

IAC Communication Strategy

Recommendation 3. It was requested that the CCE send graphic information such as posters, videos, and infographics to enhance the IAC Communication Strategy proposed by Costa Rica. As an IAC Strategy, the participation of the Committees and Focal Points is expected.

Recommendation 4. The CCE encouraged all IAC Focal Points and the Parties to join and support Costa Rica in the implementation of the IAC outreach strategy.

Annual Report Submission Date

Recommendation 5. The CCE recommended that given the new sections that have been included in the report, the IAC Annual Report 2020 submission day by Focal Points is extended to June 30th, 2020.

Compliance with IAC Resolutions Report

Recommendation 6. It is recommended that the CCE take a greater interest in analyzing this information and follow up on the level of implementation by the IAC Parties. The Secretary *PT* requested CCE volunteers to support Ms. Rodríguez in developing a more detailed analysis to present before the COP10 in 2021.

CCE Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Agreement 10. The delegates from the CCE proposed Mexico as Chair and Ecuador as Vice-Chair of the CCE. Ecuador accepted the nomination and Mexico will consult the corresponding environmental, fisheries, and foreign affairs authorities to provide an answer in approximately 30 days.

Agreement 11. The next meeting will be scheduled between February and the beginning of March 2021.