Inter-American Convention for the Protection and
Conservation of Sea Turtles
14th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE14)
March 4-5, 2021

Report of the 14th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts

CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9

Opening Remarks

1. The 14th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (CCE14) was held as a videoconference on March 4-5, 2021 via Zoom. Welcome remarks were given by the CCE Chair, Mr. Eduardo Ponce (Mexico).

Agenda Adoption and Participants Introduction

2. Delegates from fourteen (14) IAC member countries attended the meeting representing Argentina, Belize, Brazil, the Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay. The CCE sectorial members from the scientific community, industry, and non -governmental organizations (NGO) sectors attended the meetings as well as observers from Canada and Trinidad and Tobago governments, and the SPAW Protocol and the NGO Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) representatives, with a total of 44 participants (Annex I.A – List of Participants CIT-CCE14-2021-Inf.1).

3. The CCE14 adopted the agenda after changing the order in the scientific committee report items where the analysis on the interactions with industrial longline fisheries was presented before the draft form to collect information on interactions with gillnets (Annex I.B - Agenda CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.1)

Report on compliance with the Consultative Committee Work Plan.

4. The CCE Chair presented the report and follow up on the status of the activities. The plenary discussed the activities carried out according to the CCE work plan 2020 and decided on new activities to be included in the work plan for 2021. (Annex II – CCE Work Plan Implementation Report CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.2)

Consultative Committee Work Plan Update (2020-2021)

5. The CCE Work Plan (Annex III) was updated with the inclusion of the following:

6. Expand the information on the areas important for the conservation of the Northwest Atlantic leatherback with the collaboration of the IAC Scientific Committee and regional experts in telemetry.

7. Research on method to collect information on sea turtle bycatch and small-scale fisheries and presentation of a proposal at the CCE15

8. The countries represented in the small-scale fisheries working group will classify and characterize their domestic fisheries interacting with sea turtle, using as descriptors (indicators) ***sea turtle catch/mortality*** and ***fishing effort indices*** in each management unit adopted, meaning each fishery.

9. Implementation of pilot project "*Harmonization of a Method to Collect Sea Turtle Bycatch Data to Implement it in Longline and Gillnet Fisheries in Southern Peru and Northern Chile"* according to funds availability.

10. Identify, prioritize, and work on the implementation of joint and related activities established in the MoUs.

11. Identify potential sources of funding to implement training on best practice for sea turtle handling and release in the region.

Recommendations from the 17th Scientific Committee Meeting

12. The IAC Scientific Committee Chair, Ms. Leslie Camila Bustos, presented the Scientific Committee report and recommendations to the Consultative Committee and the COP. The Chair also presented the strategy to comply with the recommendations to Costa Rica and Guatemala exception and the procedure used to officially submit the recommendations to Panama.

13. The IAC Exceptions Working Group (WG-Exceptions), comprised of members from the Scientific and Consultative Committees, carried out the following process during the intersessional period of the CCE14 (April-July), to a) analyze the five-year reports on the implementation of the Resolution on Exceptions presented by the Governments of Costa Rica and Guatemala and, b) prepare recommendations. The WG-Exceptions met virtually, and based on the reports presented by the countries, prepared recommendations reviewed and adopted by the Consultative Committee. The recommendations were conveyed through the IAC Secretariat to Costa Rica (SINAC) and Guatemala (CONAP) Focal Point, to then hold a meeting with each country to clarify questions. The Presidents of the Scientific Committee (Chile - Ms. Leslie Bustos), Consultative Committee (Mexico-Dr. Eduardo Ponce), 10th Conference of the Parties (Costa Rica- MSc. Rotney Piedra), members of the WG-Exceptions from Brazil, Mexico, Panama, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and staff of the CIT Secretariat participated in these meetings. Final edits to the recommendations were agreed and the process concluded. The exceptions recommendations officially sent by the IAC Secretariat to the Focal Points of Costa Rica and Guatemala are attached in Annex IV.

14. It was agreed that the IAC-Exceptions WG will continue supporting Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala, in the process of implementing the recommendations to their exceptions. The Working Group will prepare a report on the implementation of the Resolution on Exceptions to present it to the COP10-Part II (2022).

The agreements from the discussion at the CCE14 are as follows:

> Recommendations from the Scientific and Consultative Committees to Panama's Exception
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> **Agreement 1:** The Consultative Committee acknowledged the recommendations provided to Panama IAC Focal Point regarding its exception implementation report in document CIT-CCE14-2021- Doc.4. The document is included as an annex in the report of the CCE14 meeting for future reference (Annex IV).
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> Exception in Costa Rica
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> **Agreement 2**: The CCE requested the Scientific Committee Exceptions WG (Exception – WG) to consider the comments by the CCE, prepare the recommendations to Costa Rica's five-year

exception report, and sent them to the CCE on April 5th, 2021. Final recommendations were adopted and discussed Costa Rica´s Focal Point on May 27th, 2021 (Annex IV).

Exception in Guatemala

Agreement 3: The CCE requests the Scientific Committee Exception (WG-Exceptions) to consider the comments by the CCE, prepare the recommendations to Guatemala's five-year exception report and send them to the CCE on May 5th, 2021. The final recommendations were adopted and conveyed to Guatemala´s focal point on August 3rd, 2021 (Annex IV).

Agreement 4: The CCE will have 15 days after receiving the recommendations from the Scientific Committee Exception-WG to issue final comments, and for these recommendations to be shared with Guatemala and Costa Rica´s Focal Points.

Data analysis on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC region

15. Dr. Heriberto Santana, Mexico's delegate to the Scientific Committee and head of the data analysis on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC region, addressed the comments from the Consultative Committee to the document that will be presented to the COP10 with the objective of showing the potential of collecting data on interactions with fisheries (Annex V – Analysis of the first-year data on interactions with industrial longline fisheries)

16. The delegate from Brazil, Mr. Gilberto Sales, supported the work developed and suggested the Committee to keep observing how data is requested to make sure it agrees with the watt he questions asked with the purpose of obtaining information relevant to the Convention.

17. Mr. Miguel Chaidez, representative of Mexico´s industrial sector (CANAINPESCA) and fisherman stated the fishermen are highly interested in the conservation of the marine species and ecosystems. He added that it is important that he forms used for fishermen to collect information should consider, for example, that the names and classification of hooks is like the one used by them so they can understand the concepts. Mr. Chaidez recommended considering this type of aspects when developing the forms used by fishermen.

18. The members of the Committee thanked these recommendations, including Dr. Santana, who clarified that in the case of the hooks the naming will be considered, however the aim is to achieve standardization, and that conservation measures are of Benefit for the species and the fishermen, avoiding impact on fishing activities and increasing the fishers returns.

19. The SC Chair, added that this type of report will be beneficial to develop recommendations not only about data gathering but to prioritize training of fishing crew on appropriate incidentally caught sea turtle handling and release. The sectorial delegate, Ms. Nina Pardo, and the delegate from Peru, Mr. Javier Quiñones, emphasized on the material that Peru is producing to support this type of training regarding sea turtle safe handling and release.

20. The delegate from the United States, Ms. Ann Marie Lauritsen, recommended considering the reasons why some countries could not submit their information this year and how it could help so everyone can comply with it.

21. After the discussion the following was agreed:

Agreement 5: The Consultative Committee recommends presenting the report "*Data analysis on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties CIT-CC17-2020- Doc.7*" prepared by the IAC Scientific Committee, as an informative document to the COP10, with the aim that IAC Parties understand the value of their fisheries information submitted in the IAC Annual Report, and to motivate Focal Points to submit their data every year so that the Scientific and Consultative Committees can analyze it and provide recommendations.

Agreement 6: The Scientific and Consultative Committee Working Groups on Fisheries will review and make final edits to the document "*Data analysis on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties CIT-CC17-2020- Doc.7*". The CCE recommends taking into consideration the perception that IAC Focal Points at the COP10 may have of the information presented, therefore the objective of the report should be clear. The final version was submitted to the CCE for final adoption on March 12, 2021.

Proposal of a form to collect information on interactions between sea turtles and artisanal gillnet fisheries.

22. The CC Chair, presented a form proposed to collect information on interaction between sea turtles and artisanal gillnets. The USA delegate recommended clarifying how the data will be analyzed, the delegate from Brazil recommended using indices to determine trends, and the delegate from Chile. Ms. Paula Salinas, recommended clarifying how to fill out the information to report it in the IAC Annual Report. After the discussion, the following was agreed:

Agreement 7: Considering the challenges and differences in the methods used in the IAC Countries to collect information on the interaction between sea turtles and gillnets, as well as other fishing gear, the CCE **recommends continuing to enhance** the draft form to collect information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnet fisheries proposed by the Scientific Committee CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.8. For this, both IAC Committees relevant Working Groups will work together to develop new proposals for submitting to the IAC Parties. Both Committees WG will present an activity report at the CCE15 in 2022.

It is suggested that the IAC Committees recommend options on the use of indices that could be calculated from data provided in the IAC Annual Reports, and/or in the Committees working groups analyses.

Technical Document: Critical Areas for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback

23. The CC Chair, explained that the Scientific Committee prepared a document on critical areas for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback by request of the COP9, which is available for the use of the Consultative Committee relevant working group in the IAC website CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16: Critical Areas for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). The Secretary, Ms. Verónica Caceres, added that indeed the document addresses a mandate in the Resolution for the Conservation of this species (CIT-COP9-2019-R2). The following was agreed:

Agreement 8: The CCE adopted the technical document CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16 "*Critical Areas for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)*" prepared by the IAC Scientific Committee and agrees for it to be presented at the COP10, in compliance with the IAC Parties request in the Resolution for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback.

Agreement 9: The CCE Northwest Atlantic Leatherback WG will use the Technical Document "*Critical Areas for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea) CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16*" as a baseline for their 2021-2022 activities.

Analysis of Compliance with the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution Strategic Actions and proposal to amend the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution

24. The EP Leatherback Working Group coordinator, Dr. Bryan Wallace, presented the work of the WG to assess the compliance with the Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback (CIT-COP7-2015-R2), including the resulting recommendations to enhance the way information is requested to facilitate measuring the impact of conservation actions regarding this Resolution, in the countries.

25. Following, the Secretary assistant, Ms. Luz Helena Rodríguez, presented the process of the assessment, the results and recommendations mentioned by Dr. Wallace. These recommendations included updating the Resolution (Annex VI).

26. The delegate from Brazil, highlighted the item requesting number of turtles dead in fishing gear, as this information could be used within the indices concept previously mentioned. The WG coordinator agreed and emphasized that these indicators should be linked to the requests in the resolution. The delegate from Mexico, Mr. Vicente Guzmán, underscored the usefulness of the indicators considering the differences regarding economic and logistic capacity in the countries, and highlighted that the indicators provide clarity on the information that can be standardized that all countries are able to provide.

27. The Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group met after the CCE meeting´s first day to address the remaining comments and produce the final version presented the next day by the COP Chair and Costa Rica´s delegate. The following was agreed:

Agreement 10: The Consultative Committee approves the proposal of the EP Leatherback Taskforce on changes to the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution presented in document CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.5 to submit it to the COP10. With the support from the Scientific and Consultative Committees Fisheries WG, the EP Leatherback Working Group will review and make relevant changes to the proposed Resolution Annex II forms to request information in the IAC Annual Report, to harmonize the forms and include indices for further evaluation. The final version was sent to the Consultative Committee for final adoption on March 12, 2021.

CCE and CC Working Groups Coordination to work on edits to reports for the COP10.

Agreement 11: Convene the necessary coordination meetings between the CCE and SC groups working with fisheries data to streamline the reports to be submitted to the IAC COP10.

Agreement 12: The first meeting is proposed to be held on March 10th, 2021, to review the following documents that will be presented to COP10:
- Data analysis on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties CIT-CC17-2020- Doc.7
-Proposal to amend the East Pacific Leatherback Resolution CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.5

Agreement 13: It is recommended that these joint meetings with the Consultative and Scientific Committee WG continue in 2021-2022 to address issues as necessary, among them is reviewing the form to collect information on turtle interactions with artisanal gillnet fisheries proposed by the Scientific Committee in document CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.8.

Recommendations from the CCE Artisanal Fisheries Working

Recommendations from the CCE Artisanal Longline Fisheries Working Group: CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.6 and pilot project "*Harmonization of methods to collect sea turtles' bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile CIT-CCE14-2021 -Doc.7*."

28. The Working Group coordinator, Dr. Gilberto Sales, presented the recommendations according to the group objectives which are assessing interaction between longline artisanal fisheries and sea turtle, analyze the possibility to dimension and mitigate the impacts of artisanal fisheries on sea turtle, and establish appropriate management units to characterize the fisheries (Annex VII – Recommendations from the artisanal fisheries WG).

29. Ms. Paula Salinas, presented the pilot project proposal "*Harmonization of methods to collect sea turtles' bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile CIT-CCE14-2021 -Doc.7"* (Annex VIII). The delegate from Peru, Dr. Javier Quiñones, provided a background of the situation in the proposed study area, where a large longline fishery operates, highlighting that this is a feeding ground for *Caretta caretta* swimming 17 000 km from Australia and where there is also occurrence of the Eastern Pacific leatherback, both populations are critically endangered.

30. Regarding the pilot project, the delegate from Uruguay, Ms. Cecilia Lezama, asked about the fishermen participation mechanism (volunteers) and if the project will have governmental support. She also asked if there is an established vessel length for artisanal fisheries, understanding that the definition varies among countries. Peru´s delegate answered that indeed there is no standard size for all the countries, and that regarding the first question, there are new requirements to import products caught by these fisheries to the United States, therefore it is expected to be able to link the compliance with these requirements with the request of information for the pilot project.

31. The delegate from Chile, clarified that regarding artisanal vessels length the concept is not defined. She also added that this project requires the collaboration from all sectors, and that the objective is to coordinate them to achieve the goals.

32. The delegate from the USA, asked how the forms could be used to project bycatch in general or if this value will only be determined locally to prioritize efforts, considering the data reliability. The delegate from Chile explained that the form is still under development, but the idea is that information allows to work with the previously mentioned indices for the information to be comparable across countries.
The delegate from Peru, added that although biases could be present, adjustments will be made along the way as fishermen trust is gained, the same way that Pro Delphinus Foundation has done it, that´s why the work will be carried out in collaboration with this organization. The sectorial delegate, Ms. Pardo, emphasized on the importance of the coordination with other organizations and added that the results of the efforts in Peru are shown by the fishermen exposing other fishermen illegal actions such as catching and consuming sea turtles.

33. The CCE Vice Chair and delegate from Ecuador, Mr. Eduardo Espinoza, suggested that a similar pilot project could be carried out at the Peru-Ecuador border. He added considering factors such as fishermen illiteracy when designing the forms. The delegate asked on the authority that will lead the process.

34. The delegate from Chile informed that in her country the process will be led by the Fisheries Undersecretariat. The delegate from Peru, informed that efforts with the country´s Chancellery are underway, considering that it is a binational project. While support is official the delegates are leading the process.

35. Regarding a classification of vessels according to their length, Brazil´s delegate added that work should be done by fleet capacity and not by the size of the vessel, highlighting the importance of considering alternative terms for the fisheries instead of trying to classify everything as either artisanal or industrial. On the other hand, answering USA´s question, the delegate stated that by estimating indices of sea turtle catches provided by the fishermen could be a good beginning to obtain information, considering the limitations of the data obtained by onboard observers.

36. Ms. Ana Lecaros, IAC Focal Point, and representative from Peru´s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informed about the intention of this authority to support the project and to get in touch with Chile´s Chancellery and Fisheries Undersecretariat in the process. Ms. Sara Dueñas, from Peru´s Chancellery and Chile´s Focal Point also stated their willingness to organize a coordination meeting.

37. Mr. Miguel Chaidez, suggested considering the impacts of the resulting regulation on the fishermen economic activities while developing these processes, as well as the importance of transferring the knowledge to fishermen so they can contribute with the conservation actions. Ms. Bustos, from Chile, emphasized on the importance of this comments as training for fishermen should be a priority so they can contribute. The delegate suggested inviting fishermen from other countries to include their opinions in the work carried out by the IAC.

38. The WG presented its work plan 2021-2022, which was included in the CCE working plan and the following was agreed:

> **Agreement 14**: The countries represented in this Artisanal Longline Fisheries Working Group (Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Chile, Brazil, and the Netherlands) will classify and characterize the domestic Fisheries interacting with sea turtles in their countries considering as descriptors criteria (indicators**) sea turtle capture/mortality rates and fishing effort indices** in each management unit adopted, namely, each one of the Fisheries. The WG will present a progress report to the CCE15 in 2022.
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> **Agreement 15**: The Consultative Committee agrees with the Artisanal Longline Fisheries WG proposal to implement their Fisheries approach, in the binational pilot project "*Harmonization of methods to collect sea turtles' bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile CIT-CCE14-2021 -Doc.7*". A meeting between Chile´s Focal Point (Foreign Affairs and Fisheries) and Peru´s Focal Point (Foreign Affairs and IMARPE) was also agreed to facilitate the project. The implementation of the project is subject to funding.
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> **Agreement 16**: The WG will prepare this project budget to facilitate seeking funds.

Activities Report of the NWA Leatherback Working Group

39. The Northwest Atlantic Leatherback WG coordinator, Ms. Ann Marie Lauritsen, presented the group progress, including a collaboration with SPAW Protocol, through Dr. Olga Koubrak, who is part of the WG, and the IAC representation at SPAW by Ms. Lauritsen.

40. Ms. Koubrak presented the activities of the working group comprised of representatives from Suriname, Guyana, Canada, French Guiana, WWF, WIDECAST and the IAC to approach these countries, which are within the range of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback. These activities include an outreach document that was presented to the Scientific Committee and that will be used to approach Canada´s authorities.

41. The delegate from Mexico, Dr. Guzman, stated that has long term data that could provide to the WG. Also, Ms. Laura Sarti, from Mexico, informed about an opportunity to have access to preserved leatherback hatchlings. Given the little knowledge about juveniles and hatchlings of this species, if the group is interested Mexico could commit to help with the process.

42. According to the work plan presented by the WG to include it in the CCE Work Plan, the following was agreed:

> **Agreement 17**: To continue refining the map of areas important for the NWA leatherback in collaboration with the IAC Scientific Committee, and regional experts in telemetry, to establish the areas that are critical for the species and those that are already protected.
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> **Agreement 18**: To continue working with the working group on outreach to IAC´s non-parties within the range of the species to comply with the NWA leatherback resolution request. The Working Group will provide an update at the next CCE meeting in 2022.

IAC Collaboration with International Organizations

43. Dr. Bryan Wallace presented the progress of the collaboration IATTC-IAC, now in its second phase, where IAC Parties in the EP Leatherback range (Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Panamá, Perú y México-IATTC) have contributed with data on presence/absence and fishing effort to include it in the EASI-Fish model.

44. Dr. Eduardo Cuevas, from Mexico, highlighted the importance of identifying the minimum commons to assess fisheries. Dr. Cuevas proposed to continue with obtaining fishing effort information to combine it with distribution information, as the EASI-Fish does, given that obtaining this information is easier. The delegate from Brazil, agreed with this idea and express his optimism with the progress and potential of these activities.

45. The delegate from Mexico to the Scientific Committee, Dr. Santana, provided fishing effort data for the EASI-Fish

46. The following was agreed from the discussion:

> **Agreement 19**: The CCE notes down the progress report on the IATTC-IAC collaboration, now in the EASI-Fish model second phase, and a presentation with the model results is expected for the CCE15 in 2022.
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> **Agreement 20**: The CCE Fisheries WG and Leatherback TF will explore the possibility of organizing a virtual workshop to discuss among them and with other experts the minimum data required for fisheries analyses.
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> **Agreement 21**: The Consultative Committee will identify and prioritize the implementation of joint activities related to those included in Memorandums of Understanding between the IAC and other organizations.
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> **Agreement 22:** The Consultative Committee will identify potential sources of funding to implement training workshops on sea turtles handling and release in the IAC region.

CCE Work Plan Update 2021 – 2022

47**.** The delegate from Costa Rica, Mr. Rotney Piedra, suggested including in the work plan to 1) identify financial sources for training activities on best practices for sea turtle handling and release and 2) identify activities to implement jointly with the organizations which the IAC has memorandums of understanding. He suggested including these activities in the sections on collaboration with international organizations.

48. The Secretary *PT*, informed that an activity with Ramsar has already been identified, which is updating the document about Ramsar sites important for sea turtles, to include countries such as the Dominican Republic, which is not reported in the current document. The Secretariat proposes that this is one of the activities.

49. The delegate from Peru, Dr. Quiñones, informed that his country Chancellery authorize him to inform that there is good progress regarding the arrangement to pay the pending financial contributions to the IAC.

50. The CCE Chair presented the agreements to the Committee for their approval (Annex IX). Regarding the work plan, the following was agreed:

> **Agreement 23:** The Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) agreed to include the activities of the Working Groups on Artisanal Longline Fisheries, Northwest Atlantic Leatherback, Eastern Pacific Leatherback, and Exceptions in the work plan that will be presented for consideration by the COP10.
>
> **Agreement 24**: Include an item related to outreach to increase the IAC membership in the CCE work plan. It was agreed that the IAC Secretariat *PT* prepares a letter to facilitate outreach to non-member countries, the letter will be submitted to the IAC Focal Points for endorsement. The Secretariat *PT* will receive support from the Caribbean Netherlands Focal Point to draft the letter. It was agreed to invite other CCE members and Focal Points to join the drafting team.
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> **Agreement 25**: CCE reminds IAC Focal Points that they should support the Secretariat *PT* in the efforts to increase the IAC membership and outreach, using the diplomatic channels that they consider appropriate.

Planning of next meeting CCE15

> **Agreement 26:** The next CCE15 meeting will be scheduled for March 2022.

Other business

51. The CCE Vice Chair, Mr. Eduardo Espinoza, acknowledge the work and contributions of Dr. Paul Hoetjes, former Consultative Committee Chair for several years, who passed away in November 2020. The delegates remembered the COP in Bonaire, organized by Dr. Hoetjes as one of the best and expressed their gratitude.

Annex I.A CIT-CCE14-2021-Inf. 1

List of Participants of the IAC 14th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE14)

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***44 participants**

Annex I.B CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.1

Agenda CCE14

Day 1 March 4th, 2021 - 10:00 AM EST Time-Washington DC	
10:00-11:00	Connection of participants to videoconference (Zoom)
11:00-11:30	Opening remarks, adoption of the agenda, and introduction of participants - Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts, *M.Sc. Eduardo Ponce* CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.1
11:30-12:30	Report on the 13th Consultative Committee Meeting - CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.7 *CCE Chair, M.Sc. Eduardo Ponce* a) Report on compliance with the Consultative Committee Work Plan. CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.2 b) CCE Work Plan Update 2021-2022 CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.3
12:30-13:30	Recommendations from the 17th Scientific Committee - Scientific Committee Chair, Ms. *Leslie Camila Bustos* a) Exceptions: Recommendations from the Scientific Committee on the exceptions in Panama CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.4 b) Exceptions: -Recommendations from the Scientific Committee on the exceptions in Costa Rica -Exception Resolution Implementation Report – Costa Rica CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.5A c) Exceptions: -Recommendations from the Scientific Committee on the exceptions in Guatemala -Exception Resolution Implementation Report – Guatemala CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.4A d) Report on the data analysis regarding interactions between industrial longline fisheries and sea turtles in the IAC countries CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.7 e) IAC Annual Report: Proposal of a form to collect information about interactions between sea turtles and artisanal gillnet fisheries CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.8 f) Technical Document: Critical Areas for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16 http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC17-2020-Tec16_Critical_Areas_NWA_Leatherback.pdf
13:30-13:50	Break
13:50-14:30	Report on the Analysis of Compliance with the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution Strategic Actions – *Dr. Bryan Wallace*, IAC EP Leatherback Task Force Coordinator. CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.5
14:30-15:30	Proposal for the amendment of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution. CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.5 Ing. Leslie Bustos y M.Sc. Rotney Piedra.

Day 2
March 5th, 2021 - 11:00 AM EST, Hora de Washington DC

10:30 Connection to videoconference (Zoom)

11:00-12:00 Recommendations from the CCE Artisanal Longline Fisheries Working Group. CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.6 - *WG Coordinator, Dr. Gilberto Sales*

a) Basic key indicators for characterization of small-scale fisheries that interact with sea turtles in the IAC countries. CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.6. Dr. Gilberto Sales
b) Pilot project on the interactions between Chile and Peru longline artisanal fisheries and *Caretta* and *Dermochelys coriacea* CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.7 Chile and Peru delegates

12:00-12:30 Activities report of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Working Group. *Mrs. Ann Marie Lauritsen and Dr. Olga Koubrak*

12:30 -13:00 Break

13:00 -13:30 IAC Collaboration with International Organizations

a) Collaboration IAC-IATTC in the second phase of the EASI-Fish model
Dr. Bryan Wallace

13:30-14:00 Other business

14:00-15:00 Adoption of the Consultative Committee Recommendations to the COP10 and agreements of the meeting. *M.Sc. Eduardo Ponce*

15:00-15:30 CCE upcoming meeting planning

Documents of the meeting

Type of Document	Name	Number
Work Documents – Consultative Committee	Agenda	CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.1
	Report on compliance with the Consultative Committee Work Plan.	CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.2
	Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan	CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.3
	Recommendations from the Scientific and Consultative Committees to Panama exception	CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.4
	Report on Compliance with the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution Proposal to amend the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution	CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.5
	Recommendation of CCE Artisanal Fisheries WG- List of key indicators to gather data on interactions between small scale longline fisheries and sea turtles in the IAC countries	CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.6
	Proposal Pilot project on the interactions between Chile and Peru longline artisanal fisheries and *Caretta caretta* and *Dermochelys coriacea*	CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.7

Work Documents – from Scientific Committee	Exception Resolution Implementation Report from Costa Rica and Guatemala	CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.5A CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.4A
	Form for interactions between sea turtles and artisanal gillnet fisheries	CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.8
	Report on the data analysis regarding interactions between industrial longline fisheries and sea turtles in the IAC countries	CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.7
	Technical Document on critical areas for the NWA Leatherback http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC17-2020-Tec16_Critical_Areas_NWA_Leatherback.pdf	CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16
Reference Documents	Report of the 13th CCE meeting http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/comite-consultivo/13reunion/CIT-CC13-2020-Doc.7_CCE13_Informe%20Final_15May2020_Web.pdf	CIT-CCE13-2020-Doc.7
	Report of the 17th Scientific Committee meeting http://www.iacseaturtle.org/cientifico-eng.htm	CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.15

Annex II – CIT-CCE14-2020-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 CCE13 (2020) and the COP9 of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles included in the IAC Consultative Committee Work Plan 2019-2021, and the actions required according to the status indicators where green is "completed"; yellow is in progress, and red is no execution/no action. Blank spaces show the activity did not exist in 2020. Text in blue shows items in the agenda or pending for discussion. The list is organized by theme and is divided into two columns, activities, and the status explanation. The colored columns show progress at the previous meeting (CCE13 – 2020) and status (CCE14 -2021). Boxes with the checkmark (✓) show compliance with the proposed activity.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTE OF EXPERTS (CCE)

Activity Proposed		Status – March 5, 2021	2020	2021
		Exceptions		
1.	Follow up on the progress of the implementation of recommendations to Panama exception.	1. The CC presented their recommendations to the Consultative Committee. 2. A meeting with the committees' chairs and Panama´s delegation was convened to discuss the recommendations. 3. The final recommendations document was sent to Panama in December 2020, for implementation.		✓
2.	Follow up on the progress of the implementation of recommendations to Guatemala exception.	1. Follow up on the Secretary *PT* and the Scientific Committee's request to Guatemala to present the 5-year report on the exception. 2. Guatemala submitted its report to the Scientific Committee in 2020. 3. Guatemala did a presentation of the report and is waiting for the CC recommendations.		✓
3.	Review and submit comments on the 5-year report on the Exception presented by Guatemala to the CC	**Agenda Item CCE14** The Scientific Committee will submit the comments within 60 days after this meeting (May 5, 2021)		

Activity Proposed		Status – March 5, 2021	2020	2021
4.	Review and submit comments on the 5-year report on the Exception presented by Costa Rica to the CC	**Agenda Item CCE14** The Scientific Committee will submit the comments within 60 days after this meeting (April 5, 2021)		
5.	Report to COP on the use of sea turtles or their products in the Exceptions for Parties (when new exceptions are presented).	No exceptions have been requested		✓
Website and IAC News Bulletin				
6.	Every month, the Parties will send relevant news for the IAC's Newsletter to Secretariat *Pro Tempore.*	2021 bulletins in preparation. More proactivity from the Parties sending their national news to the Secretary *PT* is required.		✓
Implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R2)				
7.	Implement MoU IATTC-IAC	IATTC: The Members of the Consultative Committee (B. Wallace and B. Regnery) and the Secretariat *PT*, provided technical information, participated in meetings, and supported the adoption of a resolution to mitigate sea turtle bycatch at the IATTC (2019).		✓
8.	Implement MoU IATTC-IAC	IATTC: B. Wallace worked along with IATTC scientific staff, on the EP Leatherback vulnerability to fisheries model which was presented at the IATTC 2020 bycatch working group meeting.		✓
9.	Implement MoU IATTC-IAC	**Agenda Item CCE14** IATTC: The IAC-IATTC working group is working on the second phase of the EP leatherback vulnerability to fisheries model, which will be presented at the IATTC 2021 bycatch working group meeting and the IAC COP10. A progress report was presented at the CCE14.		
10.	Carry out annual meetings of the Leatherback Task Force.	An annual meeting was held to review the document on the EP Leatherback vulnerability analysis (April 2020), frequent meetings (1 / month) of this working group members (Peru, Chile, USA, Ecuador, Costa Rica) participating in the second phase of this analysis (2021)		✓

Activity Proposed		Status – March 5, 2021	2020	2021
11.	The Leatherback Task Force will prepare an assessment of compliance with the EP Leatherback Resolution strategic actions to present it to the COP10.	**Agenda Item CCE14** A report to support the proposal to modify the Resolution for the conservation of the EP Leatherback was presented at the CCE14.		
Implementation of Resolution Northwest Atlantic Leatherback (CIT-COP9-2015-R2)				
12.	Prepare a map of important area to establish those critical for the species and which are protected	The WG is preparing a map with the collaboration of the Scientific Committee and regional experts in satellite telemetry.		
13.	Collaborate with the outreach working group to approach countries that are non-IAC parties that are within the range of the species	The WG is exchanging information with one of the members of the outreach WG, relevant for this species.		
Annual Report and Resolutions Compliance				
14.	Each country's CCE delegate supports the Focal Point to prepare the IAC Annual Report.	2020: 9 countries submitted their annual report (*Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and the United States*). 2019: 10 countries submitted their annual report (*Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and the United States*). 2018: 11 countries submitted their annual report (*Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, México, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela*).		
15.	Assess the current Annual Report form	A form on longline fisheries proposed by the Scientific Committee is included in the IAC Annual Report.		✓
16.	Review the table on compliance with the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution.	A table to monitor the implementation of the NWA Leatherback Resolution is included in the IAC Annual Report 2020.		✓

Activity Proposed		Status – March 5, 2021	2020	2021
17.	Prepare a report on compliance with Resolutions. for the COP	An informative document presented to the CCE. The report for the COP10 is in preparation		
18.	Review draft proposed to amend the text in the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution Oriental CIT-COP7-2015-R2	**Agenda Item CCE14** The changes to the EP Leatherback Resolution were approved and the proposal will be presented at the COP10		✓
19.	Review report on industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties to present it to the COP10	**Agenda Item CCE14** The report on interactions between industrial longline fisheries and sea turtles will be presented to the COP10, after including the CCE recommendations.		
20.	Review form proposed by the SC to record interactions with artisanal gillnet fisheries to be included in the annual report.	**Agenda Item CCE14** The Scientific and Consultative committees working groups involving fisheries will work together to enhance the proposed form to request data on interactions between sea turtles and gillnet fisheries. A progress report will be presented at the CCE15-2022.		
21.	Prepare a proposal to assess the possibility of recording information on artisanal longline fisheries.	**Agenda Item CCE14** The Consultative Committee agrees with the Artisanal Longline Fisheries WG proposal to implement their Fisheries approach, in the characterization of artisanal longline fisheries in the countries represented in the group and in the binational pilot project "*Harmonization of methods to collect sea turtles' bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile CIT-CCE14-2021 -Doc.7*" Activity subject to funding. The WG will present a progress report at the CCE15.		✓

Activity Proposed		Status – March 5, 2021	2020	2021
22.	Report on the compliance with agreements at the COP, and with the CCE work plan activities.	Document presented and adopted at the CCE14		✓
	Collaboration with International Organizations			
23.	Prepare and review MoUs with relevant international organizations identified.	**RAMSAR**: The Secretariat signed the MoU renewal with RAMSAR.		✓
24.		**STETSON UNIVERSITY**: 1. Proposal of MoU with Stetson University adopted at the CCE13. 2. The MoU proposal will be presented to the COP10		✓
25.		IAC-IATTC: The Memorandum of Understanding is being implemented (see number 9)		
26.		The CCE will identify priority activities to implement them within the framework of the MoUs with the IAC.		
27.	Recommend and promote alliances and synergies with relevant international organizations to accomplish the IAC objectives.	ICCAT 1. CCE Vice-Chair and CCE sectorial delegates (A. Fallabrino and B. Wallace), supported the PT Secretary in the presentation of a draft proposal to negotiate an MoU with ICCAT, and supported the review of the resolution on sea turtle bycatch in the ICCAT fisheries, at the annual ICCAT Commission meeting in November (2019). 2. Review of MoU with ICCAT draft proposal and recommendation to the IAC Focal Points. The IAC FP have approved the MOU currently under review by ICCAT. 3. The Secretariat *PT* sent the MoU draft proposal to the ICCAT Secretariat in March 2020 to be considered at ICCAT´s annual meeting in 2021.		✓
28.				
29.		LAUDOPO: The IAC participates in the LaudOPO Network through the CCE Sector Delegate (B. Wallace) and the Secretariat, to promote this network support to the IAC in technical collaborations.		✓
30.		Participation of the Secretariat -with the support of the delegate from Mexico (Ms. Laura Sarti) and Costa Rica´s delegate in the Sea Turtle Regional Symposium in Morelia Mexico.		✓
31.		MTSG: The delegate from Brazil, Mr. Joca Thome, is in contact with CCE sectorial members to establish a collaboration with the MTSG – IUCN and will report progress at the CCE 2020.		
32.		SPAW Protocol: 2020 – Participation of the Consultative Committee Chair (P. Hoetjes) at Cartagena Convention COP (2019), supporting the inclusion of a recommendation for the SPAW Protocol to work with the IAC in the implementation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback with non-parties of the IAC – CCE13. **Agenda Item CCE14** 2021 – The NWA Leatherback WG (USA-CCE) is working along with a SPAW representative to establish their work plan and have invited an expert from Canada´s Government to become part of this group. A verbal progress report will be presented at the CCE14.		✓

Activity Proposed		Status – March 5, 2021	2020	2021
33.	Identify potential sources of funding to implement training workshops on sea turtles handling and release in the IAC region.	The CCE will identify potential funding sources for training		
Recommendations from COP and CCE				
34.	Address COP requests and draft Resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	**Agenda Item CCE14** Addressing a request from the COP, a technical document on critical areas for the conservation of the NWA Leatherback was adopted by the Scientific Committee and will be presented to the CCE and the COP10 – 2021.		✓
IAC Technical Documents				
35.	Develop technical documents as needed.	1. Update of the technical document "Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas) Nesting Trends in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: Status Update and Conservation Priorities" on the IAC website – 2020. 2. The document on critical areas for the NWA Leatherback mentioned above will be presented at this meeting CCE and to the COP10 (see number 32)		✓
IAC Directory of Experts				
36.	Update the IAC Expert Directory.	Experts Directory updated on the website to April 9, 2020. http://www.iacseaturtle.org/directorioExpertos-eng.htm		✓

Annex III - CIT-CCE14-2021- Doc.3

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WORK PLAN 2021-2022

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
EXCEPTIONS				
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 exceptions for the use of sea turtles or their products (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 for consideration.	1) 2021 -2022 2) Permanent
EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK				
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 on the implementation of the strategic actions included in the IAC EP Leatherback Resolution. 4) Participate in part 2 of the EASI-FISH model with the IATTC and present results to COP10.	1) Report presented to COP with recommendations on the implementation of strategic actions. 2) Report with results from EASI-Fish Model presented to COP10. 3) Draft Resolution to update the current Eastern Pacific Leatherback presented to COP10.	2021, 2022
NORTHWEST ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK				
NWA Leatherback Working Group	NWA Leatherback	1) Promote technical collaborations with the SPAW Protocol, WIDECAST and WWG, and other organizations working on the protection of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback	1) Progress report presented at CCE15.	2021 2022-CCE15

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
		2) Promote and support the IAC Secretariat with outreach and collaboration to countries in the range of the species such as Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and France. 3) Increase the information on areas important for the conservation of the NWA leatherback in collaboration with the IAC Scientific Committee and regional experts in telemetry, using the IAC Technical Document CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16 as a baseline.	2) Synergies established with the outreach to IAC´s non-parties working group and the SPAW protocol 3) Map of important areas to establish which are critical for the species and which are already protected	
FISHERIES				
Small Scale Fisheries Working Group (Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Mexico, Peru)	Small Scale Fisheries	1) Research methods to collect information on small-scale fisheries incidentally catching fisheries. Present draft proposal at the CCE15. 2) The countries represented in this Working Group will classify and characterize the domestic Fisheries interacting with sea turtles, considering as descriptive criteria (indicators) **captures/mortality indexes and fishing effort** of each management unit, meaning each Fishery.	1) Progress report presented at the CCE15. 2) Classification and characterization of longline artisanal fisheries interacting with sea turtles.	2021 2022

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
		3) Implementation of the pilot project "*Harmonization of methods to collect sea turtles' bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile"* according to funding available.	3) Progress report on the implementation of the Pilot Project in Peru and Chile.	
IAC ANNUAL REPORT				
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Annual Report	1) CCE delegates 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 current Annual Report form. 2) Review form proposed by the Scientific Committee to report interactions with gillnets to consider inclusion in IAC Annual Report.	1) Recommendations for changes to the Annual Report format as required.	2021- 2022
Consultative Committee of Experts	Review data from IAC Annual Report	Review analysis of data from industrial longline fisheries with information taken from IAC Annual report, prepared by IAC Scientific Committee.	Analysis presented to COP10	2021
WORKPLAN				
Consultative Committee Chair	Implementation of CCE Work Plan	1)Prepare an annual report with the evaluation of the activities in the work plan for the CCE. 2)Prepare a biannual report with an evaluation of activities in the CCE work plan for the COP.	1) Report presented at COP10 2) Report Presented at CCE15	2021 2022
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

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS				
Consultative Committee of Experts	Collaboration with International Organizations	1) Promote alliances and synergies with relevant international organizations (IO) to accomplish the IAC objectives. 2) Provide technical guidance to IAC Secretariat PT and attend IO meetings, as needed.	1) Identification of synergies with similar organizations to share information (CITES, SPAW, CIAT, CPPS, WIDECAST, ACAP, ICCAT, OSPESCA, OLDEPESCA, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, and CMS). 2) Report on meetings attended to CCE when applicable.	2021, 2022
Consultative Committee of Experts	Implementation of MoUs	1) Develop and review MoU drafts with relevant organizations identified.	1) Documents presented to COP for consideration.	Permanent
Consultative Committee of Experts	Sources of funding	1) Identify potential sources of funding to implement training on best practices for sea turtle safe handling and release in the region.	1) Funding available to implement training activities on best practices for sea turtle safe handling and release in the IAC region.	2021-2022
DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP				
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat *Pro Tempore*	Drafting Resolutions and Recommendations to COP	1) Address COP requests and draft Resolutions and recommendations accordingly. 2) EP Leatherback WG: prepared draft changes to EP leatherback resolution.	1) Resolutions and draft recommendations presented to COP as needed. 2) Present changes to EP leatherback resolution to COP10.	Permanent 2021
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

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
IAC TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS				
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Technical Documents	1) Develop technical documents as needed. 2)Review Technical Document on critical areas for leatherback. CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16	1) Technical documents available on the IAC website and shared with IAC Parties.	Permanent 2021
IAC EXPERTS' DIRECTORY				
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat *Pro Tempore*	IAC Experts Directory	1) Review and update the IAC Experts Directory.	1) Updated directory available on IAC's Website.	Permanent
IAC INFORMATION BULLETIN				
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat *Pro Tempore*	IAC Website & Newsletter	1) Every month, the CCE members will send to Secretariat Pro Tempore relevant news for the IAC's Newsletter.	1) IAC website updated with the IAC's Newsletter and other documents of interest.	Permanent
IAC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY				
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Communication Strategy	CCE delegates will provide news and outreach material to the delegate from Costa Rica to be used in the IAC Communication strategy.	Outreach material collected to be used for the IAC Communication strategy.	2021

Annex IV
Recommendations to Panama, Guatemala, and Costa Rica

PANAMA

CIT-CCE14-2021- Doc.4

Recommendations from the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committee on the Implementation of the Exception Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 in Panama

In September 2019, the Government of Panama presented their five-year report on the implementation of Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1, for consideration of the 16th IAC Scientific Committee Meeting.

The Scientific Committee Exceptions Working Group at the 16th meeting in 2019 formed by Costa Rica, Brazil, and Caribbean Netherlands, and the Consultative Committee of Experts delegates from Mexico, United States, and Panama at their 13th meeting provided their comments to the report presented by Panama in April and September 2020, and recommend that Panama:

General Recommendations

According to Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1, Panama is urged to continue with the preparation of the Exception Management Plan for Isla Cañas.

In addition to what has been presented already, include in the Management Plan:

1. Maps that allow observation of the different areas where management actions are carried out (e.g., hatcheries, egg collection, protection, etc.). In the relevant scale and resolution.

2. Not exclusively, but provide the following statistical data on the population:

- The total number of nests per month per turtle species, for each beach related to the exception.
- A comparative annual trend of *L. olivacea* nesting, for each beach related to the exception.
- Determine a method to assess the *arribada,* training of personnel to implement it, and implementation, included in the monitoring plan.
- The total number of nests harvested during the years of the exception (2013-2018) and their corresponding graph vs the total of nests in the beaches of the exception.
- The total number of clutches protected in the artificial hatchery and the natural hatchery.
- Percentage of successful clutches *in situ* and *ex-situ*.

3. The Harvesting Plan must include a protocol that integrates indicators or selection criteria for the clutches to be harvested. Criteria for allocating eggs for the use of the community. Describe it and justify it.

4. The Clutches Protection Plan, whether in a hatchery or on the beach, must be more specific and descriptive, including, but not exclusively, man-hours per protection activity, designated personnel, partnerships, evaluation indicators, and their implementation.

5. A Traceability Plan including the number of people that will benefit, a management structure, number of eggs harvested, economic estimation of the use, control mechanisms, security mechanisms, annual evaluation.

6. The Management Plan must include an estimate of the personnel and the total amount required for implementation. As well as the contribution of the Ministry of Environment MiAMBIENTE to the exception (budget implemented by year).

7. The Exception Management Plan must include a harvesting plan, a traceability plan, and a control and enforcement plan, among others.

8. Panama will present an update on its progress in developing the Management Plan at the 18th Scientific Committee Meeting (2021).

Specific Recommendations

1. For future reports, discriminate or standardize the use of the following terms, considering the IAC manuals and technical reports:

o Natural hatchery: Artificial nursery.
o Nest: Clutch

2. To undertake the strict implementation of the Clutch Management Protocols in the *ex-situ* hatchery to improve HS (Hatching Success).

3. Better description of the actions and methods presented. E.g., The frequency and effort of patrols with the Ecological Police

4. Improve the description and development of partnerships public-public or public-private to enhance the impact and scope of the exception. E.g., joint actions with the community organized groups.

5. Establish mechanisms to when an *arribada* can or can´t be harvested: provide answers and a chart or concept paper to justify the decision. Determine the scope of the harvest and designation of nests per person or family, as well as management mechanisms.

6. Study the possibility to implement time or space closure, as well as the harvest of summer nests, relocating 100 % of them to hatcheries managing high temperatures.

7. The five-year report on the implementation of the exception does not provide supporting information regarding the actions mentioned, such as joint patrols, tagging program, REA (Rapid Ecological Assessment), RPA (Rural Participation Assessment), Management Plans, among others. E.g., kg of solid waste collected in actions with the civil society, time of patrolling with the Environmental, Rural and Tourist Police, number of schools participating in the implementation of the action plan, events in which the Isla Cañas Agrotourism, Fisheries and Aquaculture Association took part.

It is recommended that Panama reviews the Committee's recommendations, and prepare a roadmap for their implementation, including opportunities and challenges for implementation. The roadmap must be submitted to the Exceptions Working Group in December 2020.

To facilitate accompaniment to Panama in the implementation of Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1:

Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of *L. olivacea* Eggs in Guatemala and Panama, and the recommendations provided here, the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees through their Working Group on Exceptions, will provide their support to guide the nests monitoring and protection aspects that are part of the Exception Management Plan, and the preparation and review of the Exception Management Plan if required by Panama.

The IAC Scientific and Consultative Committee Working Group on Exceptions will provide technical advice to Panama to define the method that will be used to evaluate the *arribada*, and determine nesting trends in Isla Cañas, according to the general recommendation No. 2.

GUATEMALA

Recommendations from the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee to Guatemala, on the Implementation of Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of *L. olivacea* Eggs in Guatemala and Panama

In October 2020, Guatemala´s National Protected Areas Council (CONAP) presented the five-year report on the implementation of Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1, to the consideration of the IAC 17th Scientific Committee Meeting.

Guatemala has made valuable efforts within the context of its national legislation aiming to manage the sustainable use of sea turtles in compliance with the measures established by Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1. This is shown in the regulations established by the Government of Guatemala within the framework of the IAC Resolution, detailed as follows:

- Resolution CONAP 01-21-2012, establishes the "Conservation Quota" of 20% of the total of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs collected by *parlameros* (collectors) that have to be delivered to a Conservation Unit known has "*Tortugario"* or hatchery legally authorized, during the nesting season June-December.

- Resolution CONAP 05-20-2014, the National Strategy for Sea Turtle Management and Conservation in Guatemala comes into force.

- Resolution CONAP 01-21-2017, establishes an extension of the 20% of the "Conservation Quota" within the term allowed to collect *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs until October 15, 2020.

- Resolution CONAP 03-17-2017, establishes the Regulation for Sea Turtle Management and Conservation. It considers proper management for the sustainable harvest of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in articles 20, 23, 26 and 48. In its article 43 this Resolution bans the trade of other sea turtle species eggs.

Recommendations

After analyzing the previously mentioned report presented by Guatemala to the Scientific Committee Exceptions Working Group comprised of the delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and members of the Consultative Committee of Experts from Mexico, the following recommendations are presented to Guatemala:

On the Exception Management Plan

1. It is recommended that, to manage the exception in Guatemala´s Pacific Coast, the Protected Areas National Council organizes and complete the information presented to the IAC, including the Annexes, in the 5-year report, in an Exception Management Plan document, including at least the structure in Annex I, to present it within a year at the 2022 Scientific Committee meeting. It is recommended that all the recommendations

listed in here are implemented **within the framework of this management plan**, and that progress is presented to the IAC Scientific Committee every year.

2. It is recommended that, for future submissions of the IAC exception progress report, avoid leaving sections in blank, and in those with little information, provide support statements that allow the Scientific Committee develop recommendations that lead to progress.

3. The Working Group agrees with the recommendations in Product 5 (Assessment of items in resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1) of the report on exceptions presented by Guatemala / CONAP (Annex II in this document) and approves their adoption for their implementation by the corresponding authorities in Guatemala.

On the Conservation Quota

4. The Scientific Committee Exceptions Working Group recognizes that the established 20% conservation quota is an evidence of an increasing protection of *Lepidochelys olivacea* nests/eggs in Guatemala Pacific Coast. However, the Scientific Committee considers that Guatemala has not presented enough scientific and technical evidence to show that this conservation quota ensures that there is no negative impact on *Lepidochelys olivacea* nesting population in the long term, as well as an increasing abundance. Following the IAC Resolution, this item is not yet implemented.

   For this reason, it is recommended to develop a population model to estimate the hatchlings survival in the hatcheries, to support keeping the 20% as the conservation quota, as the trend of the number of nesting tracks (indicator of number of nesting females) and the number of eggs buried in hatcheries, are not enough to conclude that there is no impact on the Eastern Pacific olive ridley populations. In this context, the Committee states that there is no direct and single correlation between the increasing number of eggs in hatcheries and an increasing population, but an evidence of an increasing protection of the nests. It is suggested that Guatemala keeps moving forward with its conservation efforts and continue reporting progress on protection measures every year, including analyses that allow supporting that the 20% conservation quota does not impact the population negatively. If this measure were not enough to support the current conservation quota, it is recommended to implement the precautionary principle regarding the conservation quota and gradually increase the percentage.

5. It is recommended that Guatemala is cautious when concluding from its 20% conservation quota analysis of effectiveness, as a data set including more years than those reported so far is required for the trends to show that the quota is working in the long term.

6. It is recommended that, to address the conservation quota and its impact in the population trend, a meeting is conveyed between October and November 2021, with

the participation of Guatemala´s Sea Turtle Advisory Group and IAC technicians, in order to gain full understanding of the next steps.

On Management in Nesting Beaches and Population Monitoring Program

7. It is recommended to establish a method to monitor indicator of the status of *Lepidochelys olivacea* nesting population for a period that allows detecting a variation in recruitment because of the egg's extraction. If resources for monitoring are not enough, those beaches with higher nesting should be prioritized (south-east section of the coast).

8. It is recommended to ensure that the collection methods are standardized year after year. Similarly, there should be an effort to differentiate between nests and failed emergences in the index beaches.

9. It is recommended to continue monitoring the nesting tracks trends in the index beaches (with 20% of the eggs buried in the hatcheries) during at least another five years, with daily censuses of tracks in established areas within determined periods and avoid to only rely on the 20% of eggs delivered to the hatcheries.

10. It is requested that, for the management plan and the progress report presented to the IAC, include an analysis of the eggs collection effort and the variables that could influence it, as it could be biased by the availability of financial resources, larger offer of volunteering, increasing on the purchase of eggs from hatcheries, among other different than a larger number of nests.

11. It is recommended to establish management measure for the conservation quota as well as for the hatcheries, for the period between January and June, as Guatemala´s exception report shows that in these months outside the reproductive season, there is an almost total collection of eggs by the community.

12. It is recommended that the management plan and Guatemala´s exception report include the number of people registered for this activity and **the criteria** used to collect the eggs and determine the place to deliver the eggs collected.

13. Although Hawaii data has a representative data set, these cannot extrapolate to the national situation. Data from several beaches should include a similar number of years in the data sets and not a partial set. Extrapolations with gaps 2004-2014 should not be used as they don´t have maximum and minimum values, if these are available, they will condition the slope and the condition of the best fit line. In this sense, it is recommended to present a data analysis per beach separately.

14. Understanding the current challenges, it is recommended not to discard a strategy for the hatcheries to watch over a section of the beach where the nests could be monitored *in situ,* prioritizing those beaches with higher nesting numbers (south-east section of

the coast). As an alternative, it is recommended to carry out *in situ* protection in the rainy months when temperatures are favorable for hatching, as a measure to offset the exploitation along the coast.

On the Hatcheries Management

15. It is recommended to assess if the hatcheries program to purchase eggs 1) encourage eggs collection; 2) encourage that eggs are taken to more distant hatcheries; and 3) the viability of allocating resources to hire people for the inspection of nests management.

16. It is requested to include in the exception management plan the best practices implemented to manage the hatcheries, including protocols and/or rules to manage the hatcheries, the beach where each nest originates from, size of nests in hatcheries, distribution and number of eggs per nests buried in the hatchery, hatching percentage per nests in each hatchery, temperatures monitoring, among other aspects providing details on the procedures inside the hatcheries.

17. It is recommended to include in the management plan and the exception report the record of number of nests per month showing the number of nests protected in the hatchery, hatching and emergence success in hatcheries, and a representative sample (two or more years) comparing *in situ* temperatures with *ex situ* (nests relocated in hatcheries) temperatures in the nests in the rainy as well as the dry season.

18. It is recommended to estimate the ratio of females and males produced in the hatcheries, using dead hatchlings and an incubation temperature analysis to determine a correlation between mortality and sex, which could be a bias, and use mitigation measures to reduce the female bias.

19. It is recommended to assess biologic parameters in a sample of nests, especially reproductive success, to obtain information on the impact transportation and handling on hatching rates, and to improve the estimates of hatchlings produced in the hatchery.

20. It is recommended that the record of the number of nests collected is used as a conditioner for *parlameros* (collectors) to receive their payment for the eggs, to then obtain an estimate of the number of nests extracted in the different beaches.

On Social and Economic Sustainability and search for economic activities alternative to sea turtle eggs harvest

21. It is recommended to include in the exception management plan and the exception progress report to the IAC, the trends of social and economic income throughout the years (sustainability indicators).

22. It is recommended to assess the implementation of the economic model's alternative to the eggs harvest, mentioned by Guatemala in its report, such as tourism, artisanal fishing and small-scale agriculture. We acknowledge Guatemala efforts as shown in

the Exception´s report Product 3 "Proposal of economic alternatives to address the need for these means of livelihood aiming to reduce the olive ridley eggs harvest to a sustainable level" referring to the implementation of the IAC Resolution on the search of economic activities alternative to the sea turtle eggs harvest.

23. It is recommended to design a cost plan showing the resources required to keep control and surveillance of the *arribada* events, harvest, and trade of eggs.

On Traceability

24. It is recommended to develop a traceability procedure for the eggs collected for consumption as well as for the eggs going to the hatcheries, to establish the number of clutches traded and the number of eggs that were commercialized. Also, there must be a record of sea turtle eggs seizures per *arribada* and a temporal analysis using indicators (for example: number of eggs seized or poaches, number of sanctions, inspection coverage, percentage of prosecutions, other) to measure the number of eggs illegally traded and to assess how this impacts the *Lepidochelys olivacea* population.

25. It is recommended to carry out an exchange of experience between the technicians in charge of the exceptions in Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala, to share procedures regarding traceability of the eggs collected within the framework of the exception.

It is recommended that Guatemala implements the recommendations in this document and that progress is presented to the IAC Scientific Committee every year.

To facilitate support to Guatemala in the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 and the recommendations provided here, the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees represented by the Exceptions Working Group, will provide advice on any topic Guatemala deems necessary to comply with the Resolution.

These recommendations were discussed and agree with Guatemala´s Focal Point in a meeting on August 3rd, 2021, with the Exception WG members, the Conference of Parties (COP10), CCE, and SC Chairs, and the IAC Secretariat.

Next Steps

• The IAC working group on exceptions will analyze the need to prepare a draft to update the Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1, according to the implementation of the recommendations and progress reported by Guatemala, and if necessary, the draft resolution will be presented to the Scientific and Consultative Committee and the COP10-Part II in 2022.

• These recommendations will be included in the final report of the IAC 14th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts for future reference.

ANNEX I – Recommended outline for the Exception Management Plan

Guatemala´s Exception Management Plan

SUGESTED CONTENT

1. State of knowledge (regarding the exception)
2. Area of implementation of the exception (study area)
    a. Chart locating nesting beaches and hatcheries.
3. Species description (Biology and ecology)
    a. Including nesting season, nesting peaks, size of nests, etc.
4. Conservation status and threats
5. Conservation measures
    a. Legal framework
    b. Hatcheries
    c. Conservation quota
6. Strategic Plan
    a. Management plan objectives
    b. Criteria to assess compliance with the objectives.
    c. Best practices in hatcheries management
    d. Olive ridley monitoring program in Guatemala Pacific Coast (Product 2 prepared by CONAP) – Include goals, timeline, and strategies.
    e. Traceability program - Include goals, timeline, and strategies.
    f. Current and future financial mechanisms
    g. Success/sustainability indicators (environmental, social and economic)

ANEX II – Recommendations presented by Guatemala/CONAP (Product 5- Assessment of items in resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1) adopted by the IAC Scientific Committee Exceptions Working Group

- Continue monitoring nesting tracks on the Pacific coast of Guatemala in the seven beaches monitored. If, due to financial constraints, it is not possible to maintain nesting tracks monitoring at all sites, nesting monitoring of Hawaii should be maintained, as it is the site with the longest time frame, from which useful extrapolations can be made at the coastal level.

- Assess the relationship between the movements of the Central American Thermal Dome with respect to the observed gradient of greater nesting in the eastern Pacific coast of Guatemala.

- Strengthen management of the hatcheries on the Pacific coast as they prove to be an effective conservation tool for sea turtles in the country.

- The conservation quota receipts should include a section where, in addition to the number of eggs, it shows the number of nests from which those eggs come from.

- CONAP must ensure that the minimum conservation quota of 20% is met throughout the year and not only during the nesting season (July-December), in those sites where nesting occurs throughout the year. For this, it is essential that the hatcheries can receive eggs throughout the year, or at least those hatcheries managed directly by CONAP, as well as the hatcheries of El Banco and Hawaii.

- CONAP should train all those in charge of hatcheries, so that they properly fill out the receipts on olive ridley eggs use and conservation quota in their three sections.

- • CONAP must verify at final sale point of olive ridley eggs (restaurants, cevicherias, juiceries) that sellers have their respective proof of final delivery that protects the legality of the eggs.

- Considering that the annual amount allocated by the hatcheries to purchase eggs for conservation is around Q500,000 -USD 64,880- it would be feasible for CONAP to negotiate a conservation incentives program for the collectors, which funds are exclusively to purchase eggs for the conservation of the turtles.

- This would bring several benefits at a general level since that money would start an economic spill among the coastal communities of the Pacific Coast and would allow the hatcheries to invest their income from releases and donations, in improving and maintenance of the hatchery infrastructure, the purchase of priority equipment for monitoring, and investment in other sea turtle conservation activities.

COSTA RICA

Recommendations from the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committee on the Implementation of the Exception in Costa Rica Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R1

In October 2020, the Government of Costa Rica presented the five-year report on the implementation of Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R1, for the consideration of the 17th Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee.

After analyzing this report presented by Costa Rica, the working group on exceptions comprised of the Scientific Committee (SC) delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama, the SC Chair (Chile), and the delegates to the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) from Mexico, recommend to Costa Rica:

General Recommendations

In general Costa Rica is in compliance with the four measures established in Resolution CIT-COP-2015-R1. However, it is recommended to improve the following:

- The item on the implementation of the Traceability Plan is marked as "in process of development" in the exception report.
- The mechanism by which the IAC recommendations are conveyed to the Interinstitutional Advisory Committee of Ostional Wildlife National Refuge -CIMACO- and the authorities involved, is included in the next progress report on the exception. Likewise, indicate the mechanism used to communicate the traceability measures to the country authorities.
- It is recommended to report the total number of beneficiaries per year involved in the *arribada* processes that are members to Ostional Comprehensive Development Association -ADIO- in the IAC Annual Report, as well as in the exception five-year report. Include the requirements to participate and compliance with the measures established in the exception management plan.
- Determine contingency strategies to address the variables that may affect the data collection process (record of eggs extracted in *arribadas*), to avoid missing information during some months of the year.
- Consider providing the trend of social and economic income in time, in the exception report.
- Indicate the contribution of the measures implemented to reduce in-water threats at the Ostional Wildlife Natural Refuge (RNVSO).

Specific Recommendations

- Include in the provisions of the document "*Traceability of olive ridley eggs from RNVSO*", a record of sea turtle seizures per *arribada,* and develop an analysis using indicators (example: number of eggs seized or poached, number of sanctions, inspection coverage, percentage of sentences, other), to measure the number of eggs illegally traded, and assess the impact on the population of olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*).

- Assess the efficiency of the traceability, control, and surveillance system for *arribadas*, harvest and trade of olive ridley´s eggs (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), and determine the changes that would be required, if applicable.

- Continue with the methodology used to monitor the indicators to determine the status of the olive ridley nesting population (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), to have a reasonable period to detect variation in recruitment because of the egg's extraction.

- Describe the criteria to select the nests that are harvested, and arribadas that can be harvested.

- Include in the exception management plan the costs analysis showing the amount required to keep the exception operating in the RNVSO.

- Assess and adjust, if required, the exception management plan every 5 years, to present it to the IAC Scientific Committee.

To facilitate support to Costa Rica in the implementation of Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R1, and of the recommendations provided here, the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees Exception Working Group, will provide support when the country considers necessary, to help comply with the Resolution.

These recommendations were discussed with Costa Rica Focal Point in a meeting on May 27th, 2021, with the Exception WG members the CCE, SC Chairs and the IAC Secretariat PT.

Next Steps

- The IAC working group on exceptions will prepare a draft to update the Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R1 according to the implementation of the recommendations and progress reported by Costa Rica, to present it to the Scientific and Consultative Committee and the COP10-Part II in 2022.

- These recommendations will be included in the final report of the IAC 14th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts for future reference.

Annex V – CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.7

Note for Secretariat: Present at the CC18 as informative document for the COP10 Part II in 2022

Data analysis on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties
CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.7

By
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Sergio Paúl Padilla Galindo
***Mexico´s Delegate to the IAC Scientific Committee**

Executive Summary

Several aspects were analyzed using the data provided by the IAC Parties in table 3 of the 2020 Annual Report "IAC Form to report interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries" regarding interactions with sea turtle species by region, registered by onboard scientific observers. As a result, it was possible to produce a chart showing the industrial longline fleets' operating areas polygons, as well as to visualize the turtle's interaction patterns according to the industrial longlines variations, used by country and type of fishery, and their relationship with the type of set, type of hook and type of bait used, and their impact on the condition of sea turtles released alive, released dead or in an unknown condition. The outcomes show that the countries providing complete data for the analysis have made the necessary efforts to comply with the recommended management measures. It is concluded that the negative effects from the interactions with leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtles were mitigated by the good management and protection practices recommended by the IAC Resolutions.

Introduction

For the first time, the IAC countries reported specific data regarding the industrial longline fisheries characteristics in the IAC Annual Report 2020, following Resolutions CIT-COP9-2019-R2, CIT-COP7-2015-R2, and COP3/2006/ R-2. The form is like the one used by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) to report industrial longline fisheries affiliated to this Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO). It is expected that through the data analysis of "Table 3: IAC format to report interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries", industrial longline characteristics that represent a greater or lesser threat to the conservation of sea turtles are understood, as well as to make recommendations to strengthen the measures needed to meet the IAC objectives.

Methods

The database used for this descriptive analysis was developed according to the data reported by eight countries. Only those countries reporting interactions with sea turtles and fishing effort in 2019 were selected. Each country's fisheries were identified according to their target species and fishing areas. A chart showing the polygons where fishing activities are carried out was produced using the coordinates of the vessels operating in each fishery. As all the countries reported geo-referenced fishing operations, it was possible to identify the polygons corresponding to the identified fisheries according to their target species. Considering that there was only a one-year dataset available, a descriptive analysis was carried out by sorting the data using Excel pivot tables. Tables were used to identify the fisheries characteristics and their impact on the six sea turtle species in the IAC region, in addition to some graphs to show the different types of interactions corresponding to each country and fisheries. As with the fisheries target species, the catch rate or catch per unit effort (CPUE) were used as relative abundance indices (Shimada & Shaefer, 1956; Gulland, 1964; Large, 1992; Fréon & Misund, 1999) to represent the sea turtle interaction as the number of sea turtles (catch) per million hooks (efforts), emphasizing on their interaction rate according to the type of set, type of hook, and type of bait used, as well as on their impact on the condition of the turtles released alive, dead, or in condition unknown.

Results

The databased was set with the data reported by four IAC Parties, including 11 fisheries: The United States (6), México (2), Brazil (2), and Ecuador (1). Effort data was reported in only seven of these fisheries as the number of hooks used in 2019, the analysis of the rest of the data is pending, hoping that these can be completed by the Parties in the 2021 Annual Report. Table 1 shows basic characteristics of the 11 fisheries identified, of which four were excluded from the analysis and are marked with a star.

Table 1. Longline fisheries identified in the data reported by IAC Parties in the 2020 Annual Report.

No.	Country	Region	Type of fishery	Most common type of hook	Most common type of bait
1	Mexico	Pacific	Swordfish and shark	J-8	Mackerel
2	Mexico	Atlantic	Tuna	C-16	Bigeye
3	United States	Pacific	Sword Fish	C-18	Mackerel
4	United States	Pacific	Tuna	C-15	Mackerel
5	United States	Pacific	Swordfish and shark	C-18	Mackerel
6	United States	Atlantic	Swordfish and shark	C-16	Mackerel
7	Ecuador	Pacific	Shark-Marlin-Tuna	C-16, J-4, J-36, J-38	**Barr-SQ-Oth
8	* United States	Atlantic	Tuna	C-16	Squid
9	* United States	Pacific	Tuna and Marlin	C-15	Mackerel
10	*Brazil	Atlantic	Swordfish	C-06	Mackerel
11	*Brazil	Atlantic	Tuna	C-06	Mackerel

*Fisheries not considered in the descriptive analysis as the fishing effort was not reported as number of hooks.
**Skipjack, squid, and other

Figure 1 depicts the quadrants resulting from minimum and maximum latitudes and longitudes of the vessels operating in the fisheries identified.

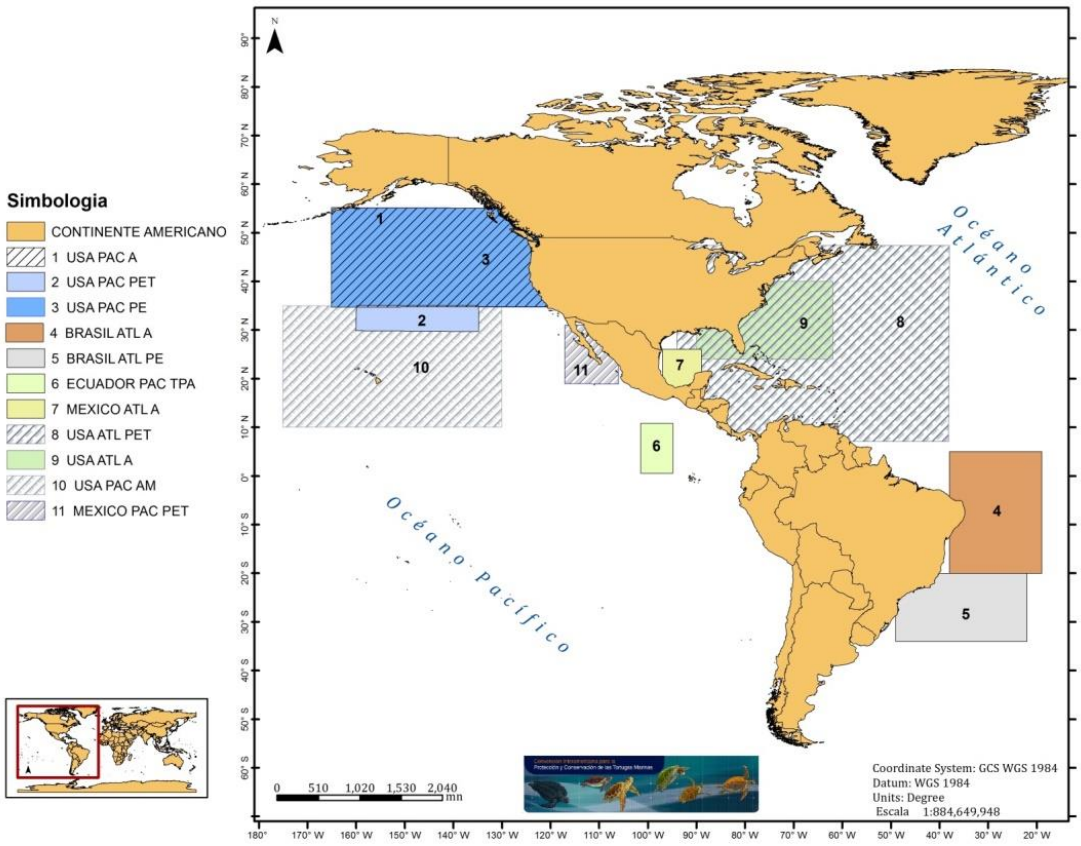

Figure 1. Polygons where IAC Parties industrial longline fisheries, using the geographic position reported in the IAC Annual Report 2020. PAC=Pacific; ATL= Atlantic; A= Tuna; PE= Swordfish; PET=Sword fish and Shark; TPA=Shark, Marlin and Tuna; AM=Tuna and Marlin.

From the analysis of the IAC Parties industrial longline fisheries polygons, it was found that out of the six sea turtle species occurring in the IAC region, five species were observed with a total of 131 individuals, where the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) was the most representative with 54 turtles and a proportion of 41.22%. There were no interactions reported for the kemp´s ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), which is only found in the Atlantic region (table 2).

Table 2. List of sea turtles in the IAC region, number, and type of interactions reported by the Parties, corresponding to 2019 fishing operations.

Species	Released alive	Released dead	Release condition unknown	Total	%
Caretta caretta	53	1	0	54	41.22
Chelonia mydas	32	0	0	32	24.43
Lepidochelys olivacea	19	2	2	23	17.56
Eretmochelys imbricata	16	0	0	16	12.21
Dermochelys coriacea	6	0	0	6	4.58
Lepidochelys kempii	0	0	0	0	0.00
Total	**126**	**3**	**2**	**131**	**100**

Figure 2 depicts the rate and type of interactions in each industrial longline fishery. Most of the interactions were reported in shark, marlin, and tuna fisheries in Ecuador, and the least were reported in the Pacific tuna fishery in the United States. The graph shows that the total of interactions is almost the same as the sea turtles released alive, with a few turtles released dead or in a condition unknown.

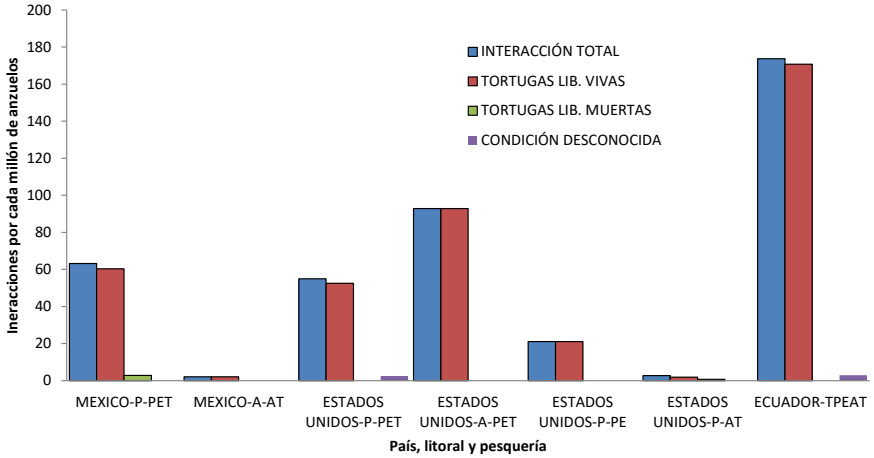

Figure 2. Type of interactions per million hooks in each IAC country and by type of fishery reported in 2019. P=Pacific, A=Atlantic; PET=Sword fish and shark, AT=Tuna; PE=Sword fish, TPEAT=Shark, Marlin, Swordfish and Tuna. Interacciones por cada millón de anzuelos (Y) =Interactions per million hooks; País, litoral y pesquería= Country, basin, and fishery; Interacción total= Total of interactions; Tortugas Lib. Vivas= Turtles released alive; Tortugas Lib. Muertas= Turtles released dead; Condición desconocida= Condition unknown

The interaction rate represented by the number of turtles of each species per million hooks is shown in figure 3. The loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) is the most frequent species in all fisheries, and the countries reporting the highest rate of interaction with this species were

Mexico and the United States in the Pacific Ocean in the swordfish and shark fisheries. The highest interaction rates of the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and the olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) were in Ecuador in shark, swordfish, and tuna fisheries. The next species with the highest rate of interaction was the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the United States Atlantic swordfish and shark fishery, and in Ecuador's swordfish, tuna, and shark fishery. The highest rate of leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea)* interactions was in the United States' Atlantic swordfish and shark fishery, followed by Ecuador's shark, swordfish, tuna, and shark fishery.

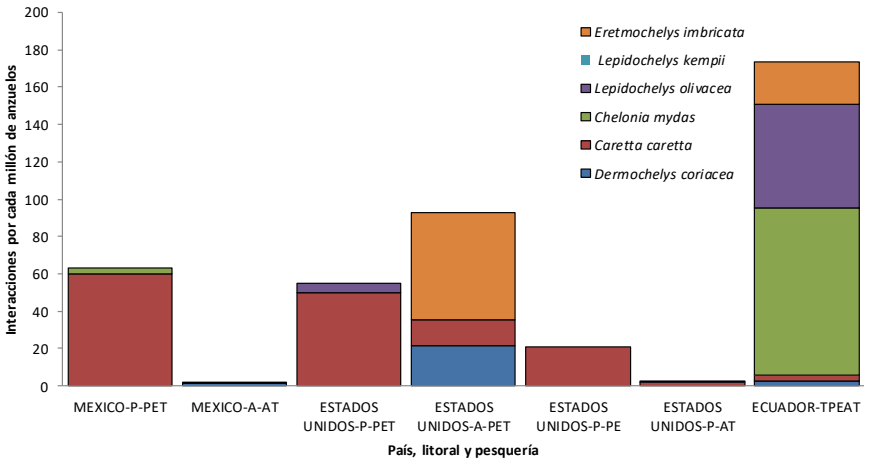

Figure 3. Interaction rates between the six species of sea turtles and the fisheries in the IAC Parties, and target fishery in 2019. P=Pacific, A=Atlantic; PET=Sword fish and shark, AT=Tuna; PE=Sword fish, TPEAT=Shark, Marlin, Swordfish and Tuna. Interacciones por cada millón de anzuelos (Y) =Interactions per million hooks; País, litoral y pesquería= Country, basin, and fishery.

Figure 4 shows the predominant type of set in all fisheries reporting fishing effort as the number of hooks, in 2019. All are shallow sets, except for the United States Pacific tuna, which coincides with a low interaction rate.

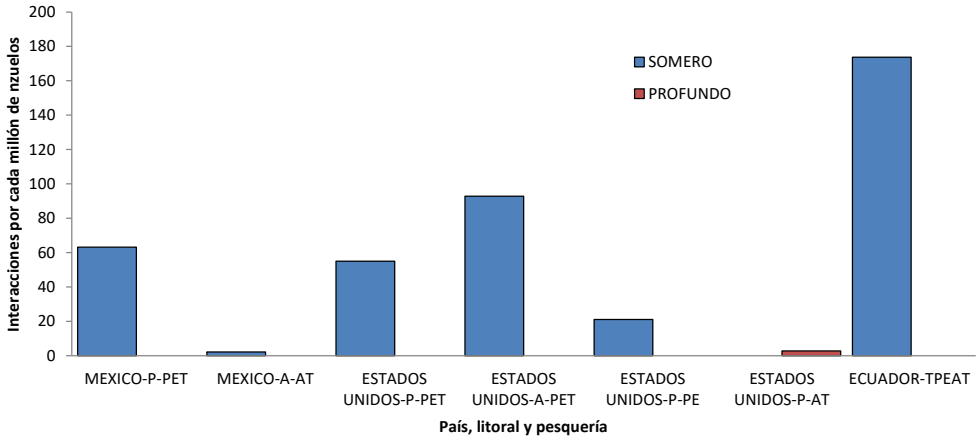

Figure 4. Interaction rates between the six species of sea turtles and the fisheries in the IAC Parties, and target species by type of set in 2019. P=Pacific, A=Atlantic; PET=Sword fish and shark, AT=Tuna; PE=Sword fish, TPEAT=Shark, Marlin, Swordfish and Tuna. Interacciones por cada millón de anzuelos (Y) =Interactions per million hooks; País, litoral y pesquería= Country, basin, and fishery.

Regarding the type of hook used by the fisheries, it was found that the circular hook was dominant in different sizes. There were exceptions in Mexico's Pacific Ocean where the swordfish and shark fishery use "J" hooks, as well as in Ecuador where it is combined with other types of hooks targeting shark, marlin, swordfish, and tuna. This combination of hooks shows the highest rates of interactions with sea turtles (Figure 5).

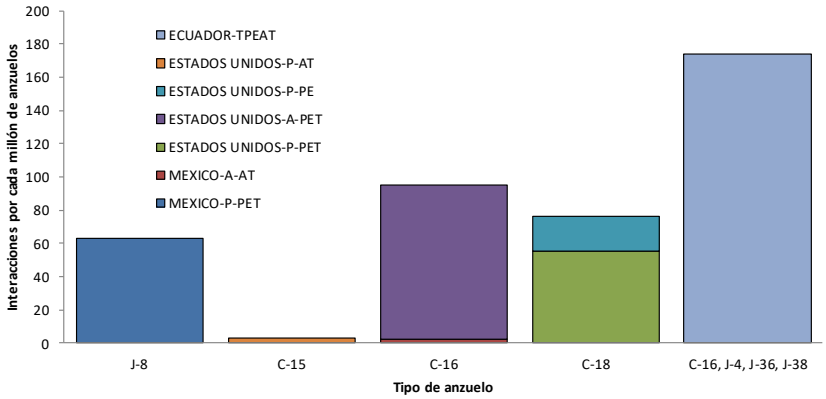

Figure 5. Interaction rates between sea turtles and type of hook used by the IAC Parties in 2020. P=Pacific, A=Atlantic; PET=Sword fish and shark, AT=Tuna; PE=Sword fish, TPEAT=Shark, Marlin, Swordfish and Tuna. Interacciones por cada millón de anzuelos (Y) =Interactions per million hooks; Tipo de anzuelo= Type of hook.

As shown in table 2, the most common type of bait used in the industrial longline fisheries was the mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), followed by the giant squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) and the bigeye (*Selar crumenophtalmus*). Also, it was identified that a combination of baits was used in the Ecuadorian fishery, including skipjack (*Euthynnus lineatus y Katsuwonus pelamis*) (Figure 6).

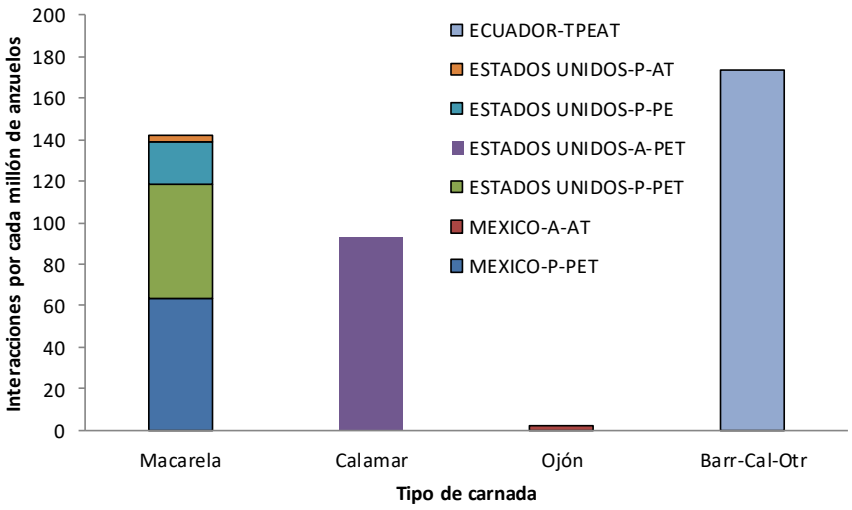

Figure 6. Interaction rates between sea turtles and type of bait used by the IAC Parties fisheries in 2020. P=Pacific, A=Atlantic; PET=Sword fish and shark, AT=Tuna; PE=Sword fish, TPEAT=Shark, Marlin, Swordfish and Tuna. Barr-Cal-Otr= Skipjack, squid, and others. Interacciones por cada millón de anzuelos (Y) =Interactions per million hooks; Tipo de carnada= Type of bait.

Regarding the type of interactions by type of bait used, figure 7 shows that the combination of skipjack, squid, and others shows the highest rate of interactions with sea turtles, followed in descendent order by the squid, mackerel, and the bigeye. As in the first graphs, it is found that with a few exceptions, the total number of interactions is almost the same as the sea turtles released alive.

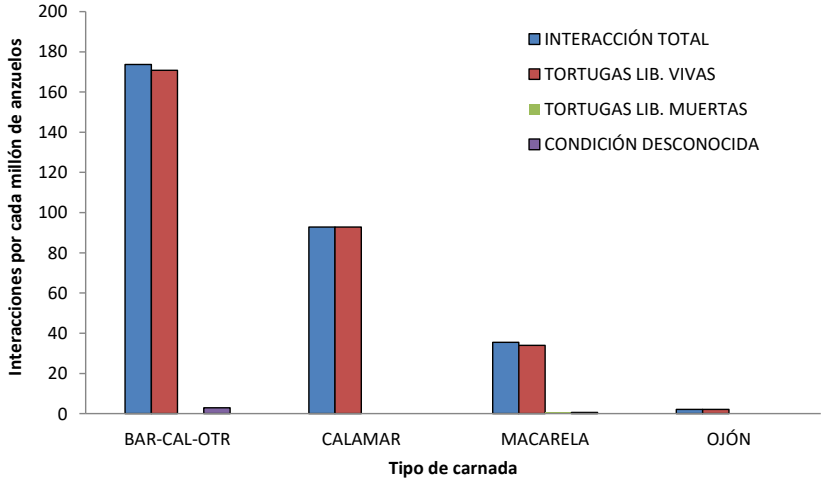

Figure 7. Type of interaction by type of bait used in the IAC Parties industrial longline fisheries in 2019.

Of the six species interacting by type of bait used, the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) was mainly reported when there was a combination of baits (skipjack, squid, and others), followed by the olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). The highest interaction rate of loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) was when squid was used, and there were more interactions with hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) when mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*) was used (Fig. 8).

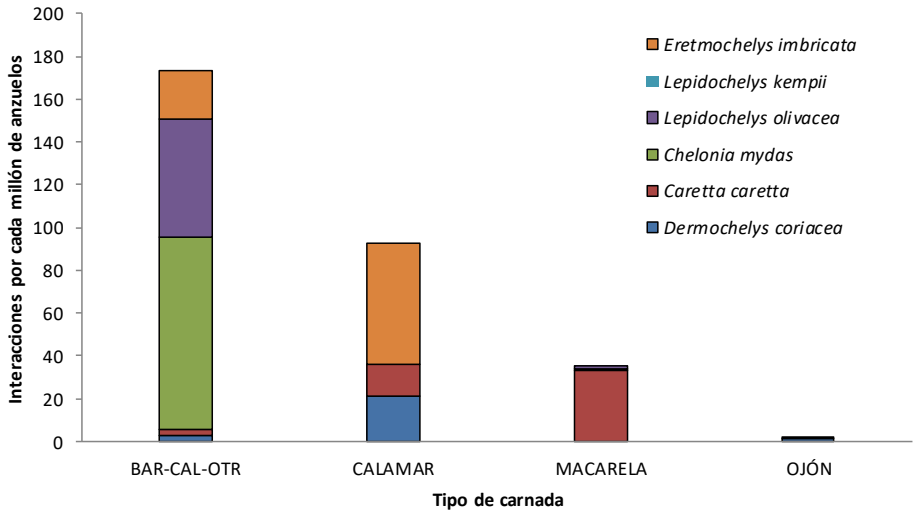

Figure 8. Interaction rates of the six sea turtle species according to the type of bait used in industrial longlines in the IAC Parties in 2019.

The interaction by type of hook used showed that the turtles released dead were recorded mainly when the circular C-15 and J-8 hooks were used. In the rest of the circle hooks, the total interaction rates were almost the same as the turtles released alive (Fig. 9).

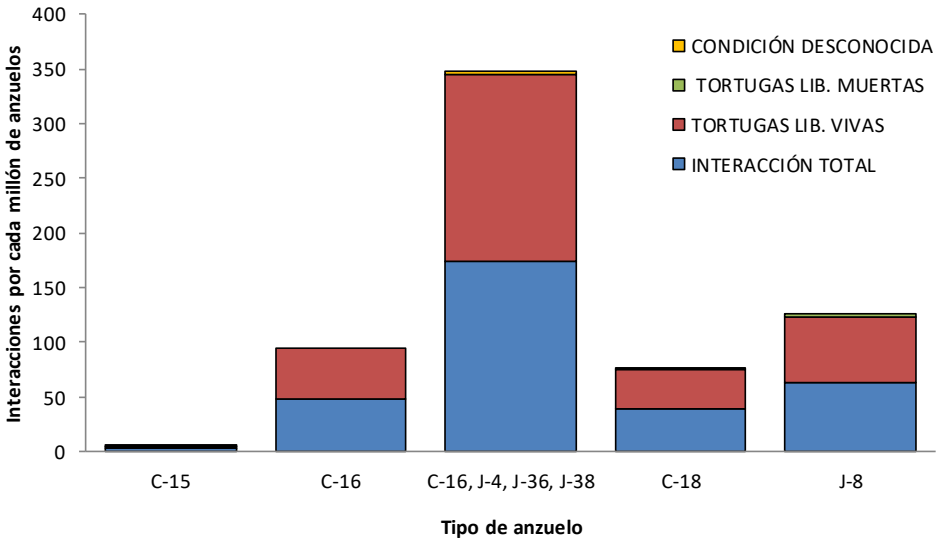

Figure 9. Type of interaction according to the type of hook used in the IAC fisheries in 2019.

Regarding the species interactions by type of hook used, the combination of C-16, J-4, J-36, and J-38 hooks in Ecuador involved all sea turtle species in the Pacific Ocean. The loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) interacted to some extent with all the types of hooks recorded. The highest interaction rate with the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) was when the C-16 circle hook was used.

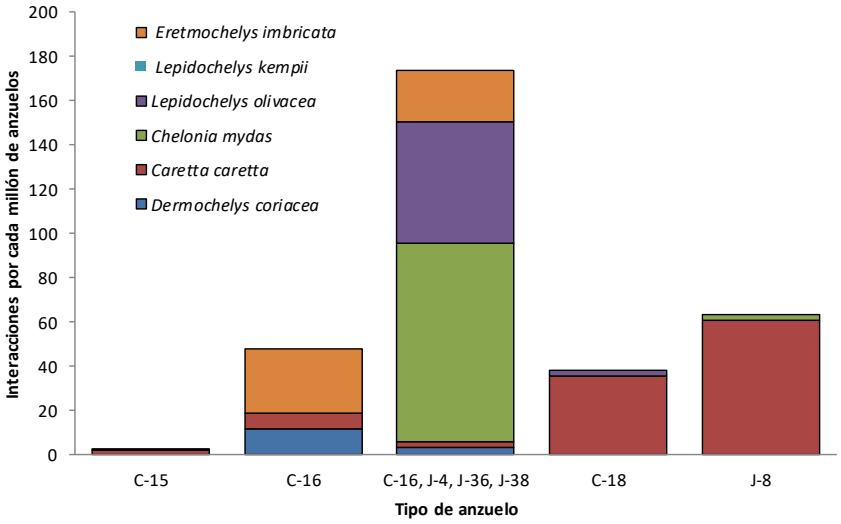

Figure 10. Bycatch rate of the six sea turtle species according to the type of hook in the IAC Parties industrial longline fisheries in 2019.

Discussion

It is important to understand that this one-year dataset obtained by observers onboard industrial longline vessels in 2019 only allows for descriptive analysis, therefore conclusions must be considered carefully, without losing sight of the importance of presenting the potential of collecting this information systematically.

For the conclusions from the analysis to be robust enough, in terms of the results regarding longlines and sea turtle's protection and conservation, it is necessary to count with at least a five-year data series to establish inter-annual trends in the protection and conservation measures implemented.

However, this process has allowed it to identify the distribution of the longline fisheries reported and their characteristics, as well as the interaction rates between sea turtles and industrial longlines and their components (the type of set, types of hook and bait used) which have been identified as having the greatest positive or negative impact for the conservation of sea turtles.

It is worth mentioning that some data in Table 3, such as sampling effort (observed) concerning the real effort of the fisheries, has the potential to strengthen the analysis when extrapolations are necessary, as well as other statistical approaches.

Among the main results from this preliminary analysis, it is worth emphasizing the need for all the countries that have this information to provide the data requested in Table 3 "Form to report interactions between sea turtles and longline fisheries in the IAC Annual Report."

The countries that provided their data in 2019 should continue doing it in the subsequent years and those that submitted incomplete data try to complete it as of the 2021 Annual Report. That way, the IAC Scientific Committee will be able to analyze a time series with enough scientific elements, to strengthen the efforts of the countries to comply with the IAC Resolutions, for the protection and conservation of sea turtle, especially the species that are most vulnerable and impacted by industrial longline fisheries.

The most encouraging results from this first analysis show that most of the sea turtles incidentally caught were released alive although the information in the form does not allow an assessment of post-capture survival. There is also evidence of the need to carefully watch the fisheries interacting with species such as the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) which are highly vulnerable. Also, the longline fisheries crew members must be trained regarding sea turtles' safe handling and release, to ensure appropriate releasing and post-release survival.

The most common type of hook used in the IAC region industrial longline fisheries was different sizes of circle hooks, this is favorable given the benefits for the fisheries of reducing deep hooking and internal injury. Only two countries reported the use of "J" hooks. It is worth mentioning that in the case of Mexico, there is an official regulation allowing the use of the "J" type hook in the longline sections that work at depths greater than 40 m because according to the experts, the occurrence of sea turtles vulnerable to Mexico's longline fisheries is unlikely at this depth (DOF, 2007). The other industrial longline fishery that reported the use of different sizes of "J" hooks was that of swordfish, tuna, billfish, and shark from Ecuador, in which a combination with C-16 circle hooks was found.

The mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*) was the most common bait used by fisheries and, fortunately, low interaction rates were found compared to the combination of skipjack, squid, and other baits. There was only one fishery reporting the use of squid as bait, with the interaction rates in second place after the mackerel. It would be important to recommend that this bait is replaced by another type, preferably of bony fish such as the mackerel or bigeye (*Selar crumenophtalmus*) that showed lower interaction rates.

Currently, the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) populations are of concern in the world due to their conservation status, especially the ones from the Eastern Pacific region. Fortunately, the six interactions reported here were of turtles released alive, with only one in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, where they are of greatest concern. However, it is not possible to determine if the post-release conditions allow them to survive.

Conclusions

Given that the data provided in Table 3, on the operation of the fisheries have been divided as Minimum latitude, Maximum latitude and Minimum longitude, Maximum longitude, the georeferencing translates into a rectangular polygon, so it is necessary to review the form to avoid that some sections of the polygon cover areas that might not correspond to the operation areas of a particular fleet.

These data descriptive analysis allowed to identify the distribution of the fisheries that interact with sea turtles, and the interaction rates according to the fisheries characteristics, such as type of hook, bait, and the condition of the turtles released.

Not all the countries that submitted Table 3 in the 2020 Annual Report provided complete data, therefore the first analysis only considered seven of the eleven fisheries identified.

The countries that submitted all the data have made efforts to comply with the IAC recommendations to protect sea turtles interacting with industrial longlines, as well as to implement best practices for sea turtle safe handling and release and the use of circle hooks, which may ease the sea turtles release and their post-capture survival.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the countries using longline in their fisheries but have not complied with submitting the information on interactions with sea turtles using Table 3 of the IAC Annual Report, do it in the next reporting cycle so they can be included in the analysis; and, that the countries continue implementing the protection measures and the best practices for sea turtles safe handling and release.

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Annex VI – CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.5

ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION CIT-COP7-2015-R2 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE EAST PACIFIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Presented by the East Pacific Leatherback Task Force

Members: Bryan Wallace, Laura Sarti, Rotney Piedra, Leslie Bustos, Paula Salinas, Javier Quiñones, Marino Abrego, Eduardo Espinoza, and Luz H. Rodríguez

This document is presented by the IAC East Pacific Leatherback Task Force of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) based on the recommendations of the Consultative Committee Working Group on Compliance with IAC Resolutions (CIT-CCE7-2014-Doc. 4). The assessment analyzes the level of compliance with the actions proposed in the IAC Annual Report section related to the implementation of Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2, and their scope in terms of impact.

1. Information requested in the IAC Annual Report

The assessment considers the information provided by nine IAC Parties where the Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback applies, reported in their Annual Reports 2015 to 2020, according to the five questions in the report (Table 1). The IAC countries are Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and the United States.

Table 1. Questions to measure compliance with Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2 included in the IAC Annual Report.

1a	Have you created **conservation plans** and long-term programs that can **reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle** in the Eastern Pacific?
1b	Are you implementing these **conservation plans** and monitoring programs?
2	Have you taken conservation measures to **eliminate poaching** of leatherback turtles?
3	If your country has leatherback turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: Have you taken conservation measures to **protect the nesting sites and their associated habitats**?
4	Has your country adopted fishing **techniques that reduce the incidental capture and mortality** of this species?

Based on the answers provided by the Parties in their Annual Reports, it can be inferred that:

- At some point, all countries have reported having plans to monitor the EP leatherback status, which are being implemented (Questions 1a and 1b)

- At some point, all countries reported that they are implementing measures to eliminate poaching (Question 2)

- At some point, all countries where there are nesting sites report taking measures to protect nesting sites and their habitats (Question 3)

- At some point, all countries reported that they apply techniques to reduce bycatch and the mortality of the species (Question 4)

The answers in the Annual Reports submitted throughout the last six years (2015-2020) show that all countries comply with what is required by the resolution, however, there are countries that in some years did not submit reports, this causes a biased result (Figure 1).

Table 1 shows the level of compliance with the actions in the Annual Report (Total) according to the number of reports submitted between 2015 and 2020. Mexico, Costa Rica, and the United States have reported compliance with 100 % of the activities and have submitted all their reports. The rest of the countries, at some point, reported no compliance with any of the activities and did not submit all their reports. It is worth mentioning that question three does not apply to the United States, Guatemala, Peru, and Chile, since there are no EP Leatherback nesting beaches in their countries.

Table 1. Compliance with Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2 according to the answers provided by Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Chile, United States, Panama, Ecuador, and Peru. Question 3 does not apply in Guatemala, Chile, the United States, and Peru. Question 2 does not apply in Chile. The totals show the percentage of compliance with each of the activities reported in the annual reports submitted from 2015 to 2020. (s = if it complies; n = it is not in compliance; na = the question does not apply; nd = not determined).

	2015					2016					2017					2018					2019					2020					TOTALS				
	1a	1b	2	3	4	1a	1b	2	3	4	1a	1b	2	3	4	1a	1b	2	3	4	1a	1b	2	3	4	1a	1b	2	3	4	1a	1b	2	3	4
Mexico	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Guatemala	s	s	s	nd	s	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	s	s	s	na	s	s	s	s	na	s	s	s	s	n	s	s	s	s	n	s	83%	83%	83%	0%	83%
Costa Rica	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Chile	s	s	na	na	na	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	s	s	na	na	s	s	s	na	na	s	nd	nd	na	na	nd	50%	50%	na	na	33%
United States	s	s	s	na	s	s	s	s	na	s	s	s	s	na	s	s	s	s	na	s	s	s	s	na	s	s	s	s	na	s	100%	100%	100%	na	100%
Panama	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	s	s	s	s	s	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	s	s	s	s	s	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%
Ecuador	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	nd	s	s	s	s	s	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	n	n	na	na	s	s	s	s	s	s	67%	67%	67%	67%	67%
Peru	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	n	n	n	na	na	s	s	s	na	s	s	s	s	na	s	s	s	s	na	s	s	s	s	na	s	67%	67%	67%	na	67%

2. Actions for the Conservation and Recovery of the EP Leatherback in IAC Countries

a. Conservation Plans and Protection in Nesting Beaches

- Costa Rica:

    - In 2016 there was an increase in terms of conservation measures to protect the Leatherback nesting sites.
    - In Costa Rica, the process of territorial, operational and financial consolidation of Las Baulas National Marine Park continues. This is a conservation area for 85% of nesting females in the Costa Rican Pacific.
    - Management Plan for Las Baulas National Marine Park since November 2017.
    - Declaration of Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area (732.1 ha) where inter-nesting movements of this species are frequent.
    - The *Lepidochelys olivacea* traceability plan in Ostional also reduces the impact on leatherbacks eggs.
    - Management of nesting sites outside protected areas through the action plan based on the document "Initiative for the management and development of best practices for tourism related to the observation of sea turtles outside Protected Wild Areas and other elements of conservation with the participation and strengthening of communities. "
    - The second consecutive year of the Project to recover the EP Leatherback through improvement in the production of turtles and the protection of index and secondary nesting beaches in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.
    - Monitoring and evaluation of annual implementation are carried out using the Tool to Assess Management Effectiveness of Protected Wild Areas.
    - Development of governance models for each of the sea turtle nesting sites found outside protected wild areas, as shown in official letter SM-0364- Ord 11-2019
    - The National Strategy for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles Action Plan is being addressed by the institutional Commission for the implementation and monitoring of the strategy, formed in 2019.
    - Fishing operation logbooks, sets sheets, and transfers records are available to record interactions between fishing gear and sea turtles.
    - Tutorials to facilitate recording information requested in fishing operations logbooks, set sheets and transfers are available.
    - Interactions with sea turtles are considered in the sets forms as well as in the tutorials.
    - Training available for Master on the use of forms
    - A training module on sea turtle handling and release is being developed. Funding is being seeked.

- Mexico

    - Publication of the EP Leatherback National Action Plan for the Conservation of Species (PACE in Spanish) in 2007.
    - Mexico is making efforts to establish four EP Leatherback nesting index beaches as protected natural areas. Two beaches have been declared as Sanctuaries and one more is in the process.
    - Prioritizes monitoring of females and embryonic development on the beach.
    - Actions of inspection and surveillance actions on nesting beaches, during the nesting season.
    - Operational Inspection and Surveillance Program for the Protection of Sea Turtles on nesting beaches.
    - The nesting beaches neighboring communities have joined the protection activities on the main nesting beaches. This resulted in the protection of over 90% of the clutches and a 50-60% incubation success every season, thanks to the efforts between communities, civil society organizations, and the federal government.
    - Between 2016-2018, the sites with the greatest interaction with leatherback turtles in riverine and artisanal fishing gear were evaluated through surveys of fishermen. These surveys were part of a regional project with the LaudOPO Network to direct training and awareness-raising efforts to these sites.
    - o Likewise, between 2017-2019, Mexico was part of another regional project with the LaudOPO Network on a Population Viability Analysis, in which the population parameters available since 1982 to date, were assessed, in different scenarios to determine which are the main actions to be developed in the coming years, to be able to reverse the situation of the leatherback turtle.
    - Provide technical assistance with nesting beach monitoring to other IAC countries as the collaborations between CONANP -Mexico and the Ministry of Environment Ecuador.

- Ecuador
    - In Ecuador, during the 2015 - 2016 season, leatherback nests were identified and monitored in Manabí (Santa Marianita in Manta and Puerto Cabuyal in San Vicente).
    - With the technical assistance of Mexico CONANP, 61 hatchlings were born in January 2021 in San Clemente beach, Manabí. A significant event since it has not occurred in almost 40 years.

- United States
    - The Species in the Spotlight Initiative was launched in 2016, highlighting the Eastern Pacific Leatherback.
    - In 2016, NOAA Fisheries released a five-year action plan for Western and Eastern Pacific leatherbacks.
    - Support to several projects on nesting monitoring through Marine Turtle Conservation Fund.

- Guatemala

- Recovery of leatherback nests to relocate them in a legally authorized hatchery.

- Panama
  - The National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Republic of Panama was approved on January 27, 2017,
- Peru
  - The National Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in Peru was approved in December 2019.

b. Techniques to Reduce Bycatch

- Costa Rica
  - Costa Rica´s regulation includes the mandatory use of release techniques, tools, and best practices (e.g., circle hooks).
  - Fishing gears tagged on commercial fishing vessels (middle and advanced scale)
  - Record of fishing operations including interaction with sea turtles.
  - National vessels registered with the IATTC must make efforts to reduce impacts of fishing activities on sea turtles and comply with Resolution C 19-04.

- Mexico
  - The regulation includes the mandatory use of release techniques, tools, and best practices (e.g TEDs, circle hooks, and space closures for shark fishing).

- Panama
  - Financial penalty or sanctions for possession or consumption of sea turtle products or by-products trade and/or consumption with 2,000 dollars fine.
  - Panama´s regulation includes the mandatory use of release techniques, tools, and best practices.

- Peru
  - Placement of satellite transmitters on Leatherbacks to determine overlapping with fishing areas in the north of the country.
  - Bycatch mitigation project using LED lights in gillnets supported by the United States.
  - Monitoring of superficial gillnets and provision of incentives to discourage the retention of incidentally caught individuals, in ports with demand for sea turtle meat.
  - A guide to releasing sea turtles in curtain net fisheries is under development.
  - The national vessels registered with the IATTC must make the necessary efforts to avoid trapping sea turtles, as much as possible.

- The United States
    - The United States have declared Critical Habitat for leatherback turtles along the U.S. West Coast to further limit anthropogenic impacts to leatherback turtles in the region.
    - Implements the use of fishing gear safe for sea turtles, as well as circular hooks.

- Chile
    - Implementing the use of circle hooks soon
    - Within the framework of the national program for monitoring fisheries of highly migratory resources and scientific observers, the country has developed protocols on the release of sea turtle incidentally caught in fishing gear.

3. Observations and Recommendations

Observations

Additionally, we reviewed the information reported on actions for the conservation of the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle in the Annual Reports between 2004-2020, included in the Leatherback Resolution OPO (CIT-COP7-2015-R2), the table on nesting, and in the table on the Adverse Impacts of Fishers Resolution (COP3 / 2006 / R2). The following observations resulted from the review, which suggests considering improving both, the quality of the information received and the specificity of the questions:

- When talking about fishing gear, it is suggested to specify if it is artisanal or industrial.

- Information on fishing should be reported by areas (i.e., coastal or oceanic). This will enable a spatial analysis to determine the level of interaction according to the area.

- Regarding training and capacity building, the target audience should be specified, for instance, if the training was provided to observers, fishermen, or another type of audience.

- Regarding nesting, it is suggested to include the total number of protected eggs per year regardless of the beach.

- Where appropriate, it is important that the countries where both Pacific and Atlantic leatherbacks occur specify which of the two subpopulations the information refers to.

- It is important that countries only report information to the year reported in the Annual Report, without including information from previous years unless they want to report progress on a particular activity.

Recommendations for the Consultative Committee of Experts and the COP

a. The questions to follow up on the Resolution in the IAC Annual Report allow are good to verify compliance, but do not allow for measuring the impact of the strategic actions that the countries should implement under the resolution, therefore:

    i. It is recommended requesting specific information that allows countries to provide data to measure the scope of their actions, in addition to showing compliance, therefore:

b. According to this analysis, and the five-year time frame of the current Leatherback Resolution OPO CIT-COP7-2015-R2 strategic actions, we recommend modifying the resolution. A draft resolution proposed by the working group is attached in Annex I of this report.

c. Considering how the information is collected in the current Annual Report, it is recommended to ask for it in a form aggregating the data, so that the committees can analyze the compliance. The indicators included in the list of the EP Leatherback Resolution strategic actions are proposed in the tables in Annex II including fisheries and nesting indicators to collect the information.

Annex I
Proposal to modify Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2

Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

WHEREAS leatherback sea turtles have existed on Earth for millions of years;

WHEREAS leatherback sea turtles are an important component of marine ecosystems of the Pacific Ocean**;**

WHEREAS leatherback sea turtles are valued for cultural, socioeconomic, ecological and scientific reasons;

CONSIDERING that the Eastern Pacific leatherback population is listed as Critically Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and that this species is listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), and Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and furthermore, is considered among the conservation priorities of various intergovernmental organizations such as the FAO**;**

RECOGNIZING that the nesting data obtained along the coast of the Eastern Pacific has shown a decrease in the population of more than 90% since the mid-1980s, and the population's status in the Eastern Pacific is dire and maybe near the point of irreversibility;

CONSIDERING that the principal threats to leatherback turtles have been identified as incidental capture in fishing activities, unsustainable exploitation of eggs and turtles, as well as the destruction or alteration of nesting habitat;

RECOGNIZING that the countries where nesting occurs make extensive efforts to prevent egg exploitation and that the regional fisheries management organizations in the IAC Convention area have adopted measures to better understand the impact of their fisheries on sea turtles but that the decline of the Eastern Pacific population has continued;

CONSIDERING that the adoption and implementation of additional bycatch mitigation measures such as gear modifications and closed areas are necessary to protect leatherback sea turtles;

CONSIDERING the Memorandum of Understanding between the IAC and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) to collaborate on sea turtle conservation, and the approval of the IATTC Resolution C-19-04 directly relating to sea turtle conservation, which was created during the 94th Meeting of the IATTC, carried out in 2019;

CONSIDERING that the decline in leatherback sea turtle populations is undermining the ecological stability and the cultural and economic benefits to coastal communities.

CONSIDERING that the recommendations by the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts working group and the Scientific Committee, aim to reverse the decline in leatherback sea turtle populations that is undermining the ecological stability and the cultural and economic benefits to coastal communities.

THE 10th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:

1. URGE all the IAC Parties whose fishing fleets operate in the Eastern Pacific to prioritize in their work programs the following conservation actions that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback sea turtle in the Eastern Pacific:

a. Systematically collect statistically reliable data on leatherback bycatch, as well as on strandings.

b. Improve leatherback turtle monitoring programs by gathering information on leatherback bycatch through on-board observers and/or electronic monitoring, training, interviews, fishing reports, and report this information in their corresponding IAC Annual Reports.

c. Implement monitoring programs with on-board observers and/or electronic monitoring, in fisheries not currently observed that impact the leatherbacks, considering economic and practical feasibility.

d. Strive to implement or improve measures to reduce bycatch and mortality of leatherback sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific fisheries, based on the best scientific information available.

e. Strengthening the actions for the identification and protection of leatherback clutches in the Eastern Pacific for the greater survival of hatchlings, take measures to protect their habitat, and urge non-party countries to collaborate with the IAC by providing information on the conservation measures implemented on their nesting beaches.

f. Establish and evaluate national programs on safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in all fisheries that could impact leatherbacks, training fishermen on best handling and release practices.

2. That all IAC Parties adopt the conservation measures in this resolution, considering the strategic actions in Annex I and to submit the information in the IAC Annual Report in the corresponding sections.

3. The Secretary *Pro Tempore*, should incorporate the information in Annex II in the IAC Annual Report form, for the IAC Parties to submit the information required in this resolution, for a subsequent review by the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts, who will provide recommendations to the Parties.

REQUEST the IAC's Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts, in cooperation with the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and the other IAC Parties:

4) Determine methods to measure and assess the impacts of conservation activities at the regional scale considering the need to include regional information.

5) Evaluate every five years the implementation of the conservation measures in this resolution, considering the strategic actions in Annex I. For that, the working group designated by the Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts will produce a report (starting in 2026) for the COP, Focal Points, and Secretariat *Pro Tempore*.

6) That the Secretary *Pro Tempore* follow up on the implementation of the conservation measures in this resolution, considering the strategic action in Annex I.

7) That the Secretary *Pro Tempore* and the Parties of the Convention, using appropriate means, invite IAC´s non-parties, RFMOs, existing multilateral agreements and others, to collaborate with the implementation of measures for the conservation of the EP leatherback turtle.

8) That the Parties, the Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts, through the Secretariat *Pro Tempore*, work to identify potential technical and financial collaboration to implement the conservation measures in this resolution, considering the strategic action in Annex I, using all available instruments.

8) The IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* will provide copies of this resolution to other relevant Conventions and those organizations with which the IAC has a Memorandum of Understanding.

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution on Conservation of Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) CIT-COP7-2015-R2 in its entirety.

See Annexes below

Annex I

Strategic Actions for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle

The Regional Action Plan for Reversing the Decline of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback (http://savepacificleatherbacks.org) was used as a basis for many of the activities included in the strategic actions below. These activities are divided into five strategies all focus on mortality reduction in marine habitats and protection of nesting sites and nesting females to increase reproductive productivity.

1) Reduce bycatch of adult and sub-adult leatherback turtles in fisheries

Activities

a) Conduct research on possible bycatch reduction mitigation measures, including testing mitigation actions in passive nets (e.g., light sticks/net illumination, reducing net soak time, lowering the net buoy line, and using best practices for setting and retrieving nets), and implement appropriate mitigation methods that will be used by type of fleet and gear with emphasis in the zones with the most probability of interaction between fisheries and leatherback turtle.

b) Promote the implementation of best practices for handling and release of incidentally caught sea turtles and hold workshops to disseminate this information.

c) Continue bycatch monitoring at ports with on-board observers, and increasing it when possible, ensuring that the information collected in the annex table is standardized.

d) Establish and improve communication with fishing fleets determining activities to promote best practices for handling and releasing of incidentally captured turtles and bycatch reporting.

e) Promote exchanges between fishermen of the IAC Region to share experiences on how to reduce bycatch with proven mitigation measures.

2) Identify areas of high interaction with fisheries of more importance for the leatherback Survival

Activities:

a) Compilation of data on each country fishing fleets that interact with the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle that includes characterization of fisheries and their relationship with bycatch, and regional information on fishing operations in areas adjacent to the species nesting beaches. This information should be shared with the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore*.

b) Identify critical areas in the distribution range for the leatherback turtles that require

spatial and temporal management to reduce leatherback bycatch or directed take.

3) Define and protect important areas for the leatherback turtle survival in different life stages

Activities:

a) Identify aggregation sites for adults and juveniles, as well as migration routes of importance or priority for the conservation of the species, as well as potential sites to be subjected to appropriate measures for spatial and temporal management.

b) Identify critical locations in international waters that are important for the conservation of the species.

4) Strengthen existing prohibitions for the consumption and use of the leatherback turtle, including parts and derivatives, as well as all kinds of capture, transportation, and trade.

Activities:

a) Identify, characterize, and prioritize the attention in areas where poaching and illegal use occurs and quantify the frequency of occurrence.

b) Carry out awareness and enforcement campaigns to stop consumption and illegal use of sea turtles, in these areas

5) Nesting sites protection

Activities:

a) Ensure comprehensive and thorough monitoring throughout the nesting season in index nesting beaches and encourage monitoring on all known leatherback nesting beaches.

b) Search, identify, and include new nesting beaches for the species in the existing IAC Parties monitoring programs.

c) Maximize efforts to ensure that all nests of the species are identified and protected towards and increasing production of hatchlings released into the marine environment.

d) Identify ecosystems services provided by sea turtles and implement activities as economic alternatives in local communities in areas adjacent to nesting beaches, reducing pressure on the species.

It is recommended that the Secretary *PT* and the Parties invite non-parties, using appropriate means, including RFMOs and multilateral agreements, to adhere to the development and implementation of the activities outlined in the preceding strategic actions.

Annex II

Forms proposed by the EP Leatherback Task Force to request information regarding the implementation of Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2. *These questions would be included to the IAC Annual Report according to the online format.*

Table 1. Form to request information regarding **monitoring and bycatch reduction** of the EP Leatherback, according to the indicators suggested in Resolution IAC-COP7-2015-R2.

MONITORING AND BYCATCH REDUCTION																
		Fisheries Information					**Monitoring Activities**				**Measures to Reduce Bycatch Impacts**				
Country	**Year**	**In your country, there are interactions between leatherback turtles and fisheries (yes / no)**	**Choose the fishing area (Coastal up to 12 miles; Oceanic, further than 12 miles)**	**Choose the fishing gear interacting with leatherbacks.** • Artisanal longline • Industrial longline • Gillnet • Bottom trawl net • Other	**Indicate target specie**	**Fishing efforts (e.g., fleet size; number of the fleet total trips)**	**Choose the monitoring method.** • Onboard observers • Interviews • Radio communication • Stranding reports • Electronic monitoring • Other	**Monitoring effort (with metrics).** **Example:** • Number of trips with onboard observers • Number of observers at port • Number of fishermen logbooks recorded in the year. • Number of self-reporting sheets registered	**Leatherback bycatch (total/estimate of animals caught)**	**Number of turtles released alive and dead**	**Fishermen training on best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles (yes/no) indicate the type of training**	**Number of fishermen registered in the country**	**Number of fishermen trained this year**	**Choose the type of fishing gear modification and mention if it is mandatory or voluntary.** • TEDs • Large Circle Hooks • Bait • LED lights • Spatial and or/time closures • Soaking time reduction • Other • **None**	**Number of vessels using this type of fishing gear modification**

Table 1. Form to request information regarding **monitoring and protection of the EP leatherback nesting beaches**, according to the indicators suggested in Resolution IAC-COP7-2015-R2.

MONITORING AND NESTING BEACHES PROTECTION												
Monitoring Activities							**Protection Activities**					
Nesting season (the year when the season began; is it was 2020-2021, type 2020)	**Monitoring of leatherback nesting beaches?** (yes/no)	**Monitoring effort -metrics-** • Only nests/tracks count • Nest/tracks and nesting females count. • Nesting females' census • Aerial census • Other	**Monitoring effort** (metrics; for example, % coverage; man-hours of monitoring)	**The total number of nests counted or estimated**	**Percentage of protected nests in this year** (includes protected areas; relocation in hatcheries and other)	**Number of nests lost for any reason** (poached, predation, flooding, etc.	**Relocation of nests to a safe place**	**Nests are placed in hatcheries**	**Activities to control nests depredation**	**Control of coastal development, artificial lights, etc.**	**Awareness programs and/or training of local communities**	**Measures to reduce consumption**
							☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Annex VII – CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.6

CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.6

Recommendations from the CCE Artisanal Longline Fisheries Working Group (WG)

Coordination of the Working Group: Gilberto Sales, Bruno Giffoni

Members of the Working Group: Gilberto Sales (CCE IBAMA -Brazil – WG Coordinator), José M Carvajal (CCE INCOPESCA – Costa Rica), Nina Pardo (CCE-Peru), Javier Quiñones (IMARPE-Peru), Elba Prieto (CCE Produce – Peru), Leslie Bustos (Subpesca – Chile), Paula Salinas (CCE-Universidad Arturo Pratt - Chile), Yoeri de Vries (CCE Caribbean Netherlands- Ministry of Environment), and Eduardo Cuevas (CCE Pronatura-Mexico).

The objective of this Working Group is to determine the activities needed to assess the interactions between artisanal long line fleets and sea turtles in the IAC region. This action expands the possibilities of scaling and mitigating the impacts of fishing activities on the sea turtle populations in the IAC region.

Artisanal fisheries receive great attention due to the greater complexity and diversity in their organization and the dynamics of the fishing activity by small and medium-scale fleets. On the contrary, large-scale, so-called industrial fisheries, tend to be more standardized and better controlled by national or regional fisheries management programs. However, accessible technologies are being incorporated into intermediate fleets equipment, enabling their classification as semi-industrial or semi-artisanal fleets. Under this condition, fleets originally considered as artisanal now are part of a robust group that has greater fishing power, leading to a greater number and frequency of non-target species bycatch, as is the case of sea turtles and other groups of endangered megafauna (mammals and birds).

The forms established by the IAC Convention´s Parties to monitor sea turtle populations regarding fisheries are designed under a planned logic of fields and criteria targeting industrial fisheries, which are better structured and monitored by on-board observers, providing a marginally robust sample size (including biological information of the individuals captured, such as species and age groups). These industrial fleets were defined based on the length of the vessels, only considering those greater than 20 meters.

To meet this WG objective, the group has discussed methods that could be adopted for fleets with vessels less than twenty meters long using longlines as their main fishing gear, among other gears or fishing techniques known for their interactions with sea turtles, mainly, nets, trawling and line-hook fishing.

The WG met virtually in two meetings, on October 28 and December 2, 2020. The meetings resulted in agreement of a conceptual framework based on the concept of “fishery” (Sales et al., 2003) as a starting point, to define the units to manage the issue investigated: how to assess

interactions between sea turtles and different fisheries and guide the definition of the indices to first characterize artisanal longline fisheries in the IAC region.

In this context, the *Fisheries* concept was defined based on previous jobs within the scope of the ICCAT discussions promoted by Brazil to replace ICCAT´s classification, and adopt a new *Fisheries* concept, as the Management Unit, used as the most appropriate tool to understand and reduce the interactions with fishing activities, particularly those using longline as their main fishing gear.

The concept was defined based on Sales *et al*. (2003):

Fishery[1]: Fishing activity carried out in a specific area, using specific fishing gear, and interacting with one or more sea turtle species in different life stages.

Particularly in the case of longline fisheries, the characterization proposed is based on the following criteria:

• Characteristics of the fishing gear (e.g., Depth of the hook, type of the hook).

• Characteristics of the vessel (e.g., length, engine power)

• Spatial distribution.

• Time/seasonal distribution.

• Target species.

• Standardized fishing effort.

Depending on the fisheries, such as spatial or time-based effort, gear specifications [e.g., hook depth], and target species, longline fisheries can be divided into different fisheries, each with its characteristics and individual management needs.

These characteristics are strongly related to sea turtle bycatch rates of sea turtles, which vary with species, populations, and different life stages. When longline fisheries with different characteristics are grouped into a single longline fishery, we lose the ability to understand why some sea turtles (or turtle size classes) are more susceptible than others.

This approach is useful to estimate to which extent this type of fishing is carried out in different areas within the IAC region where sea turtles occur, and their level of interaction; this will show the method potential to adopt a management unit with common or homogenous measurable characteristics, allowing their assessment by sampling or estimation.

Regarding longline fishing data collection forms for ongoing monitoring programs, the group presented a comparative analysis of the forms provided by Mexico and Costa Rica, available for

[1] Sales *et al*., (2003). Captura incidental de tartarugas marinhas pela frota de rede de emalhe de deriva sediada em Ubatuba, São Paulo - Brasil, II jornada de conservación y uso sustentable de la fauna marina, I Reunión sobre la Investigación y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas del Atlántico Sur Occidental. Montevideo, Uruguay, 1-3 de octobre de 2003.

adaptation and adoption by the countries, considering the need of harmonizing this type of datasheet in monitoring programs, in each region or country.

The following meeting (January 20, 2021) addressed the following agenda:

a) Presentation by Bruno Giffoni (Fundação Pró Tamar) on challenges to adopting a Fishery as a Management Unit to understand and reduce interactions between sea turtles and fisheries.

b) Determine the implementation of this approach in a pilot study: interaction of semi-artisanal longline fisheries in Chile and Peru with *Caretta* and *Dermochelys coriacea* called: "Harmonization of forms to self-report sea turtle bycatch for implementation in southern Peru and northern Chile artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries".

c) Final review of information required to develop the list of fisheries interacting with sea turtles in IAC countries.

d) Establish basic indicators and criteria to gather data on artisanal longline fisheries, and their interaction with sea turtles in the IAC countries.

Results from January 20th meeting:

As a result, from this meeting, it was agreed to use this conceptual framework in the working group tasks, allowing to differentiate between different fleets assessed that will be classified in the various fisheries:

The Working Group recommends for the implementation of the concepts agreed the following activities:

1. The WG participant countries (Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Costa Rica) will assess the way this approach is assimilated, and if it meets the expected purpose, which means, that it helps determine the assessment and management units of interactions between sea turtles and fisheries. Within this framework, the working group members will classify and characterize the Fisheries interacting with sea turtles in their countries considering as descriptors (indicator) catch/mortality and fishing effort indices in each management unit adopted, meaning each fishery.

2. The first implementation of the approach is a binational pilot project: interaction of semi-artisanal longline fisheries in Chile and Peru with *Caretta* and *Dermochelys coriacea* "Harmonization of forms to self-report sea turtle bycatch for implementation in southern Peru and northern Chile artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries". This pilot project has been undertaken by Chile and Peru delegates, they have prepared a project proposal in the document CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.7 for the CCE analysis and recommendation of potential improvements.

To carry out these tasks, and based on the previous rationale, we propose a group of minimum common criteria and variables to consider in the studies and pilot project, and in monitoring activities to be implemented in the countries represented by the members of this Working Group

(Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Costa Rica), which will allow for more reliable estimates of the fisheries impact on sea turtle population, and variations throughout the years, shown in the following table:

INFORMATION	OBSERVATIONS
Type of hook	J, Circular, Tuna hook, etc
Size of hook	
Use of rings	Yes or no
Type of bait	Scientific name
Ligh attractor	Yes or no
Latitude Longitude	Decimal degrees
Date	day/month/year
Name	Scientific name
Hooks	No of hooks per set

FISHERIES INFORMATION

Fishery	_____
Targe species	_____
Date of set	_____
Latitude	_____
Longitude	_____
Number of hooks	_____
Type of hook	_____
Size of hook	_____
Type of bait	_____
Ring	Yes ( ) ( ) No
Light attractor	Yes ( ) ( ) No

SEA TURTLES INFORMATION

Date	_____
Set	_____
Species	_____
Length	_____
Condition	( ) Live ( ) Dead

Annex VIII – CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.7

SUMMARY OUTLINE OF THE BI-NATIONAL PILOT PROJECT

"HARMONIZATION OF A METHOD TO COLLECT SEA TURTLE BYCATCH DATA FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN SOUTHERN PERU AND NORTHERN CHILE ARTISANAL LONGLINE AND GILLNET FISHERIES"

CCE ARTISANAL LONGLINE FISHERIES WG

Implemented by:

The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) Fisheries and Aquaculture Undersecretariat, Government of Chile, and Peru´s Institute of the Sea, Republic of Peru.

Name of the Pilot Project:

HARMONIZATION OF A METHOD TO COLLECT SEA TURTLE BYCATCH DATA FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN SOUTHERN PERU AND NORTHERN CHILE ARTISANAL LONGLINE AND GILLNET FISHERIES

Study Area:

The project will be developed in the Southern Peru´s ports of Matariani (17°00'S; 72°06'S) and Ilo (17°39'S; 71°21'W) and Northern Chile ports of Arica (18°28'S; 70°18'W), Iquique (20°13'S; 70°08'W) and Tocopilla (22°05'S; 70°11'W), in the geographic area known as Peru-Chile elbow.

Background

Southern Peru and Northern Chile share artisanal fisheries that contribute to a big extent to the local supply and fishing products exports, meaning an economic input for these communities. These fisheries involve a seasonal component, where the deep water´s mahi-mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*) is the summer and fall target species. The blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) and the shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrhynchus*) shark are the main target species during winter and spring. These are heterogeneous fisheries, as the type of vessel and number of fishermen are diverse and complex. Similarly, fishing operations are highly adaptive in terms of time and space which makes it difficult to monitor the activity and therefore is challenging for the management authorities to obtain scientific information for decision making. Although it is known that these fisheries interact with sea turtles there is no knowledge about the impact on their populations. Therefore, it is necessary to collect standardized information on bycatch, fishing areas, and the interaction of these small-scale fisheries with the critically endangered leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) turtles, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

Justification of the Project

This project aims to standardize, quantify, and collect data on sea turtle bycatch in small-scale fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile. Given the artisanal fishing fleet dynamics and characteristics, it is often difficult obtaining systematic data on the interactions between these fisheries and the species of sea turtles mentioned above.

The main issue regarding the implementation of on-board observers monitoring programs in this type of fisheries is the lack of space on the vessels which doesn´t allow for other people on board (vessel habitability). However, these fisheries involve several vessels and diverse fishing years interacting with sea turtles. A bi-national collaboration between the relevant and public organizations (fishing sector and NGOs) is key to achieve agreements to support the protection of critically endangered species such as the EP leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) turtles. Therefore, we aim to obtain sea turtle bycatch comparable data between these fisheries, which allows the IAC to analyze and recommend conservation measures.

General Objective

Produce a standardized database for sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea y Caretta caretta*) bycatch in southern Peru and northern Chile, by implementing self-reporting forms.

Specific Objectives

- To analyze, classify and quantify the interaction between longline and gillnet fisheries, and sea turtles.
- Develop a self-report form to quantify sea turtle bycatch in artisanal fisheries.
- Share the bycatch form among beach observers and fishing skippers.
- Train artisanal longline and gillnet fishermen in the identification and handling of sea turtles.
- Evaluate the implementation of the self-reporting form in both countries.

Self-report form

SELF-REPORT FORM CHILE-PERU PROJECT						
Fishing trip information						
Name of the vessel			Date	Time	Port	
Registration		Set sail	/ /	:		
Project Code		Stop	/ /	:		
Fishing gear (MARK WITH X)						
Net type and characteristics	**Driftin g net**		**Deep or shallow net**		**Trammel net**	
Length (stroke)						
Net height (stroke)						
Stretched mesh size (inch)						
Fishing gear (MARK WITH X)						
Longline type and characteristics	**Deep < 100**		**Deep > 100**		**Drifting**	
Total number of hooks						
Size of hooks						
Type of bait						
Sets and estimated catch						

Set number	1	2	3	4	5	6
Set target species						
Date (day/month/year)						
Set depth						
Resting time						
Latitude x°xx, xxx'						
Longitude x°xx, xxx'						
Total catch (ton) (approx.)						
Sea Turtles Bycatch (See note below)						
Species	**N° set**	**Status (+)**	**Cause (++)**	**Attention (+++)**		
Notes to complete bycatch information						
(+) Status:	(1) Alive	(2) Dead	(3) Injured			

Activities to implement the form.

1. Dissemination and training to fill out the self-reporting form provided to guilds and unions of artisanal fishermen in southern Peru and northern Chile selected ports.
2. Training and workshops on identification and handling of sea turtles for artisanal fishermen in northern Peru and northern Chile ports.

Expected results.

1. Characterization of artisanal gillnet and longline fisheries and fleets in southern Peru and northern Chile.
2. Socialization and implementation of the self-reporting form in both countries.
3. Obtaining information on the interactions between artisanal fishing and leatherback and loggerhead turtles in the area.
4. Evaluation of the self-reporting form implementation in both countries.

Financial funding

Seek financial funding to implement the project (% IAC and % IAC Parties involved).

Annex IX – CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.8

CCE14 AGREEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This document includes the agreements and recommendations adopted at the 14th Meeting of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE14). The meeting had the participation of 14 IAC countries delegates (i.e., Argentina, Belize, Brazil, the Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay) and members of the Scientific, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Industry sectors.

Recommendations from the Scientific and Consultative Committee to Panama´s Exception

Agreement 1: The Consultative Committee acknowledged the recommendations provided to Panama IAC Focal Point regarding its exception implementation report in document CIT-CCE14-2021- Doc.4. The document will be included as an annex in the report of the CCE14 meeting for future reference (Annex IV).

Exception in Costa Rica

Agreement 2: The CCE requests the Scientific Committee Exceptions WG (Exception – WG) to consider the comments by the CCE, prepare the recommendations to Costa Rica's five-year exception report, and sent them to the CCE on April 5th, 2021. The final recommendations were adopted and discussed with Costa Rica´s Focal Point on May 27, 2021 (Annex IV).

Exception in Guatemala

Agreement 3: The CCE requests the Scientific Committee Exception -WG to consider the comments by the CCE prepare the recommendations to Guatemala's five-year exception report and sent them to CCE on May 5th, 2021. The final recommendations were adopted and conveyed to Guatemala´s Focal Point in July, 2021 (Annex IV).

Agreement 4: The CCE will have 15 days after receiving the recommendations from the Scientific Committee Exception-WG to issue final comments, and for these recommendations to be shared with Guatemala and Costa Rica´s Focal Points.

Report on the data analysis on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties

Agreement 5: The Consultative Committee recommends presenting the report "*Data analysis on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties CIT-CC17-2020- Doc.7*" prepared by the IAC Scientific Committee, as an informative document to the COP10, with the aim that IAC Parties understand the value of their fisheries information submitted in the IAC Annual Report, and to motivate Focal Points to submit their data every year so that the Scientific and Consultative Committees can analyze it and provide recommendations.

Agreement 6: The Scientific and Consultative Committee Working Groups on Fisheries will review and make final edits to the document "*Data analysis on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties CIT-CC17-2020- Doc.7*". The CCE recommends taking into consideration the perception that IAC Focal Points at the COP10 may have of the information presented, therefore the objective of the report should be clear. The final version was submitted to the CCE for final adoption on March 12, 2021.

Proposal of a form to collect information on interactions between sea turtles and artisanal gillnet fisheries.

Agreement 7: Considering the challenges and differences in the methods used in the IAC Countries to collect information on the interaction between sea turtles and gillnets, as well as other fishing gear, the CCE **recommends continuing to enhance** the draft form to collect information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnet fisheries proposed by the Scientific Committee CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.8. For this, both IAC Committees relevant Working Groups will work together to develop new proposals for submitting to the IAC Parties. Both Committees WG will present an activity report at the CCE15 in 2022.

It is suggested that the IAC Committees recommend options on the use of indices that could be calculated from data provided in the IAC Annual Reports, and/or in the Committees working groups analyses.

Technical Document on Critical Areas for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback

Agreement 8: The CCE adopted the technical document CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16 "*Critical Areas for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)*" prepared by the IAC Scientific Committee and agrees for it to be presented at the COP10, in compliance with the IAC Parties request in the Resolution for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback.

Agreement 9: The CCE Northwest Atlantic Leatherback WG will use the Technical Document "*Critical Areas for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea) CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16*" as a baseline for their 2021-2022 activities.

Analysis of Compliance with the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution Strategic Actions and proposal to amend the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution

Agreement 10: The Consultative Committee approves the proposal of the EP Leatherback Taskforce on changes to the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution presented in document CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.5 to submit it to the COP10. With the support from the Scientific and Consultative Committees Fisheries WG, the EP Leatherback Working Group will review and make relevant changes to the proposed Resolution Annex II forms to request information in the IAC Annual Report, to harmonize the forms and include indices for further evaluation. The final version was sent to the Consultative Committee for final adoption on March 12, 2021.

CCE and CC Working Groups Coordination to work on edits to reports for the COP10.

Agreement 11: Convene the necessary coordination meetings between the CCE and SC groups working with fisheries data to streamline the reports to be submitted to the IAC COP10.

Agreement 12: The first meeting is proposed to be held on March 10th, 2021, to review the following documents that will be presented to COP10:
- Data analysis on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties CIT-CC17-2020- Doc.7
-Proposal to amend the East Pacific Leatherback Resolution CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.5

Agreement 13: It is recommended that these joint meetings with the Consultative and Scientific Committee WG continue in 2021-2022 to address issues as necessary, among them is reviewing the form to collect information on turtle interactions with artisanal gillnet fisheries proposed by the Scientific Committee in document CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.8.

Recommendations from the CCE Artisanal Longline Fisheries Working Group: CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.6 and pilot project "Harmonization of methods to collect sea turtles' bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile CIT-CCE14-2021 -Doc.7."

The Artisanal Longline Fisheries WG includes the following activities in their work plan 2021-2022

Agreement 14: The countries represented in this Artisanal Longline Fisheries Working Group (Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Chile, Brazil, and the Netherlands) will classify and characterize their domestic Fisheries interacting with sea turtles considering as descriptors criteria (indicators**) sea turtle capture/mortality rates and fishing effort** in each management unit adopted, namely, each one of the Fisheries. The WG will present a progress report to the CCE15 in 2022.

Agreement 15: The Consultative Committee agrees with the Artisanal Longline Fisheries WG proposal to implement their Fisheries approach, in the binational pilot project "*Harmonization of methods to collect sea turtles' bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile CIT-CCE14-2021 -Doc.7*". A meeting between Chile´s Focal Point (Foreign Affairs and Fisheries) and Peru´s Focal Point (Foreign Affairs and IMARPE) was also agreed to facilitate the project. The implementation of the project is subject to funding.

Agreement 16: The WG will prepare this project budget to facilitate seeking funds.

Activities Report of the NWA Leatherback Working Group

The following activities of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Working Group will be included in the CCE work plan:

Agreement 17: To continue to refine the map of areas important for the NWA leatherback in collaboration with the IAC Scientific Committee, and regional experts in telemetry, to establish the areas that are critical for the species and those that are already protected.

Agreement 18: To continue working with the working group on outreach to IAC´s non-parties within the range of the species to comply with the NWA leatherback resolution request. The Working Group will provide an update at the next CCE meeting in 2022.

IAC Collaboration with International Organizations

Agreement 19: The CCE notes down the progress report on the IATTC-IAC collaboration, now in the EASI-Fish model second phase, and a presentation with the model results is expected for the CCE15 in 2022.

Agreement 20: The CCE Fisheries WG and Leatherback TF will explore the possibility of organizing a virtual workshop to discuss among them and with other experts the minimum data required for fisheries analyses.

Agreement 21: The Consultative Committee will identify and prioritize the implementation of joint activities related to those included in Memorandums of Understanding between the IAC and other organizations.

Agreement 22: The Consultative Committee will identify potential sources of funding to implement training workshops on sea turtles handling and release in the IAC region.

CCE Work Plan Update 2021 - 2022

Agreement 23: The Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) agreed to include the activities of the Working Groups on Artisanal Longline Fisheries, Northwest Atlantic Leatherback, Eastern Pacific Leatherback, and Exceptions in the work plan that will be presented for consideration by the COP10.

Agreement 24: Include an item related to outreach to increase the IAC membership in the CCE work plan. It was agreed that the IAC Secretariat *PT* prepares a letter to facilitate outreach to non-member countries, the letter will be submitted to the IAC Focal Points for endorsement. The Secretariat *PT* will receive support from the Caribbean Netherlands Focal Point to draft the letter. It was agreed to invite other CCE members and Focal Points to join the drafting team.

Agreement 25: CCE reminds IAC Focal Points that they should support the Secretariat *PT* in the efforts to increase IAC membership and outreach, using the diplomatic channels that they consider appropriate.

Planning of next meeting CCE15

Agreement 26: The next CCE15 meeting will be scheduled for March 2022.

Annex X – Photos

Group Photo CCE14