



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and
Conservation of Sea Turtles
15th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE15)
March 3 – 4, 2022 - Videoconference

Report of the 15th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE15)

CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.13

Opening Remarks

1. The 15th 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 3-4, 2022 using Zoom Pro. The CCE Chair, Mr. Eduardo Ponce (Mexico) welcomed the participants.

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) attended the meeting, as well as observers from the governments of Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and France. Representatives from the Sargasso Sea Commission and the South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS in Spanish) attended as well, for a total of 64 participants (Annex I.A – List of Participants CIT-CCE15-2022-Inf.1).

3. The CCE15 adopted the agenda with a change in the time for the IAC-IATT collaboration report and the IAC Legal Working Group report (Annex I.B - Agenda CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.1).

Report on the implementation of the Consultative Committee Work Plan.

4. The CCE Chair presented the report on the implementation of the activities in the Consultative Committee Work Plan and their status as implemented, in process or no action. The plenary discussed the activities carried out according to the CCE work plan 2021, and decided on new activities to be included in the work plan for 2022. (Annex II – CCE Work Plan Implementation Report CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.2) (Annex III – CCE Work Plan 2022-2024)

Recommendations from the 18th Scientific Committee Meeting

5. The IAC Scientific Committee (SC) Chair, Ms. Leslie Camila Bustos, presented the Scientific Committee report and recommendations to the CCE and the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP10), with special attention to four resolution proposals prepared by the SC. Activities carried out by the SC are related to exceptions, fisheries, conservation status of sea turtles, the EP leatherback, climate change, and nesting beaches.

6. The SC Chair presented the exceptions timeline discussed at the SC18-2021 and stressed the need for the Consultative Committee of Experts to support a recommendation for Panama, Guatemala and Costa Rica Resolutions proposals to be considered at COP10, as these were prepared to streamline

management according to each country capabilities. Additionally, she requested the CCE's collaboration to prepare, together with the SC, a form to assess the Exceptions Management Plans.

7. The SC also prepared the proposal to update the Fisheries Resolution, for approval by the CCE at this meeting.

8. Ms. Bustos informed that the SC reports that will be presented to the COP include the Analysis of data from observers of industrial longlines, provided by IAC countries in their Annual Reports, which recommends including observed vessels of less than 20 meters in length. The report on the leatherback turtle safe release project in Peru, which would be important to replicate in other IAC countries, and the report on IAC nesting on index beaches (2009-2020) will also be presented at the COP.

9. She also mentioned the documents review of several best practices manuals by the SC Fisheries WG to update the technical document CIT-CC11-2014-Tec.8. This concluded in the recommendation to prepare an IAC manual/guidelines on sea turtles handling on board fishing vessels.

10. Finally, the SC Chair mentioned the ongoing activities in collaboration with International Organizations, including the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) related to electronic monitoring and geographic areas of mutual interest; and activities with the South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS) such as celebration of Sea Turtle Day and a possibility to prepare the Guidelines on Best Practices for Sea Turtles.

11. The delegate from Ecuador, Mr. Eduardo Espinoza congratulated the SC and suggested establishing a list of criteria to accept exceptions as part of the process. The SC Chair stated that she will consider this comment when preparing the form to assess the Exceptions management plans, which will be prepared jointly with the CCE.

12. The CCE Chair highlighted the importance of this process to ensure the use of sea turtle eggs without causing an impact to the populations. The delegate from Costa Rica, Mr. Rotney Piedra, thanked the SC Chair leadership and the work of the Scientific Committee preparing the Resolutions discussed in this CCE15 meeting. This takes into consideration the complexity of three exceptions resolutions and the interests involved in each one, as well as the importance of supporting governments in their implementation.

13. The SC Chair thanked Panama, Guatemala and Costa Rica their efforts to move forward in the implementation of these resolutions on exceptions, including the presentation of Costa Rica's management plan and the preparation of management plans for Panama and Guatemala.

Review of Resolution proposals to present to the Conference of Parties COP10.2

Proposal to modify Resolution COP3/2006/R-2 "Reduction of the adverse impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles" (Annex IV)

14. The CCE reviewed the comments from Argentina, United States, and Mexico to the Resolution Proposal (Annex IV - Proposal Resolution "Reduction of the adverse impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles"). The delegate from Brazil, Mr. Gilberto Sales, suggested checking that texts in English and Spanish have the same meaning. There was a detailed discussion regarding a change in language proposed by the delegate from Argentina Ms. Debora Winter, proposed by their fisheries agency to facilitate their internal process. The delegates from Chile, Ms. Paula Salinas and Ms. Leslie Bustos, and the United States, Ms. Ann Marie Lauritsen supported to keep/ retain the original language that supports a commitment of fishing authorities to take the necessary measures suggested in the

Resolution, as the suggested change reduces the attention to the issue. It was also noted that this language is located in the preambular paragraph of the Resolution, not in the action part.

15. The delegate from Argentina, explained that the changes requested from their fisheries agency considers that some countries may not be in position to comply with the commitments and measures in the Resolution.

16. The CCE Chair and Secretariat mentioned that if there is no consensus the text proposed by Argentina could be included in brackets and the COP has to decide on it. It was mentioned that this is not common practice in the CCE and it is better to find a new alternative text to try finding consensus among the CCE.

17. With support from the observer from Canada, a new text was suggested for the 10th paragraph in the Resolution to which most of the CCE agreed, providing time for the delegate from Argentina to discuss it with their fishing authority to find for consensus.

Agreement 1: The CCE15 discussed the comments from Argentina to the proposed Resolution “Reduction of the adverse impacts of Fisheries” and prepared an alternative text to reach consensus. It was agreed that the delegate from Argentina will send a response on the new suggested text in the tenth paragraph of the Resolution, no later than March 10th to the CCE Chair and the Secretariat. Argentina’s answer was received with their consensus on the proposed text.

Agreement 2: CCE15 adopted the proposed resolution “Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries” with the suggested edits in text. The CCE recommends that this resolution proposal is presented for consideration at the COP10.2.

Proposal to modify the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution CIT *CIT-COP7-2015-R2* (Annex V)

18. Dr. Bryan Wallace, delegate from the CCE Scientific sector, presented the proposal to modify the Resolution on the Conservation of the EP Leatherback (Annex V - Proposal Resolution Conservation of the EP Leatherback), prepared by EP leatherback Task Force of the CCE, as a result from the evaluation of compliance with this Resolution using the information reported by IAC Parties in the Annual Report. The proposal includes indicators to facilitate the analysis of compliance with actions to mitigate bycatch in fisheries and increase conservation on nesting beaches.

19. The delegate from Costa Rica, Mr. Jose Miguel Carvajal, asked if in the paragraph related to countries are urged to implement monitoring programs with observers in their fisheries, there was a required percentage of observer coverage, as in some countries there are no observer programs. He suggested adding text to indicate the action of establishing observer programs, before implementation of the program.

20. The delegate from Ecuador suggested to include techniques to increase hatching success (such as artificial incubation) in the Resolution strategic actions to ensure access to equipment and/or technology available. New text suggested by Mexico, Ecuador and Dr. Wallace was included to the strategic actions 5 to address Ecuador suggestion.

21. The delegate from the United States asked for clarification, the need and use for the nesting information in the table in Annex II of the Resolution. The Secretariat’s assistant, Ms. Luz Rodríguez

explained the need to obtain from IAC Countries more precise and less general data, to measure compliance with the strategic actions of the Resolution.

22. The delegate from Costa Rica noted that the leatherback resolution has several edits in Annex II that need a quick consultation with the Leatherback Task force for final adoption, and asked the CCE Chair to confirm that there was agreement with the text of the Resolution but the Annex II would need further review by the Task Force to address the comments. The CCE agreed and provide a timeframe for the final edits.

Agreement 3: The Working Group comprised of Costa Rica, Mexico, Chile and the Coordinator of the EP Leatherback Task Force, would review the CCE's suggestions to the proposed Resolution Annex II, and send their modifications to this annex for a final review by the CCE no later than March 9, 2022. The Working Group sent its proposal to the CCE, which had no objections.

Agreement 4: The CCE15 adopted the proposed Resolution that modifies the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution and its Annex I. The adoption of Annex 2 will be carried out by email after consulting with the members of the CCE no later than March 10th when this annex will be adopted. The CCE agrees to present this Resolution proposal for consideration at the COP 10.2.

Resolution proposals on exceptions in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panamá (Annex VI)

23. The CCE discussed the edits to the three Resolution proposals for exceptions (Annex VI-Proposal for resolutions of exceptions) prepared by each country. Regarding USA's comment on the feasibility of establishing the recruitment index, the delegate from Costa Rica explained that, even though the country has established methods that would make it easier to determine this index, agreed that the resolution requests this value as the number of hatchlings only. The delegates from Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama agreed with the changes suggested to their respective resolutions.

Agreement 5: The CCE15 adopted the proposed Resolutions for the exceptions in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama, including edits to the original text proposed by the Scientific Committee. The CCE recommends that these Resolutions proposals are presented for consideration at the COP10.2.

Agreement 6: The IAC Exceptions Working Group (Members of the CCE and SC) will prepare a form to assess, every five years, the exception management plan of the countries that have them. This activity will be included in the CCE Work Plan 2022-2023.

Agreement 7: Together with the Scientific Committee, prepare the changes in the relevant sections of the 2023 IAC Annual Report, according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2 (Exceptions, Fisheries and EP Leatherback). The objective is that the 2023 IAC Annual Report is updated according to the resolutions adopted at COP10.2. This activity will be included in the CCE Work Plan 2022-2023.

Recommendations from CCE Working Groups

Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Working Group Report (Annex VII)

24. The Northwest Atlantic Leatherback WG coordinator and delegate from the United States, Ms. Ann Marie Lauritsen, began by thanking the representatives from the Governments of Trinidad and

Tobago, Guyana, Canada and France, even though are not members of the IAC, they are of great importance in the conservation of this species and therefore to the activities of the working group.

25. Dr. Olga Koubrak, IAC certified observer and member of the WG, presented a summary of activities of the working group to approach no member countries in the range of the Northwest Atlantic leatherback. This collaborative group, comprised of experts from French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, and WIDECAST, they work on strategies to encourage their countries to join the IAC.

26. Ms. Lauritsen, presented the process for preparing the draft document “*Maps of Known Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Recommendations to Collaborate on Leatherback Conservation in these Areas*” (Annex VII-Draft Technical document) showing NWA Leatherback high use areas overlapping protected areas established by countries laws and treaties. This map is based on the technical document CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16: Critical Areas for the Conservation of the Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the Northwest Atlantic, prepared by the Scientific Committee.

27. With the preliminary results, the WG concluded that many of the NWA leatherback high-use areas are not protected, and that several of the areas that are protected do not specifically address the threats to this species.

28. The observer from the Government of Canada, Ms. Robynn Laplante requested to participate as a member in the working group, the WG coordinator welcomed her and accepted her request. The Secretary requested to include this new member in the agreements of the CCE15 meeting. It was noted that the IAC Resolution on Conservation of the NWA leatherback asks IAC to collaborate with non-IAC parties in the range of the species, the participation of Canada is in line with the resolution.

29. To finish her presentation, Ms. Lauritsen requested a moment of silence to honor the life of sea turtle specialist “Doc” Llewellyn Ehrhart (1942-2022) whose work, among others, led to the establishment of the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge, named after his mentor.

30. The next steps of the process towards a final document include 1) adding any missing protected and/or high-use areas that countries consider relevant and 2) working with other treaties or international entities to address specific threats in order to maximize the protection of this species, such as ICCAT, Ramsar, the Sargasso Sea Commission, among others.

31. The Secretariat requested including the next steps in the Consultative Committee work plan, and suggested, to begin with the collaboration, the WG could suggest important sites that the Parties should consider propose as Ramsar sites. The US delegate added that one of the way to collaborate with Ramsar would be to consult how the WG could support with information the sea turtle sections in Ramsar sites management plans, with attention if those documents address the NWA Leatherback threats.

32. The observer, Alvaro Moreno from ASOPCAPEL (Colombia), congratulated the US delegate and requested to participate in the meetings of the working group.

33. Guyana’s Government observer, Ms. Rhea Kanhai, informed that Shell Beach in Guyana is an IUCN category 6 protected area, which management plan will be updated soon, and is important for the NWA leatherback. She added that she is aware of WWF Guyana’s work on the leatherbacks in the Guianas Action Plan, and that she will meet soon with this organization to discuss the plan and other matters such as Guyana possibility to join the IAC. Ms. Kanahi said that, although she cannot

commit to be a member of the NWA leatherback Working Group, she will discuss it with her authorities and will send and answer to the IAC Secretariat.

34. The delegate from Peru, Dr. Javier Quiñones, acknowledged the work of the WG and stated that this is a good example of the didactic way in which information on the movements and distribution of the NWA leatherback can be displayed, where important nesting areas are clearly observed in French Guiana, this gives more emphasis to the importance of France's accession to the IAC.

Agreement 8: The CCE15 adopted the first draft of the Technical Document prepared by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback WG entitled: "*Known Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Recommendations to Collaborate on Leatherback Conservation in these Areas.*" The next steps recommended in the document will be included in the CCE Work Plan 2022-2023.

Agreement 9: The CCE members will review the information in the draft of the technical document and will share it with their national authorities to report to the WG, if in their countries there are protected areas important to this species that should be included in the document. The deadline for the Parties to submit their information is June 1, 2022.

Agreement 10: The NWA Leatherback Turtle WG will send the final version of the technical document to the CCE once the additional information from the IAC member countries has been received. The final version will be reviewed and adopted inter-sessions or at the CCE16.

Agreement 11: The CCE15 accepted the Canadian Government representative's request to be included as a member of the NWA Leatherback Turtle Working Group.

Agreement 12: the NWA Leatherback WG will seek out to collaborate with Ramsar within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding IAC-Ramsar, identifying how the IAC and the WG can provide information for the sea turtle component in Ramsar's sites management plans. It is proposed to organize a meeting with Ramsar Secretariat representative, and Ramsar Focal Points or their delegate, from the countries within the range of the NWA Leatherback to exchange experiences. The support offered by the delegation from the French Ministry of Environment and Biodiversity in facilitating this collaboration and the exchange of technical information with Ramsar is noted and will be taken into account to facilitate the collaboration.

Artisanal Longline Fisheries Working Group Report (Annex VIII)

35. The artisanal longline fisheries WG coordinator and delegate from Brazil, Dr. Gilberto Sales, presented the process done in the WG with ten delegates, that began focusing solely on sea turtle interactions with artisanal longline to prepare a survey (Annex VIII- Survey) with the objective to characterize all the fisheries that interact with sea turtles in countries of the Convention considering both observed and unobserved fisheries.

36. The survey was first tested in the countries of the working group members and will be distributed among the CCE delegates, who will send their results to the working group. The WG will analyze the results to establish the minimum data that the countries can provide. The objective is to be able to recommend flexible management measures that can be adapted to each country circumstances. The results from the surveys will be presented at the CCE16.

37. The delegate, added that this has been a topic that has required several discussions and reviews given its complexity, and thanked the WG members for their effort and willingness.

38. Argentina inquired about their suggestion for inclusion of additional data to the survey. The coordinator thanked the suggestion and stated that the group will consider including these and other data suggested after the meeting.

39. The delegate from Uruguay, Ms. Cecilia Lezama congratulated the process and regarding the WG's idea of working by quadrants, suggested that it might not be effective since information on small-scale fisheries could be lost. Dr. Sales thanked the observation and explained that the idea is to work on different scales to avoid losing information.

40. Ecuador emphasized on the challenges involved in working with this type of information and invited the countries to contribute with their answers and with their suggestions to enhance the survey.

Agreement 13: The CCE15 agrees with the activities proposed by the artisanal longline fisheries WG to include them in the CCE work plan. The recommendations received from Mexico and Argentina regarding the survey on minimum fishing data will be considered in the analyzes of the Working Group. The WG will present its final document to the CCE16 in 2023.

Agreement 14: The members of the CCE will have until June 1, 2022 to submit the answers to the survey on minimum fishing data to the artisanal longline fisheries WG.

Recommendations from the Scientific Committee Technical Documents (Annex IX)

41. The Chair of the Scientific Committee summarized the recommendations from three technical documents (Annex IX- IAC SC Recommendations) approved the previous year on: interactions with longline fisheries, temperature monitoring on nesting beaches, and nesting on index beaches. She also mentioned the achievements -increasing fishermen awareness- of the project to quantify EP leatherback turtles bycatch in gillnets, in Lambayeque, Peru, and the recommendations to replicate this type of project in Ecuador and Chile.

42. Ecuador highlighted the importance of updating the document on IAC index beaches nesting abundance, which also assess monitoring effort to establish relative abundances.

43. The Secretariat assistant, Ms. Luz Rodriguez recommended that the countries submit their online Annual Reports on time in order to do the information update, so nesting information is available for decision-making and recommendations within the Convention. She pointed out that the 2021 report is active for those who have not submit their information, and the 2022 report is also available to fill out this year data.

44. The delegate from the Caribbean Netherlands, Ms. Kaj Schut asked if it would be possible to retain information from previous years in the online report. The Secretariat assistant stated that it is possible once the country has filled out a first report.

45. The CCE Chair restated the invitation to fill out the online report and thanked those who have submit it. The CC Chair made the same recommendation and emphasized the importance of receiving the data for the construction of reports such as the one on interactions with industrial longlines and future fisheries reports, which will have greater support when the new fisheries resolution is adopted.

Agreement 15: The CCE15 acknowledges and adopts the recommendations from the Scientific Committee Technical Documents:

- **CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.7** Analysis of data from observers on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC countries
- **CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.18** Best Practices for Monitoring of Sand Temperature in Nesting Beaches
- **CIT-CC18-2021- Tec.19** Data analysis of IAC Index Nesting Beaches (2009-2020)

Updating of the CCE Work Plan 2022 – 2024

Agreement 16: The Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE15) agreed on including the Working Groups activities in the work plan that will be presented for consideration at COP10.2.

The activities to include are:

- 1) **EXCEPTIONS:** The IAC Exceptions Working Group (members of the CCE and SC) will prepare a proposal of a form to assess, every five years, the exception management plan of the countries that have them. *Expected result:* Form to assess Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala exception management plan every five years.
- 2) **IAC ANNUAL REPORT:** Together with the Scientific Committee, work in the modifications to the relevant sections of the 2023 IAC Annual Report, according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2. *Expected result:* 2023 IAC Annual Report is updated according to the resolutions adopted at COP10.2.
- 3) **COLABORATION WITH ICCAT:** Identify topics to work jointly with ICCAT, and appoint a CCE representative as the IAC advisor regarding this RFMO (2022). *Expected result:* Advisor appointed and work topics identified.

Agreement 17: The CCE15 agreed on the need for a technical advisor to support the IAC Secretariat work with ICCAT. The CCE member's expressions of interest will be sent to the CCE Chair and the Secretariat no later than March 21, 2022. Brazil is interested and will consult internally to provide an answer on the established date. This invitation will be extended to the Scientific Committee to have an advisor from this Committee as well, and Dr. Bryan Wallace will be asked on the possibility for him to support the advisors with his experience.

- 4) **FUNDING SOURCES:** The CCE Chair proposes to COP10.2, support with an advisor from one of the countries to prepare a GEF proposal to fund IAC projects. *Objective:* to identify possible sources of funding to implement workshops on safe sea turtle handling and release in the IAC region.

Agreement 18: the CCE formed a Working Group to seek financial support, comprised by Chile (Paula Salinas). The CCE members' expressions of interest to join the WG will be sent to the CCE Chair and Secretariat no later than March 21, 2022.

- 5) **COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTIONS:** This Consultative Committee Working Group will prepare an analysis of compliance with the IAC Resolutions, based on the information reported by the IAC countries in their Annual Reports. *Expected result:* Report on the analysis of compliance with IAC Resolutions presented to the Consultative Committee CCE16 (2023)

Agreement 19: The CCE reactivated the Analysis of Resolutions Working Group comprised by Mexico Dr. Vicente Guzman. The CCE members' expressions of interest to join the WG will be sent to the CCE Chair and Secretariat no later than March 21, 2022. The WG will present its report on resolutions compliance at the CCE16.

6) COMMUNICATION STRATEGY: Costa Rica will continue supporting the preparation of IAC audiovisual material in 2022-2023.

CCE Work Plan 2022-2024 included in Annex III of this report

Collaboration with International Organizations and other entities

Report on the Collaboration IAC-IATTC

46. Dr. Bryan Wallace presented the progress of the collaboration within the framework of the memorandum of understanding between the IAC and the IATTC. These advances include the approval of the IATTC Resolution C-19-04 to mitigate sea turtles bycatch and the modeling of the implementation of the measures established in this resolution using the EASI-Fish assessment. In the first phase, presented the previous year, the researchers explored management and conservation measures that could be used and a working group was established for the second phase.

47. In this second phase, and with the support of the IAC and the IATTC collaborators, the group developed the most robust distribution map of EP leatherback to date, including information from observations in the water, allowing a more detailed perspective. The map was developed with the support of Dr. Jon Lopez, an expert on the subject and IATTC scientist, aiming to create a chart of the probability of occurrence of the species in the region.

48. Likewise, during this second part, fishing effort data related to interactions with leatherbacks increased, allowing to improve the conservation measures scenarios that were modeled in the EASI-Fish, with the support of Dr. Shane Griffin, author of the EASI-Fish and leader of the new modeling. The result will be two reports presented to IATTC Bycatch Working Group and IAC COP in 2022.

49. The delegate from Ecuador congratulated the work with the EASI-Fish and suggested that efforts continue to increase information on artisanal coastal fleets. Peru, pointed out that, with effort and mediation, they managed to obtain this type of information to contribute to the model.

50. Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Panama and Brazil acknowledge the efforts made by the team and the Secretariat. Chile also highlighted the importance of the MoU with the IATTC and Brazil also underlined the robustness of the model.

51. Brazil added that a similar project is being implemented in the Atlantic to assess the interaction of sea turtles with ICCAT fisheries, involving several dozen countries from the region and the Mediterranean. He noted that the results of the EASI-Fish are very conclusive and show the challenges to overcome to recover the species.

52. The CCE Chair added that the results are also an incentive to present the information to the fishing sector and thus move forward in the implementation of conservation measures.

53. The Secretary added that this is an opportunity to learn from the collaboration with the IATTC, and start walking the same path with ICCAT with whom, after 10 years of negotiations, the IAC will

finally sign a Memorandum of Understanding. She requested the Parties to continue supporting these processes based on mutual support and good science.

Report “Ramsar Sites and Sea Turtles, an overview” presented by the Government of France

54. Mr. Florian Expert, introduced the French delegation from the Ministry for Ecological Transition - Water and Biodiversity directorate, and thanked the IAC Secretariat for the invitation to present the report “Ramsar Sites and Sea Turtles, a State of the Art”. Mr. Expert mentioned the ongoing process in which France is considering becoming a member of the IAC.

55. Mr. Florent Merle member of the French delegation, with the collaboration of his delegation, presented a summary of the analysis about Ramsar sites that are important habitats for sea turtles in each one of the regions of the Convention and its recommendations, provided that the Convention range of action includes up to 6 m of depth in the member countries coastal areas. At the end of the presentation the delegate expressed the support of France to continue the collaboration with IAC and facilitate the scientific exchange in areas related to Ramsar, taking the opportunities for implementation of the recommendations in the report presented.

56. Dr. Jacques Fretey, co-author of the report, pointed out the importance of Brazil for sea turtle’s conservation and thanked Dr. Neca Marcovaldi member of the CCE and the Tamar team for their contributions to this report. He also thanked Costa Rica for their contributions to the report.

57. The Secretary thanked the French delegation for the presentation and indicated that the report is in line with the support to the implementation of IAC-Ramsar Memorandum of Understanding, it aims to improve the knowledge of the importance of Ramsar sites for sea turtle conservation, and provides opportunities to strengthen collaborative work between the treaties with support from the French Government and their experts. The Secretary also stressed the interest of IAC Parties to continue with the dialogue with France as they study the country participation in the IAC.

58. The delegate from Peru acknowledged the presentation and highlighted that the report is addressing information gaps in the area of the IAC sea turtle species, such as leatherback turtles in Guyana, he urged France to become a member to IAC. Brazil also thanked and expressed interest in working together in the southern area of French Guiana, where there are several interactions between sea turtles and fisheries

59. The delegate from Mexico, Mr. Santos Hernandez in representation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, congratulated and invited France to join the IAC. The delegate from Costa Rica and Chair of the COP, stated the importance of implementing the Memorandum of Understanding IAC-Ramsar and invited France to become member of the IAC and to participate in the COP10 in Panama.

60. The delegate from the United States and coordinator of the NWA leatherback WG pointed out the importance of the report's approach, where science is clearly related to management. She also stated the importance of the inclusion of the areas of interest for the conservation of the NWA leatherback reflected in the document, as this contributes to the work of the IAC Working Group for NWA leatherback. She invited France to continue working together with IAC and to urge their country to support the process to become Party to the IAC.

61. The delegate from Guatemala, Ms. Airam Lopez, highlighted the importance of continue collaborating with Ramsar and invited France to participate as a member of the IAC. Ecuador and Chile also extended their invitation to France to join the IAC.

62. The Report “Ramsar Sites and Marine Turtles an Overview by Jacques Fretey and Patrick Triplet (2021) is available in the IAC web site in English, French and Spanish: http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/tecnicos/REPORT%20Marine%20turtles%20Ramsar_dec21-web.pdf

Review of proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sargasso Sea Commission (Annex X)

63. The Sargasso Sea Commission Executive Secretary, Dr. David Freestone, presented an overview of the Commission’s context which objective is to protect the Sargasso Sea, a unique ecosystem in the Atlantic, critical for a great diversity of migratory marine species, including sea turtles.

64. Dr. Freestone informed about the proposal of Memorandum of Understanding between the Sargasso Sea Commission and the IAC (Annex X- MoU draft), which has been circulated among the members of the Commission and is expected to be presented for consideration at the IAC COP, including the latest comments of the United States delegation to the IAC.

65. The CCE Chair thanked the presentation and highlighted as topics of collaboration between the two entities, the exchange of information on sea turtles and the experience of the Commission in preparing GEF-type proposals to fund it.

66. The Secretariat thanked the Commission Executive Secretary for the diligent response to the times proposed by the IAC in order to present this MoU proposal at the next IAC COP.

67. The United States requested to consider that the work plan is not subject to a set time, as a last comment. Dr. Freestone pointed out that the request will be considered.

Agreement 20: The CCE15 added editions to the document presented by the SSC Director and adopted the proposal for an IAC-SSC Memorandum of Understanding. The CCE recommends that this proposal is presented for consideration at COP10.2.

MoU IAC-ICCAT – Identification of opportunities to collaborate

68. The IAC Secretary, Ms. Veronica Caceres informed that after 10 years of negotiations, consultations, and strategic alliances, finally, and always with the support of the IAC countries and their respective focal points, there was an agreement for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

69. The delegations from Brazil, Panama, and the United States played an important role at ICCAT in the approval of this MoU. The Secretary also thanked Canada for their support in the latest text negotiations led by the delegate Robynn Laplante.

70. It is expected that with this MoU, the organizations can work on activities such as those with the IATTC technical team. Hence, the Secretariat requested the CCE to appoint a delegate to act as technical advisor to support the Secretariat to work on matter of ICCAT.

71. Brazil Dr. Gil Sales congratulated the Secretariat and pointed out that there are many complexities involved in ICCAT’s decision-making therefore it was a great challenge to achieve this MoU. He added that given the large number (52) of contracting countries, this MoU will be beneficial to exchange information on fisheries and the protection of sea turtles. The delegate expressed his interest

in supporting the IAC Secretariat as advisor and will do the necessary consultations. He suggested that Dr. Bryan Wallace participate sharing his experience with the IATTC.

72. The CCE Chair suggested to also have an advisor from the Scientific Committee to help monitoring ICCAT. The Secretariat agreed with this proposal and invited the Chair of the CC to bring the proposal to the SC Committee.

IAC Legal Working Group Report

73. The COP10 Chair, Mr. Rotney Piedra, presented the legal working group progress since its reactivation in 2020. The current members of the WG are Brazil, Ecuador, Costa Rica, the United States, Mexico, and Peru, with six meetings held. Activities to date include the preparation of the group's work plan, discussion of legal status of IAC, and the Convention's long-term financial sustainability. Several of these issues were discussed at COP10.1.

74. The legal WG has formed a working subgroup focused on developing a strategy to address the IAC financial issues, including viable financial mechanisms, and analyzing the budget in terms of the activities that the Convention would like to implement. The subgroup presented specific recommendations for each of the proposed activities and is expected to have feedback from delegates who are interested in reviewing them before taking them to the COP.

75. The COP10 Chair invited the delegates who would like to be members of the group to join, towards the fulfillment of the objectives of this working group.

Adoption of the Consultative Committee CCE15 Recommendations to the COP10 and agreements of the meeting

76. The CCE Chair, Mr. Eduardo Ponce, read the agreements of the 15th Consultative Committee of Experts meeting (Annex XI-Recommendations CCE15). The working groups deadlines were all set for June 1st and the name of the group on artisanal longline fisheries was maintained to keep the term that has been used since this group was formed. Chile joined the working group on finances.

Planning of the next CCE16 meeting

77. The next CCE16 meeting will be scheduled for March 2023.

List of Annexes

Annex I.A – List of Participants CIT-CCE15-2022- Inf.1

Annex I.B - Agenda CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.1

Annex II – Report on the implementation of the CCE Work Plan CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.2

Annex III – CCE Work Plan 2022-2024

Annex IV- Resolution proposal on “Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles”

Annex V – Resolution proposal to modify the Resolution on the Conservations of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback CIT-COP7-2015-R2

Annex VI – Resolutions Proposal on Exceptions in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama

Annex VII – Technical Document proposal on Known Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Recommendations to Collaborate on Leatherback Conservation in these Areas

Annex VIII – Survey on minimum data to characterize fisheries that interact with sea turtles in the IAC countries.

Annex IX – Recommendations from the Scientific Committee Technical Documents

Annex X - Proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sargasso Sea Commission

Annex XI – CCE15 Agreements and Recommendations for the COP10

Annex XII – Photos of the 15th Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE15)

Annex I.A List of Participants

CIT-CCE15-2021-Inf.1

Participants in total 60 (29 delegates, 6 sectorial and 25 observers)

No	País/Country	Number/Name	Organización/Organization	E-mail
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Annex I.B - Agenda

CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.1

Date: March 3-4, 2022 - Videoconference- Zoom Pro
Meeting Begins: 10:00 AM EST Time (Time in Washington DC)
CCE Chair: Dr. Eduardo Ponce
CCE Vice Chair: M.Sc. Eduardo Espinoza

AGENDA

Day 1 March 3th, 2022 - 10:00 AM EST Time-Washington DC

- 9:40 am Connection of participants to videoconference (Zoom)
- 10:00-10:30 Welcome remarks, introduction of participants and adoption of the agenda
Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts, *M.Sc. Eduardo Ponce*
[CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.1](#)
[CIT-CCE15-2022-Inf.1](#)
- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCE) WORK PLAN 2020-2021 PROGRESS, AND RESULTS**
- 10:30-11:30 Report on the Inter-session work of the CCE and results from Work plan
CCE Chair, Dr. Eduardo Ponce
a) Report on compliance with the Consultative Committee Work Plan. [CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.2](#)
b) CCE Work Plan Update 2022-2024 [CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.3](#)
- 11:30-12:00 Report from the 18th Scientific Committee - Scientific Committee Chair, Ms. *Leslie Camila Bustos*
- 12:00-12:30 Break
- 12:30-02:30 Review Resolution Proposals to be presented to IAC COP10.2
Fisheries Interactions with Sea Turtles
a) Proposal to modify resolution COP3/2006/R-2 Fisheries [CIT-CCE15-2021-Doc.4](#)
b) Proposal to modify the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution. [CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.5](#)
WG- Leatherback Task Force. *WG Coordinator Dr. Bryan Wallace and M.Sc. Rotney Piedra*
- 02:30-02:45 Break
- 02:45-04:00 **Exceptions:**
c) Resolution proposal on exceptions for:
Costa Rica [CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.6](#)
Guatemala [CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.7](#)
Panama [CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.8](#)

Day 2
March 4th, 2022 – 10:00 AM EST, Washington DC

9:45 AM	Zoom connections
10:00-10:30	Collaboration IAC-IATTC <i>Dr. Bryan Wallace</i>
10:30-10:50	Presentation of Report “Ramsar Sites and Marine Turtles an overview”. <i>Ms. Ghislaine Ferrere, Direction de l'eau et de la biodiversité - France, Dr. Jacques Fretey and Dr. Patrick Triplet.</i> http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/tecnicos/INFORME%20Tortugas%20marinas%20Ramsar_dic21-web.pdf
10:50-11:20	Report of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Working Group. Technical document with map of known areas used by the North West Atlantic Leatherback population and WG Recommendations to collaborate for leatherback conservation. WG Coordinator <i>MSc. Ann Marie Lauritsen</i>
11:20-12:00	Report from the CCE Artisanal Longline Fisheries Working Group WG Coordinator, <i>Dr. Gilberto Sales</i> a) Progress in the characterization of artisanal fisheries that interact with sea turtles in the WG countries.
12:00-12:30	Break
12:30-01:30	IAC Scientific Committee Technical Documents Recommendations
01:30-2:30	IAC Collaboration with International Organizations. Review proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sargasso Sea Commission CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.9 <i>Sargasso Sea Commission Executive Director Dr. David Freeman</i> MoU IAC-ICCAT – Identification of opportunities to collaborate <i>M.Sc. Veronica Caveres</i> IAC Legal Working Group Report. WG Coordinator <i>MSc. Rotney Piedra</i>
02:30-2:45	Other business
02:45-03:00	Break
03:00-03:30	Adoption of the Consultative Committee CCE15 Recommendations to the COP10.
03:30-04:00	CCE upcoming meeting planning and closing remarks

Documents of the Meeting

Type of Document	Name	Number
Work Documents – Consultative Committee	Preliminary Agenda/ Agenda updated	CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.1
	Report on Compliance with the Consultative Committee Work Plan	CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.2
	Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan	CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.3
	Proposal to Modify the Resolution on Fisheries/Reviewed	CIT-CCE15-2022- Doc.4
	Proposal to Modify the EP Leatherback Resolution/Reviewed	CIT-CCE15-2022- Doc.5
	Proposal of Resolution on the Exception in Costa Rica/Reviewed	CIT-CCE15-2022- Doc.6
	Proposal of Resolution on the Exception in Guatemala/Reviewed	CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.7
	Proposal of Resolution on the Exception in Panama/Reviewed	CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.8
	Proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding IAC – Sargasso Sea Commission	CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.9
	Report of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Working Group	CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.10
	Report of the Artisanal Longline Fisheries Working Group	CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.11
Technical Documents presented by the Scientific Committee	Report on the Analysis of data from observers on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC countries. Annex VI of the SC18 report http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/comite-cientifico/18reunion/CIT-CC18-2021-Doc.11_%20Final_Report_SC18_WEB_15Feb22.pdf	CIT-CC18-2021-Doc.11 (Annex VI)
	Technical Document “Best Practices to Monitor Sand Temperature on Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches”. http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC18-2021-Tec_18%20_Temperature_Best_Practices_ENG_Final_WEB_24jan2022.pdf	CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.18
	Technical Document “Data analysis of IAC Index Nesting Beaches (2009-2020)” http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.19_Index_Beaches_2009-2021_4_Nov_ENG_Final_WEB.pdf	CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.19
Informative Documents	List of Participants CCE15	CIT-CCE15-2022-Inf.1
	Recommendations from SC Technical Documents	CIT-CCE15-2022-Inf.2
Documents for References	Report on the SC14 meeting http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/comite-consultivo/14reunion/CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9_Final%20Report.pdf	CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9

Annex II – Report on the implementation of the CCE Work Plan 2020, 2021 and 2022 - CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.2

Blue: New activities adopted at CCE15.

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status April 4, 2022	2020	2021	2022
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. The final recommendations document was officially sent to Panama in December 2020, for implementation. The proposal for a new Resolution on the exception in Panama approved by the SC18 was adopted by the CCE with subsequent submission to the COP10.2		✓	✓
2.	Follow up on the progress of the implementation of recommendations to Guatemala exception.	1. Follow up on the Secretary 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. The final recommendations document was officially sent to Guatemala's IAC Focal Points in June 2021. The proposal for a new Resolution on the exception in Guatemala approved by the SC18 was adopted by the CCE with subsequent submission to the COP10.2		✓	✓
3.	Review and submit comments on the Exception 5-year report on the presented by Guatemala to the SC	1. The Scientific Committee will submit the comments within 60 days after this CCE14 meeting on May 19, 2021.		✓	
4.	Review and submit comments on the Exception 5-year report presented by Costa Rica to the SC	The Scientific Committee submitted comments to the CCE on April 1, 2021. The proposal for a new Resolution on the exception in Costa Rica approved by the SC18 was adopted by the CCE with subsequent submission to the COP10.2		✓	✓
5.	The Exceptions WG will prepare a proposal of a form to assess the exceptions management plans every five years.	CCE15 approved that the IAC Exceptions WG (SC and CCE members) prepare a form to assess Panama, Guatemala, and Costa Rica's management plan for the Exception.			
6.	Report to COP on the use of sea turtles or their products in the	No exceptions have been requested		✓	✓

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status April 4, 2022	2020	2021	2022
	Exceptions for Parties (when new exceptions are presented).				
Website and IAC News Bulletin					
7.	Every month, the Parties will send relevant news for the IAC's Newsletter to Secretariat.	Two IAC news bulletins prepared in 2021. The CCE15 requested the Parties to be more proactive sharing their national news with the Secretariat.		✓	
Implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R2)					
8.	Implement MoU IATTC-IAC	IATTC: The Members of the Consultative Committee (B. Wallace and B. Regnery) and the Secretariat, provided technical information, participated in meetings, and supported the adoption of a resolution to mitigate sea turtle bycatch at the IATTC (2019).		✓	
9.	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.		✓	
10.	Implement MoU IATTC-IAC	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 and SC18, and the CCE15. The group met during 2020 and 2021 to prepare the leatherback distribution model -Phase II of the EASI-Fish model. Final objective: Present the EASI-Fish Phase II to the IATTC and the IAC COP in 2022			
11.	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)		✓	✓
12.	The Leatherback Task Force will prepare an assessment of compliance with the EP Leatherback Resolution strategic actions to present it to the COP10.	A report to support the proposal to modify the Resolution for the conservation of the EP Leatherback was presented at the CCE14. Report on the assessment of the implementation of the Resolution for the conservation of the EP Leatherback presented and adopted by the CCE14. A proposal to modify the Resolution for the Conservation of the EP Leatherback was presented to the CCE for a final review, and adopted by CCE15 for subsequent presentation to the COP10.2.			✓

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status April 4, 2022	2020	2021	2022
Implementation of Resolution Northwest Atlantic Leatherback (CIT-COP9-2015-R2)					
13.	Prepare a map of important area to establish those critical for the species and which are protected	A progress report on the preparation of the Technical Document to map important protected areas of distribution of the species, with the collaboration of the Scientific Committee and regional experts in satellite telemetry was presented to the CCE15. Delegates were requested to submit information about NWA high-use protected areas that were not included in the report not later than June 1, 2022.			
14.	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 through an SPAW Protocol representative (Dr. Olga Koubrak) of the outreach WG to countries that are no members of the IAC members WG, relevant for the NWA Leatherback. The WG objective is to support that Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, France, and Suriname have interest in becoming IAC members. Because this takes time this activity remains yellow. In 2021 Canada and Trinidad and Tobago participated as observers in the CCE15, CC18 and COP10.1 meeting. In 2022 per request of representative of the Government Canada they will be a member of the NWA Leatherback WG. In 2022 France participated as observer of the CCE15 meeting and presented a report on Ramsar sites important for sea turtles. In 2022 Guyana attended as observer the 15CCE meeting.			
Fisheries					
15.	Review form proposed by the SC to record interactions with artisanal gillnet fisheries to be included in the annual report.	WG progress report presented to the 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. The CCE delegate will answer the survey on minimum data to characterize fisheries (observed and no-observed) interacting with sea turtles, proposed by the WG at the CCE15-2022. The results will be presented at the CCE16-2023.			
16.	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 “ <i>Harmonization of methods to collect sea turtles’ bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries</i> ”			

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status April 4, 2022	2020	2021	2022
		<i>in southern Peru and northern Chile CIT-CCE14-2021 -Doc.7</i> Activity subject to funding. The WG will present a progress report at the CCE16-2023.			
Annual Report and Resolutions Compliance					
17.	Each country's CCE delegate supports the Focal Point to prepare the IAC Annual Report.	2021: 12 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and United States</i>) 2020: 11 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and the United States</i>). 2019: 11 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, the United States and Venezuela</i>). 2018: 11 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, México, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela</i>).			
18.	Assess the current Annual Report form	A form on longline fisheries proposed by the Scientific Committee is included in the IAC Annual Report. Together with the Scientific Committee, prepare modifications in the sections relevant to the 2023 IAC Annual Report, according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2 (Exceptions, fisheries, and EP Leatherback).		✓	
19.	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.		✓	
20.	Prepare a report on compliance with Resolutions for the COP	The assessment of the EP Leatherback Resolution CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.5 was presented at the CCE14.		✓	
21.	Acknowledge the report on industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties to present it to the COP10	The report on interactions between longline industrial fisheries and sea turtles was reviewed by the CCE14. The SC Chair informed the CCE15 about the updates to the analysis on interactions between industrial longline fisheries and sea turtles, including data in the 2020 and 2021 annual reports, which will be presented at COP10.2			
22.	Review proposal to modify the text of the Resolution to the	A proposal to modify the Resolution on fisheries was presented. The proposal was adopted by the CCE15 and subsequent presentation to the COP10.2			

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status April 4, 2022	2020	2021	2022
	Reduce Fisheries Adverse Impacts COP3/2006/R-2 prepared by the Scientific Committee				
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 COP10.2		✓	
25.		IAC-ICCAT: 1. The Secretariat sent the MoU draft proposal IAC- ICCAT approved by the IAC Focal Points and the ICCAT Secretariat in March 2020 to be considered at ICCAT’s annual meeting in 2021. 2. The Secretariat presented the MoU to the 27 th ICCAT meeting in November 2021 that agreed on signing the MoU	✓	✓	
26.		IAC-ICCAT The CCE will identify priority activities to implement them jointly within the framework of the MoU IAC-ICCAT. Brazil’s delegate to CCE offered to be advisor to represent the IAC in ICCAT meetings and support IAC Secretariat in this collaboration. Brazil has yet to offer a final response to the CCE Chair and the Secretary.			
27.		IAC-IATTC: The Memorandum of Understanding is being implemented (see number 10 on the EASI-Fish project)			
28.		IAC-SARGASSO SEA COMMISSION The CCE15 (2022) approved the proposal for an MoU and recommend it to present it for consideration at the COP10.2			

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status April 4, 2022	2020	2021	2022
29.	Recommend and promote alliances and synergies with relevant international organizations to accomplish the IAC objectives.	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. The IAC Secretariat coordinated the working group on political incidence and organized the workshop to update the strategic plan of the LaudOPO Network in August 2021.	✓	✓	
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.		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. 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 was presented at the CCE14. 2022 – IAC Secretariat sent SPAW Secretariat the appointment of Ms. Ann Marie Lauritsen to participate in SPAW´s Species WG. Waiting for SPAW´s answer to include the IAC in the Working Group.		✓	
32.	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 (2021)-No action A working group was established to seek financial support. Chile´s delegate offered to participate in the WG in 2022. Expressions of interest by the CCE members will be submitted to the CCE Chair and the Secretariat.			
Recommendations from COP and CCE					
33.	Address COP requests and draft Resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	A technical document on critical areas for the conservation of the NWA Leatherback was presented to the CCE14 and will be presented to COP10.2 – 2022. The Consultative Committee acknowledges the SC Technical Document on nesting beaches 2009-2020 (See number 34-3)		✓	✓
IAC Technical Documents					
34.	Prepare technical documents as needed.	1. Update of the technical document “ <i>Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas) Nesting Trends in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: Status Update and Conservation Priorities</i> ” on the IAC website – 2020”.		✓	✓

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status <u>April 4, 2022</u>	2020	2021	2022
		<p>2. The document on critical areas for the NWA Leatherback mentioned above was presented and adopted at the CCE14 meeting to be presented to the COP10 (see number 33). The Consultative Committee adopted the Scientific Committee technical documents recommendations:</p> <p>3. “IAC Index Nesting Beaches Data Analysis (2009-2020)”</p> <p>4. “Best Practices to Monitor Sand Temperature in the IAC Nesting Index Beaches”</p> <p>5. “Analysis of data from observers on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC countries (IAC Annual Reports 2020 and 2021)”</p>			
IAC Directory of Experts					
35.	Update the IAC Expert Directory.	Experts Directory updated on the IAC website to <u>April 20, 2021</u> . Directorio de Expertos 2021 Directory of Experts 2021.pdf (iacseaturtle.org)		✓	✓
36.	<u>The CCE delegates will provide sea turtles outreach material to Costa Rica to use it in the Convention’s communication strategy.</u>	<p>The Secretariat received multimedia material from Argentina, Brazil, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay, and the Dominican Republic, which was used during the COP10.1 in June 2021.</p> <p><u>Costa Rica will continue supporting with the preparation of audiovisual material in 2022-2023 to be presented to COP10.2</u></p>			
Work Plan					
37.	Report on the compliance with agreements at the COP, and with the CCE work plan activities.	<p>Document presented at the CCE14</p> <p><u>Document presented at the CCE15 (this report)</u></p>		✓	

Annex III

CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.3

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WORK PLAN 2022-2024

Activities in blue are the updates agreed by the CCE15 (2022) to include in the work plan.

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) <i>The CCE and CC Exceptions Working Group will prepare a draft form to assess the exception management plan every five years.</i> 3) 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 <i>COP 10.2</i> on the progress of Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala exceptions, <i>and recommendations to the proposed updated resolution on the exception for each country.</i> 2) <i>Form to assess Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala management plan every five years.</i> 3) Report on new exceptions presented for COP for consideration.	1) 2022 2) 2022-2023 3) 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) Conduct annual meetings of the Leatherback Task Force. 3) Participate in the development of part 2 of the EASI-FISH model with the IATTC and present results to COP10.	1) <i>Proposal to modify the EP Leatherback Resolution</i> , and report on the compliance with the strategic actions in the EP Leatherback Resolution presented to the <i>COP10.2</i> 3) Report on Part 2 of the EASI-Fish Model on the Leatherback vulnerability presented to the IATTC bycatch working group and the COP10.2.	2022
NORTHWEST ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK				
NWA Leatherback Working Group	NWA Leatherback	1) Promote technical collaborations with the SPAW Protocol, WIDECASST and WWG, and other organizations working on	1) Progress report presented at CCE15.	1) 2022 2) Permanent 3) 2022-2023

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
		<p>the protection of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3) Include information from IAC Parties and other International Treaties on areas important for the conservation of the NWA leatherback and prepare final technical document.</p>	<p>2) Synergies with the outreach to IAC’s non-parties working group and the SPAW protocol</p> <p>3) Technical Document with Map of the NWA Leatherback high use areas that are.</p>	
FISHERIES				
Artisanal Fisheries Working Group	Fisheries and interactions with sea turtles; Characterization	<p>1) Research methods to collect information on small-scale fisheries incidentally catching fisheries. Present survey to characterize fisheries at the CCE15.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3) The Consultative Committee members will classify and characterize their fisheries using the survey prepared by the Fisheries</p>	<p>1) Survey to characterize fisheries presented to the CCE15</p> <p>2 and 3) Report with classification and characterization of artisanal fisheries interacting with sea turtles with data provided by the Consultative Committee, presented to the CCE16.</p> <p>4) Progress report on the implementation of the Pilot Project in Peru and Chile at the CCE16-2023.</p>	<p>1) 2022</p> <p>2) 2023</p>

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
		WG. Information will be submitted not later than June 1, 2022. 4) Implementation of the pilot project “ <i>Harmonization of methods to collect sea turtles’ bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile</i> ” according to funding available.		3) 2023
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 Form	2) Assess current Annual Report form. 3) Together with the Scientific Committee, prepare modifications in the sections relevant to the 2023 IAC Annual Report, according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2 (Exceptions, fisheries, and EP Leatherback).	2) Recommendations for changes to the Annual Report format as required. 3) IAC Annual Report 2023 updated according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2	1) Permanent 2) 2022- 2023
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, WIDECAS, ACAP, ICCAT, OSPESCA, OLDEPESCA, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, and CMS). 2) Report to CCE on meetings attended when applicable.	2022-2023
Consultative Committee of Experts	Implementation of MoUs	1) Develop and review MoU drafts with relevant organizations identified.	1) MoU Documents presented to COP for consideration –	1) Permanent 2) 2022 3) 2022

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
		<p>2) Identify, prioritize, and implement related joint activities established in the MoU.</p> <p>3) Review proposal of MoU with the Sargasso Sea Commission and Stetson University and provide recommendations to the COP10.2</p> <p>4) Identify areas of work with the ICCAT, as well as a CCE representative as the IAC advisor for this RFMO.</p>	<p>2) List of priority activities being implemented within the MoU frameworks.</p> <p>3) Proposal of MoU with the Sargasso Sea Commission including the CCE15 edits and recommendations to the COP10.2</p> <p>Proposal of MoU with Stetson University presented to the COP10.2.</p> <p>4) Activities with ICCAT identified to present at the CCE16-2023.</p>	4) 2023
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat	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) Financial support working group has funding available to implement training activities on best practices for sea turtle safe handling and release in the IAC region.	2023
DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP				
Consultative Committee of Experts	Drafting Resolutions and Recommendations to COP	1) Address COP requests and draft Resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	<p>1) Resolutions and draft recommendations presented to COP as needed.</p> <p>2) Proposal of changes to EP leatherback resolution presented to COP10.2</p> <p>Proposal of new resolution on exceptions for Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala presented to COP10.2</p> <p>Proposal of new resolution on fisheries presented to COP10.2</p>	<p>1) Permanent</p> <p>2) 2022 COP10.2</p>

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Compliance with Resolutions Working Group (Mexico)	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, based on the information reported by the IAC countries in their Annual Report. Responsible: Mexico	1) Working groups presents report on resolution compliance to the CCE16 (2023) and the COP when necessary.	1) 2022-2023
IAC TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS				
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Technical Documents	1) Develop technical documents as needed. 2) Review recommendations from the Scientific Committee Technical Documents prepared in 2021.	1) Technical documents available on the IAC website and shared with IAC Parties.	1) Permanent
IAC EXPERTS' DIRECTORY				
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat	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	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 produced by IAC Parties included in the Convention Communication strategy portfolio.	2022-2023

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
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 for the COP 10.2	1) Report presented to CCE15 and CCE16 2) Activities report 2020, 2021, 2022 presented to COP10.2	2022 2023 2024
Consultative Committee of Experts	Work plan	1) Update the CCE work plan following the recommendations from the Parties.	1) CCE biennial work plan updated with activities, timetable, and responsible.	Permanent

Annex IV

NOTE: This proposal was prepared by the IAC Scientific Committee, it was presented to the CCE and includes edits its. This is the document that will be presented to COP10.2 for consideration in June 2022. Text in blue is new text proposed. Text in black is the same as original resolution.

CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.4

Resolution Proposal Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

CONSIDERING that the incidental capture of sea turtles in fisheries is a serious threat to the conservation of these species, which contributes to the reduction in their populations; (NEW TEXT)

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that some Parties of the IAC Convention are also Parties to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which have updated their adopted measures to mitigate the impact of tuna fisheries on sea turtles, by the approval of Resolution IATTC C-19-04, noting also C-04-05 (Modified) of the year 2005, and C-04-07 of the year 2004, and Resolution ICCAT 03-11 of 2003, and Recommendation on the bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries Rec.10-09;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that the Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the IATTC Working Group on Bycatch, as well as their subsequent meetings, reports incidental capture of sea turtles and their mortality in longline fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean basin;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Fisheries Committee (COFI) of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) endorsed the Technical Consultation on sea turtle conservation and fisheries during their 26th session held in Rome of 2005 and urged their members and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO) to immediately apply the recommendations outlined in the document "Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Resolution of the International Sea Turtle Society, adopted at the 26th Symposium on April 7th of 2006 in Greece, supporting the adoption and implementation of the guidelines of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to reduce the mortality of sea turtles induced by fishing operations;

CONSIDERING that the IAC Parties have established the mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and other measures for shrimp trawling in their respective legislations and that the use of such devices and said measures has been effective in reducing incidental capture of sea turtles in trawl fisheries;

CONSIDERING that some of the Parties are carrying out experiments with circular hooks and baits in longline fisheries that have shown to be effective in reducing incidental capture and mortality of sea turtles;

CONSIDERING that these actions are in agreement with the objectives of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles;

RECOGNIZING that bycatch in fisheries is a considerable source of sea turtle mortality at sea, and the need for all IAC Parties to take action to reduce the bycatch, including interactions and mortality, of these species in fishing operations; (New Text)

CONSIDERING that in the IAC Annual Report, the Parties provide information on sea turtle incidental catch for the long line fleet operating in IAC Area, with the goal of generating analysis of the impacts of fisheries and interactions with sea turtles, and provide recommendations to IAC Parties. [\(New Text\)](#)

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

INCORPORATE the “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations”, of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to reduce the mortality of sea turtles induced by fisheries operations, and consider, as appropriate, recommendations integrated by the Scientific and Consultative Committees of the Convention.

REITERATE the importance that IAC Parties provide the information required in the data collection forms approved by the Scientific and Consultative Committees that are included in the IAC Annual Report, with the purpose of obtaining quantitative information that allows for the measurement of the interactions and impacts of fishing gear on sea turtles. [\(New Text\)](#)

ENCOURAGE all IAC Parties whose fisheries have interactions with sea turtles to gradually prioritize among their work program, the following measures to mitigate sea turtle incidental capture: [\(New Text\)](#)

- a. Systematically collect statistically reliable data of sea turtle incidental capture.
- b. Implement systematic data collection on sea turtle stranding, to complement the incidental captures analysis.
- c. Improve monitoring programs in the fisheries to systematically and consistently collect information on sea turtle incidental capture through the use of on board observers and/or electronic monitoring, and implement or increase the number port/ community surveys, interviews, compilation of fisheries reports, and capacity building for the data collectors.
- d. Establish and implement monitoring programs with onboard observers and /or electronic monitoring in the fisheries that impact sea turtles and that are not currently observed, taking into consideration the financial and practical feasibility. [\(New Text\)](#)
- e. Make efforts to implement or improve the application of mitigation measures in place to reduce sea turtle incidental capture and mortality in fisheries, based on the best scientific information available in agreement with each country’s regulations in place. [\(New Text\)](#)
- f. Promote the establishment and evaluation of national programs for safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fisheries, with capacity building for the fisherman with the best practices to reduce the mortality of sea turtles caused by fishing operations. [\(New Text\)](#)

g. Promote new research to identify technique and or measures to reduce sea turtle incidental capture and post-capture mortality of sea turtles in different fishing gear. (New Text)

h. Promote research to evaluate the post – capture mortality of sea turtles in different fishing gear. (New Text)

REQUEST that the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee of Experts, in collaboration with the Secretariat and other IAC Parties, prepare standardized forms for data collection to be incorporated in the IAC Annual Report, define methodologies to measure the impacts of fisheries on sea turtles, and provide recommendations as appropriate on the implementation of the measures. The Scientific Committee will prepare a report every five (5) years with the fisheries information provided by IAC Parties in the Annual Report for consideration of the Parties. (New Text)

URGE IAC Parties, the Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts through the Secretariat, to work to identify technical and financial collaboration to implement the measures to help reduce the incidental catch and mortality of sea turtles in fishing operations indicated in this resolution. (New Text)

INSTRUCT the Convention Secretariat to contact non Party States, especially those whose fishing fleet operate in the area of the Convention, so that in a cooperative spirit they provide the Secretariat with available data on incidental capture of sea turtles in their fisheries. (New Text)

REQUEST the Secretariat to commence discussions with regional fishery management organizations and other international bodies and organizations relevant to the work of the IAC in order to develop Memorandum of Understanding and continue to facilitate the collaboration with those that already exist. (New Text)

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution COP3/2006/R-2 Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles, in its entirety. (New Text)

Annex V

NOTE: This proposal was prepared by the EP Leatherback WG of the Consultative Committee, it was presented to the CCE for review and edits as necessary. The document here include the edits from the CCE. This is the document that will be presented to COP10.2 for consideration in June 2022. Text in blue is new text. Text in black is the same as original resolution.

CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.5

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

WHEREAS leatherback sea turtles have existed on Earth for millions of years and 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. (New

Text)

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: (New Text section 1-9)

- 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. Establish and 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. 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.
- f. 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 strengthening actions to protect nests, females, and hatchlings, and providing information on the conservation measures implemented on their nesting beaches.

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. (NEW TEXT)

3. The IAC Secretary, 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. (NEW TEXT)

REQUEST the IAC's Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts, in cooperation with the Secretariat 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. (New Text)

5. Evaluate every five years the implementation of the conservation measures in this resolution, considering

the strategic actions in Annex I to present it to the COP. For that, the working group designated by the Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare an evaluation report every five years to be presented to the committees. The first evaluation report will be presented in 2027. (New text)

6. That the Secretary follow up on the implementation of the conservation measures in this resolution, considering the strategic action in Annex I. (New Text)

7. That the Secretary 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. (New Text)

8. That the Parties, the Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts, through the Secretariat, 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. (New Text)

9. The IAC Secretariat 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.

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 juvenile 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.
- 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 in national waters aggregation sites for adults and juveniles, as well as migration routes and potential sites of importance or priority for the conservation of the species, that could 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) Promote and ensure the protection of nests, females, and hatchlings and a comprehensive and thorough biological monitoring throughout the nesting season in index nesting beaches and other leatherback nesting beaches known.
- b) **Search, identify, and include new nesting beaches for the species in the existing programs for the protection of nests, females, and hatchlings, and biological monitoring of the IAC Parties.**
- c) **Maximize efforts to ensure that all nests of the species are identified and protected, and develop and implement strategies to ensure an increasing hatching success and hatchlings production.**
- 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 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- New Text

Information proposed by the EP Leatherback Task Force requested to assess the implementation of the strategic actions in this Resolution and their impact on the conservation of the EP Leatherback. For those countries reporting nesting of EP Leatherback, all the beaches monitored (index and non-index) will be included in Part V “Nesting Information” in the IAC Annual Report. **Note: These questions will be included in the IAC Annual Report in the format available in the online platform.**

Table 1. Information regarding **monitoring and bycatch reduction** of the EP Leatherback, according to the indicators suggested in this Resolution strategic actions.

EP LEATHERBACK MONITORING AND BYCATCH REDUCTION	
Country	Year
Fisheries Information	
In your country, there are interactions of fisheries with leatherback (yes / no)	
Choose the fishing area (Coastal up to 12 miles; Oceanic, further than 12 miles)	
Choose the fishing gear interacting with leatherbacks Note: information regarding industrial longline is currently included in the IAC Annual Report (Part VI – Fisheries Information).	<input type="checkbox"/> Artisanal longline <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial longline <input type="checkbox"/> Gillnet <input type="checkbox"/> Bottom trawl net <input type="checkbox"/> Trawl nets <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Indicate target species Note: Information on industrial longline is available in the IAC Annual Report (Part VI – Fisheries Information).	
Fishing efforts (e.g., fleet size; number of the fleet total trips) Note: Information on industrial longline is available in the IAC Annual Report (Part VI – Fisheries Information).	
Monitoring Activities	
Choose the monitoring method.	<input type="checkbox"/> Onboard observers <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews <input type="checkbox"/> Radio communication <input type="checkbox"/> Stranding reports <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Monitoring effort (with metrics) Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 or estimated number of animals captured)	
Number of turtles released alive and dead	
Measures to Reduce Bycatch Impacts	
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	<input type="checkbox"/> TEDs <input type="checkbox"/> Large Circle Hooks <input type="checkbox"/> Bait <input type="checkbox"/> LED lights <input type="checkbox"/> Spatial and or/time closures <input type="checkbox"/> Soaking time reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Number of vessels using this type of fishing gear modification	

Table 2. Information regarding monitoring and protection of the EP leatherback nesting beaches, according to the indicators suggested in Resolution IAC-COP7-2015-R2 strategic actions.

The following questions refer to totals by country, resulting from the addition of the values from each of the beaches monitored.

MONITORING AND PROTECTION IN MONITORED NESTING BEACHES	
Monitoring Activities	
Number of leatherback beaches monitored during the year reported in this annual report	
Which methods are used to assess nesting in beaches (choose all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Nest/tracks count <input type="checkbox"/> Nest/tracks and nesting females count <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial census of tracks <input type="checkbox"/> Other, which _____
Have you reported the information for all the EP leatherback nesting beaches, new and historical, in the nesting beaches section (Part V)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Protection Activities in Beaches Monitored	
Percentage of the total of nests protected in the beaches monitored in the nesting season, and protection technique (including protected areas; relocation in hatcheries and other) If the value is unknown, write "not available"	
Total number of nests <i>in situ</i> (<i>In situ</i> = nests left where the turtle laid the eggs)	
% of average hatching <i>In situ</i> = nests left where the turtle laid the eggs % of hatching = total of hatchlings that hatched/total eggs If the total of hatchlings hatches is not available % of hatching = total of shells/total of eggs If the country uses another way to calculate % of hatching, please describe it	
% of average hatching in nests relocated using the following methods in the beaches monitored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer those that apply with the % • If data is not available write "not available" • If the method is not used write "not applicable" 	
<i>Hatcheries</i>	
<i>Boxes</i>	
<i>Same beach</i>	
<i>Other Which and percentage?</i>	
Activities to control nests predation (choose all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Population control of feral, domestic, and introduced animals. <input type="checkbox"/> Protection mesh /screen <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> None
Activities to control nest poaching (choose all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Beach patrols by police authorities <input type="checkbox"/> Beach patrols by organized community groups <input type="checkbox"/> Nests relocation <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring and research during the nesting season <input type="checkbox"/> System to address environmental complains <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> None

Annex VI

NOTE: The following three resolution proposals were prepared by each country presenting the exception, revised by the IAC Scientific Committee and edited by the EEC. The proposed resolutions will be presented to IAC COP10.2 in June 2022

PANAMA

CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.6

Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Panama

RECALLING that Article IV of the Convention, paragraph 2a states that the Parties have prohibited the intentional capture, retention or killing of, and domestic trade in, sea turtles, their eggs, parts or products;

FURTHER RECALLING that Article IV, paragraph 3a states that each Party may allow exceptions to satisfy economic subsistence needs of traditional communities, taking into account the recommendations of the Consultative Committee of Experts established pursuant to Article VII, provided that such exceptions do not undermine efforts to achieve the objective of this Convention;

NOTING that the fifth Conference of Parties, adopted the procedures for cases where exceptions exist (CIT-COP5-2011-R2);

CONSIDERING that *Lepidochelys olivacea* is classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as vulnerable;

ACKNOWLEDGING that all other species of sea turtles classified as “endangered, vulnerable and critically endangered” by IUCN, must be protected from any negative impacts resulting from an exception;

RECOGNIZING that *Lepidochelys olivacea* on the beaches of the Eastern Pacific (Mexico to Panama) is the only turtle species that can tolerate a carefully controlled amount of egg harvesting, and only when the population to be harvested has demonstrated the status of “*recovery or verifiable stability*;”

CONSIDERING that these extraction activities existed prior to Panama becoming a Party to the IAC, and today remains under the control of the relevant governmental organizations;

RECOGNIZING that Panama has informed, in its IAC Annual Reports over the last five years, a sustained progress in the implementation of the recommendations in Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Guatemala and Panama; **(NEW TEXT)**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations to Panama by the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts at the 14th meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (Meeting Report CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9), regarding Panama’s five year report on the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1, that indicates that some measures in Panama have already been implemented, while others need to be evaluated for feasible implementation, and

that it is necessary to develop specific Resolutions to the exception, that are in accordance with the national reality of each country included in the initial Resolution; (NEW TEXT)

CONSIDERING that to support the continuous implementation of conservation measures for the species in the exception, Panama must finalize the process of preparing and establishing a management plan for the exception in accordance to IAC Article IV (3a and b) of IAC. (NEW TEXT)

THE TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLE RESOLVES THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO PANAMA TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE IV (3) REGARDING EXCEPTIONS:

1. Grant a maximum of three (3) additional years, from the date this resolution is approved, for the Government of Panama to establish the Management Plan for the Exception for the Harvest of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs for Cañas Island. (NEW TEXT)
2. The Exception Management Plan should include the recommendations from the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts adopted at 14th Consultative Committee of Experts Meeting in Annex I of this resolution. (NEW TEXT)
3. Recommend that Panama applies the precautionary approach by implementing the protection measures that support the IAC objectives, in accordance with the national laws and considering what is established in the exception Resolution, and continue to consult with the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts while the country establishes its Exception Management Plan so that the exception meets the requirements of Article IV (3) of the Convention. (NEW TEXT)
4. Panama must continue to report on its exception in the IAC Annual Report.
5. The IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees will continue to review the progress of the implementation of this resolution and will report to the Conference of Parties on this progress, every five years.
6. Panama will present a proposal of its Exception Management Plan to the IAC Scientific Committee in 2022. This proposal should be consulted with the Consultative Committee of Experts. Both Committees should make a statement within the following four (4) months. Panama will receive this statement and modify the proposal when applicable. (NEW TEXT)
7. The Exception Management Plan should be assessed every 5 years by the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts; thus Panama must prepare an Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan including the status of implementation and compliance with the plan and report timely any modifications to the information presented. (NEW TEXT)

8. The IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts will develop a form with the minimum information and data contents to be included in the Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan. **(NEW TEXT)**

9. Urge the Government of Panama to secure and assign in the short term, the human and financial resources necessary for drafting and implementation of the Exception Management Plan for Cañas Island. **(NEW TEXT)**

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Guatemala and Panama CIT-COP6-2013-R1 in its entirety. **(NEW TEXT)**

ANNEX I: The Exception Management Plan for the harvest of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs for Cañas Island should include:

1. Objectives and indicators for the monitoring of the population of *Lepidochelys olivacea* and the actions of the harvest of its eggs in Cañas Island for the bodies of this Convention, to obtain reliable data that allow the population trend analysis to be used in used in establishing an adaptative management program to have the best scientific information for decision making for the management of the exception. (New Text)
2. A description of the criteria for the selection of the natural nesting protected area (1 km of the beach where most nesting is concentrated, which would be assessed to increase it or change its location, to consider the variability of the nesting process), describe the selection criteria for the nests that are protected and those that are harvested by the community, include an analysis of data of population trends using the selected indicators, and the implementation of measures to reduce in water threats such as bycatch of sea turtles. (NEW TEXT)
3. A nesting survey protocol that includes standardized monitoring of sea turtle nesting activity (nesting and hatching success), and the number of hatchlings produced in protected nests in hatcheries and *in situ*). The data should be used to analyze nesting trends, in order to demonstrate the sustainability of the harvesting and assess the stability of the population over the long-term. This protocol must be evaluated every five years, and changes made as needed. (NEW TEXT)
4. An egg harvest protocol that includes monitoring of the nesting population and the level of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs being harvested and those levels should prove to be sustainable, and therefore, monitoring protocols must be in place to assess the stability of the population over the long-term. This protocol must include the criteria for assigning eggs to the community (family census, IDs, among others). The level of sea turtle eggs harvested should prove to be sustainable. (NEW TEXT)
5. Actions to strengthen the co-management of the harvest with the Cañas Island community, including training of participants.
6. Efforts to increase activities to strengthen sea turtle protection efforts, through alternative livelihood productive activities for non-consumptive use, nest and nesting female protection, and best practices for the hatcheries operating in communities surrounding Cañas Island.
7. The recommendations from the Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee in the 14th Meeting of the Consultative Committee included in report CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9. (NEW TEXT)

**Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of
Lepidochelys olivacea Eggs in Guatemala**

RECALLING that Article IV of the Convention, paragraph 2a states that the Parties have prohibited the intentional capture, retention or killing of, and domestic trade in, sea turtles, their eggs, parts or products;

FURTHER RECALLING that Article IV, paragraph 3a states that each Party may allow exceptions to satisfy economic subsistence needs of traditional communities, taking into account the recommendations of the Consultative Committee of Experts established pursuant to Article VII, provided that such exceptions do not undermine efforts to achieve the objective of this Convention;

NOTING that the fifth Conference of Parties adopted the procedures for when exceptions exist (CIT-COP5-2011-R2);

CONSIDERING that *Lepidochelys olivacea* is classified as vulnerable, by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

ACKNOWLEDGING that all other species of sea turtles classified as “endangered, vulnerable and critically endangered” by IUCN must be protected from any negative impacts resulting from an exception;

RECOGNIZING that *Lepidochelys olivacea* on the beaches of the Eastern Pacific (Mexico to Panama) is the only turtle species that can tolerate a carefully controlled amount of egg harvesting, and only when the population to be harvested has demonstrated the status of “recovery or verifiable stability;”

CONSIDERING that these harvesting activities existed prior to Guatemala becoming a Party to the IAC, and today remains under the control of the relevant governmental organizations;

RECOGNIZING that Guatemala has informed in its IAC Annual Reports over the last five years a sustained progress in the implementation of the recommendations in Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Guatemala and Panama; **(NEW TEXT)**

RECOGNIZING that Guatemala has laws and regulations in place to support the implementation of the IAC resolution on exception, including the update to the Resolution on the Conservation quota of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs, that established a conservation quota of 20% of the eggs in each nests, based on the recommendation from the IAC Scientific Committee, and that Guatemala has expressed its intention to gradually increase this quota according to what the country’s conditions allow; **(NEW TEXT)**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations to Guatemala by the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts at the 14th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (Meeting Report CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9), regarding Guatemala’s five year report on the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1, that indicates that some protection measures in Guatemala have already been implemented, while other measures need to be evaluated for feasible

implementation, and that it is necessary to develop separate Resolutions to the exceptions that are in accordance with the national reality of each country included in the initial Resolution; **(NEW TEXT)**

CONSIDERING that to support the continuous implementation of conservation measures for the species in the exception, Guatemala must finalize the process of preparing and establishing a management plan for the exception in accordance to IAC Article IV (3a and b) of IAC. **(NEW TEXT)**

THE TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO GUATEMALA TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE IV (3) REGARDING EXCEPTIONS:

1. Grant a maximum of three (3) additional years, from the date this resolution is approved, for Guatemala's Protected Areas National Council to establish the Management Plan for the Exception for the Harvest of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs, based on the outline in Annex I of this resolution. **(NEW TEXT)**

2. The Exception Management Plan should include the recommendations from the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts adopted at the 14th Consultative Committee of Experts Meeting in Annex II of this resolution. **(NEW TEXT)**

3. Recommend that Guatemala applies the precautionary approach by implementing the protection and monitoring measures in Annex III of this resolution, in accordance with the national laws and considering what is established in the exception Resolution, and to Continue consulting with the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees while the Country establishes its Exception Management Plan so that the exception meets the requirements in Article IV (3) of the Convention. **(NEW TEXT)**

4. The level of *Lepidochelys olivacea* sea turtle eggs being harvested under an exception must be proven to be sustainable; therefore, the monitoring protocols included in the Exception Management Plan, must be in place to assess the stability of the population in the long-term. These protocols must include nesting trends in order to support the sustainability of the harvesting proposed.

5. Guatemala must continue to report on its exception in the IAC Annual Report.

6. The IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees will continue to review the progress of the implementation of this resolution and will report to the Conference of Parties on this progress, every five years.

7. Guatemala will present a proposal of its Exception Management Plan to the IAC Scientific Committee in 2022. This proposal should be consulted with the Consultative Committee of Experts. Both Committees should make a statement within the following four (4) months. Guatemala will receive this statement and modify the proposal when applicable. **(NEW TEXT)**

8. Once the Exception Management Plan is finalized and approved, it should be assessed every 5 years by the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts; thus Guatemala must prepare an Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan with the status of implementation

and compliance with the plan and report timely any modifications to the information presented. **(NEW TEXT)**

9. The IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts will develop a form with the minimum contents to be included in the Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan. **(NEW TEXT)**

10. Urge the Government of Guatemala to according to their capabilities, secure and assign human and financial resources necessary for drafting and implementation of the Exception Management Plan. **(NEW TEXT)**

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Guatemala and Panama CIT-COP6-2013-R1 in its entirety. **(NEW TEXT)**

ANNEX I – Recommended outline for Guatemala’s Exception Management Plan

1. State of knowledge (regarding the exception)
2. Area of implementation of the exception (study area)
 - a. Map with location of nesting beaches and hatcheries.
3. Species description (Biology and ecology)
 - a. Including nesting season, nesting peaks, size of nests (maximum, minimum, average), the month to month and annual register of nests, hatching success in hatcheries, among other data considered relevant.
4. Conservation status and threats in Guatemala
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 (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) 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 and socioeconomic)

ANNEX II – Recommendations from the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts

1. On the Exception Management Plan

It is recommended that, to manage the exception on Guatemala's Pacific Coast, the Protected Areas National Council organize and complete the information to be presented to the IAC, by the establishment of the Exception Management Plan, including at least the structure in Annex I, to be presented in one year at the 2022 Scientific Committee meeting.

2. On the Conservation Quota

It is recommended to report the production of hatchlings in hatcheries and using this as a base to estimate the percentage of hatching success to monitor what is happening at an embryonic scale with the 20% of the eggs from each nest, which is the conservation quota.

3. On Management of Nesting Beaches and the Population Monitoring Program

It is recommended to establish a method to monitor the indicators that determine the status of the *Lepidochelys olivacea* nesting population for enough time that allows for detection of variations in recruitment due to egg harvest. Two of the best indicators for population trends are the counting of nests, and counting of females, this is what needs to be monitored. If resources for monitoring all nesting beaches are not sufficient, index beaches with higher nesting should be prioritized.

It is recommended to ensure that the minimum data collection methods are standardized year after year, taking in to consideration that they should not change that much, so that data can be compared among years. Similarly, there should be an effort to differentiate between nests (with eggs inside) and false crawls on the index beaches.

It is recommended to continue the activity described above monitoring nesting tracks trends on the index beaches for at least another five years, with daily surveys of nests in established areas within the reproductive season.

It is requested that, for both the Exception Management Plan and the Assessment Report on the Exception Management Plan presented to the IAC, include an analysis of the nest and egg collection effort with the variables that influence it, such as the availability of financial resources, increased effort of volunteering, an increase in the purchase of eggs from hatcheries, among other reasons.

It is recommended to establish management measures for the conservation quota and for hatcheries for the period between January and June, as during these months, outside the peak in nesting activity there is an almost total collection of eggs by the community.

It is recommended to consider a strategy included in the Exception Management Plan for the hatcheries where the complete nests are protected and be monitored *in situ* on a feasible protected section of the beach, 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 during the rainy months, when temperatures are favorable for hatching success, as a measure to offset exploitation along the coast.

11. On Hatcheries Management

It is recommended that the number of nests collected per collector is recorded and used as a condition for *parlameros* (collectors) to receive their payment for the eggs, and to then obtain an estimate of the number of nests harvested on the different beaches.

It is recommended that the Exception Management Plan and the progress report, include the number of nests per month, showing the number of nests protected in the hatchery, hatching and emergence success in hatcheries, and the total number of hatchlings released to the marine environment.

It is recommended to record a representative sample of temperature data in nests (two or more years) to compare *in situ* temperatures with *ex situ* (nests relocated in hatcheries) temperatures in the nests in the rainy and dry seasons.

It is recommended to estimate the ratio of females to males produced in the hatcheries, using dead hatchling and an incubation temperature analysis to determine a correlation between mortality and sex, if this is bias to one of the sexes, use mitigation measures.

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

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

It is recommended to design a budget indicating the resources required to keep control and surveillance of arribada events, harvest, and trade of eggs.

6. On Traceability

It is recommended to include in the exception management plan a traceability procedure for both the eggs collected for consumption and the eggs going to hatcheries, to establish the number of clutches and the number of eggs commercially traded.

It is recommended to maintain a record of sea turtle eggs seizures and a temporal analysis using indicators (for example: number of eggs seized due to poaching, number of sanctions, inspection coverage, percentage of prosecutions, and others) to estimate the number of eggs illegally traded and to assess how this impacts *Lepidochelys olivacea* population.

It is recommended to engage in an Exchange of experiences between the technical personnel in charge of exceptions in Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala to share protocols on the subject of traceability of eggs collected within the framework of the exception.

ANNEX III – Recommendations presented by Guatemala (Product 5- Assessment of items proposed 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 of monitoring, from which useful extrapolations can be made.

- 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.
- Update the conservation quota receipts that should include a section identifying the number of eggs, the number of nests from which the eggs were collected, the means of obtaining (purchase, exchange), the collection beach, and other relevant information.”
- 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. Other hatcheries administrators should report the nests that they receive during the year.
- CONAP should train all those in charge of hatcheries, so that they properly fill out the conservation quota receipts for olive ridley eggs use in all their three sections.
- CONAP must verify at the final point of sale of olive ridley eggs (restaurants, ceviche eateries, etc.) that sellers have their respective proof of final delivery that ensures the legal source of the eggs.
- Considering that the annual amount allocated by the hatcheries to purchase eggs for conservation is around Q500,000 -USD 64,880 (estimated)- it would be feasible for CONAP to negotiate a conservation incentives program for the collectors, which funds are exclusively for hatcheries to purchase eggs for conservation. This would bring several benefits since that money would start an economic spillover effect among the coastal communities of the Pacific Coast and would enable hatcheries to invest their income from hatchling releases and donations in improving and maintaining hatchery infrastructure, purchasing priority equipment for monitoring, and investing in other sea turtle conservation activities.
- The implementation of these recommendations must be documented and analyzed to be included as part of the Annual Report to the IAC.

**Resolution on the Exceptions under Article IV (3a and 3b) for subsistence harvesting of
Lepidochelys olivacea eggs in Costa Rica**

RECALLING that Article IV of the Convention, paragraph 2a states that the Parties have prohibited the intentional capture, retention or killing of, and domestic trade in, sea turtles, their eggs, parts or products;

FURTHER RECALLING that Article IV, paragraph 3a states that each Party may allow exceptions to satisfy economic subsistence needs of traditional communities, taking into account the recommendations of the Consultative Committee of Experts established pursuant to Article VII, provided that such exceptions do not undermine efforts to achieve the objective of this Convention;

NOTING that at the 5th Conference of the Parties, adopted the procedures for cases where exceptions exist were adopted (CIT-COP5-2011-R2);

ACKNOWLEDGING that all species of sea turtles classified as “endangered, vulnerable and critically endangered” must be protected from any negative impacts resulting from an exception;

CONSIDERING *Lepidochelys olivacea* is classified as vulnerable, by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

RECOGNIZING that *L. olivacea* on the beaches of the Eastern Pacific Ocean (Mexico to Panama) is the only turtle species that can tolerate a controlled amount of egg harvesting, and only when the population to be harvested has demonstrated to be in a status of “recovery or verifiable stability;”

CONSIDERING that these extractive activities existed prior to Costa Rica becoming a Party of the IAC, and today remains under the control of the different relevant governmental organizations;

CONSIDERING that the IAC Conference of the Parties approved the exception in Costa Rica by resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R1; [\(NEW TEXT\)](#)

CONSIDERING that Costa Rica has a Five Year Plan for the Management and Conservation of Olive ridleys turtle in the Ostional Wildlife Refuge (Management Plan) (*pending to include link o reference to plan here*), that is evaluated, updated and authorized every five years; [\(NEW TEXT\)](#)

CONSIDERING that Costa Rica has selected and implements the sampling method to monitor indicators that allow the determination of the population status of Olive ridleys (*Lepidochelys olivacea*); [\(NEW TEXT\)](#)

CONSIDERING that the technical information presented by Costa Rica in its Progress Report on the implementation of the exception for 2015-2020 reviewed by the IAC Scientific Committee in their 17th meeting, and the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) in their 14th meeting, determined that Costa Rica has fulfilled the four measures established in Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R1; [\(NEW TEXT\)](#)

CONSIDERING that the Scientific and Consultative Committees recommended new measures to improve the implementation of the Exception in Costa Rica. [\(NEW TEXT\)](#)

THE TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO COSTA RICA TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE IV (3) REGARDING EXCEPTIONS:

1. Costa Rica will continue managing its exception according to their five-year plan Management Plan. This Management Plan must include the recommendations given by the Scientific Committee, and the Consultative Committee of Experts in its 14th meeting (CCE Meeting Report CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9) and Annex I in this resolution. **(NEW TEXT)**
2. The Exception Management Plan should be assessed every 5 years by the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee; thus Costa Rica must prepare an Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan with the status of implementation and compliance with the plan and report timely on any modifications. **(NEW TEXT)**
3. Costa Rica when pertinent, will prepare data analysis of population trends, and the population indexes addressed, and will provide recommendations and conclusions regarding the exception management in its five-year Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan to present to IAC. **(NEW TEXT)**
4. In order to determine the status of the nesting population of *L. olivacea* in Ostional and the impact of the egg harvest, Costa Rica will continue to monitor additional indicators including: estimate of the number of hatchlings, and hatching success/reproductive output of the clutches. Costa Rica will implement a five-year evaluation and make the pertinent adjustments to ensure the egg harvest is sustainable.
5. In order to maintain its social and health responsibility, as *L. olivacea* eggs are sold for human consumption, Costa Rica will undertake every five years, a microbiological and biochemical study about the sanitary viability of *L. olivacea* eggs for human consumption. **(NEW TEXT)**
6. Costa Rica must continue to report on its exception in the IAC Annual Report.
7. The IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees will continue to review the progress of the implementation of this resolution and will report to the Conference of Parties on this progress, every five years.
8. The IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts will develop a form with the contents and minimum data to be included in the Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan. **(NEW TEXT)**
9. Urge the Government of Costa Rica to continue to secure and assign human and financial resources necessary for the implementation of the Exception Management Plan. **(NEW TEXT)**

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Costa Rica CIT-COP7-2015-R1 in its entirety. (NEW TEXT)

ANNEX I: Recommendation from the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts regarding the management of the Exception in Costa Rica (NEW TEXT)

1. The Exception Management Plan must include a budget and a cost analysis to ensure the implementation of the Plan.
2. The Exception Management Plan must include the description of selection criteria for the *arribadas* and nests that can be harvested, with estimated number of nests that can be harvested, and the implementation of measures to reduce in water threats such as bycatch of sea turtles.
3. To prevent illegal trade of eggs from other *L. olivacea* populations and other sea turtle species, Costa Rica must continue with the process of development, implementation, and evaluation annually of the traceability plan from the beach to the final distributor.
4. In its Assessment Report for the Management Plan Costa Rica will report on the investment of the economic resources generated by the commercialization of eggs on the human wellbeing, improvements to the community, and the total number of beneficiaries that are involved in the *arribada* process, as well as the requirements for participation and compliance with the established measures in the exception Management Plan. (NEW TEXT)

Annex VII

CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.10

Known Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Recommendations to Collaborate on Leatherback Conservation in these Areas

(DRAFT NOT YET FINALIZED)

The following document was prepared by the IAC Consultative Committee of experts working group on the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback, coordinated by Ms. Ann Marie Lauritsen, delegate from the US; with the participation of the M.Sc. Didiher Chacon, delegate from Costa Rica to the Scientific Committee, and Dr. Olga Koubrak, representative of the SPAW protocol. The aim of the document is to establish recommendations to protect the known areas used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback.

It is requested that the IAC consultative committee of experts review this document and adopt the recommendations and next steps herein, such as:

- Request Parties review the map to determine if there are any areas that are not included on the map. Add any missing Country – specific protected areas.
- Continue to add existing protected areas established under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol to the Barcelona Convention and other international instruments.
- Review each protected area to determine if it supports leatherback turtle protection.



INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES

Known Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Recommendations to Collaborate on Leatherback Conservation in these Areas.

(DRAFT NOT YET FINALIZED)

TECHNICAL DOCUMENT



Developed by the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee Delegates:

Ann Marie Lauritsen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Delegate from USA;

Olga Koubrak, Sealife Law;

Didiher Chacon Delegate from Costa Rica

INTRODUCTION:

The IAC Resolution for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle CIT-COP9-2019-R2 was adopted in 2019. In it, the Parties resolved that “The IAC Scientific Committee, according to the best scientific information available, will identify new areas critical to the NWA leatherback in the Convention area, and will recommend, through the Consultative Committee, that the Parties consider the protection of these areas.”

The Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Working Group began to identify areas used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (see Technical Report CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16- CRITICAL AREAS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE (*Dermochelys coriacea*). This Report serves to further refine these areas using publicly available information from academic articles and reports and overlay this information with existing protected areas to identify gaps in protection of areas critical to NWA leatherback turtles within the Convention area. The Working Group identifies next steps to continue to gather information and recommendations for further collaboration to protect the NWA leatherbacks and their habitats.

Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Geographic Range:

The following is summarized from the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Status Review (NMFS and USFWS 2020):

The Northwest Atlantic (NWA) Leatherback population extends throughout the North Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and the Mediterranean Sea. NWA leatherbacks are found in the waters of Albania, Algeria, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Azores, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, French Guiana, Greece, Greenland, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Lebanon, Libya, Madeira, Malta, Martinique, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Montserrat, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, Spain, St. Barthelemy, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Pierre and Miquelon, St. Martin, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Sweden, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Kingdom, United States, U.S. Virgin Islands, Venezuela, and Western Sahara.

Nesting:

Nesting is widespread throughout the tropical and subtropical NW Atlantic, with larger concentrations of nesting activity occurring primarily at sites in Trinidad, French Guiana, Suriname, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and the mainland United States (Florida Atlantic) (Dow *et al.* 2007; Horrocks *et al.* 2016). Scattered, small aggregations throughout the Wider Caribbean also occur. Nesting is concentrated from the southeast United States throughout the Wider Caribbean Region.

Nesting Areas by Density:

Leatherback nesting in the NW Atlantic may be grouped into several broad geographical areas, including the U.S. mainland (primarily Florida), North Caribbean, West Caribbean (Honduras to

Colombia), and Southern Caribbean/Guianas (Venezuela to French Guiana; TEWG 2007). The largest nesting aggregations occur in Trinidad, French Guiana, and Panama. Only about 10 leatherback nesting beaches in the Wider Caribbean Region (2% of the population’s total nesting sites) host more than 1,000 crawls annually (Dow Piniak and Eckert 2012).

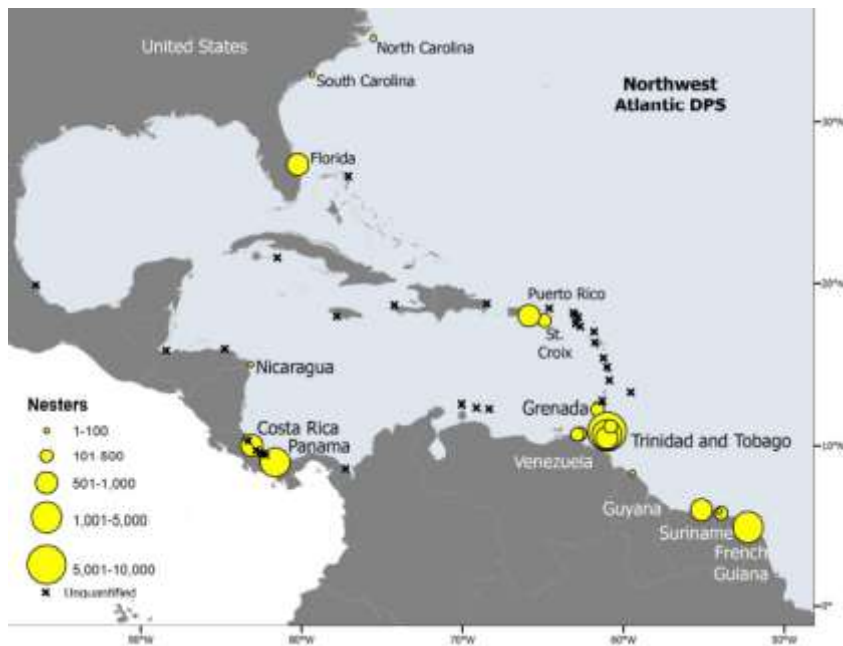


Figure 1: Leatherback nesting by density

Foraging and Migration:

Foraging areas of the NW Atlantic leatherback population include coastal and pelagic waters of the North Atlantic Ocean (reviewed by Eckert et al. 2012; Saba 2013; Shillinger and Bailey 2015). These waters include the Gulf of Mexico, North Central Atlantic Ocean, northwestern shelf waters of the United States and Canada, waters along the southeastern U.S. coast, the Mediterranean Sea, and northeastern shelf waters of Europe and northwestern Africa (TEWG 2007). Some post-nesting females also remain in tropical waters to forage (Fossette et al. 2010a). This population is mostly commonly associated with open ocean and coastal shelf foraging areas off Nova Scotia (Canada), the northeastern United States, Gulf of Mexico, northwestern Europe, and northwestern Africa (James et al. 2005; James et al. 2006; Eckert 2006; Eckert et al. 2006; Fossette et al. 2010a; Fossette et al. 2010b; Dodge et al. 2014; Stewart et al. 2016; Aleksa et al. 2018).

Fossette et al. (2014) analyzed available satellite telemetry data between 1995 and 2010 from turtles tagged at the foraging grounds throughout the Atlantic Ocean. They found widespread use of the North Atlantic Ocean (Fossette et al. 2014). High-use areas were mainly in the central (25 to 50° N, 50 to 30° W) and eastern Atlantic Ocean, in the waters off Western Europe, around Cape Verde (year-round) and the Azores (October to March; Fossette et al. 2014). Fossette et al. (2014) found that seasonal high use areas also occurred along the eastern U.S. coast (April to June and October to December) and off Canada (July to December). The Gulf of Mexico is also a high use foraging area, with a peak in the northeast Gulf of Mexico during August and September (Aleksa et al. 2018).

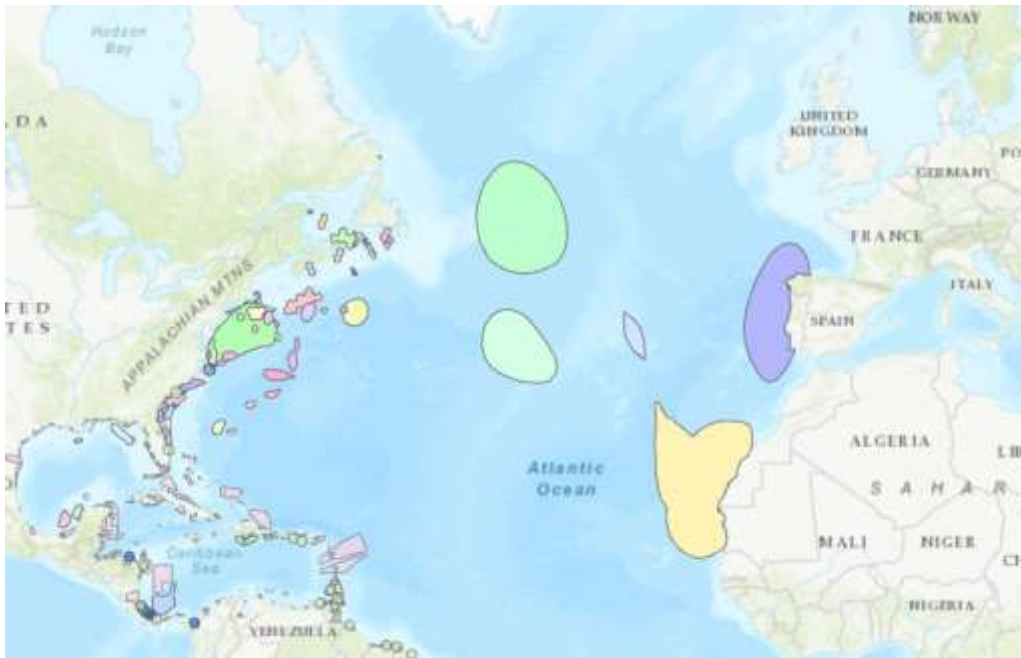


Figure 2: Geographic areas of high use based on the information available from citations

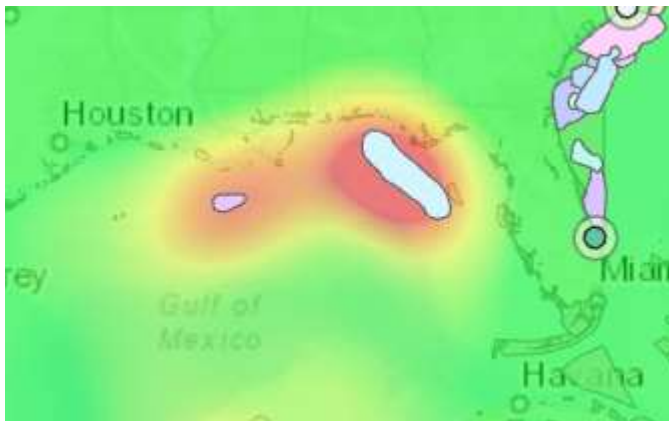


Figure 3: Information available by seasons (Winter and Spring) in the Gulf of Mexico

Summary:

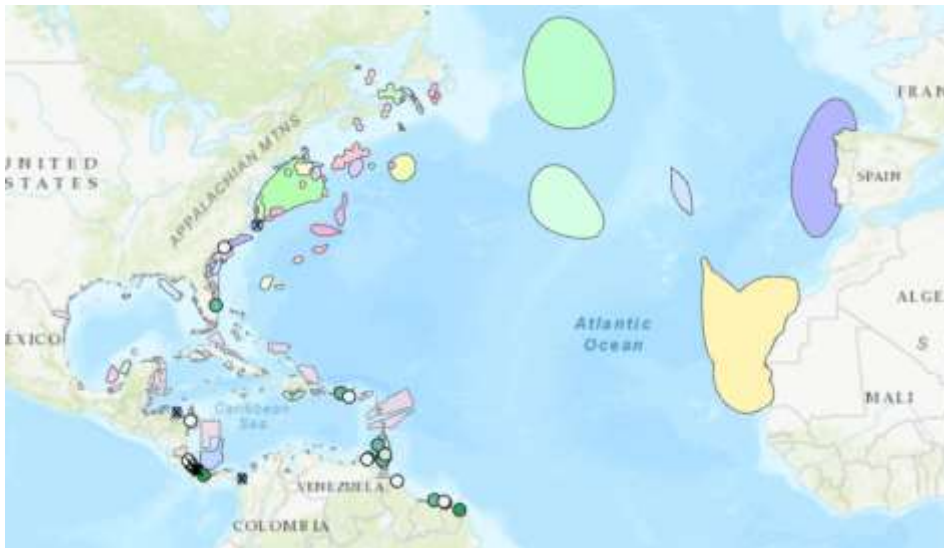


Figure 6: Existing known high use areas overlaid with existing protected areas

Conclusions:

- Most known high use leatherback areas are not currently under any form of legal area protection.
- Existing protected areas do not cover sufficient areas of high use to address threats to the Northwest Atlantic leatherback population.
- Significant areas of high use are found on the high seas, in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Next Steps:

- Request Parties review the map to determine if there are any areas that are not included on the map. Add any missing Country – specific protected areas.
- Continue to add existing protected areas established under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol to the Barcelona Convention and other international instruments.
- Review each protected area to determine if it supports leatherback turtle protection.

Recommendations from Working Group:

1. Work with national and international bodies to address specific threats to maximize leatherback protection within existing protected areas such as Ramsar sites.
2. Collaborate with the IAC Parties to prioritize mitigation of regional threats and share techniques and solutions that have been effective to reduce threats and protect leatherback areas. Regional threats include:
 - Poaching (threat reduction efforts: alternative livelihood solutions, enforcement)
 - Erosion due to climate change (threat reduction efforts: resilient coastline)

- Tourism/coastal development (threat reduction efforts: light retrofit programs, coastal construction)
- Bycatch (threat reduction efforts: gear modifications, fishers' engagement/outreach).

3. Collaborate with other Conventions and international bodies with similar objectives. Share information which will be mutually beneficial in identifying opportunities for cooperation in advancing protections for the NWA leatherback. These include:

- i. SPAW Protocol: The main objectives include implementing priority activities of existing species recovery and management plans developed under the framework of SPAW; support existing Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs) through the implementation of national priority actions, in particular the provision of training as it relates to educators (teacher training), law enforcement officers, veterinarians and first responders; collaborate further with the IAC on sea turtle activities in the Workplan, with a specific focus on the NWA leatherback, to ensure that work is not duplicated.

Current Action: Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the IAC and the SPAW Protocol: 3rd COP - COP3/2006/R-6.

Future Collaboration: an IAC representative participates in the work of the SPAW Protocol's Species Working Group while a representative of the SPAW Protocol participates in the IAC's NW Atlantic Leatherback Working Group.

- ii. ICCAT: Existing sea turtle measures include collection of data on sea turtle interactions in ICCAT fisheries, as well as threats on sea turtles in the conventional area; live release of sea turtles accidentally caught; sharing information on technical measures to reduce turtle incidental catch levels and handling and release practices. ICCAT Parties are encouraged to collect detailed data on the interactions with sea turtles, including record interactions, and gear characteristics, times and locations, target species, and disposition status, nature of the hooking or entanglement, bait type, hook size and type, and the size of the animal.

Current Action: The Memorandum of Understanding between the ICCAT and the IAC was adopted.

Future Collaboration: Identify areas to collaborate to reduce the threat of leatherback turtle bycatch.

- iii. Sargasso Sea Commission: the focus of the Commission is on preserving the unique ecosystem and habitat of the Sargasso Sea that is threatened by human activities and in need of precautionary management. Human activities impact the Sargasso Sea in a variety of ways including unsustainable fishing practices,

shipping, pollution and even exploitation of *Sargassum*. These also represent threats to sea turtles. Although the Commission lacks regulatory authority, it works with international bodies with the necessary competence, such as ICCAT, in order to implement its mandate.

Current Action: MOC between the IAC and Sargasso Sea Commission

Future Collaboration: Share information which will be mutually beneficial in identifying opportunities for cooperation, in international forums, focused on the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.

4. Follow the negotiations of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and consider its implications for the protection of the NWA leatherback.

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Annex VIII

CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.11

SURVEY ON MINIMUM DATA REQUIRED FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF FISHERIES INTERACTING WITH SEA TURTLES IN THE IAC COUNTRIES

The IAC Consultative Committee of Experts Fisheries Working Group (WG) have prepared the following document. The group coordinator is Dr. Gilberto Sales, delegate from Brazil, and comprised by the delegates from Chile, Ms. Paula Salinas, and Ms. Leslie Bustos; Ecuador, Mr. Eduardo Espinoza; Costa Rica, Mr. José Miguel Carvajal; and Mexico, Mr. Vicente Guzman. The group prepare the following proposal aiming to characterize the fisheries interacting with sea turtles in the IAC countries.

The Fisheries WG recommends the following to the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE15):

1. Adopt the minimum data to characterize fisheries interacting with sea turtles in the IAC countries, presented in a table form with their corresponding description.
2. Agree that the CCE delegates provide the information requested in the survey by consulting different sectors, technicians, and researchers in their countries. The information should be submitted to the WG coordinator not later than June 1st, 2022, and will be used by the CCE fisheries WG to prepare a technical report.
3. That the fisheries WG prepare a technical report with the information provided by the CCE, that allow characterizing the IAC Parties fisheries to establish the data that the countries are able to provide, to produce management recommendations regarding sea turtles bycatch in fisheries.
4. Include this activity in the Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan (CCE15), for implementation by the Fisheries Working Group.



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and
Conservation of Sea Turtles
15th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE15)

CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.11

**SURVEY ON MINIMUM DATA REQUIRED FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF FISHERIES INTERACTING
WITH SEA TURTLES IN THE IAC COUNTRIES**

Following the agreements of the Consultative Committee of expert's 14th meeting, the Convention Scientific (SC) and Consultative Committee (CCE) Working Groups on Fisheries, and the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Working Group agreed on working together to develop a form that provides information that allows for a better understanding of the interaction between sea turtles and fishing activities in the IAC region.

Considering that numerous of these fisheries don't have on-board observer's programs, it is expected to conduct a preliminary characterization that allows establishing the minimum information that the IAC countries are able to provide in the IAC Annual Report. For this purpose, we prepared a survey on minimum data required for the characterization of fisheries interacting with sea turtles in each of the IAC Countries, which was adopted by the CCE15 Fisheries Working Group. The aim of this survey is to provide an overall picture of the group of fisheries relevant for each country to develop more accurate research, depending on the level of concern regarding the impact on these species, with the objective of developing ever-more effective monitoring and mitigation strategies.

Below is the survey form agreed by the CCE fisheries WG



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and
Conservation of Sea Turtles
15th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE15)

CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.11

SURVEY ON MINIMUM DATA REQUIRED FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF FISHERIES INTERACTING
WITH SEA TURTLES IN THE IAC COUNTRIES

Country	Click here to include text.
Name of the person filling out the form	Click here to include text.
Email	Click here to include text.

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT THE FORM

1. FISHERIES CONCEPT

Please fill out the form considering the following definition of Fisheries:

Fishery: Fishing activity conducted in a specific area, using a specific fishing gear, targeting certain species, which interact with one or more sea turtle species in different life stages.

Examples of the “fisheries” concept applied: Tuna pelagic longline fishery in South Brazil; Mahi pelagic longline fishery in North Peru; Swordfish pelagic longline fisher in the US NW Atlantic; Shrimp trawl fishery in Campeche (Mexico).

2. FILL OUT THE BOXES FOLLOWING THE DEFINITIONS BELOW

Fishery: specific fishing gear used, or specific name used in the country to describe the fishery. There are cases when more than one fishery uses the same gear, the same vessel, even the same target species. However, they operate in different areas or periods and must be classified as specific fisheries.

Target species: scientific (mainly) and common name of the fisheries target species. It is important to, at least, provide the scientific name.

Area: specific area where the fishery operates, for instance, the Gulf of Mexico; Bahia North Cost - Brazil-; Campeche -Mexico-. **Note:** *The group is assessing the use of a map with 5x5 degrees quadrants or another scale, depending on each fishery.*

Sea Turtles Species: Choose the sea turtle species incidentally captured by this fishery. When, *Dc = Dermochelys coriacea; Ei = Eretmochelys imbricata; Cc = Caretta; Cm = Chelonia mydas; Lo =*

Lepidochelys olivacea; Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*. **Note:** these would be the main species, the most frequent.

Size class: Main size class of the sea turtle's species captured -juveniles, adults, subadults-interacting with the fisheries.

Size of vessel: Using numbers (meters), write the rank of the vessel's length, operating in the fishery (for example, 18-22 m).

Size of the fleet operating last year: write the estimated number of vessels operating in this fishery between January 1st and December 31st the immediately preceding year. **Note:** *Estimated total number of vessels operating last year.*

Method: Choose the method used to obtain information on sea turtle bycatch in this fishery. If data is not collected for the fishery, choose the option "No data is collected."

Expert: Name of the technicians and other collaborators providing the information.

3. TO ADD ROWS TO THE SURVEY

Content can be copied and pasted in as many rows as required by:

1. Insert a row below
2. Select and copy all the content in the previous row
3. Select the new row
4. Paste

If necessary, include a brief observation at the bottom of the table.

Fishery (fishing gear or specific name used for the fishery in the country)	Target species (Scientific and common name)	Area (e.g., Gulf of Mexico; North Bahia - Brazil-)	Sea turtle species incidentally captured <i>Dc</i> = <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Ei</i> = <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Cc</i> = <i>Caretta</i> <i>Cm</i> = <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Lo</i> = <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> <i>Lk</i> = <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Size class (Main size class of the sea turtles interacting with the fishery)	Size of vessel (rank of vessels length, operating on this fishery) in meters	Estimated total number of vessels operating las year write unknown)	Method to obtain the information on bycatch	Expert (s) providing the information
Fishery	Target species scientific and common name	Name of specific fishing area.	Tick the most frequently captured <input type="checkbox"/> Dc <input type="checkbox"/> Ei <input type="checkbox"/> Lo <input type="checkbox"/> Cc <input type="checkbox"/> Lk	Write the species and class size impacted	Write a numeric rank in meters	Estimated total number of vessels operating last year	<input type="checkbox"/> On-board observers <input type="checkbox"/> Surveys at landing point <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Log book <input type="checkbox"/> No data is collected regarding sea turtle bycatch	
Fishery	Target species scientific and common name	Name of specific fishing area.	Tick the most frequently captured <input type="checkbox"/> Dc <input type="checkbox"/> Ei <input type="checkbox"/> Lo <input type="checkbox"/> Cc <input type="checkbox"/> Lk	Write the species and class size impacted	Write a numeric rank in meters	Estimated total number of vessels operating last year	<input type="checkbox"/> On-board observers <input type="checkbox"/> Surveys at landing point <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Log book <input type="checkbox"/> No data is collected regarding sea turtle bycatch	

Recommendations IAC Technical Documents – 18th Scientific Committee 2021

The CCE is invited to review the Technical Documents prepared by the IAC Scientific Committee and if appropriate suggest additional recommendations to be presented to IAC COP 10.2

Technical Document: CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.18 Best Practices to Monitor Sand Temperature on Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches

Link to document: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.18%20Temperature Best Practices ENG Final WEB 24jan2022.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.18%20Temperature%20Best%20Practices%20ENG%20Final%20WEB%2024jan2022.pdf)

Recommendations

1. Circulate the Technical Document CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.18 “Best Practices to Monitor Sand Temperature on Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches” with the IAC membership to help guide IAC Parties in their efforts to implement IAC Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R5 Adaptation of Sea Turtle Habitats to Climate Change, by studying the impacts of climate change on index nesting beaches.
2. For IAC member countries participating in the Climate Change Pilot Project (Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Dominican Republic, USA and Panama), it is recommended to use document CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.18 as guideline for temperature data collection.
3. For IAC member countries participating in the Pilot Project, it is recommended that each project should use similar temperature dataloggers and protocols, to increase consistency and comparability. Note that this may require replacement or re-purposing of equipment between years.

Technical Document: CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.19 IAC Index nesting beach data analysis (2009-2020)

Link to technical document: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.19 Index Beaches 2009-2021 4 Nov ENG Final WEB.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.19%20Index%20Beaches%202009-2021%204%20Nov%20ENG%20Final%20WEB.pdf)

Recommendations

1. The IAC Scientific Committee recommends that IAC Countries provide real number data rather than ranges for nesting beach abundance, as this is the best way to evaluate changes in population status. The IAC Secretariat should continue to encourage IAC countries to do so when filling out the information in the IAC Annual Report.
2. The IAC Secretariat should encourage each country to provide the methodology for how they arrived at their nesting abundance values. This may include a short description of how they collected data each year and if so, what changes in their techniques have taken place since the previous data report. In addition, it is encouraged that information is provided regarding the beginning, end, and peak months of the nesting season for each species at each beach. Any changes in monitoring effort at the beaches should be reported at the time that data are provided to IAC.

3. The IAC Scientific Committee recommends that countries report numbers of observed females or number of clutches, as these are the two most reliable data forms. Other data types such as estimated females or emergence/track counts based on incomplete survey effort should be avoided. See IAC Document [CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5](#) for more information.

4. The IAC Scientific Committee recommends that countries maintain consistency in the [index nesting beaches](#) for which data are reported each year. See IAC Document [CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5](#) for more information on how to select sea turtle index beaches. **IAC countries should report any changes to their list of index beaches to the IAC Secretariat to be noted in this report.**

5. The IAC Secretariat encourages all countries to provide data for all index beaches for each year. Provision of partial data or abundance counts that do not have a standardized collection technique should be avoided. See IAC Document [CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5](#) for more information. When no data or only partial data are provided for any given index site, the Reporting Countries should provide a clear explanation for why all data were not provided.

6. The IAC Scientific Committee recommends that an update to this Index Nesting Beach Report is prepared every 5 years, with a final report submitted upon completion to the IAC Consultative Committee and the Conference of the Parties. The next 5-year report is scheduled for 2023.

7. The IAC Scientific Committee recommends that the trend of green turtles in Galapagos (Ecuador), Isla Aves (Venezuela) and Tortuguero (Costa Rica) are observed closely, along with the conditions in foraging areas.

8. The IAC Scientific Committee recommends including a data field in the IAC Annual Report Part V nesting information, where countries clearly indicate the year when the nesting season started and finished.

Analysis of observer data regarding interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries of the IAC Parties (2020-2021)

Link to document: http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/comite-cientifico/18reunion/CIT-CC18-2021-Doc.11_Informe%20Final_CC18_WEB_Diciembre_2021.pdf

Recommendations

1. Request data from longline fisheries vessels less than 20 m in length in which observers participate in the IAC Annual Report Form.
2. Provide for easier comparisons in sea turtle bycatch patterns among countries by ensuring the consistent use of labels used to describe hook type and size. This may involve consolidating the use of hook type/size labels as presented in the IATTC hook catalog.
3. Include in the IAC Annual Report "Form to report interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries" a field to specify the length of the observed vessels divided in more than 20 and less than 20 m, and if it is the case indicate both. This will allow IAC Countries where there are observed longline fisheries to include their data from vessels of varied sizes to enrich future analyzes by the Scientific Committee. If this change is approved, it is recommended to remove the

word “industrial” from the form’s name, as well as request this information for the second half of 2022.

4. Urge countries with observed longline fisheries to provide information on interactions with sea turtles in the following IAC Annual Reports longline forms. This recommendation aims to strengthen the results of the interactions analyzes, and provide recommendations to support the implementation of the IAC Resolutions.

5. Request the IAC Party Countries to provide maps of their longline fishing fleet operation areas, which will be attached to this report to present it to the Consultative Committee and the COP.

6. We recommend to IAC countries reporting information in the long line fisheries section of the IAC Annual Report, to provide to the IAC Secretariat the maps with their polygons showing where your longline fishing fleet operates (format ArcGis). In case the country cannot prepare the maps, as an alternative we ask to provide the coordinates of the perimeter of the polygon, using the georeference WGS84. With this information, the IAC fisheries Working Group members from Mexico and Peru will prepare them.

7. The IAC Scientific Committee and its Fisheries WG recommend updating this report every five years to inform the Conference of Parties. The preliminary report will be presented to the COP10.2 in 2022, and the first complete report in 2024.

DRAFT TO BE PRESENTED TO IAC COP10.2

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission

Background

This proposal for a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was prepared by the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC). The format of this proposed MoU closely follows MOUs adopted by the IAC with other international bodies. The proposed MoU presents an opportunity for the IAC to formalize the technical collaboration with the Sargasso Sea Commission, taking into consideration that both bodies successfully worked together in the past and produced a technical document “Concept Note on the Importance of Sargassum and the Sargasso Sea for Atlantic Sea Turtles”. This Concept Note was prepared in the framework of the 7th Consultative Committee Meeting (2014), with the support of experts from the IAC Consultative Committee, and experts from the SSC.

This document contains edits and comments from USA delegation.

Recommendation to the IAC Consultative Committee:

1. The 15th CCE Meeting provides comments and suggestions focusing on the areas of collaboration to the draft proposed Memorandum of Understanding between IAC and SSC (attached as Annex I), and a recommendation regarding this draft proposal for consideration of the IAC Conference of the Parties COP10.2

Reference Document:

Concept Note on the Importance of Sargassum and the Sargasso Sea for Atlantic Sea Turtles

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/Mar-Sargasos-Tortugas%20Marinas-ing.pdf>

DRAFT

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by and between the Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (hereinafter “IAC”), and the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission (hereinafter “SSC”), jointly called “the Participants”;

WHEREAS, that the objective of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) is to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the IAC Parties;

WHEREAS, the mandate of the Sargasso Sea Commission, established pursuant to the 2014 Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea (the “Hamilton Declaration”) is to exercise a stewardship role for the Sargasso Sea and keep its health, productivity and resilience under continual review, in collaboration with all who share a vision for the protection of the marine ecosystem of the Sargasso Sea;

UNDERSTANDING that, based on the best available scientific data, species of sea turtles in the Americas are threatened or endangered and that some of these species could face an imminent risk of extinction;

AWARE that the feeding and other habitats of some sea turtle species coincide with areas in the Sargasso Sea that are within the geographical area of collaboration defined by the Hamilton Declaration and that those habitats may be subject to activities that could cause a negative impact on habitat conservation or negatively affect sea turtles from performing their unique role in marine ecosystems;

RECALLING that Article XII of the IAC text states that the IAC “Parties shall promote bilateral and multilateral cooperative activities to further the objective of this Convention”;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Sargasso Sea Commission is mandated to promote collaboration and to keep the health, productivity, and resilience of the high sea ecosystem of the Sargasso Sea under review and that it seeks, wherever appropriate, to cooperate with competent international or regional bodies;

NOTING that two of the Contracting Parties to the IAC are also Signatories to the Hamilton Declaration;

Considering the desire of both Participants to formalize their relationship for working together towards the conservation and sustainable use of sea areas containing habitats vital for sea turtles and to maintain such area’s biodiversity and health, both Participants undertake to strengthen their co-operation in the spirit of an efficient and effective partnership as follows:

I. Objective

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "Memorandum") is to provide a framework for collaboration in the work of the IAC and the Sargasso Sea Commission in order to promote, within their respective mandates, the more effective conservation of sea turtle species and the habitats that they utilize and upon which they depend, as well to promote the dissemination of the best available scientific information regarding their important ecosystem role.

II. Areas of Cooperation

The activities to be undertaken under this Memorandum will be set out in a joint work plan elaborated by both Secretariats and subject to applicable approvals. The work plan is to be reviewed to assess progress and make adjustments as needed and may, amongst others, include:

(a) Regular exchange of information on relevant activities and actions of the IAC and the Sargasso Sea Commission set out in the joint work plan that are of mutual interest and benefit as well as exchange of information, databases, and other materials to enable early detection of threats to sea turtles and to facilitate the necessary studies and analyses to identify measures for the mitigation of such threats, issues and needs;

(b) Cooperation and mutual support, where appropriate and practical, in the collection of data and relevant information; including activities such as:

- a. exchanging reports of meetings of relevance to each other;
- b. sharing relevant contacts for scientific research and training.

(c) Co-ordination and collaboration in the development of joint programs and projects on issue of mutual interest and concern, and working together to mobilize resources for implementing such programs and projects;

(d) Support each other in promotion, outreach, and communications activities of mutual interest;

(e) Informing, and inviting each other's participation, as appropriate, in scheduled meetings, studies, field visits to sites, the design, organization and carrying out of training programs, public awareness, education and information dissemination activities, and other activities to promote the awareness of the synergies between the work of the two bodies. The results of the joint collaborative activities carried out within the framework of this MOU may be published or used with the consent of the Participants.

III. Review, modification and discontinuation

The Memorandum may be reviewed at the request of either Participant. Any modification must be in writing by mutual decision of both Participants.

The Memorandum may be discontinued, unilaterally by either Participant upon giving advance notice of 90 days (3 months).

IV. Legal Status

This Memorandum is not intended to be binding under international law. Nothing in this Memorandum is intended to constitute a legal or financial obligation.

V. Disagreements

Both Participants intend to resolve, by mutual decision and negotiation any disagreement that may be generated in the interpretation and/or application of this Memorandum.

VI. Effective Date

This Memorandum is to take effect upon the date of the signatures of the Secretary of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Executive Secretary of the Sargasso Sea Commission.

Signed in duplicate in the English and Spanish languages at [location] on [date].

Secretary IAC

Executive Secretary SSC

Annex XI

CIT-CCE15-2022-Doc.12

CCE15 AGREEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the agreements and recommendations adopted at the 15th Meeting of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE15). The meeting was attended by delegates from 14 IAC countries (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. The observers from the governments of Canada, France, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and IAC accredited observers from the civil society as well as representatives from the Sargasso Sea Commission and the South Pacific Permanent Commission, also participated in this meeting.

Review of Resolutions proposals to present to the IAC COP10.2

Recommendations from the CCE15 on interactions between fisheries and sea turtles

Agreement 1: The CCE discussed the comments from Argentina to the proposed Resolution “Reduction of the adverse impacts of Fisheries” and prepared an alternative text to achieve consensus. It was agreed that the delegate from Argentina would send a response on the wording of the text in the tenth paragraph of the resolution, no later than March 10 to the CCE Chair and the Secretariat. Argentina’s answer was received with consensus on the proposed text.

Agreement 2: CCE15 adopted the proposed resolution “Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries” with the suggested edits added to the text. The CCE recommends that this resolution proposal is presented for consideration at the COP10.2.

Recommendations on the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle

Agreement 3: The Working Group comprised of Costa Rica, Mexico, Chile and the Coordinator of the EP Leatherback Task Force, would review the CCE's suggestions to the proposed Resolution Annex II, and send their modifications to this annex for a final review by the CCE no later than March 9, 2022. The Working Group sent its proposal to the CCE, which had no objections.

Agreement 4: The CCE15 adopted the proposed Resolution that modifies the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution and its Annex I. The adoption of Annex 2 will be carried out by email after consulting it with the members of the CCE no later than March 10 when this annex will be adopted. The CCE agrees on submitting this Resolution proposal for consideration at the COP 10.2.

Recommendations from the CCE15 on the Exceptions in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama

Agreement 5: The CCE15 adopted the proposed Resolutions for the exceptions in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama, including edits to the original text proposed by the Scientific Committee. The CCE recommends that these Resolutions proposals are presented for consideration at the COP10.2.

Agreement 6: The IAC Exceptions Working Group (members of the CCE and SC) will prepare a proposal of a form to assess, every five years, the exception management plan of the countries that have them. This activity will be included in the CCE Work Plan 2022-2023.

Review of the IAC Annual Report

Agreement 7: Together with the Scientific Committee, prepare the changes in the relevant sections of the 2023 IAC Annual Report, according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2 (Exceptions, fisheries and EP Leatherback). The objective is that the 2023 IAC Annual Report is updated according to the resolutions adopted at COP10.2. This activity will be included in the CCE Work Plan 2022-2023.

Recommendations from the Working Groups

Northwest Atlantic (NWA) Leatherback Working Group

Agreement 8: The CCE15 adopted the first draft of the Technical Document prepared by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback WG entitled: "*Known Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Recommendations to Collaborate on Leatherback Conservation in these Areas.*" The next steps recommended in the document will be included in the CCE Work Plan 2022-2023.

Agreement 9: The CCE members will review the information in the draft of the technical document and will share it with their national authorities to report to the WG, if in their countries there are protected areas important to this species that should be included in the document. The deadline for the Parties to submit their information is June 1, 2022.

Agreement 10: The NWA Leatherback Turtle WG will send the final version of the technical document to the CCE once the additional information from the IAC member countries has been received. The final version will be reviewed and adopted inter-sessions or at the CCE16.

Agreement 11: The CCE15 accepted the Canadian representative's request to participate as a member of the NWA Leatherback Turtle Working Group.

Agreement 12: the NWA Leatherback WG will seek out to collaborate with Ramsar within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding IAC-Ramsar, identifying how the IAC and the WG can provide information for the sea turtle component in Ramsar's sites management plans. It is proposed to organize a meeting with Ramsar Secretariat technicians and Ramsar Focal Points or their delegate, from the countries within the range of the NWA Leatherback to exchange experiences. The support offered by the delegation from the French Ministry of Environment and Biodiversity in facilitating this collaboration and the exchange of technical information with Ramsar is taken into account.

Artisanal Longline Fisheries Working Group

Agreement 13: The CCE15 agrees with the activities proposed by the artisanal longline fisheries WG to include them in the CCE work plan. The recommendations received from Mexico and Argentina regarding the survey on minimum fishing data will be considered in the analyzes of the Working Group. The WG will present its final document to the CCE16 in 2023.

Agreement 14: The members of the CCE will have until June 1, 2022 to submit the answers to the survey on minimum fishing data to the artisanal longline fisheries WG.

IAC Legal Working Group Report

The Parties members that wish to participate in the Legal Working Group will send an email to the CCE Chair and the Secretariat to request their inclusion.

Recommendation from the Scientific Committee Technical Documents

Agreement 15: The CCE15 acknowledges and adopts the recommendations from the Scientific Committee Technical Documents:

CIT-CC17-2020-Doc.7 Analysis of data from observers on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC countries

CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.18 Best Practices for Monitoring of Sand Temperature in Nesting Beaches

CIT-CC18-2021- Tec.19 Data analysis of IAC Index Nesting Beaches (2009-2020)

Updating of the CCE Work Plan 2022 – 2023

Agreement 16: The Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE15) agreed on including the Working Groups activities in the work plan that will be presented for consideration at COP10.2.

The activities to include are:

- 1) **EXCEPTIONS:** The IAC Exceptions Working Group (members of the CCE and SC) will prepare a proposal of a form to assess, every five years, the exception management plan of the countries that have them. *Expected result:* Form to assess Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala exception management plan every five years.
- 2) **IAC ANNUAL REPORT:** Together with the Scientific Committee, work in the modifications to the relevant sections of the 2023 IAC Annual Report, according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2. *Expected result:* 2023 IAC Annual Report is updated according to the resolutions adopted at COP10.2.
- 3) **COLLABORATION WITH ICCAT:** Identify topics to work jointly with ICCAT, and appoint a CCE representative as the IAC advisor regarding this RFMO (2022). *Expected result:* Advisor appointed and work topics identified.

Agreement 17: The CCE15 agreed on the need for a technical advisor to support the IAC Secretariat work with ICCAT. The CCE member's expressions of interest will be sent to the CCE Chair and the Secretariat no later than March 21, 2022. Brazil is interested and will consult internally to provide an answer on the established date. This invitation will be extended to the Scientific Committee to have an advisor from this Committee as well, and Dr. Bryan Wallace will be asked on the possibility for him to support the advisors with his experience.

- 4) **FUNDING SOURCES:** The CCE Chair proposes to COP10.2, support with an advisor from one of the countries to prepare a GEF proposal to fund IAC projects. *Objective:* to identify possible sources of funding to implement workshops on safe sea turtle handling and release in the IAC region.

Agreement 18: the CCE formed a Working Group to seek financial support, comprised by Chile (Paula Salinas). The CCE members' expressions of interest to join the WG will be sent to the CCE Chair and Secretariat no later than March 21, 2022.

- 5) COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTIONS: This Consultative Committee Working Group will prepare an analysis of compliance with the IAC Resolutions, based on the information reported by the IAC countries in their Annual Reports. *Expected result:* Report on the analysis of compliance with IAC Resolutions presented to the Consultative Committee CCE16 (2023)

Agreement 19: The CCE reactivated the Analysis of Resolutions Working Group comprised by Mexico (Vicente Guzman). The CCE members' expressions of interest to join the WG will be sent to the CCE Chair and Secretariat no later than March 21, 2022. The WG will present its report on resolutions compliance at the CCE16.

- 6) COMMUNICATION STRATEGY: Costa Rica will continue supporting the preparation of IAC audiovisual material in 2022-2023.

IAC Collaboration with International Organizations and Bodies

Recommendation on Memorandum of Understanding with the Sargasso Sea Commission

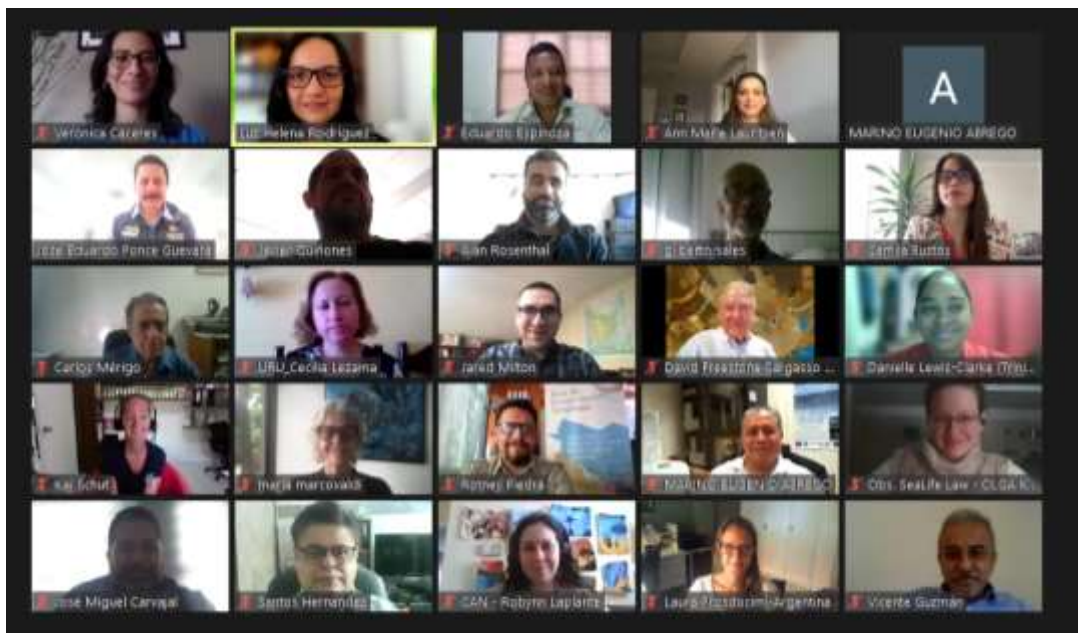
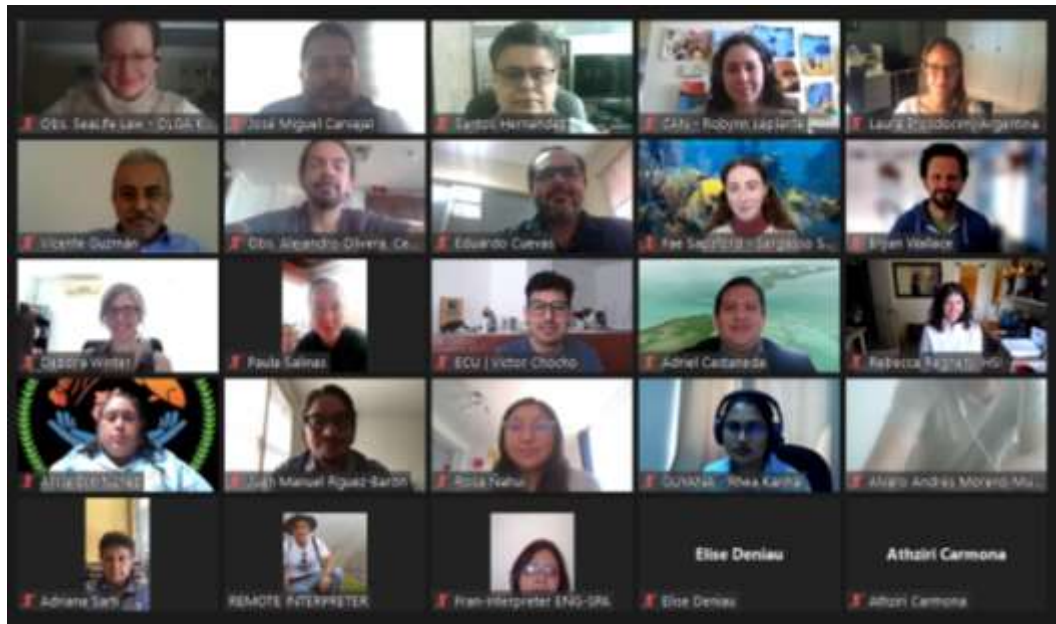
Agreement 20: The CCE15 added editions to the document presented by the SSC Directorate and adopted the proposal for an IAC-SSC Memorandum of Understanding. The CCE recommends that this proposal is presented for consideration at COP10.2.

Planning of next CCE16

Agreement: The next CCE16 meeting will be scheduled for March 2023.

Annex XII

Day 1 – 15th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts – March 3rd, 2022



Day 2 – 15^a Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts – March 4th, 2022

