



**Inter-American Convention for the Protection and
Sea Turtle Conservation**
16th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE16)
April 25-26th, 2023 – Videoconference

CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.7

Report of the 16th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE16)

Chair CCE16: Dr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara- Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP)-Mexico

Vice Chair CCE16: Biol. Eduardo Espinoza, Advisor – Dirección Nacional del Parque Nacional Galápagos.Ecuador

Rapporteur and Translation: Mrs. Haydeé Medina, IAC Secretariat Assistant

Opening of the Meeting

1. The sixteenth meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE16) of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), was held on April 25 and 26, 2023. The meeting was virtual using the platform Zoom Pro. The meeting began at 10:00 am Eastern time with the remarks from the IAC Secretary, Mrs. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro, who provided an outline for the Committee's work for the following days, and thanked the CCE Working Groups (WG) for the documents prepared in the inter-sessional period that will be reviewed at this meeting. Subsequently, the Chair of the CCE Dr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara welcomed the participants.

Presentation of the Participants and Adoption of the Agenda

2. The meeting was attended by CCE delegates from 15 IAC member countries representing Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, the Caribbean Netherlands, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay; as well as CCE Sectorial Members from the scientific community, industry and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Observers from the governments of Canada, Colombia, Trinidad & Tobago, France, Bermuda, and the Bahamas also attended. Within the framework of the Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), representatives of the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC), the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS), the SPAW Protocol and Stetson University were present, as well as the participation of observers accredited to the IAC for a total of 79 participants.

[\(Annex IA – List of Participants CIT-CCE16-2023- Inf.1\)](#).

3. The CCE adopted the agenda without changes. ([Annex IB-Agenda CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.1](#)).

Compliance with the Work Plan of the Consultative Committee 2022-2023, progress report and results

CCE Work Plan Implementation and Update of the CCE Work Plan

4. The Chair of the CCE, Dr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara, reported the status of implementation of the work plan of the CCE as of March 7th, 2023, the status of each activity in the CCE 2022 Work Plan was reported as follow: **completed, in process or no action**. ([Annex II – Report on the State of implementation of the CCE work plan, CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.2](#)). Subsequently, the CCE Work Plan

was updated with discussion and agreement in plenary to include the new activities to be carried out in 2023-2024. ([Annex III-Update of the CCE Work Plan 2023-2024, CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.3](#)).

5. The Chair of the CCE emphasized the importance and need to approve at this meeting the questionnaire with new questions for the IAC Annual Report to follow up on the implementation of the Resolution on the Reduction of the Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles and the Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific (EP) Leatherback. Dr. Ponce Guevara added that these resolutions were discussed for the last 2 years at the Consultative Committee (CCE) and Scientific Committee (SC) of the IAC. The questionnaire for the Annual Report to address these Resolutions was prepared by both Committees, it was discussed in meetings, taking into account comments in each review round, strengthening the proposal. However, it has not been adopted at past CCE and SC meetings, therefore, he asked to make an effort at this meeting for adoption.

6. On the issue of progress with implementation of IAC Parties submitting their IAC Annual Report, the Chair of the CCE reminded delegates the importance of compliance with this mandate; highlighting that in 2022 only 10 out of 16 countries presented their reports. He asked delegates to communicate with their National Focal Points to remind them of this responsibility in an attempt that this year 100% of the Annual Reports are submitted to the IAC Secretariat reported.

7. The Chair of the CCE asked the Committee to review the preliminary document prepared by Stetson University **CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.6 “ANALYSIS OF IAC ANNUAL REPORTS 2015 – 2022”**, with the evaluation of how Parties report their compliance with IAC resolutions, which will be presented at the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11-2024), as it is a document that contains relevant information from the countries that will show them their progress and compliance with the resolutions. The CCE was encouraged to provide feedback and comments to support the Stetson University team that is preparing the document under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the IAC.

8. The Chair of the CCE provided the opportunity for the Committee to comment on the progress report and Work Plan presented.

9. Regarding the issue of identifying funding sources for projects, the delegate of the Industry Sector of the CCE, Ms. Nina Pardo from Peru, asked to be included as a member of the Fundraising for Projects Working Group (WG), in Peru she is working closely with the industry to improve best practices for handling and releasing of sea turtles; with international NGOs and IMARPE in the area of fundraising. The plenary reached an agreement on this point that is included in another section of this report.

10. Regarding the topic of supporting the increase in IAC membership, the delegate of the NGO Sector of the CCE, Dr. Diego Amorocho, recognized the participation of the Colombian delegation in this meeting and asked the delegation of the Government of Colombia to take the pertinent steps to join the IAC. Dr. Amorocho encouraged the Government of Colombia, and in collaboration with the CCE, and himself offered his support as a sectoral member of the CCE, to take action and help Colombia to finally become a member country of the IAC; especially considering the efforts and progress that have been made in recent years.

11. The delegate from France, Ms. Lyna Muller of the French Biodiversity Agency wrote a comment in the meeting chat expressing how excited they are to announce that France has submitted the documents to request ratification of the IAC. She mentioned that they had the opportunity to show

their commitment and good intentions to join the IAC at IMPAC5 event in Vancouver, Canada, in which the IAC Secretary, MSc. Verónica Cáceres participated. Although they keep their enthusiasm and interest, they stressed that ratification procedures and administrative processes related to European institutions and their parliamentary procedures take time. However, they stated that no matter how long it takes for the signing, they will do their best to get the approval of the European Union. Ms. Muller apologized for connectivity difficulties and other previous commitments and informed that, the next day, Ms. Mathilde Lasfargue will attend the meeting in her place, along with other members of the French delegation.

12. The IAC Secretary added to the previous information that in February 2023 the IAC Secretariat received the official letter from the Government of France from the French Ambassador to Canada, the letter contains France intention to ratify the Sea Turtle Convention, in the near future. The IAC Secretary explained that with this official letter shows that the process is ongoing at the level of the Ministry of the Environment and the French Foreign Ministry to present the documentation to their parliament and so that the ratification process can take place. She stressed that IAC is very happy with the progress and the work that has been carried out with our colleagues from France, since it has been a negotiation that has taken more than 10 years and that we hope we will finalize it in the near future.

Recommendations of the 19th Meeting of the Scientific Committee

13. The Chair of the IAC Scientific Committee (SC), Ms. Leslie Camila Bustos, presented the recommendations of SC19 that took place in November 2022, with the participation of 56 members from 14 IAC Party Countries. She thanked the support of the members of 7 working groups who convened more than 20 meetings during the inter-sessional period, the results of the work are the documents presented at this CCE meeting. The 2023 SC Work Plan has 23 activities at different levels of progress.

14. The Chair of the SC focused on the activities that have the goal of preparing technical documents, those are as follows: the recommendations on interactions of sea turtles with industrial longline fisheries and the collection of data that the countries are reporting in the IAC Report Annual 2020, the result is that each year this data is included in a database in order to prepare a technical document. The first analysis with information for 5 years should be presented to the IAC Parties in 2026 using the information from the IAC Annual Reports (2020-2025). Ms. Bustos highlighted the great work of the Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee, Ing. Heriberto Santana and his team who are in charge of preparing this technical document. She emphasized that this is a good example of what IAC can achieve by receiving and analyzing data from all countries.

15. Regarding the preparation of the IAC Manual for the safe handling and release of sea turtles onboard fishing vessels, she mentioned that there is a draft document prepared with the outline and contents of the manual that were taken from the review of the available literature, the next step is the graphic design with the illustrations and the decision regarding how to handle authorship of the manual.

16. SC19 reviewed and validated the list of nesting index beaches for inclusion in the 2023 IAC Annual Report for the countries reporting data used to update the IAC index beach report every five years.

17. The Chair of the SC highlighted the relevance of the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation with Stetson University that took place in the framework of the SC19 meeting, as a valuable opportunity for the Institute of Biodiversity of the Faculty of Law from Stetson University to continue to support the IAC on issues that require legal expertise, research assistance; and as a venue for meetings of the Convention.

18. Regarding recommendations to the CCE16, the Chair of the SC shared the following: The Exceptions Working Group submitted for consideration to the CCE16 the format with the matrix to evaluate the Management Plan of the Exceptions (MPE) for Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala. It was recognized that Costa Rica already has an approved Management Plan (MPE), Panama submitted its MPE for SC review, and received comments from this review, and Guatemala is expected to present a draft MPE in May 2023.

19. The Fisheries Working Group recommended the SC19 not to make changes to the IAC Annual Report questionnaire for 2023 regarding new questions for the fisheries Resolution. There was a rich discussion at SC19 regarding the proposed questionnaire to follow up with the new resolution CIT-COP10-2022 -R7 (Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles) adopted at COP10. The WG prepared a proposal of questionnaire for CCE16 that is being considered at this meeting for adoption. The goal is to have a single format for collecting fisheries information that includes the fisheries interaction information to follow up the EP Leatherback resolution, CIT-COP10-2022-R6.

20. The SC19 partially adopted the questionnaire to be included in the IAC Annual Report, related to the EP Leatherback Resolution, CIT-COP10-2022-R6. The fisheries data collection section of the questionnaire was left pending, the rationale if that this section is connected with the Fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 that was mentioned in the previous point. The Chair of the SC highlighted the importance for the discussion of these issues to be resolved with the approval of the questionnaire so that the collection of information on the fisheries and their interaction with sea turtles can begin in 2024.

21. The Chair of the SC highlighted that many of the issues that presented for consideration at CCE16 are the result of a very rich teamwork, in the Exceptions WG, EP Leatherback WG and Fisheries WG that are made up of members of both Committees. The agreements and recommendations of SC19 can be found in the Report of the 19th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the IAC (CC19)-Annex XI-Agreements and Recommendations of the SC19 meeting pages 70-73.

Exceptions

Proposal: Matrix to Evaluate the Management Plan for Exceptions to Implement the Measures of Article IV (3a & b) regarding Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panamá.

22. The representative of the Exceptions Working Group (Exceptions WG), Dr. Marino Abrego, delegate of Panama presented the document CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.4 “*Matrix to Evaluate the Management Plan for Exceptions to Implement the Measures of Article IV (3a & b) regarding Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panamá*”, on behalf of the Exceptions WG Coordinators, Mrs. Airam López (Guatemala) and Dr. Didiher Chacón (Costa Rica), who could not be present during the first day of the meeting.

23. Dr. Ábrego mentioned the document was prepared by the Exceptions WG (SC and CCE) comprised of: Dr. Didiher Chacón, Mrs. Airam López, Mrs. Cecilia Baptistotte, Mrs. Julia Horrocks, Mrs. Adriana Laura Sarti and himself. He highlighted that the matrix of indicators for the Exceptions of Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama that we will be discussing was prepared based on a proposal presented at the 19th Meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2022, and addresses the mandate of the SC and CCE given in the Resolutions of Exceptions for each country. The comments of the members of the CCE to the document CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.4 were presented to the plenary.

24. The comments from the United States were reviewed. The delegate from the United States, Mrs. Ann Marie Lauritsen explained her country's position, suggesting the language contained in the text of the Convention must be maintained and used in the Exception Evaluation Matrix, by doing this, the reasons why exceptions are established in the countries to satisfy the economic subsistence of traditional communities are preserved. The delegate of Costa Rica agreed with the suggestion.

25. The Exceptions WG delegates from Panama, Costa Rica, and Mexico provided clarification to some comments. The CCE requested further clarification from the Exception WG coordinators, Mrs. Airam López and the Dr. Didiher Chacon. It was agreed to send the queries to the Exceptions WG to be addressed on the second day of the meeting.

26. On the second day of the meeting, the Co-coordinator of the Exceptions WG, Dr. Didiher Chacón presented the changes done to the document, based on comments from the United States and Costa Rica, the reference to the language of Exceptions in the text of the Convention and references to the Exception Resolutions were included. He recalled that the objective of the matrix is to determine the indicators to evaluate the Exception Management Plans, indicating that these may be different for each country and, therefore, the indicators do not apply equally to all. The Exceptions WG will review the edits made in plenary and prepare the clean and final version to share with the CCE for approval.

27. The delegate of the United States thanked the WG for the effort to improve the language in the document to ensure that the Exception Resolutions are in line with their meaning and that there is a way to follow up on the Management Plan of each exception. She mentioned that the changes made provided clarification to her comments and questions.

Agreement 1: The Exception Working Group (Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) and Scientific Committee (SC) will have 10 days from April 27th to prepare a final version of the document *CIT-CCE16-2023.Doc.4 “Matrix to Evaluate the Management Plan for Exceptions to Implement the Measures of Article IV (3a & b) regarding Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of Lepidochelys olivacea eggs in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panamá”*. The document CIT-CCE16-2023.Doc.4 will be shared with the CCE and SC with 20 days for revision and adoption via email no later than June 8th, 2023.

The IAC Secretariat will send the adopted document to the Focal Points from Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama to be used to prepare their reports regarding the Implementation of the Exception Management Plan, according to each country Resolution. ([Annex IV- Document CIT-CCE16-2023.Doc.4](#))

Agreement 2: The IAC Exceptions WG (CCE and SC members) will provide Guatemala recommendations to their Exception Management Plan, when the Guatemala Focal Point request it and as appropriate. This activity will be included in the CCE Work Plan 2023.

INTERACTIONS WITH FISHERIES AND SEA TURTLES

Results of the characterization of artisanal fisheries that interact with sea turtles in the IAC countries

28. The results of the characterization of artisanal fisheries that interact with sea turtles in the IAC countries were not presented by the Coordinator of the Fisheries Working Group (Fisheries WG).

29. Dr. Gilberto Sales, Fisheries WG Coordinator, informed the plenary of his appointment to a new position in the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment and, therefore, he will not continue coordinating the CCE Fisheries WG. Dr. Sales will consult with the Focal Point of Brazil to determine who will be his replacement at the CCE.

30. Regarding the Fisheries WG, Dr. Sales indicated that Dr. João Luiz will continue to participate in the WG, as well as Dr. Bruno Giffonii from the Pro Tamar Foundation. He will consult with the Fisheries WG and will notify the IAC Secretariat who will be the new Coordinator of the CCE Fisheries WG.

31. Dr. Sales mentioned the work done with the Fisheries WG during the last year, which was the collaboration with the EP Leatherback WG in the review of the fisheries questionnaire for the IAC Annual Report. He said thanked the CCE for the time shared as a member of the IAC and he hopes to collaborate again in the future.

32. The Chair of the CCE, the Chair of the SC, the Secretary and the delegates: Rotney Piedra, Paula Salinas among others, thanked Dr. Sales for his leadership in the Fisheries WG, his contributions and his advice to the CCE. They expressed gratitude for the time shared, their best wishes and the hopes to meet again.

IAC ANNUAL REPORT

Proposal of the Fisheries WG and EP Leatherback WG on the questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the Resolution on Adverse Impacts of Fisheries in the IAC Annual Report.

33. The discussion of the document CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.5 "*Questionnaire to follow up the implementation of the Resolution regarding the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7 to be included in the IAC Annual Report*" began presenting a proposed questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the Resolution on Adverse Impacts of Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7. Dr. Bryan Wallace, CCE Scientific Sector Delegate and Coordinator of the EP Leatherback Working Group (EP Leatherback WG) presented the document, mentioning that he provided his support in the preparation of the version that is for consideration at CCE16. The questionnaire resulted from the collaboration of 2 working groups: Fisheries and EP Leatherback.

34. Dr. Wallace explained the background of the questionnaire presented for the first time in 2022, the Fisheries and EP Leatherback Working Groups drafted two questionnaires to follow up on the implementation of two (2) Resolutions: CIT -COP10-2022-R7 and CIT-COP10-2022-R5 regarding

fisheries and EP Leatherback adopted at COP10 in Panama. Both questionnaires were reviewed by the 19th Meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2022, where the EP Leatherback Resolution questionnaire was partially adopted, except and pending the fisheries section, and the Fisheries Resolution questionnaire had many comments and was not adopted. As both questionnaires have many similarities, especially on how to assess the implementation of conservation measures for sea turtles related to fisheries, the IAC Secretariat requested a review of the questionnaires to find a way to integrate both into one. For the CCE16 meeting, a single questionnaire is presented that seeks to unify information, and respond to both resolutions mentioned above.

35. Dr. Wallace mentioned that the EP Leatherback WG evaluated the compliance with the IAC resolutions based on data from the IAC Annual Report, this evaluation showed that not enough information is reported, recognizing the need to request additional information from Member Countries to better assess the level of compliance with the resolutions. On the other hand, it was recognized that requesting more information increases the risk of having fewer Annual Reports submitted due to the work/time required to gather the requested information.

36. The WG prepared a questionnaire seeking the balance between too little and too much information, recognizing that as the years go by and the Convention grows, resolutions will continue to be approved; therefore, the information requirements to assess compliance will also grow. Under these considerations, this questionnaire seeks to find the balance and efficiency for those who complete the IAC Annual Reports.

37. Dr. Wallace recognized the efforts of the members involved in the preparation of the questionnaire, both the Consultative Committee of Experts and the Scientific Committee, members of the WG of Fisheries and EP Leatherback, these are: Dr. Gilberto Sales -Chico Méndes Institute for the Conservation of Biodiversity-Brazil; MSc. Cecilia Lezama-National Directorate of Aquatic Resources of the Ministry of, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay; MSc. Paula Salinas, CCE delegate from Chile, Lic. João Luiz Camargo-Centro Tamar/ ICMbio from Brazil; Dr. Heriberto Santana, SC delegate from Mexico; Dra. Laura Sarti CONANP member of the delegation from Mexico to CCE; Eng. Lezlie Camila Bustos-Subsecretary of Fisheries and delegate from Chile and Chair of the SC, and Dra. Victoria González Carman -Institute of Marine and Coastal Research (UNMdP -CONICET) and SC delegate from Argentina.

38. The fisheries questionnaire was reviewed at the plenary, taking into account the comments of the delegations of the United States, Chile and Argentina.

39. United States delegate pointed out that the Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 requests information from the Parties, but does not specify how the information requested in the Annual Report will be analyzed by the Scientific and Consultative Committees; or how it will provide information on the progress of the resolutions over time. Dr. Wallace recalled that the objective of the questionnaire is to address each of the measures in the Resolution, the questions will allow them to be evaluated and not lose essential information that must be collected in such a way that, when the Consultative Committee needs to evaluate the implementation of each one of the resolutions, this will be possible. In addition, the questionnaire will establish a baseline of information from the IAC Parties necessary to assess compliance with the conservation measures, especially with information on mitigation of threats from the interaction of fisheries and sea turtles.

40. The delegate from Uruguay, Mrs. Cecilia Lezama commented that the approach of both working groups was to comply with the two resolutions, fisheries and EP Leatherback, but that it has not been

discussed what subsequent analysis will be done with that information, and who will be the working group that evaluates the information from the Annual Reports of each country. However, she added that simplified information is requested to facilitate the work of the IAC Focal Points, without losing sight of the requirements of the Resolutions that were approved at COP10.

41. The United States delegation requested in the first question of the questionnaire to be more specific on which fisheries should be reported in the Annual Report. Both Dr. Wallace and the delegate from Chile, Ms. Lezlie Bustos, expressed that the intention of the WG is to leave the question open for countries to select, given that each country has different fisheries, and thus, each country should indicate which of their fisheries have interactions with turtles in their country. If there is a need to be very specific, there is a risk that certain fisheries will not be taken into account by the established parameters. The delegate from Uruguay stated that initially it had been proposed to request the five (5) fisheries with the greatest interactions with sea turtles; she understands the concerns of a country with fisheries as diverse as the United States. However, the decision was to leave it open, so that each country decides which fisheries to include, taking as a premise the definitions of fishery that was provided as baseline in the questionnaire.

42. In reference to the comments from Chile and Argentina, regarding to define the metric of the average size of the vessels and the estimated total number of fishing days/vessel, the Chair of the SC mentioned that for her country, the size of fishing vessel capacity or the average days of fishing trips will help them report. Regarding the average size, she suggested that the length be used as a metric for vessels and that the separation of 12 miles be made to define the coastal fishing zone from the oceanic. It was agreed to include these editions in the questionnaire. The delegate from Uruguay, regarding the effective fishing days and fishing effort, mentioned that it will depend on the information to which each country has access. Ideally, it would measure the fishing effort in effective fishing days, but if that is not available to the countries, then each country should use the one that best suits the type of fishery reported.

43. Mexico's delegation shared a thought that the collection of information from this questionnaire should be focused on using the information to find out how fisheries affect turtles and what we can do to mitigate their effects.

44. The delegate from Ecuador, Dr. Víctor Chocho, mentioned his concerns about the new information that is going to be requested means for Ecuador, since the information that is already being requested in the IAC Annual Report is already very difficult to provide due to their need to implement some actions in the country. He considers that the information requested on fisheries is very specific and could only be provided for certain industrial fisheries that have onboard observers. However, for artisanal fisheries Ecuador does not collect any type of information. The delegate understands that Ecuador, can decide which are the fisheries of which they will report.

45. Dr. Wallace understands the challenge of data collection, especially for small-scale fishing fleets. He recalled that there is a binding Resolution adopted by IAC Parties, and we are looking for a middle ground, since much more information can be requested regarding fisheries; however, the focus was the minimum information necessary to assess the impacts of the fisheries on turtles and how they are changing with the implementation of the resolutions. For this reason, the WG recommended the use of intervals and not exact numbers in the questionnaire to improve data collection, in monitoring and conservation actions.

46. The Chair of the SC asked the CCE to take the opportunity to approve the questionnaire at this meeting. She recognized that at the start the questionnaire was complex and had a lot of information, however this new version is simpler. Ms. Bustos recalled that 5 years have passed since the approval of the first resolution of the EP Leatherback, and the evaluation of the WG was that there was not enough data. Therefore, now the aim is to evaluate whether the implemented measures and the resources that the countries allocate to incidental capture or other problems are actually having an impact, and if not, from the data we can see what fisheries countries have in common and thus, with the limited resources available, these can be focused to support sea turtles. She reminded the plenary that an effort is already being made by Parties to provide information on longline fisheries in the IAC Annual Report, and therefore, it is worth trying this new questionnaire that can help obtain better evaluation of the measures.

47. The Chair of the CCE reflected upon the amount of time this questionnaire has been evaluated and understands that for some countries it will be a challenge, but it is necessary to put it into practice, because the issue of bycatch is a very sensitive issue for sea turtles. If we do not have the information, it will be difficult to follow up on the resolutions proposed by the Convention. On the other hand, if there is no information from some countries, it is as an opportunity to see how to support those countries that cannot have records and the reasons that make it difficult.

48. It was agreed that a working group made up of Ms. Paula Salinas, Ms. Cecilia Lezama, Dr. Wallace, Ms. Nina Pardo, Dr. Marino Ábrego and the IAC Secretariat will continue to make final edits to address the comments made during the first day of the meeting.

49. On the second day of the CCE meeting, Dr. Bryan Wallace presented the WG's proposed changes to the fisheries questionnaire in response to comments from the United States, Chile and Argentina. These are explained in the following paragraphs. Regarding the question from the United States (paragraph 39) about how often the information from the fisheries questionnaire will be analyzed, the answer is that the two (2) resolutions indicate that the working groups in conjunction with the members of the CCE and SC, will prepare a report every 5 years based on the information received in the IAC Annual Report.

50. In response to the concern presented by Ecuador (paragraph 44), the following text was included in the instructions section: "*If the requested information is not available, the option "ND" or "no data" can be selected, and in this way emphasize the information that the countries can report.*"

51. Regarding the comment from the United States (paragraph 41) on selection of fisheries with the greatest impacts on sea turtles in each country, the WG kept the recommendation to leave the question open, and after reviewing the EP Leatherback Resolution, the instructions were modified as followed: "*Fill out in each of the rows of the following table, the fisheries with the highest known or expected interactions with sea turtles in your country, including those with the highest number of interactions and/or interactions with critically endangered species and indicate with an (x) which species of sea turtles...*". Thus, countries can request information on their fisheries and define more broadly what they mean by the most relevant fisheries or those with the greatest impacts. Countries can present information on those fisheries with many interactions, or those that have few interactions, but with very rare and critically endangered species such as the EP Leatherback.

52. In section 3 of the questionnaire, changes suggested by the United States were made, recalling that the mitigation measures included in the questionnaire are those established in the resolutions to assess their level of implementation. A clarification was made in the questionnaire instructions to

indicate if the measure *does not apply* or if *it is not implemented*. The request for information on the fishery to which the mitigation measure applies and the percentage of the fleet related to that fishery was added.

53 The United States delegation commented that there is no agreement on the definition of “*large circle hook*” and therefore requested that it be called “*circle hooks*” in the questionnaire. This was included in the questionnaire.

54. In the section on training in best practices for the handling and release of sea turtles, it was discussed whether it was necessary to include the percentage of people receiving the training. The WG concluded that they prefer to use the total number of people trained, since this can change annually, and the percentage would not provide sufficiently refined information. The frequency of training was also included.

55. In the stranding section, the need to use the percentage of shoreline monitored as a metric was discussed. It was decided to leave the question open because the countries that have a systematic registry will be able to provide this information, but those that do not have a systematic registry will not be able to. The United States contributed to this by saying that the suggestion presented was to include some measure of effort vs. area covered, understanding that in some cases, linear measurements on beaches are not possible but that it is important to include some metric that can differentiate between effort and covered area.

56. The United States delegation thanked the WG for the efforts made to address their comments and took the opportunity to share that their colleagues from NOAA asked how the information requested in the questionnaire will be used. The WG's response is that it will be used to monitor and present progress on the resolution every 5 years, this will not be a detailed analysis at the moment. It is expected that in the future with more information, more details could be included in the report. The delegate from the United States, referring to the comment in section 1.1 of the questionnaire to leave the question open regarding the fisheries that most interact with turtles, mentioned that, although she understood the reasoning behind the WG decision, the decision, together with their colleagues from NOAA, is e to internally evaluate which fisheries they will report on.

57. The delegate from Argentina Ms. Débora Winter thanked the members of the WG for the effort made to address her comments.

58. After no more interventions, the Chair of the CCE, proposed that the fishery questionnaire should follow the same process as the Exceptions document, and the agreement was taken.

Agreement 3: The WG will have 10 days to make final edits beginning on April 27th, and prepare the final revision of the document *CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.5 “Questionnaire to follow up the implementation of the Resolution regarding the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7 to be included in the IAC Annual Report”*. The CCE and SC will have 20 days for revision and adoption of this document via email, no later than June 1st, 2023. If this cannot be adopted by SC, the document will be presented at the SC meeting SC20 in 2023.

The adopted questionnaire will be included in the IAC Annual Report at the latest in 2025. ([Annex V-Document: CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.5](#))

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK

Presentation of technical document CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20 “Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas.”

59. The delegate from the United States, Mrs. Ann Marie Lauritsen, Coordinator of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback WG, thanked her WG colleagues for their support: Dr. Olga Koubrak from SeaLife Law, Ms. Robynn Laplante from the Government of Canada and Dr. Didiher Chacón SC member from Costa Rica for their contributions in the preparation of the technical document. The technical document prepared by the WG was shared with the CCE in 2022 and 2023. Editions were received and included in the final version.

60. Ms. Olga Koubrak reported that the WG was created under resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R2, which urges Party and Non-Party Countries to increase conservation efforts for the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback turtle. The activities focused on communicating with the Governments of Canada, Guyana, French Guyana (France), Trinidad & Tobago and Suriname, the critical situation of the population of the species and encouraging their participation in the work of the IAC through the Scientific and Consultative Committees. Another task was to prepare a technical document identifying new critical areas for the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback turtle and recommending Parties to consider the protection of these areas.

61. To follow up with the activities, there is another WG for Outreach to Non-Party Countries of the IAC whose members are: representatives of NGOs and the Governments of Suriname, Guyana, Canada, French Guyana, the United States, WIDECAST, WWF, Sealife Law and the IAC. The WG met 6 times since it was organized in 2021. As a result of the efforts t activities have been carried out to promote accession to the IAC (Canada, France and Trinidad & Tobago) and collaborations with RAMSAR and SPAW.

62. The WG reported with enthusiasm that Canada has increased its participation with the IAC (SC, CCE and COP) and are considering joining the Convention. Similarly, Trinidad & Tobago has increased its participation in Convention committees and is considering membership. France has taken action by delivering an official letter to the IAC Secretariat in February 2023 to formalize its intention to join the Convention. There is no reply from Guyana and Suriname.

63. Regarding the progress with International Organizations, MoUs have been signed with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the RAMSAR Wetland Convention and with the Sargasso Sea Commission. Conversations for the renewal of the MoU with the SPAW Protocol, has begun.

64. The WG Coordinator described the technical document in review by the CCE for this meeting. The WG, with members from the United States, Canada, WWF, SeaLife Law and the IAC, met every two months since 2021 to identify areas of high use (nesting, feeding or migration) of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback through scientific references. The result is a map with areas of convergence between marine protected areas and internationally protected areas that are within the range of distribution of the species.

65. The technical document highlights the importance of the areas adjacent to nesting beaches and their relevance in protection to reduce threats. Areas of importance for migration are shown on the map which include marine protected areas within the range of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback turtle. The work of the WG shows the few places of convergence between these two areas of high

use, emphasizing the opportunities to increase these sites of convergence and protection, such as in the Mediterranean (off the coasts of Spain and Africa). This work highlights the importance for the IAC to forge alliances beyond the borders of our Countries Members. The map includes international protection areas such as: ICCAT, IUCN green list, Marine Protected Areas, OSPAR, RAMSAR, SPAW Protocol and SPAMIs. These areas have different conservation purposes and not necessarily for the direct protection and reduction of threats to the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback turtle, which indicates opportunities to increase protection, through collaborations with organizations such as ICCAT, whose area of impact converges with the range of distribution of this species; as well as collaborations with the SPAW Protocol and the Sargasso Sea Commission.

66. The findings in the technical document, are that many of the high-use areas are currently not being protected; and that a significant number of areas are located on the high seas outside the jurisdiction and access to IAC Party Countries. Existing protected areas do not cover enough high-use areas to address threats on nesting beaches and in the water, highlights the importance of collaboration with other international organizations to reduce bycatch and increase protection within the range of the species with mechanisms such as Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). For details on the findings, recommendations, look at the maps, you can access the technical document [CIT-CCE16-2023.Tec20](#) on the IAC website.

67. The Ms. Robynn LaPlante, delegate from the Government of Canada and member of the working group, thanked for the opportunity to participate in the WG and highlighted the leadership of the WG Coordinator and the great effort of all the members.

68. Dr. Wallace highlighted the quantity and quality of the work carried out and the clear vision of the tasks and strategy to achieve them. This is an example for other WGs of how much can be achieved. He made himself available to support the group. Mrs. Ann Marie Lauritsen appreciated Dr. Wallace's willingness to collaborate with this group, especially when they begin working with ICCAT given his previous experience with the IATTC.

Agreement 4: The CCE adopted the technical document [CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20](#) “**Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas.**” Recommendations will be presented at the COP11-2024.

69. The IAC Secretary consulted the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback WG, if they will be interested in working with the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC) and identify activities for a joint work plan, as that the area of action of the SSC is within the range of distribution of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback. This proposal was presented with the spirit of reducing the need to create a new working group and rather, taking advantage of those that are in place. The WG coordinator, after consulting with its members, accepted to include this activity for collaboration with SSC.

Agreement 5: the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback WG will prepare with the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC) a list of possible activities to be implemented within the MoU. Participants from SSC are: Dr. David Freestone (Executive Secretary), Ms. Fae Sapsford (SSC Secretary Assistant) and Dr. David Vousten (CFA from the GEF project). This activity will be included in the CCE Work Plan. ([Annex VI - Document CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20](#))

FUNDING SOURCES FOR PROJECTS

Research on sources to finance training on good practices for best practices for handling and release of sea turtles.

70. The CCE delegate from Chile, Mrs. Paula Salinas, presented the activities of the WG for Fundraising for Projects. The focus of the WG is to seek financial resources for projects this is an activity included in the work plan of the CCE for 2022 -2024. There is only one person in the WG, therefore it was not feasible to discuss the possibility to prepare a proposal to apply for a GEF project. GEF project requires hiring a consultant to prepare a pre-proposal and there are no funds available at the IAC to do this. The new recommendation for this WG is to focus on small projects that already have a draft proposal prepared by the CCE working groups.

71. Following up on the previous recommendation, the WG Coordinator suggested to prioritize the projects agreed by the CCE in 2021-2022, the Chile-Peru pilot project: *“Standardization of formats to report sea turtles’ bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in Southern Peru and Northern Chile”* its objective is to generate standardized baseline information on the bycatch of sea turtles, through the implementation of self-reporting forms with the fishing sector. The WG members for the pilot project, Chile and Peru, are currently preparing the budget.

72. The search for funding sources for small projects will be accomplished through alliances with other organizations and MoUs, public and private funds, among others, and the progress of the WG will be provided when there are activities to report.

73. Dr. Cristian Martis, Regional Technical Coordinator of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South Pacific of the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS) participating as an observer at CCE16 within the framework of the IAC-CPPS MoU expressed that Ms. Salinas' presentation was attractive idea and invited her to look for opportunities to join efforts between both entities to make more efficient use of the resources that each of the countries has and avoid duplication. He mentioned that the Blue Five Project with Germany, which integrates sea turtle issues, would be an interesting proposal to achieve cross functional integration of the work and take advantage of the funds and opportunities that derive from it. The Chair of the SC, Ms. Lezlie Bustos, suggested, to convene a meeting with CPPS to prepare a work plan and make more efficient use of resources and to integrate more countries.

74. The Mrs. Paula Salinas emphasized that the challenge will be to continue with one member in the WG and invited the CCE to join the Working group for fundraising for small projects.

75. Mrs. Nina Pardo (CCE Productive Sector), Dr. Luis Fonseca of Costa Rica Por Siempre (CCE NGO Sector) and Dr. Rotney Piedra, CCE delegate from Costa Rica, joined the Fundraising for Small Projects WG. Also, the CCE Chair offered his support to this WG. Dr. Piedra suggested a meeting with the Legal WG to define how they can integrate financing issues between both groups.

Fundraising for Small Projects WG Agreements:

Agreement 6: The members of the fundraising working group (CCE) are Paula Salinas-Delegate from Chile of the CCE (Coordinator), Nina Pardo- (Productive Sector), Luis Fonseca-Costa Rica por Siempre (NGO Sector), Rotney Piedra-delegate from Costa Rica of the CCE and the CCE Chair. The working group will present updates based upon results from the period 2023-2024 at the CCE17 2024.

Agreement 7: The WG will focus in fundraising to implement the pilot project “*Standardization of formats to report sea turtles’ bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in Southern Peru and Northern Chile*”. Progress report will be presented as needed.

Agreement 8: Once the budget for the Chile-Peru pilot Project is defined, the WG will convene a meeting with the Coordination for the Action Plan of the CPPS to evaluate possible synergies and search for collaborations within the framework of the MoU.

Agreement 9: Convene a meeting of the Fundraising WG and the IAC Legal WG to identify activities that can be addressed as one, avoiding duplication of efforts and to define a work plan related to financial support for IAC operations and projects. The meeting will be convened no later than December 2023.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SARGASSO SEA COMMISSION (SSC)

Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC)

76. The signing ceremony of the IAC-SSC Memorandum of Understanding was held on April 26th, 2023 on the second day of the CCE16 Meeting. The ceremony began with the introductions and welcome remarks from the IAC Secretary to the representatives of the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC).

77. Dr. David Freestone, Executive Secretary of the SSC, introduced his colleagues: Hon. Walter Roban-Prime Minister and Home Secretary of Bermuda; Mrs. Fae Sapsford -SSC, Dr. Tammy Warren -Senior Marine Resources Officer, Bermuda Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and Dr. Sophia Ly from NOAA, United States.

78. The IAC Secretary, MSc. Verónica Cáceres, mentioned that the MoU was approved during the IAC COP10 that was held in June 2022, and that it is very significant that it is at the meeting of the Consultative Committee where the signing of this Memorandum takes place, since it was precisely with this Committee where the first technical collaboration of both entities began in 2013 and 2014 that resulted in the technical document / concept note Importance of Sargasso and the Sargasso Sea for Sea Turtles.

79. Dr. David Freestone, Executive Secretary of the SSC acknowledges that the signing of the MoU is the result of the efforts of many people. He thanked the IAC Secretariat, and the Parties to the Convention, as well as the SSC countries that were in charge of preparing and following up on the preparation of the MoU. He recalled the history of the first technical collaboration that began with great proactivity between scientists from both entities long before the MoU signing process began.

80. After the remarks of both Secretariats, the MoU was signed. ([Annex VII- Document-CIT-COP10-2022.Doc4- Memorandum of Understanding IAC-SSC](#))

81. The Honorable Walter Roban, Premier Minister and Minister of the Department of the Interior of Bermuda, welcomed the opportunity to participate and support the signing of the MoU promoting closer collaboration between the IAC and the SSC. He highlighted that MoU like this one, which promote cross-border collaboration, are vital for the conservation of highly migratory species, such as sea turtles. He recalled how growing up in Bermuda, green turtles were a common species to appreciate in its waters and how the Bermuda coasts are the favorable habitat for the development of

young turtles. He mentioned that, in the early 1600s, Bermuda passed the first conservation legislation in the New World and it was for sea turtles. He emphasized the technical document carried out by both entities that showed how important the Sargasso Sea is for Atlantic Sea turtles, since it provides a habitat for young turtles to grow, as well as providing access to food and a place to hide from predators. In addition, it is not only the refuge for the green turtle, but also for the hawksbill turtle, the loggerhead turtle and for being part of the migratory corridor for the Leatherback turtle. He recognized the work of the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo and the Bermuda Turtle Project, the oldest turtle program in Bermuda, which provided input for the IAC/SSC document. He added that all the members of these conventions and their allies should feel satisfied that the importance of protecting the high seas for all species is finally becoming visible at the international level.

82. SSC member. Dr. Tammy Warren, who played an important role in the process to make possible the signing of the MoU, Ms. Fae Sapsford and Ms. Sophia Ly appreciated the opportunity to be a part of this event and welcome future collaborations.

COLLABORATION WITH STETSON UNIVERSITY

Preliminary Report on the Implementation of IAC Resolutions with the information from the National Annual Reports.

83. Mrs. Katherine Pratt from Stetson University, presented the Preliminary report on the Implementation of the IAC Resolutions with the information from the National Annual Reports, document CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.6 “Analysis of IAC *Annuals Reports 2015-2022*”, as the first activity within the framework of the IAC-STETSON MOU signed in 2022.

84. The preparation of the preliminary report was result from the CCE15 Work Plan with the idea to present the report for consideration at COP11 in 2024. Stetson University has worked with the IAC Secretary, Mrs. Luz Helena Rodríguez and recently with Mrs. Haydeé Medina, to define the objectives and structure of this report. This project started in September 2022.

85. The team that prepared the preliminary report from Stetson University are: Professor Royal Gardner - Director of the Institute for Biodiversity, Law and Policy, Stetson University School of Law, Stetson Law 's Foreman biodiversity Fellow, Katherine Pratt and Law Students: Ariele Dashow, Selina Nadeau, Maxwell Pyles, Audra Locicero and Kimberly Hutchinson.

86 The goal to present the preliminary report to the CCE16 is to receive comments and recommendations from the CCE. These will allow the team to prepare a refined and precise final version that is of greater value to the IAC Parties.

87. The base information for this report was taken from the Annual Reports submitted by IAC Parties between the years 2005 and 2022 published on the IAC website. The information was used to show a timeline reflecting the compliance of Parties by submitting their annual report from the start.

88. Due to changes in format and revisions within the IAC Annual Report over time, the methodology used involves the review of the answers that each country presented for each resolution from the questionnaire of the IAC Annual Report between 2015 and 2022. The data was compiled in an Excel spreadsheet for analysis and is available for Parties upon request. The quantifiable answers were

categorized as *YES, NO, Does not apply and No Data* (answers are not provided to some questions) and *Does Not Report* (the Party Country did not submit its report that year).

89. The results are presented as graphs to identify the status and trend in the responses to each question, and a narrative section was included for the year 2019 during the Covid-19 pandemic, to visualize possible impacts on conservation efforts.

90. Mrs. Pratt have asked the CCE members for comments and recommendations, highlighting the interest to know if the graphs are useful for a good visualization of the data, and if the narrative section seems useful to the Parties to visualize the work of their colleagues. Also, would like to know what the Committee would like to see added or emphasized. Comments were received from the United States and Argentina, which were taken into account and included in the report. Mrs. Pratt appreciated the consideration of the work submitted and looks forward to receiving feedback to improve the final report.

91. The delegate from the United States thanked the effort and mentioned that the information collected allows the countries to visualize the responsibility they have regarding compliance and their submission of annual information. She took the opportunity to ask if there was any possibility of consulting with some countries, if not all, what are the specific challenges as to why they are having difficulty and/or failing to complete and submit their annual reports, and assist in improving. She considered valuable that the document is in a preliminary stage to give an opportunity to fill the information gaps, particularly during the period of the 2007 and 2009 IAC Annual Report; to understand the reasons for the low delivery of the reports.

92. The CCE Chair acknowledged that analyzing data from so many countries is a great challenge and thanked Stetson University for supporting the Convention. He considers that perhaps there are activities that the countries are carrying out and that are not being provided to the IAC, so it would be useful for the countries to review and verify whether or not the actions they are doing are reflected in the Annual Reports and subsequently, reflect the reality of their countries. He added that it is an important document because it follows up on the approved resolutions, however, in his appreciation, the analysis does not reflect the activities that are proposed in the resolution and considers it is important to share this information with colleagues who are doing the analysis.

93 The IAC Secretary asked the CCE if they consider that this is a valuable document to continue developing and present it at the next Conference of the Parties, COP11, and also requested comments on whether they considered the document has an adequate structure, if they agree with the graphs, and sections, reminding the CCE that it was shared 30 days in advance of the meeting. She also asked if they reviewed the specific information about their countries and if there are any edits that need to be made.

94. The Secretary highlighted that this preliminary work required a lot of effort from Stetson law students, Mrs. Pratt and Professor Gardner and is the result of our work within the framework of the MoU. This work will help to present not only the progress of how the resolutions are being implemented, but also reflects the collaboration with other entities that can support us, since the IAC does not have the time to do it alone. Because CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.6 is a preliminary report, it is not included in the annexes of the CCE16 Report. The full report will be reviewed at CCE17 2024 and it will be a part of the report of that meeting.

95. The plenary was consulted once again to agree if the final document be presented at the next COP11 in 2024 and agreements were reached for this item on the agenda.

Because CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.6 is a preliminary report, it is not included in the annexes of the CCE16 Report. The full report will be reviewed at CCE17 2024 and it will be a part of the report for that meeting.

Agreement 10: The preliminary document **CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.6 “ANALYSIS OF IAC ANNUAL REPORTS 2015 – 2022”** was presented to the CCE members. Stetson University will prepare the final document and will be presented at the CCE17 in March 2024 and afterwards, at the COP11-2024. CCE members will review that the information from their countries is correct and will send any changes in the next 30 days to the IAC Secretary by June 30th 2023.

Presentation: Recommendations to institutionalize training programs for fishermen on the handling and release of sea turtles-Costa Rica.

96. The CCE delegates from Costa Rica: Dr. José Miguel Carvajal-INCOPECA and Dr. Rodney Piedra-SINAC, with the participation of Ms. Sandra Andraka from EcoPacífico + and Dr. Mariluz Parga SUBMON shared Costa Rica's experience in the framework of the sea turtle handling and release project and their recommendations on how to institutionalize training programs for fishermen and public officials.

97. The activity took place during the 2014-2023 period with training for the fishing and government sector (INCOPECA, SINAC and Coast Guard) in good practices for handling and releasing sea turtles. The implemented method entailed a fleet characterization work, good practices adjusted to the ports, boats, target fishing and fishing gear in the development of courses that were given to more than 400 fishermen in 2023 in Costa Rica. The dialogue between technicians and fishermen and the exchange of knowledge and the integration of traditional knowledge was highlighted in the recommendations for the handling and release of sea turtles.

98. Some of the lessons learned from the experience were: review the needs of each country and develop official courses on best practices that adapt to those needs, exchange experiences between countries to identify the elements and road map on how to successfully implement trainings; as well as strengthening institutional capacities and managing sources of financing for the development and implementation of the courses so that they are sustained over time.

99. Dr. José Miguel Carvajal stated that the work in the field and in the water are important to notice changes and actions that must be implemented and achieve the development of standards that are consistent with good practices to reduce bycatch and incidental capture and the possibility of implementing these measures.

100. Dr. Rodney Piedra thanked the work done by EcoPacífico+ and INCOPECA team and recognized how difficult the logistics is to reach the different regions and fishermen in Costa Rica. He expressed that it was inspiring to share a training with 100 fishermen and see how all the fishermen were motivated and identified with the problem of bycatch or incidental capture of turtles. He is convinced that these actions create opportunities for sea turtles beyond the efforts made on the beaches and high seas. This work is a successful example of inter-institutional efforts, fishermen, and donors that make these initiatives possible and that he is sure that to the extent that countries manage to apply them to the best of their ability (as Chile, Peru, and Panama have done) may see positive changes in the future at the regional level.

101. The Chair of the SC mentioned that the lessons learned are in line with the objectives to which we should all aspire. She asked how the issue of transferring information from fishermen to institutions is being addressed, recognizing that many of these vessels do not have observers onboard to collect the information. Dr. Carvajal mentioned that the information is mandatory and collected in paper forms that the captain must fill out and record the information of the bycatch of turtles, birds and mammals. However, the paper forms are a limiting factor, which with the volume of the fleet, makes the digitalization a long process delaying the time to generate reports. He added that an application is being developed to digitize, store and integrate the information to automate the data and expedite reporting.

102. Mrs. Nina Pardo congratulated Costa Rica for the initiative and highlighted the efforts that are being developed at the level of IMARPE and private industry in Peru, mentioning the importance of recognizing the role that fishermen have, which is linked to an issue of identity which allows these initiatives to be incorporated and become sustainable practices so that they feel motivated to participate in these programs. In addition, considers it is important to communicate these recognitions, as well as promote an exchange of experiences between countries. She expressed her interest in supporting actions that promote the outreach to support conservation in the fisheries sector.

Agreement 11: The delegate representative of the CCE Productive Sector, Nina Pardo-Peru, will be the editor for the new section of the IAC Bulletin with an acknowledgment of the Fisheries Sector for good practices. The editor will prepare the news for this section for each edition of the Bulletin (3 to 4 times a year).

OTHER BUSINESS

103. Costa Rica's delegation suggested the CCE16 to prepare a thank you letter to Mrs. Luz Helena Rodríguez, considering the great work she did during many years with the IAC and, to thank her for all the time she has supported the Convention as the IAC Assistant. In addition, he welcomed, Marine Biologist, Mrs. Haydeé Medina who now holds the position as the new IAC Assistant and that she is taking on a great challenge to support the Convention.

104. The Chair of the CCE shared the sentiment of Costa Rica and proposed that this be in union with the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat. The proposal was supported by the delegates from Panama, Chile, Mexico, Ecuador and Brazil.

105. Ms. Leslie Camila Bustos, Chair of the SC, expressed her gratitude to Mrs. Rodríguez for her support of the Convention and welcomed Mrs. Haydeé Medina expressing that the Convention is full of very committed people who will be available to assist.

106. The Costa Rican delegation will prepare the thank you note that will be signed by the Chairs of the SC and CCE and will be delivered by the Secretariat.

ADOPTION OF AGREEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF CCE16

107. The Secretariat and the Chair of the CCE drafted the agreements for each item on the agenda according to the discussion in plenary. The agreements were presented to the plenary and each one

was adopted with the suggested editions. [Annex VIII. Agreements Adopted at the 16th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of CCE Experts of the IAC April 25-26, 2023](#)

Agreement 12: The CCE Work Plan was updated based upon the agreements from the CCE16 meeting. New activities were included on the following topics: Exceptions, IAC Annual Report, Collaboration with International organizations, Resolutions and Recommendations for the COP, Technical Documents and IAC Bulletin.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE CCE

Election of the CCE Chair

108. Dr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara, current Chair of the CCE, expressed that he accepted the position in 2020, now following the procedures of the CCE, it is time to call for an election for Chair and Vice Chair.

109. He opened the floor for comments and the delegation of Costa Rica asked Dr. Ponce Guevara if he was interested in running again for Chair. Dr. Ponce Guevara agreed to continue if support was provided by the members of the CCE.

110. The delegations of Panama, Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador, the United States, Mexico, Argentina, and Guatemala supported the motion presented by Costa Rica for the reelection of Dr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara as Chair of the CCE.

CCE Vice Chair Election

111. Dr. Eduardo Espinoza, advisor to the CCE delegation of Ecuador, has also served as Vice Chair of the CCE since 2020. He appreciated the opportunity to collaborate and open the floor to receive new nominations for this position.

112. Dr. Santos Hernández, CCE delegate from Mexico, proposed Dr. Eduardo Espinoza to be re-elected as Vice Chair of the CCE. Mrs. Beatriz Ladines, CCE delegate from Ecuador, expressed her support on behalf of Ecuador for Dr. Eduardo Espinoza to continue in his position as Vice Chair of the CCE. Dr. Ponce Guevara, together with the delegation of Chile and Argentina supported the motion.

113. The IAC Secretary congratulated Dr. Ponce Guevara and Dr. Espinoza for their work and for their reelection as Chair and Vice Chair of the CCE for the period 2023-2025, respectively. Dr. Ponce Guevara will be in charge of chairing the 2024 and 2025 CCE meeting.

114. Dr. Ponce Guevara thanked the Committee for the trust, support and the opportunity to once again coordinate this Committee and expressed his admiration for all the members, the work they do and the passion they share for their work, which is what uplift us to move forward. in this conservation work in favor of sea turtles. Dr. Eduardo Espinoza thanked the Chair, the Secretariat, the support provided by Luz Helena Rodríguez and the entire technical team that has been working hard on the WGs. He emphasized that the results are evident, recalling how in the past it took time to draft and approve resolutions, and now progress is being made quickly, evidencing the result of effective coordination, for which he also thanks the Chair and echoes all the congratulations to all his

colleagues from the CCE who help to support this mission that we all have to conserve sea turtles from their fields.

Agreement 13: The Consultative Committee of Experts agreed to the re-elections of Dr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara (Mexico) as Chair and Dr. Eduardo Espinoza (Ecuador) as Vice Chair for the next two (2) years, April 2023-2025.

Planning for the next CCE meeting

115. IAC Secretary reminded the plenary that in the years in which the Conference of the Parties are held, the meeting of the CCE is scheduled for the month of February to give an opportunity to have the documents on time according to the rules of procedure of the IAC. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts will be held in February 2024; exact date to be defined.

Closing remarks

116. The CCE Chair ended the meeting by thanking the members of the CCE. He highlighted the inter-sessional work of the Working Groups, which for this committee have been more than 40 meetings, and recognized the support of the Observer Countries; and the different sectors that accompanied us who contribute knowledge to the work that is been done by the Convention; also greeted the International Organizations and Commissions with which we work in synergy. He appreciated the work and support of the Secretary, Mrs. Verónica Cáceres, who is always present in all the meetings and doing an exceptional job with great commitment and her ability to lead this Convention. To Mrs. Luz Helena Rodríguez for her support and her great performance, who will be thanked by the Committees with a letter, and welcomed Mrs. Haydeé Medina, highlighting that the challenge is interesting and complex, but acknowledges her work in the first months and hopes that we can continue working together, and reminded Ms. Medina that she has the support of himself and all the colleagues. He also thanked the interpreters, Dr. Paul Schiffan and his team, who always support us with the simultaneous translation in our meetings.

117. Dr. Ponce Guevara concluded by highlighting that the IAC is a clear example of what is achieved with international collaboration on such a complex issue like sea turtles as highly migratory organisms, and that only in this way, working together in the American Continent and opening up to other continents, is the way to achieve a cross boundary integration for the conservation of these species. The challenge is big, but we are all willing to work to generate better strategies to support the conservation of sea turtles.

118. The 16th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts concluded at 4:38 pm, Washington, DC.

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ANNEXES

ANNEX I-A

Lista de Participantes / List of Participants

CIT-CCE16-2023-Inf.1

Delegados confirmados: 32 delegados de 15 países Parte – **Confirmed delegates** 32 delegates from 15 Parties

Participantes confirmados: total de 79 participantes/participants (32 delegados/delegates; 9 sectoriales/sectors; 2 miembros del CC de la CIT/IAC SC members; 24 observadores de países no parten y entidades internacionales /observers from non-party countries and international bodies; 7 observadores acreditados/accredited observers); 2 miembros de Secretaría CIT y 3 Traducción Simultánea/Simultaneous translation.

Nota: Jefe de delegación = Head of delegation

DELEGADOS/ DELEGATES					
No	País/Country	Nombre/Name	Organización/Organization	E-mail	
1	Argentina	Débora Winter (jefe de Delegación)	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible	dwinter@ambiente.gob.ar	
2		Jorgelina Oddi	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible	joddi@ambiente.gob.ar	
3	Belize	Alicia Eck-Núñez (jefa de Delegación)	Belize Fisheries Department	alicia.nunez@fisheries.gov.bz	
4	Brasil	Gilberto Sales (jefe de Delegación)	Ministerio del Medio Ambiente	gilberto.sales@icmbio.gov.br	
5		Joao Thome	Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservacao da Biodiversidade (ICMBio)	joao.thome@icmbio.gov.br	
6	Caribbean Netherlands	Kaj Schut (jefa de Delegación)	Asesora/Advisor Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire	stcb@bonaireturtles.org	

7		5	Chile	Paula Salinas (jefe de Delegación)	Universidad Arturo Pratt	paula.salinasc@gmail.com
8		6	Costa Rica	Rotney Piedra (jefe de Delegación)	Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía (MINAE), Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación (SINAC)	rotney.piedra@sinac.go.cr
9				José M. Carvajal	Departamento de Investigación Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura - INCOPECA	jcarvajal@incopesca.go.cr
10		7	Ecuador	Víctor Chocho (jefe de Delegación)	Subsecretaría de Patrimonio Natural – Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua y Transición Ecológica	victor.chocho@ambiente.gob.ec
11				Eduardo Espinoza	<i>Vicepresidente del Comité Consultivo de Expertos</i> Asesor -Monitoreo de Ecosistemas Marinos – Dirección del Parque Nacional Galápagos –	eespinoza@galapagos.gob.ec eduesp33.yahoo.ar
12				Beatriz Ladines	Asesora -Subsecretaría de Patrimonio Natural Ministerio de Ambiente, Agua y Transición Ecológica **	beatriz.ladines@ambiente.gob.ec
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ANNEX-I-B

CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.1

Date: April 25-26th, 2023

Meeting time: 10:00 AM EST time (Time in Washington DC)

Platform Meeting: ZOOM Pro-Link will be send only to registered participants.

CCE Chair: Dr. Eduardo Ponce – CONAP – Mexico

CCE Vice Chair: *M.Sc.* Eduardo Espinoza- Ministry of Environment Ecuador

AGENDA

Day 1 April 25th, 2023 - 10:00 AM EST, Hora de Washington DC
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09:45-10:00 Connection of participants to videoconference (Zoom)

10:00-10:45 Welcome remarks, introduction of participants and adoption of the agenda
Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE), *Dr. Eduardo Ponce*.
CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.1 - Agenda
CIT-CCE16-2023-Inf.1 – List of Participants

PROGRESS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCE) WORK PLAN 2022-2023

10:45-11:30 Report on the Inter-session work of the CCE and results in accordance with the CCE
Work Plan. *CCE Chair, Dr. Eduardo Ponce*

- a) Implementation Status of the CCE Work Plan CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.2
- b) Updating of the CCE Work Plan 2022-2023 CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc. 3

11:30-12:15 Report from the 19th Scientific Committee Reunion - *Scientific Committee Chair, Ms. Leslie Camila Bustos*

- a) SC Working Group activities update
- b) IAC Annual Report Update- Questionnaire to report the implementation of the EP
Leatherback Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6

12:15-12:45 Break (30 min)

12:45-01:30 pm Proposal of form with indicators to evaluate the Exceptions Management Plan
CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.4
Chairs of the Exception WG Ms. Airám López and M.S.c. Didiber Chacon

FISHERIES INTERACTIONS

01:30-02:00 Results from the characterization of artisanal fisheries that interact with sea turtles within the IAC countries.
CCE Fisheries WG Coordinador Gilberto Sales - Delegate from Brazil

02:00-02:15 Break

IAC ANNUAL REPORT

02:15-03:30 Proposal from the Fisheries and EP Leatherback Working Groups on the questionnaire to follow up on the implementation of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 in the IAC Annual Report.
CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.5
Working Group Fisheries and EP Leatherback

DAY 2 April 26th - 10:00 AM EST, Washington DC time

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK

10:00-10:45 Presentation of the technical document “Known Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Recommendations to Collaborate on Leatherback Conservation in these Areas”
CIT-CCE16-2022-Tec.20
Working Group NWA Leatherback Ms. Ann Marie Lauritsen – USFWS, Ms. Robynn Laplante - Smith- Fisheries and Oceans Government of Canada, and Ms. Olga Koubrak, LLM - Sea Life Law

FUNDING FOR IAC PROJECTS

10:45-11:00 Identification of financial sources for training on best practices for handling and release of sea turtles. *Ms. Paula Salinas, CCE Delegate from Chile*

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SARGASSO SEA COMMISSION (SSC) AND COLLABORATION WITH STETSON UNIVERSITY

11:00 - 12:00 Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sargasso Sea Commission
*Sargasso Sea Commission Executive Director - Dr. David Freestone
IAC Secretary – M.Sc. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro*

12:00-12:30 Break (30 minutes)

12:30 –01:15 Preliminary Report on the Compliance with IAC Resolutions with information from IAC Annual Reports CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.6
Dr. Katherine Pratt - Stetson University College of Law

01:15-01:30 Presentation recommendation on programs for capacity building for fishermen on best practices – Costa Rica *CCE Delegate José Miguel Carvajal and Sandra Andraka*

01:30-02:00	Other business
02:00-02:15	Break
02:15-03:00	Adoption of CCE16 Agreements and Recommendations
03:00-03:30	Election of CCE Chair and Vice Chair Planning CEE 17 Closing remarks

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ANNEX-II

CIT-CCE16-2023.Doc.2

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PLAN 2022-2024 OF THE IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

The following document was prepared by the Chair of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts and the IAC Secretariat. It lists the activities adopted at CCE15 (2022) and COP10.2 (2022) included in the Consultative Committee Work Plan 2022-2023, and their current status of implementation up to CCE16 (2023) April 26, 2023. This report was presented 16th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee. The status indicators are shown as: **green** is “completed”; **yellow** is “in progress”, and **red** if there was “no execution/no action. The symbol “✓” shows the year in which the activity was completed.

The list was organized by theme and it was divided into two columns, activities, and the status of implementation. As agreed by the IAC 9th Conference of Parties this report will be presented at the meetings of the Consultative Committee of Experts and Conference of Parties to report the progress in the Consultative Committee activities.

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PLAN OF THE
IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS 2022-2024**

Green: Activities that have been completed. Yellow: In progress, Red: Activities with no implementation

Proposed Activity		Current status – April 26, 2023	2022	2023	2024
Exceptions (CIT-COP10-2022-R3, CIT-COP10-2022-R4, CIT-COP10-2022-R5)					
1.	The IAC Exceptions Working Group (CCE and SC members) will prepare a format to evaluate the exception management plan every five (5) years.	<p>The WG prepared the Matrix with indicators to evaluate the implementation of the Exception Management Plan CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.4 for, and it was presented it to the IAC CCE Committees in 2022 and 2023, respectively.</p> <p>Guatemala, Panama and Costa Rica defined their evaluation indicators for the implementation of their Exception management plans and they are included in the matrix above.</p> <p>This matrix with the indicators was adopted after the CCE16 meeting by email by the Consultative Committee (CCE) and the Scientific Committee (SC) in 2023.</p>		✓	
2.	The IAC Exceptions WG (CCE and SC members) will support Guatemala in the review of the Management Plan of Exception	<p>The Exceptions WG will prepare recommendations to Guatemala to include in their Exception Management Plan as appropriate.</p> <p>This item is pending until Guatemala Focal Point share their Exception Management Plan.</p>			

Proposed Activity		Current status – April 26, 2023	2022	2023	2024
3.	Inform the COP about the use of sea turtles or their products in the Exceptions of the IAC Countries (when new exceptions are presented).	No new exceptions have been presented			
Implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP10-2022-R6)					
4.	Hold annual meetings for the Leatherback EP working group.	EP Leatherback WG reviewed the drafts of the EASI- Fish publications and provided comments to the authors.	✓		
5.	Prepare questions to follow up on the implementation of the Leatherback Resolution EP CIT-COP10-2022-R6 included in the IAC Annual Report.	The WG prepared questions to present to the SC and CCE simultaneously.	✓		
		The questionnaire was previously sent to the Focal Points and/or those in charge of filling out the annual report, who are also part of the CCE to evaluate it, and the results were taken to SC19. In SC19, sections 1 to 4 proposed by the EP Leatherback WG were adopted. Table 1 Annex II from the EP Leatherback Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 CCE16 was adopted at CCE16 and will be included in the IAC Annual Report in the fisheries section.		✓	
Implementation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP9-2015-R2)					
6.	Prepare a map of important areas to define which areas are critical for the species and which are already protected.	The Working Group North West Atlantic Leatherback presented the progress report on the elaboration of the map of important areas for the species with the collaboration of the Scientific Committee and regional experts in satellite telemetry to CCE15.	✓	✓	

Proposed Activity		Current status – April 26, 2023	2022	2023	2024
		<p>Delegates were requested to submit information on protected or high-use areas for the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback that have not been mapped, to finalize the technical document by June 1, 2022.</p> <p>El WG finalized the technical document “<i>Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas</i>” CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20. This was adopted at CCE16.</p>			
7.	Work in collaboration with the IAC outreach group to approach non-IAC parties that are in the range of the species	<p>The WG on Outreach to IAC –Non member Countries has exchanged information with the WG North West Atlantic on relevant information about Leatherback of the Northwest Atlantic, through the representative of the SPAW Protocol (Dr. Olga Koubrak).</p> <p>The objective of the Outreach WG is to support countries such as Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, France, and Suriname to begin the process to becoming members of the IAC. <i>As this takes time this activity is kept in yellow.</i></p> <p>In 2021 Canada and Trinidad & Tobago participated as observers in the meetings of CCE14, SC18, and COP10.1.</p> <p>In 2022 Canada and Trinidad & Tobago participated as observers in the CCE15 and COP10.2 meetings.</p> <p>In 2022, France participated as an observer and presented the report on Ramsar sites important for sea turtles at the CCE15 meeting.</p> <p>In 2022 Guyana participated as an observer in CCE15.</p> <p>In 2023 Canada, France and Trinidad y Tobago attended as observers at the CCE16.</p>			

Proposed Activity		Current status – April 26, 2023	2022	2023	2024
		In 2023 France presented IAC Secretariat a formal letter of intention to join IAC.			
8.	Collaborate with France in the framework of the MoU with RAMSAR to propose the exchange of technical information between relevant parties for the Leatherback of the Northwest Atlantic and others.	Side event with Government of France was carried out within the framework of the Ramsar COP in November 2022.	✓		
Fisheries					
9.	The Fisheries WG and EP Leatherback WG of CCE work with the Fisheries working group of the Scientific Committee on preparing a questionnaire to follow up on the implementation of the Resolution on Adverse Impacts of Fisheries (CIT-COP10-2022-R7)	<p>The Focal Points and/or those in charge of filling out the IAC Annual Report who are also CCE delegates filled out the first version of questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the Fisheries Resolution, as a test, and reported their comments to the SC.</p> <p>The questionnaire prepared by the Fisheries and EP leatherback WG was presented for adoption at CCE16 2023, at the meeting editions were done and final version was prepared, that was adopted by CCE and SC by correspondence to be included in the IAC Annual Report in the fisheries section. (See Annual Report section, Number 13).</p>	✓	✓	
10.	The members of the Consultative Committee will classify and characterize the fisheries that interact with sea turtles in their countries, using the survey prepared by the Fisheries WG.	<p>WG progress report presented to CCE14</p> <p>The Fisheries Working Groups of the Scientific and Consultative Committees will work together to improve the proposed format for requesting data on sea turtle interactions with gillnet fisheries.</p> <p>The CCE delegates provided answers to the minimum data survey to characterize the fisheries (observed and unobserved) that interact</p>	✓		

Proposed Activity		Current status – April 26, 2023	2022	2023	2024
	Send information to the WG on June 1, 2022.	with sea turtles proposed by the WG at CCE15-2022. Preliminary report presented by the WG Coordinator Brazil in CCE15-2022.			
		Final Report with the Classification and characterization of fisheries that interact with sea turtles with the survey data provided in 2022 by delegates of the Consultative Committee (Uruguay, Guatemala, Costa Rica) will be presented by the Coordinator Brazil to CCE16 in 2023.			
11.	Project proposal to evaluate the possibility of information collection on artisanal longline fisheries	<p>The CCE approved the draft pilot project (Chile and Peru) Title: <i>“Standardization of formats to auto – report for Collection of Data of Incidental Catch of Sea Turtles for Implementation in Artisanal longline and Gillnet Fisheries of Southern Peru and Northern Chile”</i>.</p> <p>The WG Chile-Peru prepared a draft of budget for this project. This needs to be further refined. The execution of this project is subject to availability of funds.</p>			
Annual Report and Compliance with Resolutions					
12.	The CCE delegate will support the Focal Point of each country in preparing the IAC Annual Report.	<p>2023: Report’s deadline is April 30th 2023</p> <p>2022: 10 countries have submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic</i>)</p> <p>2021: 13 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, the Caribbean Netherlands, Peru, Uruguay, and the United States</i>)</p> <p>2020: 11 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, the Netherlands, and Peru</i>).</p>			

Proposed Activity		Current status – April 26, 2023	2022	2023	2024
		<p>2019: 11 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, and Venezuela</i>).</p> <p>2018: 11 countries submitted an annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the United States and Venezuela</i>).</p>			
13.	Prepare, together with the Scientific Committee, changes in the relevant sections of the IAC Annual Report for 2023 – 2025 according to the new resolutions adopted at COP10.2 (Exceptions, fisheries and Leatherback EPO).	EP LEATHERBACK – The CCE and the Scientific Committee prepared the new questions, changes were made including new questions to the questionnaire on Leatherback EP to follow up on Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 in the IAC Annual Report.	✓	✓	
		FISHERIES – The questionnaires on the fisheries section (Annex II – Table 1) of the Leatherback EP Resolution and on the Fisheries Resolution were prepared by the WGs (EP Leatherback and Fisheries) and the questionnaire was adopted CCE16 2023 to be included in the IAC Annual Report 2023-2025.		✓	
		EXCEPTIONS - The Exceptions WG prepared the indicator matrix to evaluate the implementation of the exception management plans it was adopted at CCE16 (see number 1).		✓	
Collaboration with International Organizations					
14.	Identify, prioritize and work on the implementation of joint activities in the framework of the MoUs.	RAMSAR: In a parallel event at the COP14-Ramsar in Geneva in November 2022, the IAC Secretariat co-organized an event with the Ramsar Secretariat and Delegates from the France Government, were they presented the results of a poll prepared by IAC and Ramsar about the IAC Party Countries capacity to implement the Ramsar Resolution No. XIII.4 and opportunities to collaborate. It was recommended to update the technical document on important Ramsar sites for sea	✓		

Proposed Activity		Current status – April 26, 2023	2022	2023	2024
		turtles, including IAC Party countries that are not yet included and the ones suggested by the participants on the poll.			
15.		<p>STETSON UNIVERSITY:</p> <p>The CCE identified topics for collaborative work with Stetson University, within the framework of the MoC. This was the preparation of Report on Compliance with the IAC Resolutions with information form Annual Report to be presented at Committees and COP.</p>	✓		
		Stetson University prepared a preliminary report on Compliance with the IAC Resolutions. The preliminary report was presented at CCE16. (See number 22).		✓	
		Stetson University will prepare the final report on Compliance with the IAC Resolutions that will be presented to CCE17 (2024), and COP11.			
16.		<p>IAC-ICCAT:</p> <p>The CCE will identify priority activities to be implemented jointly within the framework of the MOUs of the IAC with ICCAT/CICAA.</p> <p><u>Activity 2023:</u></p> <p>IAC CCE Delegate Bryan Wallace with IAC Secretariat presented at virtual meeting of the ICCAT Subcommittee on Ecosystems the EASI-Fish with EP leatherback model and the collaboration with the IATTC. The meeting was convened from May 31st - June 3rd, 2023.</p>		✓	
		Pending to define within the Consultative Committee who would be the delegate to support the IAC Secretariat in the follow up with the collaboration with ICCAT.			

Proposed Activity		Current status – April 26, 2023	2022	2023	2024
17.		<p>IAC-IATTC:</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding is being implemented EASI-Fish Project for EP leatherback (see number 4) Project finalized.</p> <p><u>Activity 2023:</u></p> <p>IAC CCE Delegate Bryan Wallace, IAC Secretariat and IATTC Staff continue to prepare edits to the two papers related to EASI-Fish submitted for publication to journals.</p>	✓		
18.		<p>IAC-SARGASSO SEA COMMISSION:</p> <p>The signing of MoU between IAC and the SSC took place in the framework of the CCE16 meeting 26 April 2023.</p>		✓	
		<p>The NWA Leatherback WG will identify topics for collaborative work with the Sargasso Sea Commission, within the framework of the MOU and will prepare a work plan.</p>			
19.	Provide recommendations, promote alliances and collaboration with related international organizations to meet the objectives of the IAC.	<p>LAUD OPO NETWORK: The IAC Secretary is participating in the activities of the EP Leatherback Network, such as updating the action plan, communication strategy and regular meetings.</p> <p><u>Activity 2023-LAUD OPO Annual Meeting:</u> IAC delegates attended as presenters the LAUD OPO Annual Meeting on March 20th in Cartagena at the ISTS 41.</p> <p><u>Activity 2023-Collaboration in Communication Strategy:</u> LAUD OPO Network will develop outreach related material about IAC to help IAC Secretariat promote the IAC Objectives and activities to a greater audience.</p>	✓	✓	
20.		<p>SPAW Protocol:</p>	✓	✓	

Proposed Activity		Current status – April 26, 2023	2022	2023	2024
		2022-2023 IAC is a member of the Species WG of SPAW Protocol - Ann Marie Lauritzen (USA) is IAC Delegate.			
21.	Identify funding sources for small projects recommended by CCE	<p>A Working Group was established to raise financial support for small projects in 2022. The delegate from CCE Chile was the only member of this WG. Expressions of interest from other CCE members were received in at CCE16 – 2023.</p> <p>The members of the Fundraising WG are: Chile (Paula Salinas CCE delegate-Coordinator-Paula Salinas), CCE Sectorial Nina Pardo, and CCE Sectorial ONG – Costa Rica por Siempre (Luis Fonseca), Costa Rica (Rotney Piedra CCE delegate) and the CCE Chair, Dr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara-Mexico.</p> <p>Coordinator Chile presented in 2023 the update on the pilot project Chile-Peru <i>“Standardization of formats to auto – report for Collection of Data of Incidental Catch of Sea Turtles for Implementation in Artisanal longline and Gillnet Fisheries of Southern Peru and Northern Chile”</i>. (see #11 in this table), the fundraising WG will focus on small projects.</p>		✓	
Recommendations of the COP and Consultative Committee of Experts					
22.	The Consultative Committee will prepare a report to the COP on the compliance with the resolutions based on the information reported in the IAC Annual Reports.	<p>Stetson University prepared a PRELIMINARY REPORT titled: ANALYSIS OF IAC ANNUAL REPORTS 2015 – 2022, with an analysis of the IAC annual reports to assess compliance with the IAC Resolutions the preliminary report was presented at CCE16 (see number 15) 2022-2023.</p> <p>Stetson University will prepare the final report on Compliance with the IAC Resolutions that will be presented to CCE17 (2024).</p> <p>The final report will be presented to COP11 (2024).</p>		✓	

Proposed Activity		Current status – April 26, 2023	2022	2023	2024
IAC Technical Documents					
23.	Prepare technical documents as needed.	The Technical Document Titled: <i>Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas</i> CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20 - was adopted at CCE16 (see number 6). The recommendations from the technical document will be presented to COP11 (2024)	✓	✓	
IAC Directory of Experts					
24.	Update the directory of experts in areas of interest of the IAC	Directory of Experts updated in June 2023 with information received from Mexico, Uruguay and Ecuador. The directory can be found in IAC website. http://www.iacseaturtle.org/directorioExpertos-eng.htm	✓	✓	
Website and IAC Newsletter					
25.	The CCE delegates will send to the Secretariat news from their country -every month- for the IAC Bulletin.	Three news bulletins published in 2022. One news bulletin published in 2023, it is expected 3 more to be prepared. New section in IAC Bulletin-Recognizing Fishing Sector: Sectorial – Industry Delegate Nina Pardo will be the editor of the new section in IAC bulletin to recognize the efforts of fishing sector in the conservation of sea turtles with best practices. The editor will send to IAC Secretariat news to be included in each edition of IAC bulletin (3-4 times / year).	✓	✓	
Communication Strategy					
26.	The CCE delegates will send outreach material on sea turtles to Costa Rica to be used in the	Costa Rica prepared a video on the 20th anniversary of the IAC and it was presented at COP10.2 - Finalized	✓		

Proposed Activity		Current status – April 26, 2023	2022	2023	2024
	Communication strategy of the Convention.	Costa Rica will continue to support the development of audiovisual material in 2022-2023 as needed.			
Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan					
27.	Report on the status of implementation of the CCE Work Plan.	<p>Implementation status of the 2020-2022 Work Plan presented at the CCE15 meeting and COP10.2 (CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.2)</p> <p>Implementation status of the 2022-2023 Work Plan presented at the CCE16 meeting 2023. (CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.2)</p> <p>Implementation status of the 2022-2024 Work Plan will be presented at the CCE17 meeting and COP11 (2024)</p> <p>Responsible: CCE Chair and Secretariat</p>	✓	✓	
28.	Update the CCE Work Plan.	<p>Updated work plan at the 15th Meeting of the Consultative Committee CCE15, 2022</p> <p>Updated work plan at the 16th Meeting of the Consultative Committee CCE16, 2023</p> <p>Updated work plan at the 17th Meeting of the Consultative Committee CCE17, 2024</p>	✓	✓	
29.	Organize working group meetings to follow up on the CCE work plan	Number of meetings of the CCE Working Groups in 2022-2023: Fisheries (9), EP Leatherback (6), Exceptions (5), Northwestern Atlantic Leatherback (8), Chair CCE and Secretariat (7). Meetings with Stetson (2). (Meetings until April 2023)	✓		

The Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE16-2023) adopted the following activities to include in the Work Plan 2023-2024.

1) EXCEPTIONS:

1.1 The Exceptions Working Group (CCE and SC members) with comments from CCE16 will prepare the final matrix with indicators to assess the exception management plan every five years, for the countries that have exceptions.

Expected result: Matrix with indicators to assess Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala management plan every five years provided by the IAC Secretariat to the Focal Points of those countries to prepare their reports according to the Exceptions Resolution.

1.2 The Exceptions Working Group (CCE and SC members) will support Guatemala with the review and recommendations to their Exception Management Plan, when the Guatemala Focal Point request it. This activity will be included in CCE Work Plan.

Expected result: Recommendations from Exception WG to Guatemala as applicable.

2) IAC ANNUAL REPORT-UPDATE: The new questions in the fisheries section of IAC Annual Report will be included in the Annual Report according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2

Expected result: An updated IAC Annual Report 2024 -2025 according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2

3) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS: NORTHWEST ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE - transmit the recommendations in the Technical Document CIT-CCE16-2023. Tec.20 *“Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these”* to the IAC Focal Points.

Expected result: The recommendations from the technical document will be presented to COP11 (2024).

4) COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MOU:

4.1. The NWA Leatherback WG will work with the Sargasso Sea Commission (Dr. David Freestone Ms. Fae Sapsford, and Dr. David Vousten) to prepare a work plan including list of possible activities to collaborate.

Expected result: Implementation of one of the activities selected by the NWA Leatherback WG and SSC.

4.2 WORKING GROUP FUNDRAISING FOR SMALL PROJECTS will focus on fundraising for the project Chile/Peru: “*Standardization of formats to auto – report for Collection of Data of Incidental Catch of Sea Turtles for Implementation in Artisanal longline and Gillnet Fisheries of Southern Peru and Northern Chile*”. Progress report will be presented to CCE as needed.

Expected Result: Pilot project with funds for implementation.

- 5) **COMPLIANCE WITH IAC RESOLUTIONS**: The Consultative Committee of Experts will provide edits to the preliminary report prepared by Stetson University “ANALYSIS OF IAC ANNUAL REPORTS 2015 – 2022” with the compliance with the IAC Resolutions based on the information reported by the IAC countries in their Annual Reports.

Expected results: Report “ANALYSIS OF IAC ANNUAL REPORTS 2015 – 2022” presented to the Consultative Committee CCE17 (2024) and to COP11 (2024).

- 6) **DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS FOR COP 11**: CCE17 will preview/prepare new Resolutions to present at COP11 2024

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ANNEX III

CIT-CCE16-2023.Doc.3

IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WORK PLAN 2022-2024

Activities in blue are the updates agreed by the CCE16 (2023) to include in the work plan

ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
EXCEPTIONS				
Consultative Committee of Experts	Exceptions	1) Follow up with the report for the evaluation of the implementation of the Management Plan for Exceptions of Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama.	1) The WG for Exceptions (CCE and SC) will prepare a report for the evaluation of the implementation of their Management Plan for Exceptions of Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama, using the evaluation format provided to the Focal Points of the countries with the exception. Each country will report every 5 years. First report for Costa Rica 2026, Panama 2027 and Guatemala 2028.	1) 2026- 2028
		2) The IAC Exceptions WG will support Guatemala in the review of the Management Plan of Exception.	2)The Exceptions WG will prepare recommendations to Guatemala to include in their exception management plan as appropriate per request of Guatemala Focal Point.	2) 2023-2024
		3) The Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare a report to the COP on the exceptions for the use		3) Permanent

		of sea turtles or their products (when new exceptions are presented).	3) Reports about new exceptions presented to the COP for considerations, if applicable	
EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK				
Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group	Eastern Pacific Leatherback	1) Follow up on the implementation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP10-2022-R2). 2) Conduct annual meetings of the Leatherback Working group.	1) EP Leatherback WG prepares questions related to fisheries to include in IAC Annual Report. 2) Continue meetings of the Leatherback Working group.	1) 2023 2) Permanent
NORTHWEST ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK				
NWA Leatherback Working Group	NWA Leatherback	1) Promote technical collaborations with the SPAW, WIDECAST and WWF, and other organizations working on the protection of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback. 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.	1) Progress report presented at CCE as applicable 2) Collaboration with the working group to reach out to IAC's non-parties countries and with the SPAW protocol.	1) 2023 2) Permanent

FISHERIES				
Artisanal Fisheries Working Group	Characterization of Fisheries and interactions with sea turtles	<p>1) The countries 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. The WG will use the information provided in a survey by its members in 2022 to prepare a report.</p> <p>2) Implementation of the pilot project <i>“Standardization of formats to report sea turtles’ bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile”</i>- This is depending on availability of funds.</p>	<p>1) 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>2) Progress report on the implementation of the Pilot Project in Peru and Chile at the CCE16-2023. Present update on budget and fundraising at CCE17-2024 as needed.</p>	<p>1) 2023</p> <p>2) 2023-2024</p>
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 prepared each year.	Permanent

Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Annual Report Form	<p>1) Assess current Annual Report form.</p> <p>2) Together with the Scientific Committee, prepare modifications in the sections relevant to the 2024-205 IAC Annual Report, according to the resolutions adopted at the COP10.2 (Exceptions, fisheries, and EP Leatherback).</p>	<p>1) Recommendations for changes to the Annual Report format as required.</p> <p>2) IAC Annual Report 2024 -2025 updated according to the Resolutions adopted at the COP10.2.</p>	<p>1) Permanent</p> <p>2) 2023-2025</p>
COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS				
Consultative Committee of Experts	Collaboration with International Organizations	<p>1) Promote alliances and synergies with relevant international organizations (IO) to accomplish the IAC objectives.</p> <p>2) Provide technical guidance to IAC Secretariat and attend IO meetings and other relevant groups, as needed.</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>2) Report to CCE on meetings that CCE delegates attended when applicable.</p>	2023-2024
Consultative Committee of Experts	Implementation of MoUs	<p>1) Develop and review MoU drafts with relevant organizations identified.</p> <p>2) Identify, prioritize, and implement joint activities in the framework of the MoU.</p>	<p>1) MoU Documents presented to COP for consideration.</p> <p>2) List of priority activities being implemented within the MoU frameworks. Activities identified with SSC, Stetson University and ICCAT. Report to CCE17.</p>	<p>1) Permanent</p> <p>2) 2023-2024</p>

Fundraising Working Group	Fundraising for small projects	1) Identify sources of funding to implement small projects recommended by CCE.	<p>1) The Working Group will identify funding sources to apply for financial support to implement small projects. At the moment the project identified by CCE is the pilot project <i>“Standardization of formats to report sea turtles’ bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile”</i>. Progress report presented as needed.</p> <p>2) The WG will convene a meeting with CPPS to explore collaborative work.</p> <p>3) The WG will convene a meeting with IAC Legal WG to prepare a work plan for the fundraising for operative funds and funds for projects.</p>	<p>1)2023-2024 2)2023-2024 3)2023 Dec</p>
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DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COP				
Consultative Committee of Experts	Drafting Resolutions and Recommendations to COP	1) Address COP requests and draft Resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	1) Draft Resolutions and recommendations presented to COP as needed. 2) Prepare/review resolution proposal for COP11-2024 as needed.	1) Permanent 2) 2023-2024
Compliance with Resolutions Working Group (Stetson University and 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, based on the information reported in the IAC Annual Report.	1) Working group prepared preliminary report on resolution compliance to the CCE16 (2023) prepared by Stetson University within the framework of our MoU. 2) Final Report to be presented to the CCE17 (2024) COP11 as appropriate.	1)2022-2023 2)2024
IAC TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS				
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Technical Documents	1) Prepare technical documents as needed. 2) Review recommendations from the Consultative Committee Technical Documents prepared in 2022-2024.	1) Technical documents available on the IAC website and shared with IAC Parties. 2) Technical documents with recommendations presented to COP11 as appropriate.	1) Permanent 2) 2024
IAC EXPERTS' DIRECTORY				
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat	IAC Experts Directory	1) Update the IAC Experts Directory.	1) Updated directory June 2023 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 relevant news for the IAC's Newsletter.	1) IAC's Newsletter updated in IAC Website. 2) New section in IAC Bulletin-Recognizing Fishing Sector included in 2023 editions with information from Nina Pardo.	Permanent
IAC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY				
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Communication Strategy	1) CCE delegates will provide news and outreach material to the delegate from Costa Rica to be used in the IAC Communication strategy as needed.	1) Outreach material produced by IAC Parties included in the Convention Communication strategy portfolio.	2023
WORKPLAN				
Consultative Committee Chair	Report on Implementation of CCE Work Plan	1) Prepare report on the status of implementation of the CCE Work Plan. Annual report with the evaluation of the activities in the work plan for the CCE. 2) Prepare a biannual (2022-2024) report of implementation of the CCE Work Plan for the COP 11 (2024)	1) Report presented to CCE16 and CCE17 . 2) Report 2022, 2023 y 2024 presented at the COP11 (2024) .	1) 2023 - 2024 2) 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

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ANNEXE-IV

[CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.4](#)

8. June. 2023 ADOPTED

Matrix to Evaluate the Management Plan for Exceptions to Implement the Measures of Article IV (3a & b) regarding Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panamá.

Prepared by the IAC Exceptions Working Group members of the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts.

M.Sc. Didiher Chacón-WIDECAS Latin America Costa Rica; Licda. Airam López-Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (CONAP) Guatemala; Dr. Cecilia Baptistotte-Centro Tamar ICMBio Brasil; Dr. Julia Horrocks-University of West Indies, Barbados; M.Sc. Adriana Laura Sarti-Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP) México; M.Sc. Marino Ábrego-Dirección Nacional de Costas y Mares Panamá.

A matrix of indicators to evaluate the Management Plans for Exceptions in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panamá was created by the IAC Exceptions Working Group (IAC Scientific Committee (SC) and Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE)), based on a proposal with indicators presented at the 19th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of IAC in 2022. The Exceptions WG presented the version 1 of this matrix to the 16th Consultative Committee Meeting in 2023, comments were received and the WG prepared version 2 that was reviewed and approved by the CCE and the SC by correspondence on June 8th 2023.

The evaluation matrix with indicators was done in response to the mandate given to the Consultative and Scientific Committees in the Resolution of Exceptions for each country [CIT-COP10-2022-R3](#), [CIT-COP10-2022-R4](#), and [CIT-COP10-2022-R5](#) that states “*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*”.

The evaluation matrix will be transmitted to the IAC Focal Points from Panamá, Guatemala and Costa Rica as a guidance to prepare their “Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan” every five years to be presented by each country to the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee for their evaluation as indicated in their Resolutions above.

Matrix to Evaluate the Management Plan for Exceptions to Implement the Measures of Article IV (3a & b) regarding Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panamá.

Costa Rica (Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R5), Guatemala (Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R4) and Panamá (CIT-COP10-2022-R3) have Exceptions to satisfy economic subsistence needs of traditional communities of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs. The Exceptions are contingent on the establishments of an Exception Management Program as required in Article IV (3) of the Convention with actions outlined in Exception Management Plans (EMPs). Since these Exceptions are for harvesting of a sea turtle species in particular, each country must regularly report on their Exception, providing information that will allow assessment of the levels of intentional take and that the Exceptions do not undermine efforts to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

Exceptions Management Plans (EMPs) are developed based on recommendations provided by the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE Meeting Report CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9), together with recommendations of each Party's Resolution and its Annexes. EMPs are expected to be evaluated and updated every five years. The following Matrix to Evaluate the EMP lists indicators to guide the development of EMPs for Panamá and Guatemala and/or to monitor compliance with an existing EMP in Costa Rica. The indicators are divided into Biological / Population indicators, Management protection in situ and ex situ, management sustainable use indicators, and socio-economic indicators. Their purpose is to guide the development of protocols and methodologies to ensure the collection of relevant data required for reporting on the impacts of Exceptions on *Lepidochelys olivacea* populations in each country.

Note that not all indicators may be applicable to each country, because the Exception related activities are different and in agreement with the regulations, geographical area of application, social characteristics and methodology applied in each country. Respondents responsible for preparing the report for each country are requested to indicate Yes, No or N/A (not applicable) next to each indicator.

This first version of the matrix only requires YES/NO, N/A answers to determine if the Management Plan for the Exception has the indicators included. The IAC Exceptions Working Group recommends using this matrix on the first occasion countries are asked to report in the first 5 years. After the first reporting cycle, the Exceptions Working Group recommends including the percentage of annual compliance for each indicator each year as applicable. This will allow in the future, for a more informed evaluation of the implementation of the EMP for each country.

Matrix to Evaluate the Management Plan for Exceptions to Implement the Measures of Article IV (3a & b) regarding Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs

Country: _____ Report submission date: _____ Timeframe of Report: _____
 IAC Resolution (number) that applies: _____ Governmental Agency responsible: _____

Instructions: Use an (x) in the column that applies for your country

(Note: The X in the boxes are examples that each country provided of their situation as of February 2023 only to be used as reference in the CCE16 Report 2023)

INDICATOR ANUAL COMPLIANCE		COSTA RICA			GUATEMALA			PANAMÁ		
		YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO	N/A
Biological and population	1) The Exception Management Plan (EMP) includes a rigorous method or scientific protocol for counting or estimating total annual or seasonal nestings (with a 95% confidence level) at the beach(es) of the Exception, like counts of female tracks, transects, others.									
	2) The EMP reports the total nesting activity estimated or counted by above mentioned protocol.									
	3) The EMP includes data on predation (human, domestic and wild animals (native and non-native) at the beach(es) in the Exception area.									
	4) The EMP includes information and/or data on number of nests destroyed by another nesting female.									
	5) The EMP includes data and/or estimates on total annual numbers of nesting females at the beach(es) in the Exception area.									
	6) The EMP includes counts or estimates of the number of nests protected <i>ex situ</i> or <i>in situ</i> by any method.									
Protection by any method also includes nests not exposed to additional anthropogenic threats (e.g., driving on the beach, predation by domestic animals) or at an increased risk to natural threats (e.g., lethal temperatures, erosion, tidal flooding) that affect survival.										

Management: Protection <i>In situ</i>	7) The EMP includes the total nests (counted or estimated) protected <i>in situ</i> . Protected <i>in situ</i> : Nests that remain were the turtle laid them during the entire incubation period in the Exception area.										
	8) The EMP includes the total eggs (counted or estimated) protected <i>in situ</i> . Protected <i>in situ</i> : Eggs that remain were the turtle laid them during the entire incubation period in the exception area.										
	9) The EMP includes counts or estimates of the number of hatchlings from the <i>in situ</i> protected nests at the beach(es) of the Exception.										
	10) The EMP includes results on hatching success as it is defined in the technical document CIT-CC8-2011-Tec.2										
	11) The EMP includes activities that benefit the structure, function and composition of the nesting beach(es) or area of action of the EMP (e.g., beach cleanups, predation control, artificial lighting reduction, regulation of tourism, signage within the area, coastal resilience, among others).										
Management: Protection <i>Ex situ</i>	12) The EMP includes information on the number of protected nests <i>ex situ</i> (in hatcheries or other similar approved technique).										
	13) The EMP includes information on the number of protected eggs <i>ex situ</i> (in hatcheries or other similar approved technique).										
	14) The EMP includes data on hatching success for nests in hatcheries or any other method described in the technical document CIT-CC8-2011-Tec. 2										
	15) The EMP include a count or estimate of the number of hatchlings released back into the ocean from the total nests registered.										
	(16) The EMP includes a count or estimate of the number of hatchlings released back into the ocean from the percentage given to hatcheries to be incubated, under the mechanism of “conservation quota” established by the EMP. – Only for Guatemala this is applicable.										
	17) The EMP provides data on the maintenance of hatcheries, including but not limited to: enlargements, use of technology to monitor temperature, sanitary management measures, security measures, sand replacement, etc.										
	18) The EMP includes a protocol for egg management (i.e., collection, transport and re-burial at the hatchery).										

Management: subsistence harvest	19) The EMP includes counts or estimates of the number of nests (clutches) harvested under the approved harvesting model for each country.																		
	20) The EMP includes annual data trends on the number of <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> (olive ridley) eggs extracted, traded (i.e., numbers of eggs legally traded as a result of the Exception), and of protected eggs.																		
	21) The EMP establishes and defines sustainability indicators for the harvesting/consumption/trade model.																		
	22) The EMP includes the approved legal framework and regulations in force for the country.																		
	23) The EMP implements a harvesting protocol included within the framework of the EMP itself.																		
	24) The EMP includes procedures or measures for control and surveillance on the nesting beach or hatchery.																		
	25) The EMP includes a protocol for commercialization that includes copies of existing laws or regulations (legal trade within the Exception).																		
26) The EMP includes a traceability protocol.																			
Socioeconomic	27) The EMP includes socio-economic information on, for example: the number of beneficiaries from the trade, the income per capita from consumption/use of eggs, total estimate of the monetary value from egg extraction, comparative analysis of the trends of monthly and annual consumption rates, <i>inter alia</i> .																		
	28) The EMP includes a list of alternative economic activities other than egg trade/consumption (e.g., tourism, crafts, etc.).																		
	29) The EMP includes rules for tourist visitation and activities that might disrupt nesting in the area where harvesting under the Exception takes place.																		

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ANNEX V

Updated June 1, 2023 Version 4 adopted

CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.5

Questionnaire to follow up the implementation of the Resolution Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles CIT-COP10-2022-R7 to include in the IAC Annual Report

Prepared by IAC Fisheries Working Group and the East Pacific Leatherback Working Group members of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) and Scientific Committee (SC):

Gilberto Sales- Instituto Chico Méndes de Conservación de la Biodiversidad - Brazil, Cecilia Lezama -Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca Uruguay, Paula Salinas- Fundación Tortumar - Chile, João Luiz Camargo-Centro Tamar/ICMbio from Brazil, Heriberto Santana- (México,), Laura Sarti (CONANP/Mexico), Bryan Wallace-Ecolibrium-INC, Lezlie Camila Bustos-Subsecretaría de Pesca Chile, Victoria Gonzáles Carman-Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (UNMdP – CONICET) and Instituto de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP) Argentina.

Resolution [CIT-COP10-2022-R7](#) “Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles” 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.” ([see page 3 of the Resolution](#))

Following up on the request in the IAC Resolution above, the questionnaire CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.5 to be included in the IAC Annual Report was prepared by the Fisheries and EP Leatherback Working Groups (CCE/SC). The review process began with version 1 presented at IAC Scientific Committee in 2022, where comments were received and addressed in version 2, that was discussed at the CCE16 meeting (April, 2023). Subsequently version 3 and version 4 (final) were revised taking into consideration the suggestions by the CCE and SC.

The CCE16 and the IAC Scientific Committee: In the intersessional period (April 27-June 1st 2023) reviewed and adopted the questionnaire (CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.5 version 4) to

follow up the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 to be included in the IAC Annual Report no later than year 2025.

CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.5

Questionnaire to follow up the implementation of the Resolution Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles CIT-COP10-2022-R7 to include in the IAC Annual Report

Basic information types needed to evaluate the Fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 and Conservation of East Pacific Leatherback Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6

The following questionnaire is intended follow up the implementation of the Resolution Reduction of the Adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles [CIT-COP10-2022-R7](#) in the IAC Annual Report, and it is the result of the revision of preliminary questionnaires developed by the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts and Scientific Committee with their Fisheries and the East Pacific Leatherback Working Group.

Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 adopted at IAC COP10 requests 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.”*

This document summarizes the effort of both Committees to address the request by IAC COP10 above, focusing on the basic information types needed to effectively evaluate compliance with the Resolutions, as well as successful implementation over time. If the requested information is not available in the country, the option “ND” or “no data” can be selected.

The questionnaire is divided in 5 sections, as follow:

1. FISHERIES CHARACTERISTICS

Fishery is defined as a fishing activity that takes place in a specific area, using a specific fishing gear, targeting certain species, and interacting with one or more species of sea turtles

in different life stages, like pelagic longline targeting tuna, shrimp trawlers, semiartisanal pelagic longlines for Mahi mahi, etc.

1.1. Instructions: Please write in each row of the Table 1.1, the fisheries with the most known or expected adverse impacts on sea turtles in your country. Include those fisheries with the greatest numbers of interactions and/or interactions with critically endangered species and please indicate with (x) which species of sea turtle(s) interact(s) with those fisheries. Examples of fisheries: pelagic longline for tunnids, shrimp trawlers, bottom gillnet targeting “seabass”, among others. Add more rows to the table as needed. Cc = *Caretta caretta*; Cm= *Chelonia mydas*; Dc= *Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei= *Eretmochelys imbricata*; Lk= *Lepidochelys kempii* and *Lepidochelys olivacea*

TABLE 1.1						
FISHERY	Cc	Cm	Dc	Ei	Lk	Lo

1.2 Instructions: For each fishery mentioned in Table 1.1, provide the following information

TABLE 1.2					
FISHERY	Average length boat size (m)	Target species	General fishing area (coastal up to 12 miles and oceanic more than 12 miles)	Estimated total number of vessels that operated in the last year: (10, 11-100, 101-1,000, 1,001-10,000, >10,000, unquantified)	Average effective fishing days/vessel in the last year: (10, 11-30, 31-60, 61-90, 91-180, >180, every day, unquantified)

2) SEA TURTLE BYCATCH

2.1 Instructions: Using the data of fisheries with the greatest impact on sea turtles defined by your country in section 1 (Table 1.1), please indicate approximately how many sea turtles have been caught as bycatch in each fishery? Please select the most appropriate abundance value (zero, 1-10, 11-20, 21-50, 51-100, 101-1,000, 1,001-10,000, >10,000, or unquantified). If a species does not interact with a fishery, write N/A (Not applicable). Add more rows to the table as needed.

TABLE 2.1 (USE RANGES ABOVE)						
FISHERY	Cc	Cm	Dc	Ei	Lk	Lo

2.2 Instructions: Please indicate the source(s) of bycatch data and the percentage of fishing effort monitored to obtain those results: (0, <10%, 11-25%, 26-50%, > 50%, 100%, unquantified). If a monitoring method is not used for a given fishery, leave the field in blank. Add more rows to the table as needed.

TABLE 2.2 (USE RANGES ABOVE)						
FISHERY	On-board observers	Port-based observers/interviews	Electronic monitoring	Fishermen logbooks	Radio comms	Other

3. REDUCTION OF THE BYCATCH IMPACT ON SEA TURTLES

3.1. Instructions: Mention which of the following bycatch mitigation measures are implemented in your country, in the fisheries in section 1 (Table 1.1) and in what percentage of the fleet's activities (0, <10%, 11-25%, 26-50%, >50%, 100%, unquantified)? If a measure it is not implemented in your country, write "N/I" and include a brief description of the reason(s) why on the corresponding box. If the measure does not apply in your country, write "N/A" and a brief description of why the measure does not apply in its respective column, for example this measure and / or fishery does not exist.

TABLE 3.1				
MEASURE	Fishery to which the measure applies	% of fleet for the fishery (use ranges above)	This measure is not implemented (N/I)	This measure does not apply (N/A)
Circle hooks				
Fish bait				
Net illumination				
Reduced soak times				
TEDs (Turtle Excluders Devices)				
Others				

3.1.1 If circle hooks are used in your country, please specify the hook size and/ or size range (<14, 14-18, >18), and the fishery in which it is used in the box below.

3.2. In your country, is there research to identify any of the following techniques and/or measures to reduce post-capture mortality of sea turtles? Select all that apply.

- CIRCLE HOOKS
- FISH BAIT
- NET ILLUMINATION
- REDUCED SOAK TIMES
- SPATIAL/TEMPORAL MANAGEMENT
- TEDS
- Other _____

3.3. Instructions: Which of the following best practices and measures for safe handling and release for sea turtles are implemented in your country (in the fisheries identified in section 1 Table 1.1), and in what percentage of the fleet’s activities (0, <10%, 11-25%, 26-50%, > 50%, 100%, unquantified)? If the practice is not implemented in your country,

write (N/I) on the column “This practice is *Not Implemented*”, and include a brief description of the reason on the space provided. If the practice is *Not Applicable* in your country, write (N/A) on that column and a brief description of the reason, for example: the measure or practice/ or fishery does not exist in your country.

TABLE 3.3				
PRACTICE	Fishery to which this measure applies	% of the fishing fleet (use ranges above)	This measure is not implemented (N/I)	This measure does not apply (N/A)
Dehooking				
First aid to injured sea turtles				
Disentanglement				
Installation and maintenance of TEDs				
Communication program with the fishing fleet to promote best practices				
Projects to promote exchange between fishermen at national level to share experiences on reduction and mitigation of EP leatherback bycatch				
Projects to promote exchange between fishermen at regional level to share experiences on reduction and mitigation of EP leatherback bycatch				
On-board equipment and educational material for best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles				
Other				

3.4. Instructions: In your country, who is receiving training on the following best practices and how many individuals received the training **this year?** (? zero, 1-10, 11-20, 21-50, 51-100, 101-1,000, >1,000, or unquantified)?

TABLE 3.4			
GROUPS	Received training (YES or NO)	Number of trainings or workshops made	Number of people who received training (use ranges above)
Onboard observers			

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

4. STRANDINGS

4.1. In your country, is there a systematic registration for standings? A systematic registration refers to the collection of annual information for standings through a governmental agency or another organization authorized by the government.

- YES
 NO

4.2. Instructions: Indicate which methods are used to collect strandings information in your country, and how frequently each is used (continuously, sporadically, on demand, never)

TABLE 4.2		
Method	YES/NO	How frequently it is being used (continuously, sporadically, on demand, never)
Continuous and systematic monitoring within the framework of governmental programs (e.g. beach census)		
Systematic monitoring within the framework of specific research projects (e.g. particular projects lead by the scientific sector and the NGOs)		
Opportunistic monitoring (e.g. Isolated/fortuitous reports)		
Other – please indicate below		

4.3 OPTIONAL QUESTION INSTRUCTIONS: If you have the available information, approximately, how many sea turtles were stranded on the beach in your country last year? Please select the abundance value that is the best fit for your country (zero, 1-10, 11-20, 21-50, 51-100, 101-1000, 1001-10 000, >10 000 or UNQUANTIFIED).

TABLE 4.3 OPTIONAL			
Species	Number of stranded turtles (use range above)	Is the number of stranding the product of a systematic monitoring (Yes/NO)	Presence of the turtle species in your country (YES/NO)
Cc			
Cm			
Dc			
Ei			
Lk			
Lo			

5. PARTICIPATION IN RFMOS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES

Please indicate whether your country has supported the IAC Secretariat in the implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between the IAC and any Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and/or other entities relevant to the Convention in the year corresponding to this report. Please check all that apply. For support we understand: technical collaboration and exchange of expertise between your national experts and those of the other organization, participation in joint working groups, drafting documents, presentations at technical meetings, organization of side events, support to lobby for resolutions in line with the objective of the MoU, helping to make connections between IAC Secretariat and delegations of IAC non-member countries to increase IAC membership, among others.

- IATTC
- ICCAT
- RAMSAR
- ACAP
- CPPS
- SPAW
- OSPESCA
- SSC
- Others.

Provide a brief description of activity that your country supported the Implementation of MoU in the year of this report:

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Annex.VI- Presentation of technical document CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20 “Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas.”

This technical document can be found at the IAC website.

http://www.iacseaturtle.org/engdocs/tecnicos/CIT_CCE16_2023_Tec_20_NWALeatherback_Map_importantsites_ENG_24May_2023final_web.pdf

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Anexo_VII_MouAnnex VII- Document-CIT-COP10-2022.Doc4- Memorandum of Understanding between the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of sea turtles and the Secretary of the Sargasso Sea Commission.

The MoU can be found at the IAC website at:

http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/MOU_IAC_SSC_ENG_signed_2023.pdf

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ANNEX-VIII

Agreements Adopted at the 16th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts – April 25-26th 2023.



Acuerdos Adoptados en la 16^{va} Reunión del Comité Consultivo de Expertos CCE de la CIT 25-26 de Abril 2023

Agreements Adopted at the 16th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts – April 25-26th 2023.

1	<p><u>Excepciones</u></p> <p>Acuerdo 1: El grupo de trabajo de Excepciones conformado por miembros del Comité Consultivo (CCE) y Comité Científico (CC) tendrán 10 días a partir del 27 de abril para preparar la versión final del documento CIT-CCE16-2023.Doc.4: “Matriz de evaluación del plan de manejo de Excepciones para implementar las medidas del Artículo IV (3 a y b) sobre las excepciones para la cosecha de subsistencia de huevos de <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> en Costa Rica, Guatemala y Panamá”. El documento CIT-CCE16-2023.Doc.4 será compartido con el CCE y el CC quienes tendrán 20 días para su revisión y adopción por correspondencia, a más tardar el 8 de junio del 2023.</p> <p>El documento adoptado será enviado por la Secretaría de la CIT a los Puntos Focales de Costa Rica, Panamá y Guatemala para ser utilizado en sus reportes de implementación del Plan de Manejo de la Excepción, según la Resolución de cada país.</p> <p><u>Exceptions</u></p> <p>Agreement 1: The Exception Working Group (Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) and Scientific Committee (SC) will have 10 days from April 27th to prepare a final version of the document CIT-CCE16-2023.Doc.4 “Matrix to Evaluate the Management Plan for Exceptions to Implement the Measures of Article IV (3a & b) regarding Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> eggs in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panamá”. The document CIT-CCE16-2023.Doc.4 will be shared with the CCE and SC with 20 days for revision and adoption via email no later than June 8th, 2023.</p> <p>The IAC Secretariat will send the adopted document to the Focal Points from Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama to be used to prepare their reports regarding the Implementation of the Exception Management Plan, according to each country Resolution.</p>
2	<p><u>Excepciones</u></p> <p>Acuerdo 2: El Grupo de Trabajo de Excepciones de la CIT (miembros del CCE y CC) brindará recomendaciones al Plan de Manejo de la Excepción de</p>

	<p>Guatemala cuando el Punto Focal de Guatemala así lo requiera. Esta actividad se incluirá en el Plan de Trabajo del CCE 2023.</p> <p><u>Exceptions</u> Agreement 2: The IAC Exceptions WG (CCE and SC members) will provide Guatemala recommendations to the Exception Management Plan, when the Guatemala Focal Point request it and as appropriate. This activity will be included in the CCE Work Plan 2023.</p>
3	<p><u>Informe Anual de CIT/ Resolución de Pesquerías y Baula OPO</u> Acuerdo 3: El grupo de trabajo de Pesquerías y Baula OPO tendrá 10 días a partir del 27 de abril para preparar la versión final con los comentarios del CCE16 del documento CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.5: “Cuestionario para el seguimiento de la Implementación de la Resolución sobre los impactos adversos de las pesquerías CIT-COP10-2022-R7 para ser incluido en el informe Anual de la CIT”. El CCE y CC tendrán 20 días para revisión y adopción del documento por correspondencia, a más tardar el 1 de junio del 2023. De no ser aprobado por el CC, el documento será presentado en la reunión del CC20 en el 2023.</p> <p>El cuestionario de seguimiento de la Resolución de pesquerías aprobado por el CCE y CC deberá ser incluido a más tardar en el 2025 en el Informe Anual de la CIT.</p> <p><u>IAC Annual Report/ Fisheries Resolution and Leatherback EP</u> Agreement 3: The WG will have 10 days to make final edits beginning on April 27th, and prepare the final revision of the document CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.5 “Questionnaire to follow up the implementation of the Resolution regarding the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7 to be included in the IAC Annual Report”. The CCE and SC will have 20 days for revision and adoption of this document via email, no later than June 1st, 2023. If this cannot be adopted by SC, the document will be presented at the SC meeting SC20 in 2023.</p> <p>The adopted questionnaire will be included in the IAC Annual Report at the latest in 2025.</p>
4	<p><u>Documentos Técnicos/ Laúd del Atlántico Noroccidental</u> Acuerdo 4: El CCE adoptó documento técnico CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20 “Áreas utilizadas por la población de tortugas baula del Atlántico Noroccidental y recomendaciones para colaborar en la conservación de la tortuga baula en estas áreas”. Sus recomendaciones serán presentadas a la COP11-2024.</p> <p><u>Technical Documents /NWA Leatherback</u> Agreement 4: The CCE adopted the technical document CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20 “Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas.”</p>

	<p>Recommendations will be presented at the COP11- 2024.</p>
5	<p><u>Colaboraciones con organizaciones internacionales</u> Acuerdo 5: El GT Laúd del Atlántico Noroccidental preparará junto con la Secretaría de la Comisión del Mar de los Sargazos (SSC), un listado de posibles actividades para la implementación del MdE. Por parte de la SSC, estarán participando el Dr. David Freestone (Secretario Ejecutivo del SSC), Ms. Fae Sapsford (Asistente de Secretaría del SSC) y Dr. David Vousten (CFA del proyecto GEF). Esta actividad será incluírá en el plan de trabajo del CCE.</p> <p><u>Collaboration with International Organizations</u> Agreement 5: the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback WG will prepare with the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC) a list of possible activities to be implemented within the MoU. Participants from SSC are: Dr. David Freestone (Executive Secretary), Ms. Fae Sapsford (SSC Secretary Assistant) and Dr. David Vousten (CFA from the GEF project). This activity will be included in the CCE Work Plan.</p>
6	<p><u>Colaboración con Organizaciones Internacionales</u> <i>GT Financiación para Proyectos menores</i> Acuerdo 6: El grupo de trabajo de financiamiento de proyectos (CCE) queda conformado de la siguiente manera: Paula Salinas –delegada de Chile ante el CCE, Nina Pardo - (sector productivo), Luis Fonseca -Costa Rica por Siempre (sector ONG), Rotney Piedra delegado de Costa Rica ante el CCE y el Presidente del CCE, Dr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara de México. El grupo de trabajo presentará sus avances con base en los resultados de trabajo en el período 2023-2024 en la reunión del CCE17 2024.</p> <p><u>Collaboration with International Organizations</u> <i>Fundraising for Small projects Working Group:</i> Agreement 6: The members of the fundraising working group (CCE) are Paula Salinas-Delegate from Chile of the CCE, Nina Pardo- (Productive Sector), Luis Fonseca-Costa Rica por Siempre (NGO Sector), Rotney Piedra-delegate from Costa Rica of the CCE and CCE Chair, Dr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara. The working group will present updates based upon results from the period 2023-2024 at the CCE17 2024.</p>
7	<p><u>Colaboración con Organizaciones Internacionales</u> <i>GT Financiación para Proyectos menores</i> Acuerdo 7: El GT se enfocará en buscar financiamiento para el proyecto piloto Chile -Perú “Estandarización de formularios de Auto-Reporte de Captura Incidental de Tortugas Marinas para la Implementación en Pesquerías</p>

	<p><i>Artesanales de Espinel y Enmalle del Sur del Perú y el Norte de Chile” y reportará de sus avances según sea necesario.</i></p> <p><u>Collaboration with International Organizations</u> <i>Fundraising for Small projects Working Group:</i> Agreement 7: The WG will focus in fundraising to implement the pilot project “<i>Standardization of formats to report sea turtles’ bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in Southern Peru and Northern Chile</i>”. Progress report will be presented as needed.</p>
8	<p><u>Colaboración con Organizaciones Internacionales</u> <i>GT Financiación para Proyectos menores</i> Acuerdo 8: Una vez el presupuesto del proyecto piloto Chile-Perú sea definido, el GT convocará a una reunión con la Coordinación del Plan de Acción de la CPPS para evaluar posibles sinergias y buscar colaboración en el marco del MdE.</p> <p><u>Collaboration with International Organizations</u> <i>Fundraising for Small projects Working Group:</i> Agreement 8: Once the budget for the Chile-Peru pilot Project is defined, the WG will convene a meeting with the Coordination for the Action Plan of the CPPS to evaluate possible synergies and search for collaborations within the framework of the MoU.</p>
9	<p><u>Colaboración con Organizaciones Internacionales</u> <i>GT Financiación para Proyectos menores</i> Acuerdo 9: Se acordó realizar una reunión de trabajo entre el Grupo de Financiación de proyectos menores con el Grupo de Trabajo Legal para identificar actividades que puedan ser abordadas como una sola, para evitar duplicidad de esfuerzos y definir un plan de trabajo en el tema de financiamiento operativo de la CIT y de proyectos. La reunión se llevará acabo a más tardar en diciembre del 2023.</p> <p><u>Collaboration with International Organizations</u> <i>Fundraising for Small projects Working Group:</i> Agreement 9: Convene a meeting of the Fundraising WG and the IAC Legal WG to identify activities that can be addressed as one, avoiding duplication of efforts and to define a work plan related to financial support for IAC operations and projects. The meeting will be convened no later than December 2023.</p>
10	<p><u>Informe de Implementación de Resoluciones CIT</u> ACUERDO 10: El documento preliminar CIT-CCE16-2023.Doc.6: “Análisis de los Informes Anuales de la CIT 2015-2022”, fue presentado a los miembros del CCE. La Universidad de Stetson preparará el documento final que será presentado en CCE17 y luego en la COP11-2024. Se acordó que los miembros del CCE deberán revisar que la información de sus países en el documento sea correcta y enviar ediciones o comentarios en los próximos 30 días a la Secretaría</p>

	<p>a más tardar el 30 de junio 2023.</p> <p>Se recomienda tener un diálogo con cada Punto Focal con base en este documento para entender cuáles son los retos en el llenado del Informe Anual de la Convención y en particular, hacer la consulta con respecto a la baja entrega de los informes en los años 2007-2009, y en general, conversar sobre la entrega anual de los reportes y como se podría apoyar en mejorar el cumplimiento con la entrega de los mismos.</p> <p><u>IAC Report on the Implementation of Resolutions</u> AGREEMENT 10: The preliminary document CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.6 “ANALYSIS OF IAC ANNUAL REPORTS 2015 – 2022” was presented to the CCE members. Stetson University will prepare the final document and will be presented at the CCE17 in March 2024 and afterwards, at the COP11-2024. CCE members will review that the information from their countries is correct and will send any changes in the next 30 days to the IAC Secretary by June 30th 2023.</p> <p>It is recommended to arrange conversations with the Focal Points based on this document to understand the challenges the parties have had answering the IAC Annual Report, in particular, inquire on the years 2007-2009 as only few reports were received, we seek to know how we can support to improve more compliance with turning in the report.</p>
11	<p><u>Boletín de la CIT</u> <i>Reconocimiento al sector pesquero</i> Acuerdo 11: La delegada representante del sector productivo del CCE, Nina Pardo-Perú, será la editora de la sección de reconocimiento al sector pesquero en buenas prácticas a ser incluido en el boletín de la CIT. La editora preparará las noticias correspondientes a esta sección para cada edición del boletín (3 o 4 veces al año).</p> <p><u>IAC Bulletin</u> <i>Acknowledgment to the Fisheries Sector</i> Agreement 11: The delegate representative of the CCE Productive Sector, Nina Pardo-Peru, will be the editor for the new section of the IAC Bulletin with an acknowledgment of the Fisheries Sector for good practices. The editor will prepare the news for this section for each edition of the Bulletin (3 to 4 times a year).</p>
12	<p><u>Plan de Trabajo CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.3:</u> Acuerdo 12: El plan de trabajo fue actualizado con base en los acuerdos tomados en la reunión CCE16. Nuevas actividades fueron incluidas en los siguientes temas: Excepciones, Informe Anual de la CIT, Colaboración con Organizaciones Internacionales, Resoluciones y Recomendaciones para la COP, Documentos Técnicos y el Boletín de Noticias.</p>

	<p><u>Work Plan CIT-CCE16-Doc.3:</u> Agreement 12: The plan was updated based upon the agreements from the CCE16 meeting. New activities were included on the following topics: Exceptions, IAC Annual Report, Collaboration with International organizations, Resolutions and Recommendations for the COP, Technical Documents and IAC Bulletin.</p>
13	<p><u>Elección del Presidente y Vicepresidente del CCE para el período 2023-2025</u> Acuerdo 13: El Comité Consultivo de Expertos acordó la reelección del Sr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara (México) como Presidente y del Sr. Eduardo Espinoza (Ecuador) como Vicepresidente por el período de dos (2) años abril 2023-2025.</p> <p><u>CCE Chair and Vice Chair Elections for the 2023-2025 period</u> Agreement 13: The Consultative Committee of Experts agreed to the re-elections of Mr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara (Mexico) as Chair and Mr. Eduardo Espinoza (Ecuador) as Vice Chair for the next two (2) years, April 2023-2025.</p>

Nota: Los acuerdos fueron discutidos y adoptados durante la plenaria de la reunión del CC16 el 26 de abril del 2023. Posterior a la reunión, la Secretaría circuló el documento a los miembros del CCE para ediciones de forma, aclaración y traducción hasta el 9 de junio del 2023, dando como resultado el presente documento.

Note: The agreements were discussed and adopted during the plenary at the CCE16 meeting in April 26th 2023. After the meeting, the IAC Secretary shared the document with the CCE members for minor edits, translations and clarifications until June 9th 2023. This document is the result of editing process mentioned above.

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Annex - IX

Pictures from the 16th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE16)

1. Participants during the CCE16 virtual meeting



Photo 1 (top) y Photo 2(bottom). Gropu pictures of participants. April 25th 2023.



2. Presentation of the Recommendation by the Scientific Committee



Photo 3. Ing. Lezlie Camila Bustos-Scientific Committee Chair presenting the recommendations provided by the CC19 meeting in November, 2022.

3. Document's revision and discussion during plenary at the CCE16

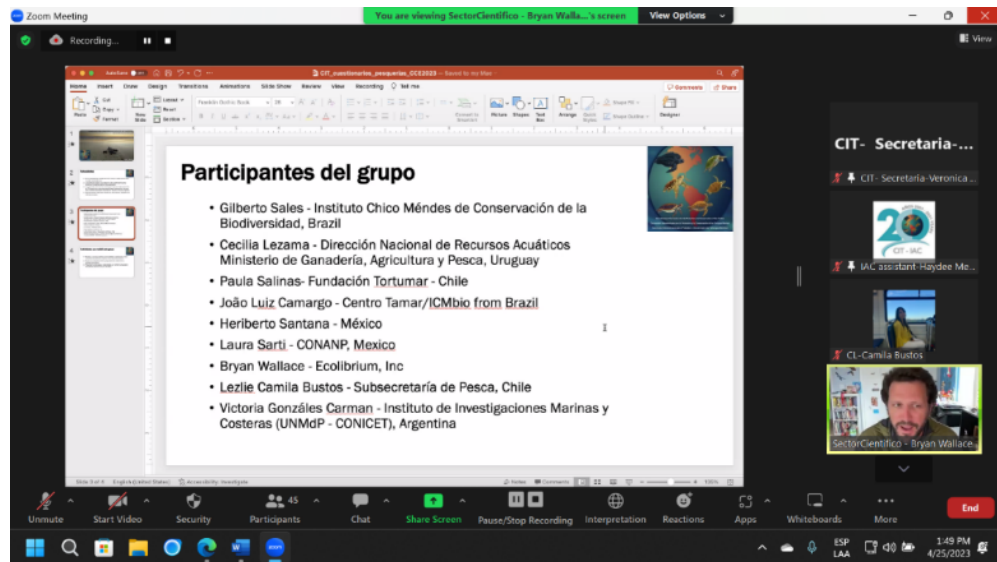


Photo 4. The discussion of the document CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.5 “Questionnaire to follow up the implementation of the Resolution regarding the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7 to be included in the IAC Annual Report” began presenting a proposed questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the Resolution on Adverse Impacts of Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7.

The screenshot shows a video conference with two participants. On the left is CIT_Presidente_Eduardo Ponce, and on the right is MARINO ABREGO. Below them is a presentation slide with a table and text.

Table:

o número de nuevos que por cualquier método aprobado en el PME no estén expuestas a las amenazas uso adicionales de origen antrópico, o un incremento de riesgos naturales que u otras formas que afecte su sobrevivencia.	X	X	X		
El PME provee o estima los números de los neonatos producidos del porcentaje de huevos entregados a los corrales o viveros, bajo el mecanismo de "Cuota de Conservación" mediante establecida en el PME los métodos de compensación a la extracción establecidos en el PME.	X	X	X		
El PME incluye datos y/o información sobre el desarrollo de actividades que benefician la estructura, función y composición de la playa de anidamiento o área de acción del EMP (Limpieza de	X	X	X		

Text on the right side of the slide:

- Usuario de Microsoft Office**
Como controla amenazas por ejemplo del CC, si el PME no gestiona estas?
- IAC Secretario**
USA: Is this the nest protection methods outlined in the EMP? Que significa método de compensación? CCE pide a coordinadores de CIT una nueva redacción de este indicador que sea mas claro y lo presentaran mañana en la reunión del CCE.

Photo 5. Plenary discussion of comments received to the Exceptions document during the CCE16 meeting.

The screenshot shows a video conference with three participants: CIT-Secretaria-V..., IAC assistant-Ha..., and OBS-US-Stetson Law Katherine Pratt. The main focus is a presentation slide with a bar chart.

Text on the slide:

submitted an Annual Report only in 2020.

Question 1a) Have you created conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific?

Figure 2. This graph shows that "yes" answers to this question have decreased since

Bar Chart Data:

Year	Yes	No	Not applicable	No report submitted
2015	~85%	~10%	~5%	~0%
2016	~80%	~15%	~5%	~0%
2017	~75%	~20%	~5%	~0%
2018	~70%	~25%	~5%	~0%
2019	~65%	~30%	~5%	~0%
2020	~60%	~35%	~5%	~0%
2021	~55%	~40%	~5%	~0%
2022	~50%	~45%	~5%	~0%

Photo 6. Presentation and agreements taken upon the preliminary document regarding the implementation of the IAC resolutions using information provided by the IAC Annual reports, presented by Dr. Katherine Pratt, from Stetson University.

4. Signature of the Memorandum of understanding with the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC).

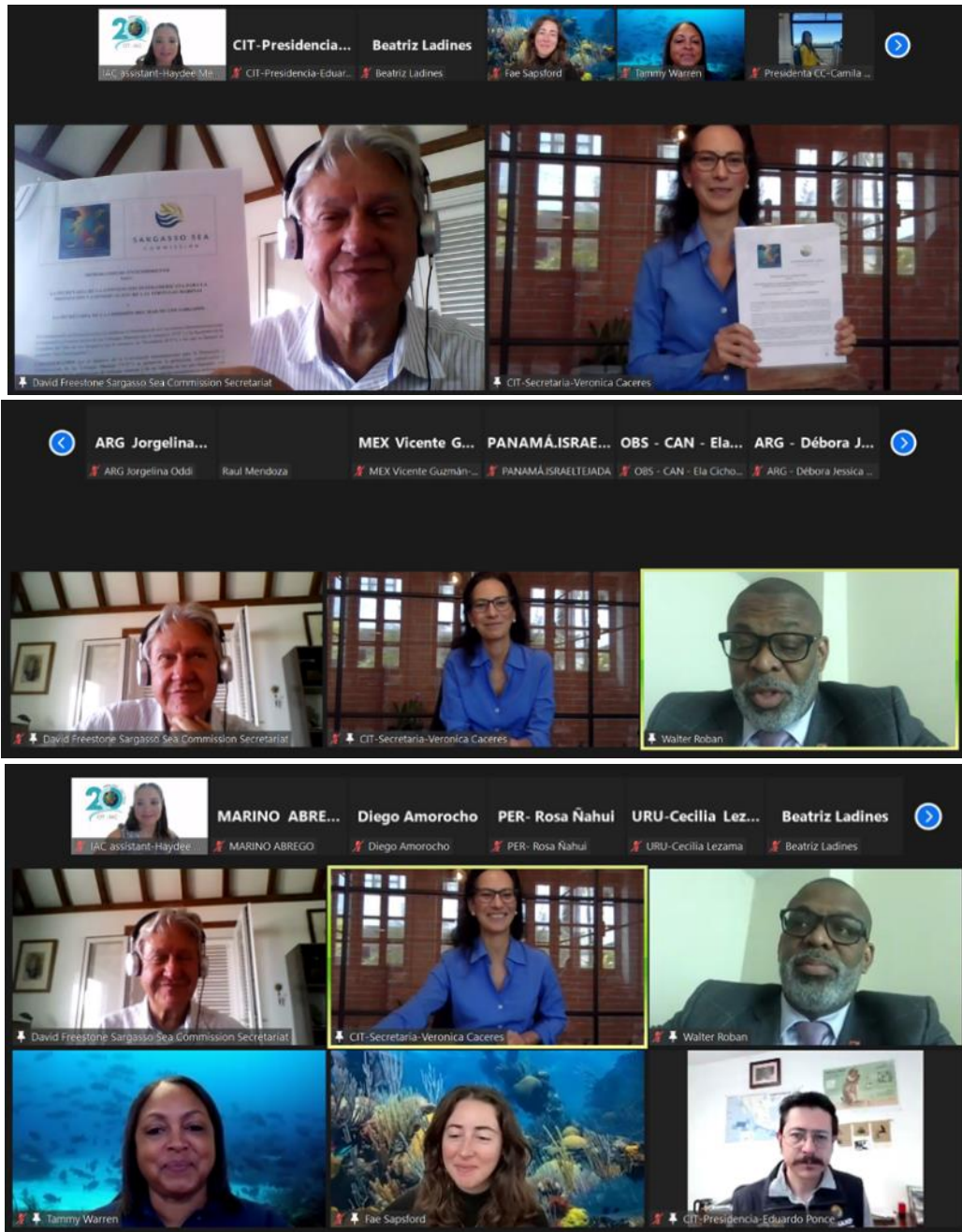


Photo 7 (top). Signature of the MoU between the IAC Secretary, Ms. Verónica Cáceres, and the SSC Executive Secretary, Dr. David Freestone. Photo 7 (central). Words from, Honorable Walter Roban, Premier Minister and Minister of the Department of the Interior of Bermuda, welcomed the opportunity to participate and support the signing of the MoU promoting closer collaboration between the IAC and the SSC. Photo 9. (bottom). IAC and SSC members participating during the signing of the MoU.

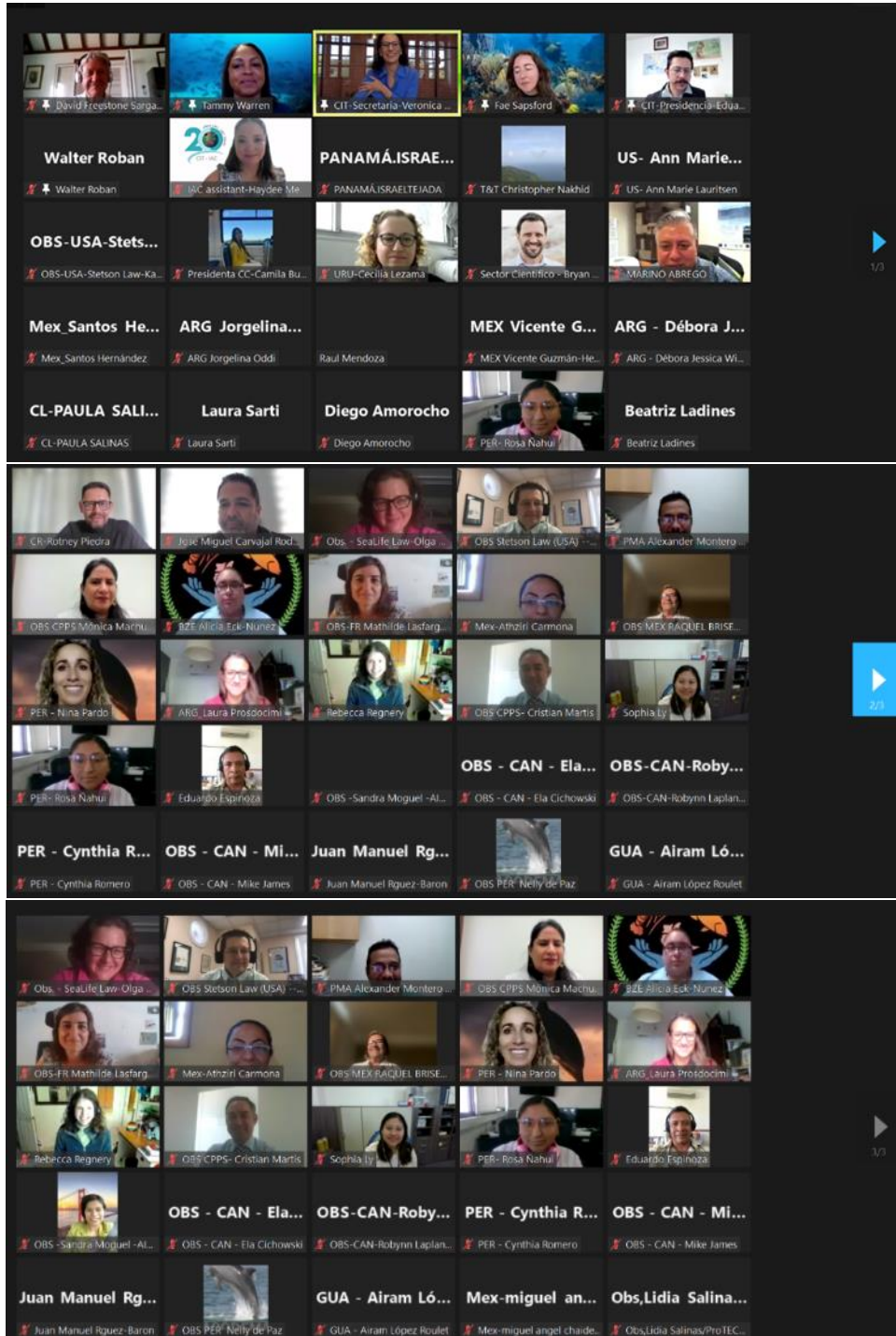
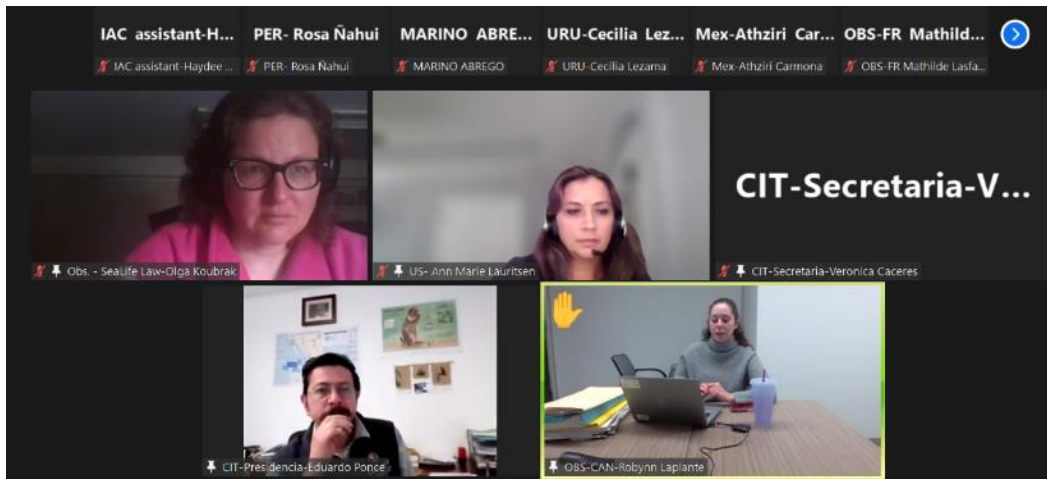
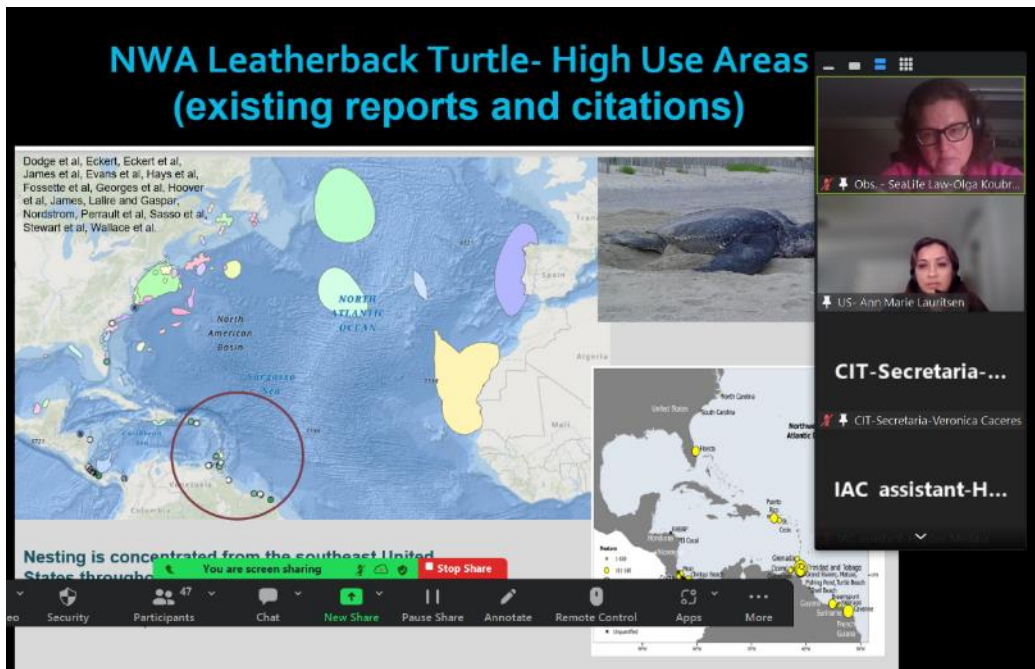


Photo 10. Participants of the CCE16 virtual meeting during the signature of the MoU between IAC and the SCC.

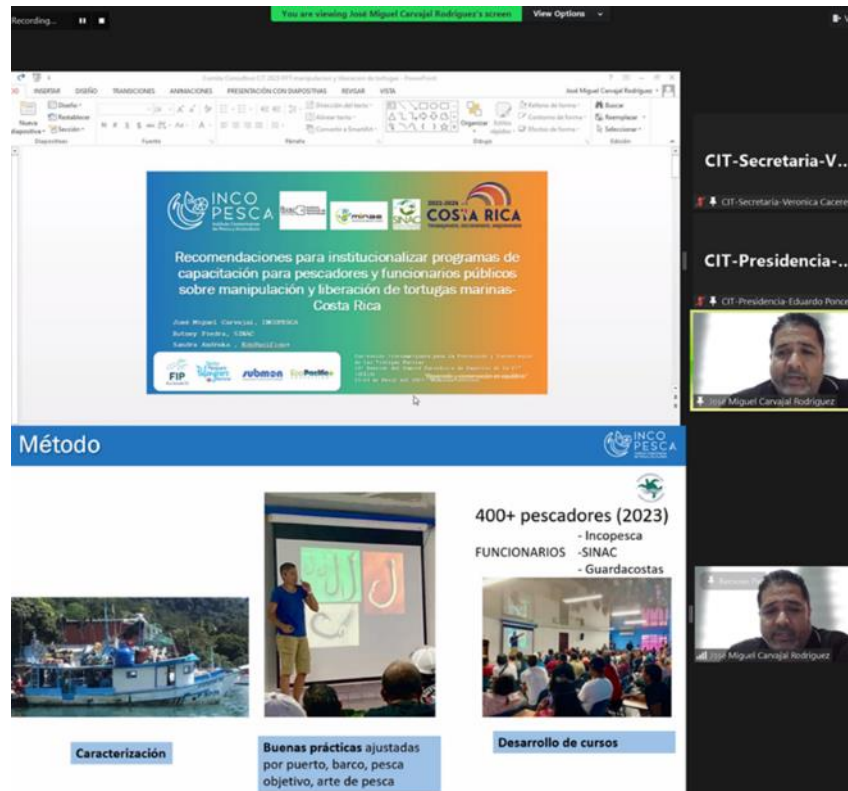
5. Presentation of technical document CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20 “Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas.”



Photos 11 & 12. Pictures taken during the presentation of the technical document: CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20, presented by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Working Group, Ms. Ann Marie Lauritsen- USA delegate to the IAC, Dra. Olga Koubrak- SeaLife Law and Ms. Robynn Laplante- from the Canada Government.

6- **Presentation: Recommendations to institutionalize training programs for fishermen on the handling and release of sea turtles-Costa Rica.**

Photo 12. The CCE delegates from Costa Rica: Dr. José Miguel Carvajal-INCOPESCA and Dr. Rotney Piedra-SINAC, with the participation of Ms. Sandra Andraza from EcoPacífico + and Dr. Mariluz Parga SUBMON shared Costa Rica's experience in the framework of the sea turtle handling and release project and their recommendations on how to institutionalize training programs for fishermen and public officials



7. Elección de Presidente y Vicepresidente del CCE



Foto 13. Reelection of Dr. José Eduardo Ponce Guevara -(México) as Chair and Biol. Eduardo Espinoza (Ecuador) as Vicechair, respectively, for the 2023-2025 period.

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