

A sunset over a body of water with mountains in the background. The sky is filled with colorful clouds in shades of orange, red, and purple. The water is calm and reflects the colors of the sky. The mountains are silhouetted against the horizon.

# 21<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting of the Commission

12 - 19 November 2018

Dubrovnik, Croatia

# U.S. Delegation

John Henderschedt

Ray Bogan

Geño Piñeiro

Drew Lawler

Kim Blankenbeker

Rachel O'Malley

Melanie King

Oriana Villar

Terra Lederhouse

Carolyn Doherty

Sarah McLaughlin

Randy Blankinship

Carrie Soltanoff

Craig Brown

Michael Schirripa

Alex Miller

Megan Walline

Derek Campbell

Meggan Engelke-Ros

Bill Gibbons-Fly

Deirdre Warner-Kramer

Alexis Ortiz

Katie Moore

Wynn Carney

Brianna Elliott

Grace Ferrara

William Goldsmith



Jack Devnew

Gerry Leape

Mike Luisi

Rick Weber

Mike Pierdinock

David Schalit

John Graves

# Meeting Dynamics

- 45 of 52 parties in attendance
- U.S. w/leadership roles
  - Mr. Derek Campbell, Chair of the COC
  - Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer, Chair of the Convention Amendment Working Group
  - Ms. Oriana Villar, Chair of the Online Reporting Working Group
- 12 Recommendations & 2 Resolutions adopted

# U.S. Priorities 2018

- Bigeye tuna
- Blue marlin
- Bluefin tuna
- Convention Amendment Working Group
- Improved MCS measures
- Compliance
- Advance HCR/MSE
- Bycatch issues

# Panel 1 - Tropical Tunas

- Competing BET measures tabled by EU, Guatemala, and South Africa
- A drafting group combined elements of the three proposals
  - BET TAC started at 55K mt, moved to 62.5K mt
  - Quotas for any CPC with annual catch >1,575 mt over last 5 years (was/is 3,500mt)
  - Purse seine contribution not to exceed 2015 levels
  - *Failed to reach consensus*

- Rec 18-01 Tropical Tunas
  - One-year rollover of 16-01
  - Keeps BET TAC of 65K mt (actual catch has been ~80K mt in recent years, with a TAC of 65K mt)
  - Suspend payback by CPCs with catch limits when TAC exceeded
  - Suspend Ghana's overage payback of 337 mt/yr
- Approved two-day Panel 1 intersessional prior to the start of this year's Commission meeting

# Panel 2 - Northern Temperate Tunas

- Rec 18-02 Eastern Bluefin Tuna
  - Worked on, but no consensus in 2017
  - 46 page recommendation
  - Several drafting sessions (paragraph by paragraph)
  - With increased TAC and quotas, many CPCs wanted to reduce restrictions, capacity limitations, minimum size measures
  - Resulted in a weakened measure

- Res 18-03 - Development of Management Objectives for E & W Bluefin Tuna
  - Develop operational objectives for HCR/MSE
    - Stock status
    - Safety
    - Yield
    - Stability

# Panel 4 - Swordfish, Billfish, Sharks...

- Competing billfish recommendations tabled by EU and US (*no consensus*)
  - EU
    - BUM TAC reduced to 1750 mt (major player reductions)
    - US limit reduced from 250 to 220 BUM/WHM/SPG
  - US
    - BUM TAC remains at 2000 mt for one year
    - Live release from PLL & PS vessels; retention of dead animals if observers or electronic monitoring system
    - Mandatory use of circle hooks on surface PLL sets
    - Prohibition on billfish entering into international trade
- Rec 18-04 Marlins
  - Rolls over 15-05 for one year

# Some US-led Panel 4 proposals that didn't reach consensus

- Fins Attached
  - Approx. 30 parties co-sponsored or supported
- Sea Turtle Conservation (US & Panama)
  - Proposal based on SCRS advice would require use of circle hooks or finfish bait on surface set longlines
- Monitoring and Avoiding Cetacean interactions (US & Canada)

# A grueling session for the US!

- As summarized by Fabio Hazin, the Panel 4 chair:
  - Fins attached: dead on arrival
  - Cetaceans: in the emergency room
  - Turtles: in critical condition
  - Marlins: in need of a transplant

# Compliance Committee/Panel 4

- Rec 18-05 Billfish check sheet
  - Clarifies reporting requirements for Annual Reports
  - Facilitates evaluation of compliance
- Rec 18-06 Shark check sheet
  - Clarifies reporting requirements for Annual Reports
  - Facilitates evaluation of compliance

# Compliance Committee

- Two-day meeting of the Compliance Committee before Commission meeting
- Allowed time for country-by-country review of the compliance tables
- Identification lifted for Sierra Leone
- Identification maintained for Dominica

- Letters detailing compliance concerns and/or requests for more info to 51 members and non-members
- **Rec 18-07 Compliance Deadlines**
  - Amends reporting deadlines to facilitate compliance review

# Permanent Working Group (PWG)

- Rec 18-08 IUU Vessel List
  - Forwarded from IMM meeting
    - Definition of IUU activities
    - Development of draft IUU list
    - Development of final IUU list
    - Actions following listing\*
      - CPC with listed vessels
      - All CPCs
      - Secretariat to inform other RFMOs
    - Delisting
  - R&Rs Recs 11-18 and 14-11

- Rec 18-09 Port States Measures to Deter IUU Fishing
  - Submitted by US
  - Brings ICCAT into line with FAO Port States Measure Agreement
  - Many concerns voiced, but US notes that many are of items that are already in force!
  - R&Rs Rec 12-07

- Rec 18-10 Minimum Standards for VMS
  - Submitted by US
  - Includes vessels >15m that fish in waters outside of flag state jurisdiction
  - Includes vessels >24m wherever they fish
  - Polling rate
    - 1 hour for purse seine vessels except those targeting small tunas in the Med (2 hrs)
    - 2 hour for all other vessels
  - R&Rs Rec 14-09

- Res 18-11 Pilot Program for Exchange of At-sea Inspection Personnel
  - Forwarded by IMM Working Group
  - Advance understanding and use of high seas boarding and inspection as a monitoring and control tool
  - Inform Executive Secretary of exchanges
  - Review within three years of adoption

- Rec 18-12 Application of the eBCD System
  - Presented by Norway
  - Clarifies implementation of the eBCD
  - Countries with no discard requirement
    - Can retain BFT and issue an eBCD
    - But export not allowed if over quota
  - R&Rs Rec 17-09

- Rec 18-13 Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation System
  - Presented by Norway
  - Clarifies BTCD system
  - Countries with no discard requirement
    - Can retain BFT and issue an eBCD
    - But export not allowed if over quota

# STACFAD

- Working under 2018/2019 biennial budget
- Status of the Working Capital Fund (WCF)
  - Target: >15% of annual budget
  - 2013 WCF 118% of annual budget; 2017 19.3%
  - Start of last year's meeting: in the red!
  - By end of meeting, back into the black (Ghana)
  - Remaining debt ~51% of annual budget

- Establish Working/Internal Correspondence Group
  - Review existing and planned serviced and available funding options
  - Consider cost-recovery policies
- Approval of SCRS research plan (& costs)
- eBCD funding scheme
  - Previously funded out of WCF
  - New funding model
    - Basic fee for all that catch or trade BFT
    - Remainder
      - 30% based on CPCs round weight of catch
      - 40% on number of CPCs eBCD transactions
      - 30% overall volume of BFT imported

# Plenary

- Convention Amendment Working Group
  - Package of amendments endorsed
  - Considerable discussion on the process to adopt the package
  - Intersessional process to develop authentic texts in the three official languages
  - To be formally adopted during 2019 Commission meeting
- "Aspirational" HCR/MSE road map
- New format for SCRS Executive Summaries

# 2019 ICCAT Calendar (major SCRS meetings)

- **SCRS Assessments**
  - White marlin
    - Data Preparatory meeting: 12 - 15 March
    - Assessment: 10 - 14 June
  - Yellowfin tuna
    - Data preparatory meeting: 22 - 26 April
    - Assessment: 8 - 16 July
  - Shortfin mako
    - Stock assessment update: 20 - 24 May

# Commission Meetings

- Commission Intersessionals
  - Panel 2 Intersessional: 4 - 7 March, Madrid
  - IMM WG: 2 - 4 April, Madrid
  - Panel 1 Intersessional: 16 - 17 November, Curaçao
- Commission Meeting
  - 18 - 25 November, Curaçao



Awesome  
Rapporteurs





Thanks to Ray Bogan  
for some photos!





Thank you!