

Main resolutions and recommendations relating to straddling species adopted by regional fisheries management organizations and implemented by Mexico
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

- Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Programme (eBCD)
- Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs
- Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries
- Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program
- Recommendation by ICCAT to amend Recommendation [Rec. 04-10] concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT
- Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT
- Resolution by ICCAT on the shark fishery

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

- C-11-01 Tuna conservation 2011-2013
- C-11-08 Observers on longline vessels
- C-11-09 and C-08-02 Transhipments
- C-11-10 Conservation of Oceanic whitetip sharks
- C-11-11 Capacity building
- C-07-03 Sea turtles
- C-05-02 Northern albacore tuna
- C-05-03 Sharks
- C-05-07 List of vessels (illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities)

- C-04-03 Notification of sightings of vessels
- C-04-05 Consolidated bycatch resolution
- C-04-06 Vessel monitoring systems
- C-04-07 Program to mitigate the impact of fishing on sea turtles
- C-04-10 Catch reporting
- C-03-01 IATTC bigeye tuna statistical document program
- C-03-04 At-sea reporting
- C-03-05 Provision of data
- C-02-03 Capacity of the tuna fleet operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean
- C-99-07 Fish-aggregating devices

The national fisheries policy for the regulation of highly migratory and straddling species is guided by and fully consistent with the goals of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, in particular articles 61 and 62 on the conservation and utilization of the living resources, article 63 on straddling species and in particular article 64, on highly migratory species.

Similarly, Mexico manages its fisheries in compliance with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in particular article 2 relating to the objectives of the Code, article 6 on general principles, article 7 on fisheries management and article 8 on fishing operations, as well as other relevant articles of the instrument.

Mexico regards article 8.5 of the Code of Conduct as a key priority and therefore places special emphasis on improving the selectivity of fishing gear to ensure that vessels flying the Mexican flag minimize discards and catch of juveniles and non-target species, particularly avoiding the catch of associated species.

In this respect, and considering the situation of discrete high-seas stocks of highly migratory species, Mexico consistently promotes and advocates for the adoption of

conservation measures in the framework of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) to minimize by-catch and the catch of juvenile fish and for the adoption of a multi-species ecosystem approach.

This includes, as a matter of priority, the adoption of measures for counting, marking, numbering and monitoring fish-aggregating devices (FADs), which are low-selectivity fishing gear with frequent negative impacts on marine ecosystems.

In light of the above, and in view of the minimum sustainability requirements, Mexico has encouraged and will continue to encourage the relevant bodies to adopt more efficient measures to monitor, control and reduce fishing efforts using FADs, as appropriate, calling on members of RFMOs to act accordingly.

Furthermore, in recognition of the suitability and universality of the two aforementioned instruments, the Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Mexico follows a sustainable fisheries policy and has established fisheries management measures that are also consistent with the substantive goals of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (1995 Fish Stocks Agreement). Mexico has incorporated into its legislation some of the criteria laid out in the Agreement, including: the adoption of a precautionary approach, with conservation measures based on and supported by data collection and a scientific approach; port State and flag State measures; measures to encourage compliance; and in particular participation in regional fisheries management organizations, which are key to the effective management of large-scale fishing resources.

Mexico participates in RFMOs such as the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

Accordingly, Mexico has incorporated the regulations of these organizations into its domestic conservation and management measures, which are designed to provide a modern

regulatory framework for the sustainable use of aquatic, biological and environmental resources, including, inter alia, those mentioned in Annex I.

Some of these measures are designed to protect sea turtles, reduce bycatch and discards in catches, release live non-target fish such as blue marlin and juvenile tuna in long-line set tuna fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, and to release species reserved for sport fishing.

The General Act on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture of 2007 was updated to include the concept of sustainability, in addition to highlighting the role of aquaculture production. It also defines new mechanisms for involving fishing industry actors and reconciling fishing practices with the legal framework on the basis of scientific, regulatory and operational criteria. To that end, fisheries management programmes for each strategic resource – either by fishery or by aquaculture farming method – and fisheries management plans were established as instruments of fisheries policy.

The most recent measures implemented by Mexico relating to the fishing of highly migratory species are outlined below:

- Mexican Official Standard NOM-029-PESC-2006 on the responsible fishing of shark and rays, which establishes technical specifications for the use of shark and ray resources and includes a ban on finning. In addition to regulating the fishing effort and no-fishing zones and times, it establishes, inter alia, the mandatory use of circle hooks in specific zones and protected breeding areas.

In addition, there is an agreement establishing the allowable bycatch volume in shark and ray fishing operations in the territorial waters of the United Mexican States in the Pacific Ocean.

A closed season shall be implemented as a measure to promote the conservation of sharks, with fishing banned during the height of the breeding season for the main species. This closed season will be staggered from region to region between the months of May and August each year.

- Mandatory participation in and use of a satellite positioning and monitoring system for all Mexican fishing vessels so that their operations can be monitored by satellite in real time 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.
- A unique and ground-breaking programme in the field of scientific research, control and monitoring has been established and is operational, with researchers on board tuna, shark and shrimp fishing vessels deployed on the Pacific coast, as well as in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.
- As Mexico is a port State, provisions have been established in line with regional conservation and management measures for highly migratory species. This is done to monitor catches using traceability systems for marketing catches of those species and of bycatch associated with the protection of marine species.

Pursuant to Article 9 of the General Act on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), via the National Commission for Fisheries and Aquaculture (CONAPESCA), to regulate fishery activities and mechanisms for the conservation and management of unprotected aquatic species. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (PROFEPA) is competent only in matters relating to fishery activities in protected natural areas. However, the Agency is willing to carry out joint actions in that field. To date, its mandate is restricted to the bycatch of dolphins during tuna fishing, in the framework of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Programme (AIDCP), an initiative of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission for the eastern Pacific Ocean.
