



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802- 4213

NOV 17 2005 150409SWR2005SF00321: JAR

Dear **U.S. PURSE SEINE TUNA FLEET and U.S. BIGEYE TUNA LONGLINE FLEET,**

**Re: IATTC FISHERY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR 2005**

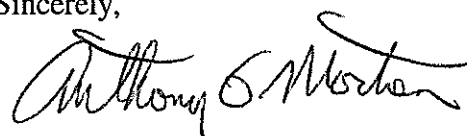
At the June 2004 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) meeting, the Parties adopted a Resolution for a *Multi-Annual Program on the Conservation of Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean for 2004, 2005, and 2006* for the conservation and management of yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). This resolution offers a choice of a six-week purse seine fishery closure beginning either August 1 or November 20 of each year. In addition, the resolution also requires the closure of each country's longline fishery for bigeye tuna in the EPO if and when the catch reaches the estimated level of catch in 2001. A copy of the resolution can be found on the IATTC home page at [www.IATTC.org](http://www.IATTC.org). The Department of State (DOS) has approved the IATTC recommendation. This is to notify you of the conservation measures for 2005.

**Purse Seine Fishery.** For 2005, comments were received during the proposed rule comment period with respect to the timing of the closure. Most comments received noted that a closure later in the fishing year gave better public notice, minimized the disruption of planned fishery operations, and was in keeping with the historic timing of closures for this purse seine fishery and the ability of the industry to prepare for and plan the closure. The United States has chosen the six-week period beginning November 20, 2005, for purse seine vessels fishing for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area. For the purposes of this Resolution, the Convention Area is defined as the area bounded by the coastline of the Americas, the 40° N parallel, the 150° W meridian, and the 40° S parallel.

**Longline Fishery.** For 2005, the U.S. longline bigeye fishery was closed September 2, 2005, after reaching the 150 metric ton limit. For 2006, you will be notified when the U.S. longline bigeye fishery reaches the 150 metric ton catch limit and the fishery is closed.

I appreciate your cooperation in observing the six-week, time/area closure beginning November 20, 2005, for the purse seine fishery and the closure of the longline fishery for bigeye tuna.

Sincerely,

  
for Rodney R. McInnis  
Regional Administrator

