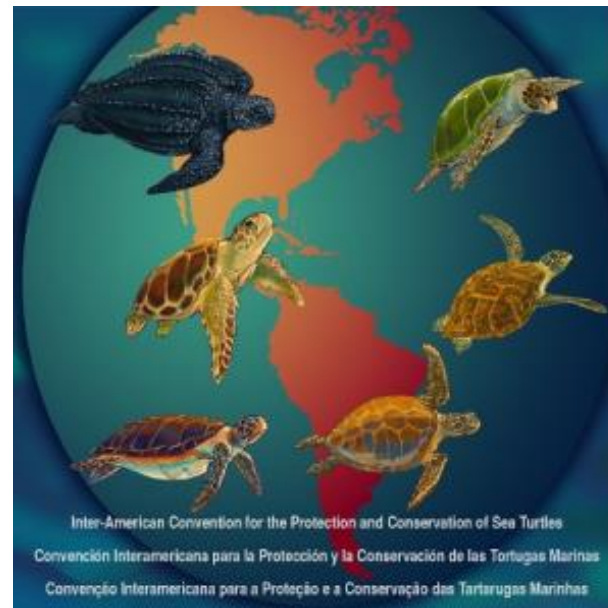


IAC INFORMATIVE BULLETIN NEWS

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



IAC Secretariat co-organized with the Government of France Side Event about best practices to mitigate bycatch of sea turtles in fisheries at CMS-COP14.

- ▶ The Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, together with the Government of France/ French Biodiversity Agency (FBA), co-organized the Side event titled: “*Experiences and collaborations in the application of best practices to mitigate bycatch of sea turtles in fisheries*”.
- ▶ The event took place on February 14th at the Expo Center in the city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The Focus was to present global practices to mitigate sea turtle bycatch in fisheries. The event also provided information on the implementation of CMS Decisions 13.61-13.63 (“Bycatch”) and on the IAC Resolution, CIT-COP10-2022-R7 (“Reducing the adverse effects of fisheries on sea turtles”).



- ▶ The side event goal was to show practical solutions to address the urgent threat represented by the incidental capture of sea turtles and recognize the good work carried out by individuals and their communities and highlight the value of constructive collaboration between scientific community and fishing sector.

Credit Images
IAC Secretariat
COP14-CMS Plenary and Side Event invitation

► MSc. Verónica Cáceres, IAC Secretary, was the moderator of the panel that included 5 guest speakers who shared their experiences with the fishing sector as community leaders, NGOs and scientists presenting successful examples of mitigation methods developed with the collaboration of fishermen to reduce sea turtle bycatch.

► During the event, the video prepared by the Laud OPO Network was shared, recognizing the efforts of Laud OPO Heroes Program for the conservation of sea turtles by community leaders and artisanal fishermen from countries such as Mexico, Peru and Colombia (link to the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK2dW_7-e-s)

► The panel included the participation of: Ms. Delphine Blanchar, Project Officer, from the National Museum of Natural History of France – topic: Initiatives taken by France to preserve sea turtles and mitigate their capture. - Mr. Hortensio Lima, Regional Manager of the Sea Turtle Survival Project – topic: Minimize the bycatch of Sea Turtles in industrial fishing in West Africa, – Ms. Melania-Lopez, Coordinator of ProPeninsula and member of WIDECAST, spoke about the projects developed in Mexico; - Ms. Cecilia Fischer, WWF - Wildlife Law Enforcement and Prosecution Officer, Coral Triangle Programme, presented the work they do to reduce bycatch in the French Guianas, protecting sea turtles through innovative initiatives and strong collaboration with fishermen local. -Mr. David Sarmiento-IMARPE -shared his experiences as a field observer in artisanal fisheries and as educator who works to build capacity for good management practices with fishermen in Peru.



► The event called attention of CMS-COP14 participants to facilitate the adoption of Decisions on Bycatch and others fisheries induced mortality and the Decision on Sea Turtles.

Credit Image

IAC Secretariat

IAC Secretary –Verónica Cáceres, co-organizers and panelists at the event

Seventeenth Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts -CCE17

- ▶ On February 27 and 28, 2024, the 17th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) of the IAC was held (virtual format via Zoom). The meeting was attended by delegates from the 16 IAC Party Countries, and observers from the Governments of Canada, France, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as representatives of the SPAW Protocol and the CPPS.
- ▶ President of the CCE, Dr. José Eduardo Ponce G. presented to the plenary session the progress in the implementation of the CCE Work Plan – 2023, and the Work Plan for the period 2024-2025 was updated. The Scientific Committee (SC), through its Vice President Dr. Heriberto Santana, shared the recommendations during its SC20 meeting in October 2023.
- ▶ Among the collaborative activities between the IAC and Stetson University, Dr. Katherine Pratt presented the final document “Analysis of the IAC Annual Reports 2005-2023”, a document whose objective is to highlight the progress in the implementation of the Resolutions of the IAC, according to the information shared by the Countries in their Annual Reports. The document will be presented at the IAC COP11 in June 2024.



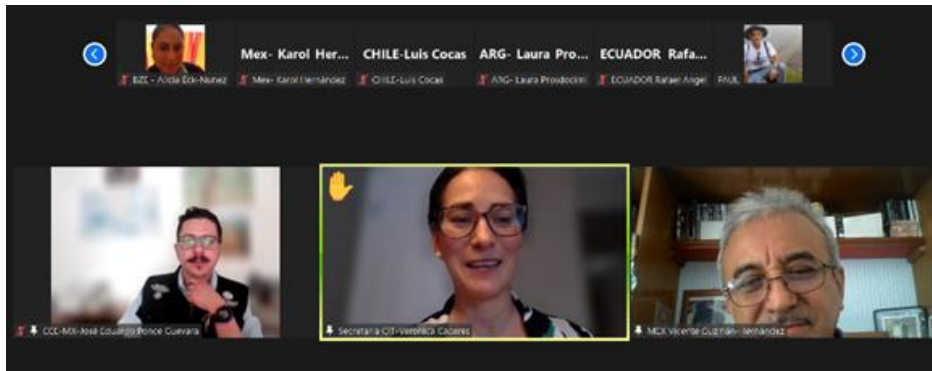
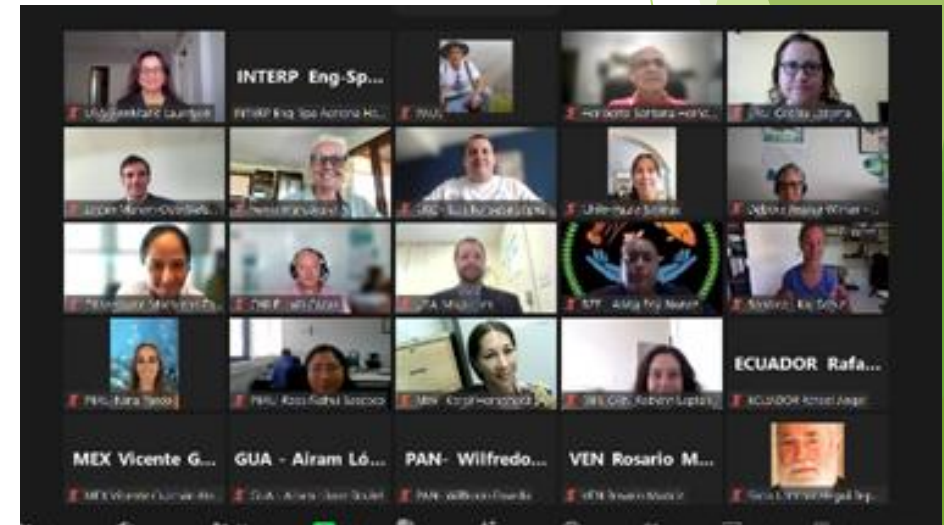
Credit Image

IAC Secretariat

Dr. Katherine Pratt during her presentation on the Analysis of IAC Annual Reports

► The members of the CCE made the following agreements: 1) Preparation of the Letter of Intent CIT-SPAW Protocol, 2) Formation of a Working Group to analyze the terms of reference of the Subsidiary Bodies of the CIT, 3) SC20 adopts the technical document CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.21 “Status of Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) within Nations of the IAC” updated 2014-2022 and CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.22 “IAC Index Beach Data Analysis 2009-2023”, both documents will be presented at COP11 in 2024.

► The meeting was attended by 54 participants, whom we thank for their time, dedication and significant contributions to the success of the meeting. We take this opportunity to wish congratulations to Dr. Vicente Guzmán (CCE Delegate – Mexico) who reported his official retirement. Words of gratitude were shared by the CIT Secretariat and the CCE President, recognizing his contributions to the CIT and dedication over many years. We will greatly miss his advice and support, and we hope that the ties of friendship will endure.



Credit Images

IAC Secretariat

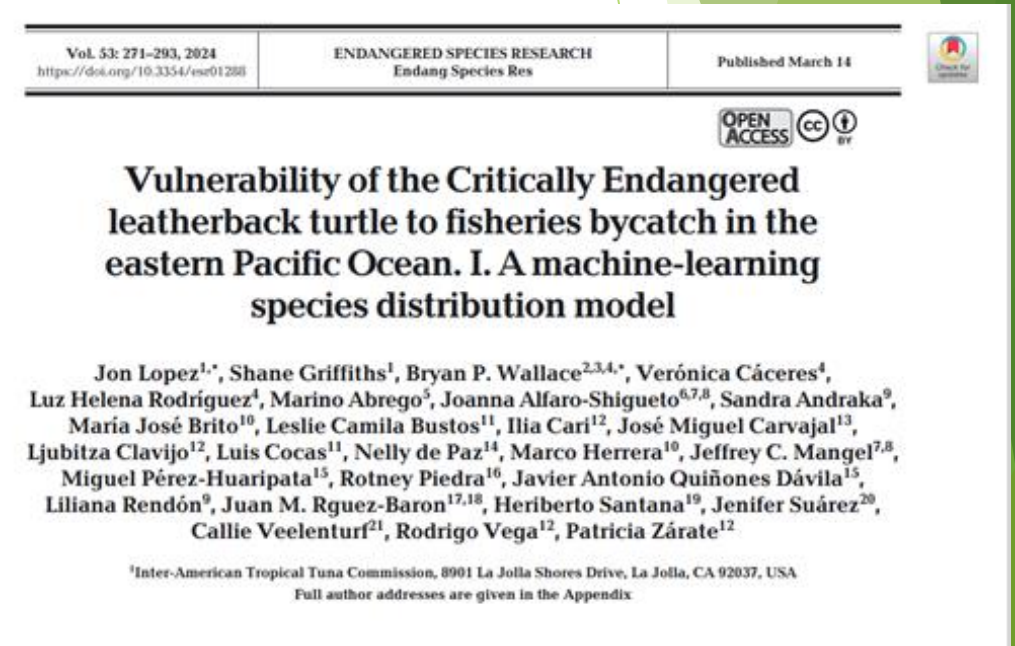
Left. Farewell to CCE Delegate from Mexico Dr. Víctor Guzmán-

Right Participants at CCE17-2023

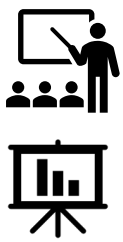


Scientific Papers Published as a result of collaboration between IAC -IATTC


- ▶ The IAC Secretariat is pleased to share with you the successful results of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the IAC and the IATTC, this was achieved with significant time, work, collaboration and dedication on the part of all those involved.
- ▶ These two publications found in the Journal Endangered Species Research seek to evaluate the potential effectiveness of conservation measures in reducing the vulnerability of the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle.
 - ▶ 1) Vulnerability of the Critically Endangered leatherback turtle to fisheries bycatch in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. I. A machine-learning species distribution model
 - ▶ López et al.: <https://www.int-res.com/articles/esr2024/53/n053p271.pdf>
 - ▶ 2) Vulnerability of the Critically Endangered leatherback turtle to fisheries bycatch in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. II. Assessment of mitigation measures
 - ▶ Griffiths and Wallace et al.: <https://www.int-res.com/articles/esr2024/53/n053p295.pdf>






Credit Image:
IAC Secretariat



- ▶ We extend our gratitude to all the co-authors, to the IAC Focal Points, members of the Scientific and Consultative Committee who participated as co-authors and others who facilitated the sharing of their data and national information. We would like to especially thank the IATTC Scientific staff colleagues Dr. Jon López and Dr. Shanne Griffiths, and from IAC Dr. Bryan Wallace, for their leadership and hours dedicated to the data analysis, and this project that took more than two years.
- ▶ These publications are very significant as they strengthen international collaboration and give life to the IAC -IATTC Memorandum that was signed for this purpose, to enrich our knowledge to further sea turtle conservation.

Vol. 53: 295–326, 2024 https://doi.org/10.3354/esr01305	ENDANGERED SPECIES RESEARCH Endang Species Res	Published March 14	
---	---	--------------------	---

Vulnerability of the Critically Endangered leatherback turtle to fisheries bycatch in the eastern Pacific Ocean. II. Assessment of mitigation measures

Shane P. Griffiths^{1,*#}, Bryan P. Wallace^{2,3,4,#}, Verónica Cáceres², Luz Helena Rodríguez²,
Jon Lopez¹, Marino Abrego⁵, Joanna Alfaro-Shigueto^{6,7,8}, Sandra Andracka⁹,
María José Brito¹⁰, Leslie Camila Bustos¹¹, Iliá Cari¹², José Miguel Carvajal¹³,
Ljubitzta Clavijo¹², Luis Cocas¹¹, Nelly de Paz¹⁴, Marco Herrera¹⁰,
Ann Marie Lauritsen¹⁵, Jeffrey C. Mangel^{7,8}, Miguel Pérez-Huaripata¹⁶,
Rotney Piedra¹⁷, Javier Antonio Quiñones Dávila¹⁶, Lilliana Rendón⁹,
Juan M. Rguez-Baron^{18,19}, Heriberto Santana²⁰, Brian Stacy²¹, Jenifer Suárez²²,
Yonat Swimmer²³, Callie Veelenturf²⁴, Rodrigo Vega¹², Patricia Zárate¹²

¹Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037, USA
Full author addresses are given in the Appendix

Credit Image:
IAC Secretariat

Ecuador is the host of the 11th Conference of the Parties of the IAC -COP11

- ▶ We are happy to announce to all IAC members: Focal Points, observers from non-Party Countries, accredited observers and subsidiary bodies of the IAC, that the 11th Conference of the Parties of the IAC – IAC COP11 will be held from June 11 to 14th, 2024 in the city of Manta, Ecuador.
- ▶ We would like to thank the Government of Ecuador and the organizers in Manta, Quito and Guayaquil for all the support provided for the upcoming meeting.
- ▶ Should you need more information do not hesitate to contact IAC Secretariat at contact.apoyo.cit@gmail.com



CONTACT US

Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of sea turtles
5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803, USA

contact@iacseaturtle.org

www.iacseaturtle.org

Twitter: @IAC_SeaTurtles

IAC Bulletin News No.52 November-December 2023 elaborated by: Haydeé Medina-
Assistant to the Secretary

Find all IAC Bulletin News here, <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin.htm>