



**Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee (SC22)**  
*November 12–13, 2025 – Videoconference*

**CIT-SC22-2025-Doc.8**

SC22 Chair: Lezlie C. Bustos, Undersecretariat of Fisheries and delegate of Chile to IAC

SC22 Vice Chair: Heriberto Santana

Rapporteur: Verónica Cáceres, IAC Secretary

**Report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee (SC22)**

The Twenty-Second Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC22) of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) took place from November 12 to 13, 2025, in a virtual format using ZOOM Pro platform. The meeting began at 10:00 AM Eastern Time. The rules of procedure for the videoconference were presented, including tests for video/audio and simultaneous interpretation in Spanish and English.

**Minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee – SC22**

The Chair of SC22, Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos, delivered the opening remarks thanking the participants for their attendance. The meeting was attended by delegates from 16 IAC Member Countries, observers from the governments of Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, and Suriname, the Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE), and accredited observers from International Organizations, civil society and academic organizations. A total of 56 participants attended the meeting (Annex I – List of Participants CIT-CC22-2025-Inf.1).

**1) Adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting agenda was adopted without change. The IAC Secretary was the rapporteur (Annex II – SC22 Agenda CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.1).

**2) Report on the Implementation and Results of the 2024–2025 Scientific Committee Work Plan**

The SC22 Chair presented the report on the implementation of the 2024–2025 work plan of the Scientific Committee (SC) with the activities of eight Working Groups (WG) (Annex III – CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.2). A total of 12 meetings of the SC Working Groups were held, and two technical documents were prepared for submission to the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the IAC (COP12-2026).

The Chair noted that, in accordance with Guatemala's 2022 Exception Resolution—which granted a three-year extension to establish Guatemala Exception Management Plan—the Guatemalan delegation presented its proposed Exception Management Plan at the 2024 Scientific Committee meeting. At that meeting, Brazil, Ecuador, and the United States provided comments regarding sea turtle nest and hatchery management, temperature control, and re-

location times from the beach to the hatchery. The SC recommended evaluating a gradual increase in the sea turtle egg conservation quota (currently 20% of each nest). In 2024, the Scientific Committee visited four nesting sites along Guatemala's Pacific coast, visiting the hatcheries and identifying local management challenges and a diversity of administrative and financial models for the hatcheries. Guatemala has approximately 35 hatcheries in the entire country, they are managed privately and local communities. The Chair then invited Guatemala to provide an update on the progress of its Exception Management Plan.

Guatemalan delegate Mrs. Airam Lopez Roulet provided an update on the implementation of Guatemala's Exception Resolution. She explained that the Exception Management Plan, developed in 2024 with the support and comments of the IAC Scientific Committee, had been presented to the new authorities of the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP)-IAC Focal Point. The plan has been completed and improved with consultations with stakeholders and revisions. However, the new authorities in CONAP requested a pause in the approval process because the National Strategy for the Management and Conservation of Sea Turtles on which the Exception Management Plan is based is about to expire and it will need to be revised. Guatemala proposed submitting to the IAC Scientific Committee, in the first weeks of December 2025, a situational report outlining the pathway and steps for the approval of the Exception Management Plan. The purpose of this report is to provide update to IAC and reiterate Guatemala's commitment to implementing the plan.

Guatemala has already implemented several actions indicated in the exception Resolution and management plan, even though the Exception Management Plan has not yet been formally approved. These actions include patrols for monitoring in sea turtle conservation areas, collection of scientific data, training for personnel involved in turtle hatcheries management, and collaboration with university researchers on scientific projects, including one project that will be presented at this meeting. The delegate concluded by emphasizing that the Exception Management Plan is considered a key instrument for sea turtle conservation in Guatemala and reiterated the country's commitment to advancing its implementation while awaiting formal approval by CONAP.

The Scientific Committee took note of Guatemala's update, including the proposal to present a report with updates to the SC, this will be included in the SC22 meeting agreements.

The SC Chair requested an update from the delegation of Panama regarding the progress of its Exception Management Plan.

The delegate from Panama Mr. Marino Abrego explained that Panama has a subsistence-use plan for *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs, developed for the Ministry of Environment through a consultancy. The plan was submitted to the Ministry's legal department for review and eventual approval through an official resolution. With the changes in leadership at the Ministry of Environment, led by Minister Juan Carlos Navarro, 3 weeks ago the Ministry received several requests from civil society—including NGOs and sea turtle conservation groups—asking for the suspension of the current exception that allows subsistence egg harvesting in Isla Cañas. This request is currently in a preliminary phase of analysis. The Ministry of Environment must review

and evaluate the request in light of the progress already made and the commitments established in the Exception Management Plan.

Panama has been implementing efforts to manage the subsistence-use of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs since 2013. A technical team is currently has been established to prepare the Management Plan for the Isla Cañas Wildlife Refuge, that is the site where the exception is in place.

The Scientific Committee will continue receiving updates on the progress made by Panama and Guatemala, recognizing the continued efforts of both countries in managing their exceptions.

### **Update of the Scientific Committee Work Plan**

The Scientific Committee Work Plan 2026–2028 for the upcoming biennium was updated to include the activities of the Working Groups (WG), as reflected in the agreements and recommendations of SC22 (Annex IV – Work Plan CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.3).

The SC Chair asked for an update from the Fisheries Working Group.

Dr. Heriberto Santana Hernández, Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee, reported on the progress of the IAC Fisheries Working Group. The Fisheries WG, coordinated by Mexico, is working on a report based on longline observer data derived from the IAC Annual Reports. The analysis aims to evaluate the effect of hook types and bait on sea turtle bycatch. A preliminary analysis using data from 2020 to 2022 has already been completed, presenting the methodology and only descriptive (not quantitative) results from three years of data. The update including data from 2023 to 2025 is still pending to complete the five-year analysis. Not all IAC Member Countries have submitted their data yet, however the WG expects to have a robust dataset to prepare more comprehensive analysis. The goal is to present the first 5 year report in 2026 to the IAC Conference of the Parties.

Dr. Santana informed the Committee that, following a decision by Mexico's IAC Focal Point, there have been changes in the Mexican delegation and he is no longer the country's representative; this role is now held by IMIPAS. He expressed his gratitude to the SC colleagues for their support over the years and reiterated his willingness to continue to provide technical support should the IAC SC Committee so decides.

### **Reports of the Scientific Committee Working Groups**

#### **3) Strategic Alliances Working Group**

The delegate of Argentina, Dr. Laura Prodoscimi, coordinator of the Strategic Alliances WG, presented the Technical Document "*Electronic Monitoring Systems in Fisheries for the Conservation of Sea Turtles*" CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27. The document was shared with the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) at its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the comments received were included (Annex V – Technical Document "*Electronic Monitoring Systems in Fisheries for the Conservation of Sea Turtles*" CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27).

The representative of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), Dr. Marco Favero, congratulated the WG for the document, noting that it aligns with the guidelines developed by ACAP for electronic monitoring (EM) in fisheries, with an emphasis on seabirds and including different fisheries. He highlighted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IAC and ACAP facilitated the exchange of information and support for producing these technical documents, and that these inputs and the MoU could be used to jointly present the technical documents to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

**Agreement:** SC22 adopted the technical document CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27 “*Electronic Monitoring Systems in Fisheries for the Conservation of Sea Turtles*”. The document will be shared with the IAC Focal Points and presented at COP12 (2026).

#### **4) Fibropapilloma Working Group**

The Coordinator of the Fibropapilloma Working Group, Dr. Virginia Ferrando, accredited observer to the IAC from the NGO Karumbé, presented the background of the technical document and the Fibropapilloma WG. The WG was established at the request of the Netherlands Focal Point at the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the IAC (COP11) in 2024, with the objective of preparing the Technical Document titled “*Fibropapillomatosis in Sea Turtles within the IAC Region*” CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28 (Annex VI – Technical Document CIT-SC22-2025-Tec.28).

Dr. Ferrando shared the results of a questionnaire provided by delegates of the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees regarding the presence of Fibropapilloma (FP) in the IAC region, as well as recommendations on existing diagnostic and treatment methods. The Technical Document was reviewed by both Committees, and their recommendations were included into the final version.

The SC22 plenary discussed the WG’s recommendations, emphasizing the importance of establishing national networks to report the number of FP cases in the IAC region.

The delegation of Ecuador Mr. Eduardo Espinoza noted a scientific publication reporting five FP cases in Ecuador and committed to share it with the WG. The delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands dr. Julia Horrocks suggested considering environmental conditions that may be exacerbating FP prevalence. The delegation of Argentina indicated that it would be useful to determine whether studies exist on correlations between sea turtle haplotypes and susceptibility to FP. The SC22 plenary agreed that these suggestions and any new information would be included in the next update of the Technical Document.

The delegate of Costa Rica Mr. Didiher Chacon noted that consumption of green turtles still occurs in some countries of the region. In Costa Rica, although illegal, such consumption persists. In some countries, green turtle populations have improved, which may lead to requests from certain ethnic groups to allow consumption. In Costa Rica, however, the population is declining, especially in Tortuguero, and there is no clear data for the Pacific coast. Costa Rica proposed including in the Technical Document a preventive recommendation regarding the

consumption of turtle products and by-products, highlighting the lack of clarity about zoonotic risks (diseases transmitted from animals to humans) and public health concerns. Although it is unknown whether FP can be transmitted to humans, it is important to warn about potential zoonotic risks.

The Caribbean Netherlands commented on the geographic distribution of FP, noting that certain areas in some countries show higher prevalence. She suggested that future WG studies generate maps of these sites to better understand environmental factors associated with the disease. A possible relationship with environmental contaminants has been observed: in areas with high levels of heavy metals such as cadmium, FP incidence and severity are higher. In contrast, in areas with low metal concentrations, FP cases tend to be less severe (small tumors on eyes or soft tissues). In Bonaire, a research project is underway in collaboration with a university in the Netherlands to further investigate the potential link between heavy metal contamination and FP.

Following the recommendations of Technical Document CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28, the SC22 agreed that the next step for the Fibropapilloma WG is to organize a virtual workshop to disseminate the document recommendations among government agencies, technical staff, and veterinarians from IAC Member Countries.

The observer from the Save the Blue Five Project Mr. Estaban Estrada offered support to co-organize the virtual workshop, and, following the IAC Secretariat's suggestion, the workshop could be held in the framework of the celebration of Sea Turtle Day in June 2026.

The delegation of the Netherlands congratulated the WG for the document and proposed engaging with the Netherlands Focal Point to explore the possibility of supporting an in-person workshop, given that this topic was a request by the Netherlands at the IAC COP. If a positive response is received, the proposal for an in person workshop could be submitted to COP12 in 2026.

**Agreement:** SC22 adopted the technical document CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28 *"Fibropapillomatosis in Sea Turtles within the IAC Region."* The document will be shared with the IAC Focal Points and presented at COP12 (2026).

**Agreement:** The Fibropapilloma WG will organize a virtual workshop to present the technical document CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28 in collaboration with the Save the Blue Five Project in June 2026. This activity will take place in the framework of Sea Turtle Day in June 2026.

The Technical Document CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28 is currently being edited to include comments from the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) received at the time of publication of this report. Once finalized, it will be uploaded to the IAC website at the following link: <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/documentos-eng.htm>

## **5) Vessel Strikes and Sea Turtles Working Group**

The delegate of the Dominican Republic and Coordinator of the Working Group (WG), Mr. Ricardo Rodríguez, presented the draft Technical Document *"Guidelines for Mitigating Vessel*

*Strikes with Sea Turtles*”. He noted that the document received comments and editorial suggestions from the delegations of Brazil, Chile, Peru, and the Caribbean Netherlands, some of which were substantial and require WG review and the development of a strategy to include them in time for the document to be presented to the CCE in 2026 and to COP12 in 2026.

**Agreement:** SC22 agreed that, to support the Vessel Strikes WG in preparing the final version of the technical document, the membership of the group will be expanded to include delegates from Chile, Peru, and Panama. In addition, the accredited IAC observer from Ecuador, Macarena Parra of the Charles Darwin Foundation, was invited as an expert to contribute her experience on vessel-strikes in the Galápagos. The WG will meet on November 25, 2025 to decide on a strategy and next steps.

## **6) Report of the IAC Consultative Committee**

The Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE), Mr. Santos Roberto Hernández, delegate of Mexico to the CCE, provided a summary of the agreements and recommendations adopted at the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Committee, held in March 2025. The CCE18 report is available at this link: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/comite-consultivo/18Reunion/CCE18\\_ESP\\_CIT\\_CCE18\\_2025\\_Doc\\_7\\_Final\\_REPORT\\_ENG\\_Ago\\_8\\_2025\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/comite-consultivo/18Reunion/CCE18_ESP_CIT_CCE18_2025_Doc_7_Final_REPORT_ENG_Ago_8_2025_WEB.pdf)

The CCE18 adopted a draft resolution to modify the terms of reference of the Consultative Committee of Experts regarding the procedure for selection of sectoral representatives to the CCE. This draft resolution will be presented for consideration at the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the IAC (COP12-2026). The CCE also provided comments on the Scientific Committee’s technical documents on electronic monitoring prepared by the Strategic Alliances WG, and the CCE delegation from Ecuador together with the Secretariat organized a webinar to share positive experiences with sea turtle conservation with panelists from Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, and Peru on Sea Turtle Day 2025.

The CCE Chair highlighted a concern raised at CCE18 presented by the IAC Legal Working Group this year: the need to ensure long-term financial sustainability for IAC operations. The IAC Legal WG urged Member Countries to provide their annual financial contributions regularly to sustain IAC operations in 2026 and beyond. The CCE Chair noted that the IAC has faced many challenges and is currently in a difficult situation due to the Secretariat’s lack of legal personality, which limits its operational capacity and ability to implement programs. Despite these limitations, the CCE acknowledged the dedicated work of the Secretary, Verónica Cáceres—who has managed the Secretariat alone, without administrative or secretarial support. In 2025, operational adjustments were made at the Secretariat, including holding the CCE and SC committee meetings by videoconference to reduce costs, and a reduction of 50% of IAC Secretariat staff that now is operating with a single staff member. However, concerns about financial sustainability persist, as the lack of financial resources poses a serious risk to the continuity of IAC operations.

Mr. Hernández then spoke in his capacity as Mexico’s delegate to the Consultative Committee, encouraging the IAC members to come together to fulfill our collective responsibility. Mexico

emphasized that the voluntary contributions agreed upon by IAC Member Countries should be considered a moral obligation. For Mexico, voluntary financial contributions to the IAC is the amount that each country freely decides to provide and it is included in the IAC finance resolution adopted at the Conference of the Parties (COP). Once that resolution is adopted at COP, that amount becomes mandatory for the country to contribute in order to maintain IAC operations. He urged Member Countries to reflect on their commitment to the IAC, recognizing the benefits received and the need to contribute actively to its sustainability.

## **7) Activities of the IAC Secretariat and Collaboration with International Organizations**

The IAC Secretary, MSc. Verónica Cáceres, provided a summary of the activities carried out by the Secretariat over the past year in fulfillment of the work plan assigned by the IAC Parties and in support of the implementation of the Scientific and Consultative Committees' work plans. Regarding the organization of IAC meetings, the Secretariat coordinated approximately 20 meetings of the following Working Groups: Legal WG, Fisheries WG, Vessel Strikes WG, Fibropapilloma WG, CCE-SC Terms of Reference WG, Strategic Alliances WG, and *L. olivacea* WG. The 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts was convened in May 2025, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee was convened in November 2025.

In regards to IAC outreach activities, three IAC newsletters were prepared in 2025, and a webinar for Sea Turtle Day in June 2025 was organized with the support of the Government of Ecuador and the CCE delegates from Ecuador Ministry of Environment.

The Secretary participated in at least 11 activities representing the IAC at meetings organized by international entities, strengthening IAC strategic alliances. In particular, with the SPAW Protocol, the IAC is a member of the SPAW Sargassum Working Group, which developed an action plan for sargassum management in SPAW member countries. Regarding the expansion of IAC membership, meetings were held with the government representatives of Aruba, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, and Colombia. Representatives from these governments participated in IAC committee meetings in 2025.

The IAC Secretary concluded by noting that in 2025 the IAC faced financial challenges due to insufficient contributions from member countries, which were not enough to carry out IAC operations as planned. The Secretariat no longer has access to a USFWS grant due to changes in international cooperation policies, leading to changes such as reducing IAC Secretariat staff to one person. This has made it challenging to carry out activities. The 2025 Scientific Committee meeting, originally planned to be held in person in Honduras was convened by videoconference. The Secretariat continues to operate under uncertainty regarding the financial sustainability of the IAC in 2026 and beyond.

The representative of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), Dr. Marco Favero, acknowledged and commended the efforts of the IAC Secretary working with limited resources. He reiterated ACAP's commitment to continued collaboration through the Memorandum of Understanding and hopes that it can be renewed in 2028. He highlighted the opportunities to present joint recommendations IAC and ACAP at Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). He invited the IAC to participate in upcoming ACAP

meetings and noted that ACAP is willing to share their technical documents, such as observer data collection forms and best practices developed for seabirds with IAC members.

The delegate of Panama, MSc. Marino Abrego, congratulated the Secretary and emphasized the effort made to increase the visibility of the IAC's work at international forums. Panama recognizes the good momentum in the Convention's participation in various workshops and activities, which has helped increase awareness of the IAC's work. Panama has participated in several of the activities mentioned by the Secretary and has witnessed the development of synergies supporting sea turtle conservation efforts. Regarding financial sustainability, he recalled that in November 2024, at a meeting between the IAC Secretary and Panama's Vice Minister of Environment, Panama committed to increasing its financial contribution from US \$2,000 to US\$10,000 per year, and it is expected that this commitment will be fulfilled.

The delegate of Guatemala, Mrs. Airam López, noted that although Guatemala has been a Member to the IAC for several years, there had been delays in providing financial contributions. The technical support from Guatemala to the IAC had been consistent, but financial support had not. She confirmed that this year the Government of Guatemala began providing its annual contributions, and this will continue in the coming years. She highlighted this as positive news. She emphasized that, as focal points and committee members, they have a responsibility to advocate within their governments. While they may not have the authority to authorize electronic transfers of funds, they can initiate the necessary consultations, which ultimately led to Guatemala fulfilling its financial obligations.

The Chair of the Scientific Committee expressed concern about the financial sustainability of the IAC. She acknowledged the commitment of the Scientific Committee delegates and highlighted their dedication to the protection of sea turtles and associated ecosystems. The Chair emphasized the value of both scientific work and community engagement, noting that these efforts transcend borders and have real impact. She issued an urgent call for Committee members to be proactive, to seek allies, and to engage decision-makers in their respective governments. She encouraged IAC Member Countries that have not yet made their minimum financial contribution to do so, and those already contributing to consider increasing their support. She noted that although financial matters are not within the direct mandate of the Scientific Committee, they profoundly affect the SC operations. She stressed the need to raise awareness among decision-makers about the importance of the Convention to ensure its continuity.

The SC Chair illustrated the tangible impact of the Committee's work with an inspiring experience from Costa Rica, where entire communities have organized around sea turtle protection, showing evidence of the positive effects of the Committee's recommendations and Resolutions to IAC Parties. She concluded by emphasizing the importance of preventing external factors from weakening the Convention and encouraged delegates to convey this message to their teams and authorities to strengthen institutional and financial support.



## **8) PRESENTATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FROM HONDURAS AND GUATEMALA**

The delegation of Honduras represented by Mr. David Ortega Bercian invited Mar Alliance to share their research. The presentation was done by Ms. Ana Lucía López, who described the work Mar Alliance carries out in Honduras, particularly the *Conservation Without Borders – Marine Connectivity* project and the importance of transboundary conservation. This research is conducted in waters between Belize and Honduras (Bay Islands – Utila, Roatán, Guanaja). The studies involve tagging, with Mar Alliance focusing on male turtles to fill existing information gaps. Satellite tags were deployed on 22 male loggerhead turtles in Belize, and two of them migrated to Honduras. This demonstrates clear connectivity between the two countries and the need for transboundary conservation strategies. Migrations have been documented for one individual from June 2024–2025, as well as repeated migrations between Belize and Honduras.

From Guatemala, Dr. Alejandra Morales Mérida presented a compilation of 15 years of research in the Pacific region of Guatemala on temperature-dependent sex determination and its implications for sea turtle nests in the country.

## **9) *LEPIDOCHELYS OLIVACEA* NESTING WORKING GROUP**

### **Report of the Working Group on the Nesting Season of *L. olivacea* in Central America and Mexico**

The delegate of Costa Rica, MSc. Didiher Chacón, member of the WG, provided background from the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2024, during which the delegation of Honduras requested technical support to gather data from IAC countries to determine the peak nesting season of *Lepidochelys olivacea* in Honduras. The objective was to support the efforts of the Honduran Ministry of Environment with technical evidence so that national authorities could adjust the closed season for the species' eggs to coincide with peak nesting, thereby protecting the greatest number of nests. To address this request, the *L. olivacea* Nesting Working Group was formed within the Scientific Committee, with members from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, and Honduras. The WG prepared the report and recommendations contained in document CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4, which will be presented by the delegation of Honduras.

The delegate of Honduras, Mr. David Ortega Bercian, presented the report “*Report on Nesting Season of L. olivacea in Central America and Mexico*” CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4 (Annex VII – WG *L. olivacea* Report). Honduras carried out a regional analysis of *L. olivacea* nesting in the Pacific with support from WG members Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Mexico. Each WG member provided national information, and additional data were obtained from Nicaragua and El Salvador. During the process of compiling monthly nest counts for the past 5–10 years, it became evident that Honduras faces limitations because the country does not conduct annual monitoring of the species' nesting; monitoring occurs only during the closed season “veda” (1–25 September). This creates information gaps and makes it difficult to determine whether reported declines in nesting are due to changes in monitoring capacity/frequency or other external factors.

To prepare the WG report and recommendations for CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4, the WG included data from the following countries:

- **Mexico:** Information from Playa El Verde and Playa Escobilla, showing nesting peaks in September and October over 18 years of monitoring records.
- **Guatemala:** Data from 15 nesting beaches, with annual and monthly records showing peaks in September and November, consistent with Mexico.
- **El Salvador:** Data from Playa Santiago and Playa El Tamarindo, with peaks in August, September, and October (especially September).
- **Nicaragua:** Nesting monitored from November to May, with peaks in November and December.
- **Costa Rica:** Data for each beach with monthly and annual nesting reports, showing peaks in August and September.
- **Honduras:** Data from 2019–2023 collected during the closed season at Boca de Río Viejo, Carretales, Punta Ratón, Venado, and Cedeño.

As a result of the analysis, the WG identified several challenges for Honduras. Nesting monitoring data are inconsistent and limited to the closed season “veda”, this does not allow for reliable annual comparisons because the entire nesting season is not monitored. Another challenge is that turtle camps/hatcheries in Honduras do not keep consistent monitoring frequency or record-keeping. Compiling regional *L. olivacea* nesting information was essential to fill information gaps for Honduras. The WG acknowledged that although El Salvador and Nicaragua are not IAC Parties, their contributions were valuable and relevant.

Using the regional nesting information, the WG prepared document CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4, including recommendations to support Honduras in improving monitoring and analysis of *L. olivacea* nesting. The WG submitted the report and recommendations for consideration by the Scientific Committee.

The delegation of Costa Rica noted for the record that the analysis included data provided by El Salvador and Nicaragua, neighboring countries to Honduras, and emphasized that this regional collaboration—despite their non-Member status—was valuable for strengthening the report and supporting Honduras with technical advice.

The SC Chair read the recommendations from document CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4 in plenary, and they were adopted in response to the request made by Honduras at the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2024. The Chair congratulated the WG for its effective work, completed within one year and including data from six countries. She reiterated that this kind of technical support to Honduras is one of the benefits of being a member to the IAC and is of great value to Member Countries. The recommendations from CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4 will be included in the SC22 meeting agreements and transmitted to the Honduran Focal Point.

The IAC Secretary acknowledged the valuable work of the Honduran delegation and the WG, highlighting the contributions of IAC countries that shared their databases from 2009 to 2025. This effort allowed Honduras to gain a clearer understanding of the regional situation of *L. olivacea* and to guide future actions. She emphasized that the IAC provides guidance and support

to its Member Countries and expressed appreciation for Honduras' trust in the process, wishing them success in improving management and conservation of the species.

**Agreement:** The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee approved the recommendations in the report CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4, which will be transmitted to the Honduran Focal Point through the IAC Secretariat.

## **10) IAC ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Update of the IAC Nesting Index Beaches List 2026 – CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.5**

The IAC Secretary explained that IAC countries may report changes to their nesting index beaches in their Annual Reports, and that several updates were reported in the 2025 Annual Report. Therefore, the Secretariat requested that members of the Scientific Committee and IAC Focal Points update their list of index beaches so that these changes can be included in the 2026 IAC Annual Report in the section to report annual nesting data. Document CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.5 “*IAC Nesting Index Beaches List*” (Annex VIII: CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.5) contains the updated list, including changes submitted by the Focal Points of the Dominican Republic, Mexico, the United States, Venezuela, and Belize.

The delegate of the United States, Jeff Seminoff, coordinator of the IAC Nesting WG, emphasized the importance of using Technical Document [CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selection of Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Guidelines for Data Collection”](#) when selecting new index beaches. He noted that Focal Points and Scientific Committee members should use this document as guide to make changes to their index nesting beaches, as nesting data from index beaches are used by the Scientific Committee every five years to update the technical document “[Analysis of IAC Index Nesting Beach Data \(2009–2023\)](#)” CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.22. Adequate selection of index beaches is essential to maintain consistency in nesting trend analyses.

The delegate of Ecuador, Eduardo Espinoza, member of the Nesting WG, highlighted the importance of secondary or reference beaches monitored by citizen science. He encouraged the Scientific Committee and IAC Focal Points to use document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 as the guiding reference for selecting both index and reference beaches.

**Agreement:** SC22 adopted document CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.5 “*IAC List of IAC Nesting Index Beaches*” with the updates requested by IAC Focal Points for their respective index beaches. The beaches listed will be included in the 2026 IAC Annual Report in the nesting section. The IAC Nesting WG will use this list for the next update of the technical document “*Analysis of IAC Index Nesting Beach Data*”.

### **Update of the List of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) used in IAC Countries – CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.6**

The Secretary noted that the list of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) used in the IAC region was last updated in 2018 at the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee. In recent years, IAC Member Countries have reported changes in their trawl fishing regulations, making an update

necessary. To this end, the Secretariat shared the TED list with IAC Focal Points and with the Scientific and Consultative Committees for review. Updates were received from Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, and the United States.

The Scientific Committee indicated that some countries require additional time for consultations and/or receive responses from their national fisheries agencies, and requested an extension until February 2026 to obtain the updated TED list. Document CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.6 is therefore not included in the SC22 report, as it remains under review. Once finalized, the updated list will be posted on the IAC website at: <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/dets-eng.htm>

**Agreement:** The IAC Secretariat will send a request to Focal Points and Scientific Committee delegates to update the TED list, referencing the 2018 list. Scientific Committee delegates are asked to consult with their respective Focal Points and fisheries agencies to obtain this information and submit it to the IAC Secretariat no later than February 15, 2026.

## **11) Other Matters**

### **Discussion on the IUCN Conservation Status Classification of the Green Turtle**

The IUCN report and the October 2025 press release announcing the change in the conservation status of the green turtle generated comments among members of the IAC Scientific Committee. In response, the IAC Secretary invited the Committee to hold a discussion on the matter. The inclusion of this topic on the SC22 agenda was requested by the delegations of Ecuador and Peru. Their presentations and the subsequent plenary debate are summarized below.

The delegate of Ecuador, Mr. Eduardo Espinoza, presented information on the population status of the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and its change in classification on the IUCN Red List. He noted that the species, previously listed as “Vulnerable”, was reclassified this year to “Least Concern”, both globally and in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. He explained that the IUCN uses specific criteria and methodologies to categorize species on the Red List and emphasized the importance for IAC Member Countries to participate in this assessment and recategorization processes.

Ecuador reported that, regionally, green turtle subpopulations in the Eastern Tropical Pacific show an increasing trend. However, the delegate stressed the need for clarification and more detailed analyses to better understand these trends. He referenced the IAC Technical Document prepared in 2015, [CIT-CC15-2018-Tec.15 “Nesting Trends of the Green Turtle in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: Status Update and Conservation Priorities”](#) which highlighted the importance of standardized and continuous monitoring of nesting beaches to obtain robust analyses of population abundance. The document showed a significant increase in green turtle abundance in Mexico and identified key nesting areas in the Galápagos and Central America. Previous technical reports documented substantial declines in the Galápagos and Costa Rica, but later evaluations revealed that part of these variations were related to changes in monitoring effort at each site. He emphasized the importance of analyzing the number of nests per beach as a population indicator.

Regarding the Galápagos, continuous monitoring of green turtles has been conducted since 2001. In 2009, the Galápagos National Park took a more active role, ensuring consistent monitoring with institutional support. The data show a downward rather than upward trend, which is cause for concern. Ecuador noted that population assessments face challenges because trends depend on multiple variables: monitoring effort at each site, environmental factors, and population dynamics. He also pointed out limitations in population assessments that focus solely on nesting females, stressing the need to include data on males, juveniles, and subadults to obtain a more complete picture of population abundance.

Ecuador expressed concern that the IUCN recategorization of the green turtle as “Least Concern” could be a double-edged sword. On the positive side, it reflects progress in global recovery. On the negative side, it may lead government authorities to reduce conservation funding and efforts, despite ongoing threats such as vessel strikes, climate change, and other pressures affecting the species. Ecuador warned that the recategorization should not create a false sense of security, as threats persist and data gaps remain. The change in status has implications for public perception, administrative and legal management (e.g., sanctions linked to threatened status), and access to funding.

The delegate of Peru, Dr. Javier Quiñonez, reported a severe decline in green turtles in the Paracas region of Peru, a key juvenile recruitment area after their early life stage in the Galápagos. Peru proposed that the IAC Scientific Committee prepare a technical document on the current status of the green turtle in the IAC region. Such a document would strengthen the region’s position, help provide an approximate population trend, and serve as technical support in international forums—possibly at the next IAC COP—to draw attention to the need for continued national funding for green turtle conservation.

The delegate of Chile, Ms. Paula Salinas, thanked her colleagues for raising the issue, noting that it is a shared concern among countries with sea turtle foraging areas. She stated that the situation described by Peru is similar to northern Chile, where a decline in green turtle sightings has been observed since around 2018. She also noted that her doctoral research includes genetic analyses showing that green turtles arriving in Chile originate from multiple regions, including Ecuador and Mexico, underscoring the importance of foraging areas for conservation. She added that similar declines and high mortality have been observed in foraging areas in the Atlantic.

The delegate of the United States, Dr. Jeff Seminoff, shared that he has been involved in the IUCN Red List process for nearly 30 years, including leading the global assessment in 2002. He emphasized that the Red List is an imperfect tool, particularly for species that are globally distributed, long-lived, and have long generation times. He highlighted the regional differences as a stark contrast between regions:

- **Northeastern Pacific (California, Mexico):** Green turtle populations are booming, with exponential increases. In California, hundreds of turtles can now be observed in areas where none were seen 10–15 years ago.
- **Southeastern Pacific (Galápagos, Costa Rica):** Populations are facing serious challenges and declines.

- **Eastern Pacific:** Currently treated as a single Regional Management Unit (RMU), covering a vast area from California to Chile.

The delegate continued by noting that a recommendation was made to the IUCN to divide the Eastern Pacific RMU into northern and southern portions to better reflect the contrasting population trends. The northern portion (California/Mexico) would qualify as “Least Concern,” while the southern portion (Galápagos/Costa Rica) could be considered “Endangered” or “Critically Endangered.” Regarding population data and trends, the 2018 Eastern Pacific Red List assessment classified the green turtle as “Vulnerable,” but updated data show dramatic growth in Mexico: nesting in Michoacán increased from 30,000 nests/year (2018) to more than 100,000 nests/year today. This boom overshadows declines in other regions, biasing the overall assessment.

The U.S. delegate warned that the “Least Concern” label poses serious challenges:

1. **Public perception:** The public may mistakenly assume sea turtles are safe, leading to increased exploitation (e.g., turtle consumption).
2. **Funding:** Conservation resources may shift to species still listed as threatened, reducing support for green turtle conservation.
3. **Policy and legislation:** Protected areas may lose priority if turtles are no longer perceived as threatened.

He acknowledged that there are cultural rights and values but urged caution regarding the authorization of legal sustainable use programs for green turtles in some regions. He stressed the need for new communication and public education strategies to clarify that green turtles are not thriving everywhere despite the global IUCN “Least Concern” status.

The delegate of Argentina, Dr. Laura Prodosimi, agreed with the concerns about the recategorization and its potential effects on CITES. She noted that IUCN assessments rely primarily on nesting beaches, which does not adequately reflect the situation of highly migratory species such as sea turtles. She recalled a regional analysis in Argentina and Uruguay that questioned this approach, as turtles in those areas are present only as juveniles in foraging grounds. She warned that high mortality rates in foraging areas (e.g., Brazil) are not considered in the assessments.

The delegate of Costa Rica, MSc. Didiher Chacón, described the situation on northwestern Costa Rican beaches (Cabuyal, Papagayo, Nombre de Jesús), which are important nesting areas. The most recent publication (Luis Fonseca, 2018) shows no clear upward or downward trend. Challenges include red-tide mortality and rapid coastal transformation in Guanacaste due to tourism development, leaving only protected areas as safe habitat. In the Caribbean (Tortuguero), a 2023 study shows a decline in green turtle nesting, linked to the annual capture of 5,000–11,000 turtles by the Miskito people in Nicaragua. He warned that nesting is increasingly concentrated in Tortuguero and disappearing from other beaches in the National Park. He proposed that the IAC Scientific Committee contact the IUCN to open a panel of concerns, integrating information currently not considered in global assessments.

The delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands, Dr. Julia Horrocks, noted that the islands belong to the North Atlantic green turtle subpopulation. Nesting females are only just beginning to recover. Current numbers show an increase from zero to approximately 5–10 nesting females per year. However, conservation concerns persist because green turtles are the preferred species for human consumption, making them highly vulnerable. Islands that previously banned turtle harvests are now under pressure to allow them again. This is alarming for conservationists, especially given similar discussions about reopening turtle fisheries in places like Hawaii. She believes allowing green turtle harvest for consumption is premature, despite IUCN analyses suggesting population increases in the Caribbean, and emphasized the need to maintain protection.

The overall conclusion of the debate initiated by Ecuador and Peru—and supported by other delegations—was that the IUCN recategorization of the green turtle does not adequately reflect regional realities.

Ecuador proposed creating a Scientific Committee Working Group to analyze the current population status of *Chelonia mydas*, with the objectives of: • analyzing the change in population status, • verifying whether the current classification is accurate, and • providing updated criteria based on regional data.

He invited SC colleagues who expressed concerns in this debate to be WG members. The WG was formed with members from Ecuador, Peru, Chile, the United States, the Caribbean Netherlands, Argentina, and Costa Rica (represented by Luis Fonseca of Costa Rica Por Siempre from the Consultative Committee). Observers include representatives from Save the Blue Five and Flora, and Fauna y Cultura of Mexico and Karumbe. The WG will hold its first meeting no later than December 15, 2025, to select a coordinator. The proposal was accepted by SC22 and included in the Committee’s work plan.

The SC Chair acknowledged Ecuador’s leadership and supported the proposal. She also emphasized the need to organize WG actions into: • short-term efforts, to prepare an informational document for the next IAC COP, and • long-term efforts, to contribute to improving the IUCN assessment tool.

The SC Chair proposed preparing a clear document for the IAC COP conveying the message that although *C. mydas* shows global improvements, critical subpopulations are in decline. This would help raise awareness and prevent authorities from reducing resources due to the perception of global recovery.

## **12) AGREEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Chair proceeded to read the SC22 agreements in plenary, highlighting the following comments from Scientific Committee members that were included in the agreements:

### **Fisheries Working Group**

The delegation of Mexico to the IAC Scientific Committee, represented by Dr. Isaac Rojas, expressed its recognition of Dr. Heriberto Santana for his 10 years of service as Mexico’s

delegate to the IAC Scientific Committee and coordinator of the IAC Fisheries Working Group. Mexico acknowledged his commitment to sea turtle conservation and sustainable fisheries, integrating scientific knowledge into regional decision-making and fostering collaboration among IAC Member Countries. His leadership has strengthened the link between fisheries research and conservation activities and has contributed to achieving the objectives of the IAC. For these reasons, Mexico expressed its support for Dr. Santana continuing to participate as an expert to support IAC, given his scientific expertise.

Regarding the coordination of the Fisheries WG, the delegation of Mexico reiterated its willingness to continue collaborating constructively and its interest in continuing to coordinate the IAC Fisheries Working Group, with the commitment to contribute to the development of guidelines, best practices, and strategies that mitigate fisheries impacts and promote the comprehensive conservation of sea turtles.

With respect to the technical report of the Fisheries WG on longline fisheries and their interactions with sea turtles, it was agreed that Scientific Committee delegates should insist—through their respective national channels—that countries submit their data on sea turtle interactions from Part VI of the IAC Annual Reports, in order to strengthen the analyses of interactions. A suggested deadline of the end of 2025 was proposed for countries to submit their data to the IAC, so that the Fisheries WG can prepare the longline analysis report for 2026, as some countries have not yet submitted their 2025 Annual Report.

The delegate of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) encouraged continued ACAP–IAC collaboration, which has proven effective when working alongside the IAC Strategic Alliances WG. This collaboration can strengthen the ability of both agreements to present joint technical recommendations to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

The Green Turtle WG noted the importance of presenting the Scientific Committee’s views at the 2026 Conference of the Parties (COP12), urging caution in the interpretation of the species’ change in status to “Least Concern.” The WG agreed to present an informational document at COP12 while the WG prepares a more detailed technical document analyzing the population status of the green turtle in the IAC region.

**Agreement:** The SC22 plenary adopted the agreements and recommendations in document CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.7 (Annex IX: SC22 Agreements CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.7).

### **13) PLANNING FOR THE NEXT MEETING – SC23**

#### **Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee**

The delegate of Panama, MSc. Marino Abrego, proposed renewing the mandate of the current Chair, the delegate of Chile, Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos, so that she may continue in this role for the next biennium. The delegations of Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay, the Caribbean Netherlands, and Mexico seconded the proposal. Ms. Bustos thanked the Scientific Committee for the trust



and support shown during her tenure and accepted the nomination, agreeing to continue supporting the Committee's work as Chair for meetings CC23 and CC24.

The delegate of Peru, Dr. Javier Quiñonez, nominated the delegate of Costa Rica, MSc. Didiher Chacón, for the position of Vice Chair for the next biennium. The delegations of Panama, Guatemala, Uruguay, and Chile seconded the proposal. MSc. Chacón thanked the Scientific Committee and accepted the nomination.

These nominations were included in the meeting agreements document CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.7.

Regarding the planning of CC23 in 2026, the IAC currently does not have sufficient funds from Member Countries contributions to hold an in-person meeting; therefore, the meeting in 2026 will be convened by videoconference.

### **Closing Remarks**

The Secretary and the delegation of Chile, represented by Mrs. Paula Salinas, shared an *in memoriam* tribute to their colleague and former IAC Focal Point for Chile, Mr. Francisco Ponce, who served from 2010 to 2019 as Chile's first representative and Focal Point to the IAC and as a member of the Scientific Committee, strengthening the Convention through his expertise in science and fisheries management.

The Chair thanked the members of the Scientific Committee for their efforts within the respective Working Groups—Vessel Strikes WG, *L. olivacea* WG, Fisheries WG, Fibropapilloma WG, and Strategic Alliances WG—whose work resulted in the technical documents adopted during the meeting and to be presented at COP12. She also expressed her appreciation to the SC22 Vice Chair, Dr. Heriberto Santana, for his support and leadership in coordinating the Fisheries WG and in his role as Vice Chair of the SC.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee concluded at 4:30 PM (Washington, D.C. time). Group Photo – Annex X

## **ANNEXES**

Annex I: List of Participants CIT-CC22.2025-Inf.1

Annex II: Agenda CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.1

Annex III: Report on the Implementation of the SC Workplan CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.2

Annex IV: Scientific Committee Work Plan 2026-2028 CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.3

Annex V: Technical Document Electronic Monitoring Systems in Fisheries for the Conservation of Sea Turtles CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27

Annex VI: Technical Document Fibropapillomatosis in sea turtles within IAC region CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28

Annex VII: Report Nesting Season of *L. olivacea* in Central America and Mexico CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4

Annex VIII: Updated List Index Nesting Beaches 2026 CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.5

Annex IX: Scientific Committee Agreements and Recommendations CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.7

Annex X: SC22 Group Picture

# **Annex I: List of Participants CIT-CC22.2025-Inf.1**

No.	PAIS/COUNTRY	NOMBRE/NAME	ORGANIZACIÓN/INSTITUTION	E-MAIL
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<b>OBSERVERS NON MEMBER COUNTRIES GOVERNMENTS</b>				
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	56 participants			

## Annex II: Agenda CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.1

<b>Day 1</b> <b>Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 9:45 AM EST, Washington, DC time</b>	
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- 09:45-10:00 Participants join to the videoconference room (Zoom)  
Rules of procedures
- 10:00-10:45 Welcome remarks by the Chair of the Scientific Committee  
Introduction of participants [CIT-CC22.2025-Inf.1 – List of Participants](#)  
Adoption of the agenda [CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.1 - Agenda](#)

### COMPLIANCE WITH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2024-2025, PROGRESS, AND RESULTS

- 10:45-11:45 Report on the Implementation of the SC Workplan. SC Chair *Lezlie Bustos*  
a) Compliance report of the SC Work Plan [CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.2](#)  
b) Updates for the SC Work Plan 2026-2028 [CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.3](#)

### WORKING GROUP STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

- 11:45-12:40 - Technical Document Electronic Monitoring Systems in Fisheries for the Conservation of Sea Turtles - [CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27](#) - *Coordinator of the Strategic Alliances WG Dr. Laura Prodosimi*

PM

- 12:40-01:20 Recess (40 min)**

### WORKING GROUP FIBROPAPILLOMA

- 01:20-02:20 a) Results of the questionnaire on the presence of Fibropapilloma in the IAC region – *WG Coordinator Dr. Virginia Ferrando, Karumbe*  
b) Technical Document: [CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28](#) Fibropapillomatosis in sea turtles within IAC region -*WG Coordinator Dr. Virginia Ferrando, Karume*

### WORKING GROUP VESSEL STRIKES AND SEA TURTLES

- 02:20-03:20 - Review of the draft Technical Document: Guidelines for the mitigation of vessel strikes with sea turtles - *Coordinator Dominican Republic*

- 03:20-03:30 - Adjourn

<b>DAY 2</b> <b>Nov 13<sup>th</sup> - 9:45 AM EST, Washington, DC time</b>	
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AM

- 09:45-10:00 Participants join to the videoconference room (Zoom)
- 10:00-10:30 Report and Recommendations from the 18<sup>th</sup> Consultative Committee meeting  
*Consultative Committee Chair – Biol. Santos R. Hernández - SEMARNAT*

## IAC SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

10:30-11:00 Report on activities – *MSc. Verónica Cáceres, IAC Secretary*

## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS FROM HONDURAS AND GUATEMALA

11:00-12:15 - The delegations of Honduras and Guatemala will give presentations on national research.

Marine connectivity, habitat use, and the silent urgency of transboundary conservation. *Ana Lucia López, Mar Alliance-Honduras*

Temperature-Dependent Sex Determination: Sea Turtle Nesting in Guatemala.  
*Dr. Alejandra Morales-Mérida, University of San Carlos – Guatemala*

**12:15-12:45- Break (40 minutes)**

## WORKING GROUP *L. OLIVACEA* NESTING

12:45-1:15 - Report of the WG on the Nesting Season of *L. olivacea* in Central America and Mexico [CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4](#). WG Members: *MSc. Didiher Chacón, Lic. Skarleth Pineda, Lic. Airam López, Dr. Heriberto Santana.*

## IAC ANNUAL REPORT

01:15-2:00 Update list Index Nesting Beaches 2026 [CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.5](#) – *Members IAC Scientific Committee*  
Update list of Turtle Excluder Devices [CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.6](#) – *Members IAC Scientific Committee.*

02:00 2:30 Other business  
Discussion on Green Sea Turtle updated status on the IUCN Red List. *Biol. Eduardo Espinoza Delegate Ecuador*

## AGREEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

02:30-03:00 Adoption of the Scientific Committee Agreements and Recommendations [CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.7](#)

03:00-03:30 Planning of the next SC23 meeting  
Election of SC Chair and Vice Chair  
Closing remarks



## Annex III: Report on the Implementation of the SC Workplan CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.2

CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.2

### REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IAC WORK PLAN 2024-2026

Presented by Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos Chair of the IAC Scientific Committee

The following document is presented by the Chair of the Scientific Committee and delegate of Chile to the SC, Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos. The report lists the activities of the Scientific Committee Work Plan 2024 and 2025 and their current status of implementation until December 15, 2025 (the document includes activities implemented for the WG by the time this report was published in December). The current status of the actions is defined as: **green** “completed”; **yellow** “in process”; and **red** “no action”. In **blue are the items discussed at the SC22-2025 agenda**, and after the meeting the corresponding color was assigned to these items and updated to the date of publication of this report. The report will be presented to COP12-2026.

The table in the document is organized by topic and has as reference the Work Plan of the Scientific Committee adopted at the 11th Conference of the Parties of the IAC (COP11) 2024 CIT-COP11- 2024-Doc.3. By agreement of the COP, this report is presented at the annual meetings of the Scientific Committee and Conference of the Parties every two years. The Annex I contains new activities suggested.

To execute the activities of this report, the Working Groups of the Scientific Committee have held the following meetings in the intersessional period August 2024-December 2025: SC Working Groups: Fibropapilloma (3), Vessel strikes (2), Electronic Monitoring / Strategic alliances (3), Fisheries / Manual (1), Leatherback OPO (1), WG- Green Turtle (1) and Chair/ Vice Chair/ Secretariat (3)

#### REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IAC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2024-2026

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

Proposed Activities		Status – December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2025	2024	2025	2026
Exceptions					
1.a	Guatemala presents their Exception management Plan for review to the SC	Guatemala presented a progress report at SC19-2022, and at SC20-2023 submitted a draft Exception Management Plan (MP). The Exceptions Working Group (Costa Rica, Brazil, the United States, and the Secretariat) and the Scientific Committee provided comments on the Management Plan.  Guatemala submitted its updated Management Plan to SC21 in 2024 for approval. Some issues remained to be included and clarified.  Guatemala agreed to present its Exception Management Plan to the Scientific Committee in June 2025.			
1.b		SC21-2024 recommended that Guatemala will continue to work on the MP with a small WG with USA, Ecuador for final edits.  2025: Guatemala indicated that they have their Exception Management Plan prepared with the SC-2024 comments included, but the Management Plan has not been approved by the new CONAP authorities. Guatemala committed to submitting to the SC in December 2025 a detailed report on the next steps to be taken for			

Proposed Activities		Status – December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2025	2024	2025	2026
		the approval of the exception management plan.			
2.	Panama presents their Exception management Plan to the SC	<p>Panama will inform the IAC Secretariat and IAC subsidiary bodies when the Panama Exceptions Management Plan is officially adopted by the Minister of Environment.</p> <p>2025: Panamá said that their Exception management Plan is still in review by legal advisors at the Ministry of Environment.</p>			
<b>Fisheries</b>					
3.	Fisheries WG delegate-Mexico will prepare the report on data analysis of observer data for longline fisheries including data 2020 - 2025 from IAC Annual Report.	<p>The report was updated with longline data from 2020, 2021 and 2022 IAC Annual report. Pending update with 2023, 2024 and 2025 data.</p> <p>The delegate from Mexico presented a progress report to SC19 (2022). The delegate from Mexico to the SC will review the data submitted for 2023 and 2024-2025, to check on which countries have submitted information on longline to update the technical document. It will be reported to SC each year the status of data available.</p> <p>The IAC Secretariat prepared a table with the status of long line data submission per year 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. This table is available in the SC20 (2023) report under the agenda item IAC Annual Report.</p> <p>Dr. Heriberto Santana member of the Fisheries WG will prepare the Technical Document: Report of the analysis of observer data for longline fisheries data 2020-2025 to the IAC SC 2024-2026. The document will be presented at COP12 in 2026.</p> <p>Responsible: Dr. Heriberto Santana member of the Fisheries WG</p>			
4.	Carry out a technical exchange (virtual meeting) focused on longline data collection, with participation of the fisheries WG, RFMOs staff with which the IAC has MoUs, and IAC countries interested (fisheries agencies).	<p>Guatemala proposed this activity to be carried out in 2022 with the purpose to convey to the fisheries agencies in the IAC countries the need for the fisheries data collection in the IAC Annual Report. This is to help prepare the technical document or report and analysis of the Fisheries WG and to follow up with the Resolutions.</p> <p>This activity did not take place in 2022, the Fisheries WG did not indicate next steps.</p> <p>SC20 (2023) decided to extend the implementation time for this activity to the first trimester of 2024.</p> <p>COP11 decided to extend the implementation date to 2024-2026. The Fisheries WG will provide progress reports at the 2024-2026 CC meetings until this activity is concluded.</p> <p>Responsible: SC Fisheries WG</p>			

Proposed Activities		Status – December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2025	2024	2025	2026
5.	Develop a data collection form.  Develop a method to analyze data on the interaction between sea turtles and gillnets according to Resolution on Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7	<p>The SC and CCE Fisheries WG will develop a proposal to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in the IAC Annual Report.</p> <p>No progress has been reported by the Consultative Committee</p> <p>Consultative Committee should indicate the deadline and time frame for this activity to be completed.</p> <p>SC20 (2023) decided that this activity will be coordinated by the delegate from Chile, whom will reach to the CPPS and their sea turtle committee to share the data collection form for gill nets developed by IAC SC in previous years. With the goal to prepare a minimum data requirement, format that works for IAC and CCPS. The results of this coordination will be presented at SC21 (2023).</p> <p>At COP11, the date for this activity was extended to 2024-2026. The WG will have to report on the progress on each meeting as applicable.</p> <p>Responsible: Chile Delegate (SC)</p>			
6.	Fisheries WG prepare IAC Manual for best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles that interact with fishing gear.	<p>The WG finalized the manual by selecting illustrations and pictures and produced a final version for graphic design by Mangrove Studio by the first week of March 2024.The manual in Spanish was presented at IAC COP11-2024.</p>			
7.		<p><b>By request from COP11</b>, the manual for sea turtle handling on board fishing vessels prepared by the Scientific Committee Fisheries WG (in drafting from 20220) will be shared with the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) for review and approval electronically (June- 2024-2025). This has been implemented the CCE sent edits to Manual in August 2025. Edits from CCE Costa Rica, Brazil, México and the United States has been included.</p> <p>The SC Fisheries WG continues to prepare the final version taking into account the CCE's comments and will prepare the final version in Spanish and English.</p> <p>Subsequently, the manual will be shared with the Focal Points for approval by electronic correspondence (2024-2025)</p>			
8.		<p>The Fisheries WG will prepare for SC22 and SC23, as necessary, educational charts for use by fishermen on boats.</p> <p>This activity will be in collaboration with CPPS, both in the technical part and in financial support. It is suggested that CPPS coordinates this activity during the period 2024-2026. Pending final approval of manual.</p> <p>Responsibles: Fisheries WG and CPPS</p>			
Index Beaches Conservation Status					

Proposed Activities		Status – December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2025	2024	2025	2026
9.	<p>Collect information on annual nesting in index beaches of IAC countries using the form developed by the SC, and the data from the IAC Annual Report.</p> <p>The Technical Document “IAC Index Beach Data Analysis” is updated every 5 years.</p>	<p>The WG has been updating the Technical Document IAC Index Beach Data Analysis since 2014.</p> <p>The updated list of index beaches is in the 2024 IAC Annual Report and IAC website.</p> <p>The Nesting Beach WG presented technical document updated “IAC Index Beach Data Analysis 2009-2023” to SC20 (2023) and it was adopted. The document was presented at COP11 2024.</p>			
		<p>In 2025, the Scientific Committee and the Focal Points were asked to update the index beaches that will be included in the 2026 IAC online Annual Report. Requests for changes were received from the Focal Points for the index beaches of the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Belize, the United States, and Venezuela. The updated list will be posted on the IAC website and is included in the SC22 report.</p> <p>The WG will update the nesting beaches database with information from the IAC Annual Reports, no later than December 2026.</p> <p>The next update of the technical document will be in 2028 and will be presented at its corresponding COP.</p> <p>Responsible: USA delegate, Ecuador delegate and the Secretariat</p>			
10.		<p>Evaluate with the Consultative Committee the information related to index beaches (inclusion of secondary beaches for critically endangered species) in the IAC Annual Report. The Annual Report format in the nesting data part updated as applicable.</p> <p>There is no update requested.</p>			
Climate Change					
11.	<p>Follow up and provide support to countries implementing the “Pilot Project for IAC Parties to collect environmental data in their index nesting beaches”.</p> <p>Convene annual meetings of the WG.</p> <p>Pilot Project countries: Caribbean Netherlands, USA, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Panama.</p>	<p>The WG Coordinator sent a survey in 2022 to the participant countries to follow up on their environmental data collection.</p> <p>The Working Group coordinator sent a questionnaire in 2022 to the participating countries to follow up on the information collection. The coordinator presented a progress report at CC19-2022.</p> <p>The WG agreed to meet in December 2023 to check on updates on the pilot projects. The WG Coordinator presented a progress report with reminder about the finalization of data collection for the Pilot Project at SC21- 2024.</p>			
		<p>Participating countries Ecuador, The United States, Costa Rica, México, Caribbean Netherlands, Panamá and Dominican Republic will continue to report / record the environmental data for the pilot study on July 30<sup>th</sup> of each year until completion of the study in 2025.</p> <p>2025: Information collecting continues to prepare project report in 2026.</p>			

Proposed Activities		Status – December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2025	2024	2025	2026
		2026: The WG Coordinator will present the final report to SC-2026. Responsible: Delegate Caribbean Netherlands - Coordinator			
<b>Eastern Pacific Leatherback <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i></b>					
12.	EP leatherback WG following up the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6	<p>The EP Leatherback WG will prepare an evaluation report every 5 years on the “Implementation of conservation measures and strategic actions in Annex 1 of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6”. The first report will be presented to the SC and CCE in 2026 and at the corresponding COP.</p> <p>2025: WG meet in July 2025 and sent out a survey to NGOs regarding strategic actions they are in process of analysis.</p>			
<b>Sea Turtle Conservation Status</b>					
13.	<p>Update report CIT-CC13-2016-Tec.13: Status of Loggerhead Turtles in IAC countries.</p> <p>This report is updated every 5 years.</p> <p>Working Group: Mexico, Brazil, Belize, USA. Coordinator USA and Belize.</p>	<p>The Technical Document Status of Loggerhead Turtles in IAC countries CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.21 (updated) was presented at COP11 and adopted. Recommendations made by Argentina have been completed and the final version is now available.</p> <p>Next update of the document in 2028</p> <p>Responsible for update 2028: Brazil and USA</p>			
14.	Vessel Strikes and sea turtles. Working group to prepare recommendations to mitigate this threat.	<p>Prepare a Technical Document of Vessel strikes and sea turtles to present at SC20-2023.</p> <p>The WG prepared a list of topics to include in the technical document to be adopted at SC20-2023.</p> <p>In 2024, the list of contents and next steps was presented to SC21. The Working Group submitted a draft of the technical document at SC22-2025, and they are working to present the document to COP12, with the Scientific and Advisory Committee reviewing it electronically. New members were included in the Working Group.</p> <p>Responsible: Dominican Republic (Coordinator), Guatemala (Coordinator), Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Belize, Mexico, Chile, Panama, Peru and Ecuador (Charles Darwin Foundation).</p>			
15.	Sargassum Working Group	<p>The Sargassum Working Group was formed, consisting of Costa Rica (coordinator), Belize, Honduras, the Caribbean Netherlands and Panama.</p> <p>The WG will prepare a technical document including the impacts of the increase in sargassum on beaches, the problems of its removal from the coasts and recommendations to the IAC Party Countries to manage and mitigate the impacts. The technical document was presented in 2024 to the SC and edits from Caribbean Netherlands were included in the final version.</p> <p>2025: Technical document on Sargassum is in translation by the</p>			

Proposed Activities		Status – December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2025	2024	2025	2026
		Secretariat.  2026: Technical document on Sargassum will be presented to COP12.			
16.	Fibropapilloma Working Group	<p>Membership and coordination of the Fibropapilloma WG were decided at the SC21 meeting (2024).</p> <p>The WG compiled and exchanged information with IAC member countries on the causes and treatments related to fibropapilloma in the range of IAC countries with respect to green turtles and other species that may be affected by this disease. <b>COP11 request.</b></p> <p>The WG prepared a technical document that was adopted at SC22. The technical document includes comments from SC and CCE in 2025.</p> <p>Final technical document to be presented to COP12 (2026).</p> <p>The WG will organize a webinar with Save the Blue Five to present the document in the framework of Sea Turtle Day-June 2026.</p> <p>Coordinator: Dr. Virginia Ferrando – Karumbe</p>			
17.	WG <i>L. olivacea</i>	<p>The WG prepared a recommendation to Honduras on <i>L. olivacea</i> nesting peak. The WG will present their report with recommendations to SC22-2025 and it was adopted. This concludes the task for the WG.</p> <p>Data for this work was collected from Honduras, Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. The WG will continue to support Honduras to prepare more data analysis.</p> <p>The IAC Secretariat will share the report with recommendations with Honduras Focal Point in 2026.</p> <p>WG Members: Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico</p>			
18.	WG <i>Chelonia mydas</i>	<p>2025 - WG–Green Turtle was formed Tortuga they will present and information document to COP12.</p> <p>WG will present a technical document to SC23-2026</p>			
19.	Recommendations on sea turtle's conservation status using technical documents presented to the COP when applicable.	<p>The SC presented recommendations to <b>COP11 (2024)</b> from the following technical documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.21: Status of Loggerhead Turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) in IAC countries</li> <li>- CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.22: Nesting beach data analysis 2009-2023</li> <li>- CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.23: Manual for best practices for sea turtles.</li> </ul> <p>The Scientific Committee will prepare recommendations to the COP12 (2026), from the technical documents as applicable.</p>			

Proposed Activities		Status – December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2025	2024	2025	2026
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Electronic Monitoring (2024-2025)-Done</li><li>Sargassum (2024-2025)-Done</li><li>Fibropapilloma (2025)-Done</li><li>Vessel strikes (2025)</li><li>Green Turtle – Information doc (2026)</li></ul>			
Collaboration with Other Organizations and Strategic Alliances					
20.	Members of the SC will support the activities to celebrate Sea Turtle Day on June 16 of each year and when necessary, with the support of IO and strategic alliances.	Support to the IAC Secretariat in activities to celebrate World Sea Turtle Day 2025-2026, for example: facilitating virtual meetings with experts, educational material, communications on social networks as applicable. <b>COP11 ’s Recommendation.</b>  2025: activity organized by the delegates of Consultative Committee and Government of Ecuador with participation in panel of members from Peru, Ecuador, Dominican Republica, Venezuela and Panama.			
21.	WG Strategic Alliances formerly known as “Implementation of IAC - ACAP MoU”	At SC20 (2023) it was agreed for the WG to prepare a technical document: EM and lessons learned in the implementation from Chile and USA to be presented at SC21 (2024). The document was presented for consideration at SC21-2024 and it was adopted.  The WG prepared its terms of reference and they were presented at SC 21(2024) and were adopted.  Responsible: Argentina (Coordinador), Chile, Peru, Mexico, Ecuador and USA.			
22.		The WG prepared a technical document of guidelines for the use of electronic monitoring for sea turtle conservation and the document was approved at the SC22 (2025). The document will be presented to COP12.  Responsible: Argentina (Coordinador), Chile, Peru, Mexico, Ecuador and USA.			
IAC Annual Report					
23.	Evaluate the IAC Annual Report questionnaire together with the Consultative Committee and make changes to relevant sections of the IAC Annual Report as necessary.	The new questions from the EP Leatherback Resolution and Fisheries Resolution were included in the questionnaire in the IAC 2024 Annual Report. The questions were adopted by SC and CCE.  Make recommendations to the format of the Annual Report as necessary.			
24.	Include in SC agenda every year a presentation of research from one or two IAC member countries reported in the IAC Annual Report.	2024 Research by Belize and Ecuador presented at SC21 (2024)  2025 Research by Guatemala and Honduras was presented at SC22.			
		2026 Research by México and Perú will be presented in SC23			
Projects					

Proposed Activities		Status – December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2025	2024	2025	2026
25.	Recommend high priority projects to apply for funds and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives.	No recommendation for new projects from the Scientific Committee to date. No color for the status.			
<b>Capacity Development</b>					
26.	Technical support from SC members in workshops and training on subjects that the Parties identified and for which funding is available.	Activities will be reported as necessary.			
<b>Recommendations from COP and Consultative Committee of Experts</b>					
27.	Address COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly.	The requests from COP11 will be addressed by the Scientific Committee during the 2024-2026 to be presented at COP12.			
<b>Technical Documents</b>					
28.	Prepare technical documents as needed.	Technical Documents (2024-2026) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manual for best practices of sea turtles CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.23. (2024-2025)</li> <li>• Electronic monitoring (2024-2025)</li> <li>• Sargassum (2024-2025)</li> <li>• Fibropapilloma (2025-2026)</li> <li>• Vessel strikes (2025)-In process</li> <li>• Green Turtle Information Doc-In process</li> </ul>			
<b>IAC Website and News Bulletin</b>					
29.	The delegates of the Scientific Committee will provide to the IAC Secretariat news from their countries to include in the IAC Bulletin	News updated on the IAC website. 2 IAC bulletin published in 2024 3 IAC bulletin published in 2025 <a href="http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin-eng.htm">http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin-eng.htm</a>			
<b>IAC Experts Directory</b>					
30.	Update the directory of experts on the IAC areas of interest.	Experts Directory to be updated on the website. <a href="http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/Directorio_de_Expertos_2021_Directory_of_Experts_2021.pdf">http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/Directorio_de_Expertos_2021_Directory_of_Experts_2021.pdf</a>			
<b>Scientific Committee Work Plan</b>					
31.	Report on the implementation status of the SC Work Plan.	Report on the status of implementation of the 2024 Work Plan presented by the SC Chair at the SC21 meeting and COP11.			



Proposed Activities		Status – December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2025	2024	2025	2026
		Report on the status of implementation of the 2025 Work Plan presented at the SC22 meeting.			
		Report on the status of implementation of the 2026 Work Plan presented at the SC23 meeting.			
		Report on the status of implementation of the 2024-2026 Work Plan presented to COP12.			
		Responsibles: IAC Chair/Vicechair			
32.	Update the Scientific Committee Work.	Work Plan updated at the 21 <sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee meeting 2024. Work Plan updated at the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Scientific Committee meeting 2025.			
33.	Convene meetings of SC Working Group to implement the WP.	Number of meetings SC Working Groups March-July 2024:  Index Nesting beach (1), Vessel strikes (1), IAC -ACAP (3), Exceptions WG (2), <i>Caretta caretta</i> (1), Fisheries/Manual WG (3), EP Leatherback WG (0), Climate Change WG (1), SC Chair /IAC Secretariat (4), logistics (3) meetings.  Number of meeting SC Working Groups August 2024–December 2025: WG Vessel Strikes (2), Electronic Monitoring/ Strategic Alliances (3), Fisheries/Manual WG (1), Fibropapilloma (3), WG Green Turtle (1), Coordination meeting with SC Chair (3) to prepare SC2025.  Responsible: SC Chair / Vicechair, WG Coordinators with support of IAC Secretariat.			

#### ANNEX I – NEW ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN WORKPLAN 2026-2028

1. Nesting Beach Working Group: Review nesting data from the 2024–2026 IAC Annual Report and update the IAC database to update the Technical Document.
2. Green Turtle Working Group: Prepare information report for COP12 and Technical Document for SC23
3. Fisheries Working Group: Define a strategy to prepare a report on longline fisheries using data from the IAC Annual Report.
4. Update the report on the use of TEDs in the IAC region. Consult with Focal Points. Time frame February 2026.
5. Sea Turtle Day 2026: Support the CIT Secretariat in activities celebrating World Sea Turtle Day 2026. A webinar will be organized with the Fibropapilloma WG in 2026.

#### Annex IV: Scientific Committee Work Plan 2026-2028 CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.3

The SC Workplan was updated based on the activities agreed at SC22. The 2026-2028 Work plan will be presented for consideration to IAC COP12 (2026) for adoption.

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
<b>EXCEPTIONS</b>					
1	Exceptions WG	Assessment of Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala exception management plan every five years.	<p>1) The Exceptions WG will review the “<i>Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan</i>” presented by Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala in accordance to the time frame in their exception Resolution (2022-2027).</p> <p>2) The Exception WG will prepare a report on the progress in the implementation of the exception Resolution for each country to present to IAC COP every 5 years, as applicable</p> <p>3) Exception WG provides technical support to prepare Guatemala Exception Management Plan.</p>	<p>1) The SC together with CCE will provide comments and recommendations based on the “Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan” for each country as applicable.</p> <p>2) SC and CCE will present report to IAC COP on the progress in the implementation of the exception resolutions as applicable.</p> <p>3) Recommendations from Exception WG to the draft management plan presented to SC21-2024. Exception WG will provide support as needed by Guatemala.</p>	<p>1)2026-2028</p> <p>2) 2026 (COP12). 2028 (COP13)</p> <p>3) 2026</p>
2	Guatemala	Exception Management Plan	<p>4) Guatemala presented the Exception Management Plan to the Scientific Committee in 2024 and included recommendations from SC. Guatemala will present in December 2025 a progress report to the SC including the</p>	<p>4) Progress report presented to SC22 (2025), and in the subsequent years as applicable.</p> <p>5) Exception Management Plan for Guatemala approved.</p>	<p>4)2025-2026</p> <p>5)2026</p>

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
			steps for CONAP approval.  5) Approval of Exception Management Plan Guatemala by CONAP. Progress report presented by Guatemala as needed.		
<b>FISHERIES</b>					
3	Fisheries WG	Interactions with observed longline fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7	1) Analysis of observer data on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longlines based on IAC Annual Report data from 2020-2025. Coordinator: Mexico  2) Present Report to COP12 with data from Annual Reports 2020 -2025.	1) Recommendations from the SC to the report regarding interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline (2020-2025).  2) Report and recommendations presented to the COP12 (2026).	1) 2026  2) 2026
4	Fisheries WG	Technical Exchange	3) Carry out a technical exchange (virtual meeting) focused on longline data collection, with the participation of the fisheries WG, RFMOs technicians with which the IAC has MoUs, and IAC countries interested (fisheries agencies).	3) Virtual meeting with the participation of the fisheries WG and technicians from RFMOs and the IAC.	3) 2026
5	Fisheries WG SC and CCE	Interactions with gillnets	4) The SC and CCE Fisheries WG will develop a proposal to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in the IAC Annual Report.	4) Proposal to the Scientific and Consultative committees to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in IAC Annual Report according to the Resolution on Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7.	4) 2026

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
			Coordinador: Chile-SC Member		
6	GT Pesquerías; Fisheries WG	Safe handling and release of sea turtles that interact with fishing gear	<p>5) Prepare IAC Manual for best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles during fishing operations. The document was shared for comments with the Consultative Committee (CCE). The comments were included. After this it will be shared with the IAC Focal Points for approval by email. <b>COP11 recommendation.</b> This is in process still not finalized.</p> <p>Coordinator: SC Delegate Mexico</p> <p>6) The Fisheries WG will prepare field cards/booklet for fishermen to use in vessels. This activity is subject to funding availability from the Convention.</p>	<p>5) Final version of Manual on IAC shared with IAC countries and in IAC website.</p> <p>6) Field cards presented in SC23 2026 as needed.</p>	<p>5)2026</p> <p>6)2026</p>
<b>CONSERVATION STATUS ON INDEX NESTING BEACHES</b>					
7	Nesting Beaches WG (Jeff Seminoff USA Coordinator, Ecuador – Eduardo Espinoza and Secretariat)	Conservation Status in Index Nesting Beaches	<p>1) Collect information on annual nesting in index beaches using the IAC Annual Report. The Technical Document on IAC Index Beaches is updated every 5 years. <b>Next update of technical document in 2028.</b></p> <p>2. Work with the CCE in the evaluation of the current Annual Report regarding</p>	<p>1) Technical Document IAC Index Beach Data Analysis 2009-2028 using the latest data from IAC Annual Report 2028, to be presented to the Scientific Committee (2028) and the COP.</p> <p>Timeframe to present the technical</p>	<p>1) SC2028</p> <p>2)2026-2028</p>

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
			to the index nesting beaches information. <b>Request from COP11.</b>	document: 2027-2028  2) IAC Annual Report format Nesting Data updated as applicable.	
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>					
8	Climate Change WG Coordinator Julia Horrocks (Caribbean Netherlands, USA, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Dominican Republic).	Climate Change; Pilot Project	1) Following submission of data by the countries that are implementing the pilot project, the WG Coordinator will prepare the final report on the 5- year implementation of the pilot project and present it to the Scientific Committee 2026.	1) Final Report on 5-year implementation of the pilot project (2021-2025) presented to the Scientific Committee in 2026.	1) 2026
<b>EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i></b>					
9	EP Leatherback WG	Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6	1) The EP Leatherback WG will prepare an “ <i>Evaluation report on the implementation of the conservation measures and strategic actions in Annex 1 of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6</i> ”, every five years. The first report is to be presented to the Committees SC and CE in 2027 and to the subsequent COP.	1) Evaluation report on the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 (5-year report) presented to SC, CCE and COP in 2027.	1)2026-2027
<b>SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION STATUS</b>					

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
10	Caretta caretta WG (Mexico, Belize, Brazil, Panama, and USA).	<i>Caretta caretta</i> ; conservation status report. Coordinator Brazil and USA Delegates	1) Report: Status of Loggerhead Turtles ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) Within Nations of the IAC. The report is updated every 5 years according to Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3. <b>Next update of technical document in 2028</b>	1) Updated Technical document presented to SC 2028 and COP.	1)2026-2028
11	WG Vessel strikes recreative and fishing vessels with sea turtles (Dominican Republic/Coordinator, Guatemala, Caribbean Netherlands, Mexico, Belize, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Costa Rica)	Threats: Vessel strikes and sea turtles	2)The WG will prepare an IAC Technical Document with general guidelines to mitigate this threat, for each country to implement as appropriate, and will share with CCE and SC by email for comments in 2026. 3) Present the technical document to COP12	2) Technical document compiling regional information (IAC countries and other) adopted inter-session. 3) Technical document presented to COP12 2026	2) 2026 3) COP12 2026
12	WG Sargassum (Costa Rica – Coordinator, Caribbean Netherlands, Belize, Honduras, and Panama)	Threats to sea turtles due to increased Sargasso accumulation on beaches in the Caribbean	3) The WG will prepare an IAC Technical Document including the impact from the increased Sargassum on the beaches, the problem with the removal of it, and recommendations to IAC Parties to manage and mitigate the impacts. Implemented document adopted	3)Technical document will be presented at COP12	3)2026

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
			at SC21 (2024).		
13	WG Fibropapilloma (FP)	Fibropapilloma virus	<p>4) Compile and exchange pertinent information about the cause and treatment regarding fibropapilloma within the range of the IAC Parties with respect to the green turtle (<i>C. mydas</i>) and any other species that may be affected by this disease. Technical Document adopted at SC22 with review from SC and CCE. Implemented. <b>Request COP11</b></p> <p>WG-FP will organize together with Save the Blue Five Project a webminar to discuss the technical document in the framework of Sea Turtle Day June 2026.</p> <p>Responsable: WG-Fibropapilloma</p>	4) Technical Document will be presented to COP12.	2026
14	WG Green Turtle  Ecuador (Coordinador), Argentina, Peru, Chile, USA, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, CCE-Costa Rica por Siempre	Population status of <i>C. mydas</i> in IAC region	<p>5) Prepare information document to present to COP12</p> <p>6) Prepare technical document about the population status of <i>C. mydas</i> in IAC region to present to Scientific Committee.</p> <p>Responsible: Green Turtle WG</p>	<p>5) Information document presented to COP12</p> <p>6) Technical Document presented to Scientific Committee</p>	<p>5) 2026</p> <p>6) 2026-2027</p>

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
15	Scientific Committee Chair	Sea turtle's conservation status	7) Prepare recommendations on sea turtle's conservation status using technical documents to the COP when applicable.	7.1) Recommendations on sea turtle conservation status as technical documents presented to COP.  7.2) Presentation of following technical Documents to COP12: Fibropapilloma Electronic Monitoring Systems Sargasso Vessel strikes Green Turtle information document	7.1) Permanent  7.2) 2026
<b>COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS</b>					
16	Scientific Committee	Sea Turtle Day	1) SC members will provide support to activities to celebrate Sea Turtle day on June 16 <sup>th</sup> and as needed they will work with other IO.  2) WG-Fibropapilloma will organize together with Save the Blue Five Project a webinar to discuss the technical document in the framework of Sea Turtle Day June 2026.	1) Support to IAC Secretariat on activities to celebrate World Sea Turtle Day such as facilitate virtual workshops with experts, outreach material educational material, communications in social media as applicable. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b>  2) Webinar in June for sea turtle day 2026.	1) Permanent 2) June 2026
17	Working Group Strategic Alliances (Coordinator- Argentina, Chile)	Collaboration with ACAP	1)WG prepared Technical Document Electronic monitoring systems and Sea turtle conservation presented to CCE18 and SC22 and adopted. The Document will be presented at IAC COP12.	1)Technical Document Electronic monitoring systems and Sea turtle conservation presented to IAC COP12.	1) 2026



	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
	Peru, Mexico, Ecuador, and USA).				
18	Scientific Committee	Collaborative work with International Organizations.	1) Include topics that improve and activate collaboration with international organizations.	1) Recommendations on collaborative work identified.	1) Permanent
<b>ANNUAL REPORTS</b>					
19	Scientific Committee	Annual Reports	1) Analyze the IAC Annual Report technical information.	1) Report on the analysis of technical information from the IAC Annual Reports with recommendations to the Parties when needed.	1) Permanent
20	Scientific Committee	Annual Report Format	2) Assess the Annual Report current questionnaire. 3) Update list of IAC index nesting beaches adopted by SC in the IAC Annual Report 2026.	2) Recommendations of changes to the Annual Report questionnaire as needed. 3) IAC Annual Report 2026 nesting information updated with the new index beaches.	2) Permanent 3) 2026
21	Scientific Committee	Research reported in the IAC Annual Report	4) Include in the agenda of the Scientific Committee meeting a presentation of research in the IAC member countries reported by two or three countries in their IAC Annual Reports.	4) Research presentations from IAC Countries at the Scientific Committee meetings 4.1) Presentation Mexico and Peru SC23. (2026) 4.2) Presentation Panama and Caribbean Netherlands SC24 (2027) 4.3) Presentation Dominican Republic and USA SC25 (2028)	4) Permanent 4.1) 2026 4.2) 2027 4.3) 2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
<b>PROJECTS</b>					
22	Scientific Committee	High priority projects; Recommendations	1) Recommend high priority projects to apply for funds and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives.	1) Project's proposals developed by the Scientific Committee when needed. Recommendations on high priority projects when needed.	Permanent
<b>CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT</b>					
23	Scientific Committee	Capacity development	1) Support from Scientific Committee members in workshops and training on topics identified by IAC Parties and those for which funding is available.	1) Strengthening capacities on topics related to sea turtles in the IAC Parties.	Permanent
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS COP AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE</b>					
24	Scientific Committee	Recommendations from COP and CCE	1) Address the COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly.	1) Recomendaciones remitidas a la COP y al Comité Consultivo de Expertos según proceda. 1) Recommendations submitted to the COP and the Consultative Committee of Experts, as needed.	Permanent
<b>TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS</b>					
25	Scientific Committee	Technical documents	1) Develop technical documents as needed. 2) IAC Best practices Manual for safe handling and release of sea turtles, presented and adopted at SC20. Shared	1) Technical documents available at the IAC's website and shared with IAC Parties. 2) Final manual best practices for sea turtles adopted. The final version	1) Permanent

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
			with CCE for comments. In process to include comments. <b>Request of COP11.</b> This is not finalized yet.  3) Draft Technical Document on vessel strikes presented at SC22 (2025) it received comments and it will be shared with SC and CCE for adoption in 2026 and will be presented to COP12.	available in IAC website in 2026.  3) Technical Document on vessel strikes and sea turtles available IAC website in 2026.	2) 2026 3) 2026
<b>IAC WEBSITE AND NEWS BULLETIN</b>					
26	Scientific Committee	IAC website and news bulletin	1) Every month, the SC will provide news relevant to IAC Parties to the Secretariat for the IAC News Bulletin.  2) The SC will share outreach material on Sea Turtle Day activities and other events with the Secretariat.	1) Updated news in the IAC website, and regular publication of the IAC's News Bulletin.  2) IAC countries outreach material repository.	Permanent
<b>EXPERT DIRECTORY</b>					
27	Scientific Committee, Secretary	IAC Experts Directory	1) Review and update the IAC Expert Directory.	1) Updated directory (June 2025) available on IAC's website.	Permanent
<b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN</b>					
28	Scientific Committee Chair	Implementation status of SC Work Plan	1) Prepare a report with the implementation of the SC work plan and present to SC meeting.	1) Implementation of SC WP report presented to SC23 and SC24.  2) Report on implementation of SC work	1)2026-2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
			<p>2) Prepare report on the implementation of the SC work plan biennial and present to IAC COP12.</p> <p>3) Prepare report on the implementation of the SC work plan biennial and present to IAC COP13.</p>	<p>plan activities 2024-2026 presented to COP12.</p> <p>3) Report on implementation of SC work plan activities 2026-2028 presented to COP13.</p>	<p>2) 2026</p> <p>3) 2028</p>
29	Scientific Committee	SC Work Plan	4) Update the SC Work Plan following IAC guidelines and the COPs Resolutions.	4) Scientific Committee biennial work plan including actions, timetable, and responsibilities.	Permanent
30	Scientific Committee Chair and WG	SC Working Group meetings	5) Convene working groups meetings to follow up on work plan	<p>5) Number Working Group meetings Jan 2026-2027</p> <p>WG-Strategic alliances WG-Fisheries /Manual WG-EP Leatherback WG-Fibropapilloma WG-Vessel Strikes WG- Green Turtle WG-Nesting Chair and Secretary</p>	2026-2028

**Annex V: Technical Document Electronic Monitoring Systems in Fisheries for the Conservation of Sea Turtles CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27**

**Annex VI: Technical Document Fibropapillomatosis in sea turtles within IAC region CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28**

The Technical Documents can be found in the IAC website:

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/documentos-eng.htm>



**Annex VII: Report Nesting Season of *L. olivacea* in Central America and Mexico CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4**

**Report IAC Scientific Committee Working Group *Lepidochelys olivacea* nesting**

*Working Group L. olivacea: Didiher Chacón, Airam López, Heriberto Santana, and Skarleth Pineda*

At the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC21) in 2024, the delegation of Honduras submitted a request to the IAC Scientific Committee for technical assistance to obtain technical advice for identifying the peak nesting period of *Lepidochelys olivacea* in Central America, and particularly in Honduras. The objective was to have a technical document and criteria that provide information to improve regulations on the closed season “veda” for *L. olivacea* eggs in Honduras. This would allow Honduras to establish a closed season that coincides with the peak nesting period, ensuring more effective protection of the species.

Subsequently, a working group for *L. olivacea* nesting was formed, composed of representatives of the Scientific Committee from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

During the intersessional period of the Scientific Committee, nesting data were sought from the member countries of the Working Group, obtaining records from beaches with monthly nesting data across different countries in the region.

The data collected span from 2009 to 2025 in some beaches of Mexico, and a database was created for the region, containing updated information from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica, as well as reference information from Nicaragua and El Salvador.

**Review of Data by Country – Results**

- Mexico (CONANP, MX, 2025): Using 2 of 4 beaches as examples, data collected over an 18-year monitoring period show that peak nesting trends occur in September and October, with a higher probability in September.
- Guatemala (CONAP.GT.2025): Their database consists of very complete annual evaluations. However, monthly nesting data also reveal that the peak nesting occurs in September, within a broader range from August to November.
- El Salvador (Eder Cáceres, AMBAS 2025): The data shared by this country show that peak nesting occurs in September at two beaches, with a broader reproductive range from August to October.
- Honduras (CVC-Golf and Research Centers): Although data collection has been carried out consistently each year, there are variations:

1. Only the El Venado camp has maintained constant annual data collection (index beach).
2. The number of monitoring days varies by year.
3. Data have only been collected for 20–35 days per season, during the closed season from September 1–25.

These limitations create bias in the regional analysis, since monitoring covers only 20–35 days. Strengthening monitoring is necessary to obtain data series comparable to other countries in the region and to more accurately identify nesting concentrations.

- Nicaragua (Fauna y Flora, 2025): Monitoring data are collected only from November to May, revealing peaks in November and December. However, these results coincide with the regional trend of decreasing nest numbers during the season.
- Costa Rica (CREMA 2025): The data analysis, based on a three-year period (2022–2024), shows a peak in nesting during the month of August.

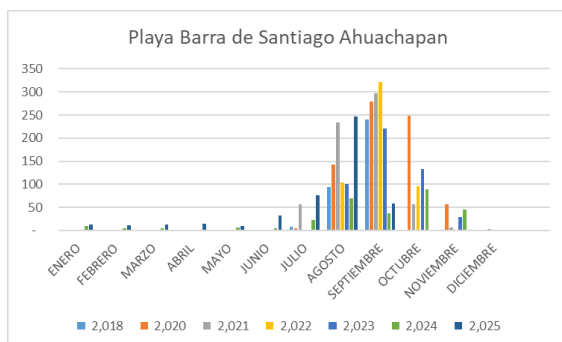
For this type of analysis, monthly nesting data from each country must be used. This is because *Lepidochelys olivacea* is considered a regional management unit, and therefore must be managed with regional data to ensure both national benefits for Honduras and broader regional protection of the species.

## **Recommendations**

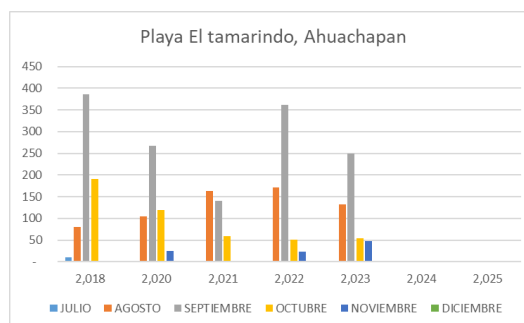
1. Precautionary approach recommendation to Honduras: As far as possible, extend the closed season (veda) from August 15 to October 15, analyzing annual nesting peaks. Through feasible mechanisms, determine a pertinent closed season based on updated data, no later than the 2028 nesting season. The IAC Honduras focal point (SERNA) will begin coordination with DIGEPESCA and the relevant authorities to establish the mechanism for implementing this recommendation.
2. Recommendation to Honduras: to the extent possible, and in agreement with key local and institutional stakeholders, increase the monitoring effort for nesting throughout the entire season, extending the monitoring period from July to November, in order to determine the nesting peak of *Lepidochelys olivacea* on the country's beaches.
3. Recommendation to assess the feasibility of a dynamic closed season based on an indicator of the average number of nests per night at index beaches, which would signal the start and end of the nesting peak, coinciding with the closed season to be established.



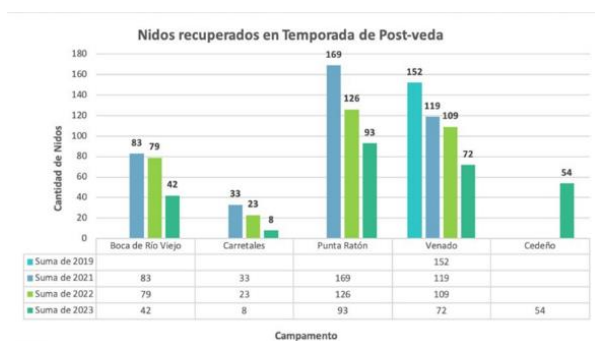




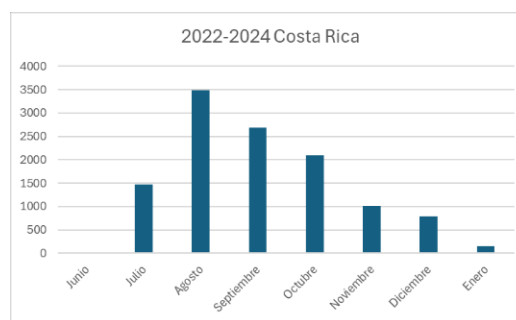
Nesting Playa Barra de Achuapan El Salvador 2018 -2025



Nesting Playa EL Tamarindo Salvador 2018 -2025



Monitoring a post veda en Honduras 2019-2023



Nesting *L. olivacea* en Costa Rica año 2022-2024

## Annex VIII: Updated List Index Nesting Beaches 2026 CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.5

### Index Sites List for Each Sea Turtle Species and for Each IAC Member Country Where Sea Turtle Nesting Occurs

The following list of index nesting beaches (Table 1) has been validated and updated by the IAC Focal Points and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee in 2025. This list should be periodically reviewed by the Parties to allow for updates to their index beaches in case of changes, such as the addition of new beaches that will now be regularly monitored, or the removal of beaches due to reasons that the countries may specify—ranging from challenges in human and financial resources for regular monitoring, to environmental factors. The updates of this list also is used to revise the index beaches included in the IAC 2026 Annual Report questionnaire.

When adding new index beaches, we ask you to use the criteria recommended by the IAC Scientific Committee in the technical document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selection of Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Guide for Information Collection”.

**Table 1.** Index nesting beaches provided by IAC Member countries in their Annual Reports uptated on **November 13 2025**. DC = *Dermochelys coriacea*, CM = *Chelonia mydas*, LO = *Lepidochelys olivacea*, LK = *Lepidochelys kempii*, CC = *Caretta caretta*, EI = *Eretmochelys imbricata*.

Nombre de la playa/ Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsable de monitoreo/ Responsible of Monitoring
<b>Belize</b>							
Gales Point			X				Kevin Andrewin/Belize Fisheries Dept
Ambergris Cayes (Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve)		X		X			Hol Chan Marine Reserve/ Belize Fisheries Dept
Port Honduras Marine Reserve (Punta Ycacos) NEW			X				Toledo Institute for Development
Hunting Caye - Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve New		X	X	X			Toledo Institute for Development
Lime Caye - Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve NEW			X	X			Toledo Institute for Development
Nicholas Caye - Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve NEW			X	X			Toledo Institute for Development
Tom Owens - Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve NEW			X	X			Toledo Institute for Development
Ranguana - Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve NEW			X	X			Toledo Institute for Development
North East Caye-Glover's Reef Marine Reserve NEW			X	X			Belize Fisheries Department

Nombre de la playa/ Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsable de monitoreo/ Responsible of Monitoring
Long Caye- Glover's Reef Marine Reserve							
South West Caye 1- Glover's Reef Marine Reserve							
South West Caye 2- Glover's Reef Marine Reserve							
Carrie Bow Caye - South Water Caye Marine Reserve-NEW			X	X			Belize Fisheries Department
<b>Brazil</b>							
Comboios	X			X			
Povoação	X			X			
Interlagos (antes Busca vida and Santa Maria)			X	X			
Guarajuba (antes Barra de Jacuibe, Guarajuba and Itacimirim)			X	X			
Praia do Forte			X	X			
Farol (antes Barra do Furado, Farol, Farolzinho, Maria Rosa)				X			
Berta			X				
Pipa			X				
Mangue Seco					X		
Coqueiros					X		
Pirambu					X		
Trindade Island		X					

Nombre de la playa/ Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsable de monitoreo/ Responsible of Monitoring
<b>Caribbean Netherlands The Netherlands</b>							
Klein Bonaire, Bonaire		X	X	X			Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire
Zeelandia, St. Eustatius	X	X	X				St Eustatius Sea Turtle Conservation Program
Playa Chikitu, Bonaire		X					
<b>Costa Rica - Pacífico</b>							
Isla Murciélagos		X					
Nancite*					X		
Naranjo		X			X		
Cabuyal		X					
Nombre de Jesús		X					
Punta Pargos		X					
Playa Grande	X	X					
Ostional					X		
Hermosa					X		
<b>Costa Rica-Atlántico</b>							
Tortuguero	X	X					
Pacuare Norte	X						
Mondonguillo	X						
Cahuita			X				
<b>República Dominicana</b>							
Isla Saona		X	X				
La Vacama	X						
El Valle	X	X					
Güibia, Distrito Nacional			X				

Nombre de la playa/ Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsable de monitoreo/ Responsible of Monitoring
Manresa	X	X					
Sans Soucí		X					
Mosquea (P.N. Jaragua)							
Bahía de las Águilas	X		X				
Macao	X						
Isla Catalina		X	X				
Costa Esmeralda, El Seibo(nueva)							
El Limón, El Seibo(nueva)							
Celedonio, El Seibo(nueva)							
Los Pescadores, Sto. Domingo(nueva)							
Rincón, Samaná(nueva)							
Frontón, Samaná(nueva)							
El Francés, Samaná(nueva)							
Cayo Levantado, Samaná(nueva)							
Cosón, Samaná (nueva)							
Cuevanjo, Pedernales (nueva)							
Colita, Pedernales (nueva)							
Rococki, La Altagracia (nueva)							
Arena Gorda, La Altagracia (nueva)							

Nombre de la playa/ Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsable de monitoreo/ Responsible of Monitoring
Gran Estero, María Trinidad Sánchez (nueva)							
Cayenas, María Trinidad Sánchez (nueva)							
Playa Nueva Romana, San Pedro de Macorís (nueva)							
<b>Ecuador</b>							
La Botada (Manabí)					X		MAE (Pacocha)
San Lorenzo (Manabí)					X		MAE (Pacocha)
Mar Bravo (Sta. Elena)		X			X		MAE (REMACOPSE)
Punta Brava (Sta. Elena)		X			X		MAE (REMACOPSE)
Tres Cruces (Sta. Elena)		X			X		MAE (REMACOPSE)
Playa Rosada (Sta. Elena)		X			X		MAE (REMACOPSE)
Galerita (Esmeraldas)		X			X		MAE Reserva Marina Galera San Francisco
Quingue (Esmeraldas)					X		MAE Reserva Marina Galera San Francisco
Las Palmas (Esmeraldas)					X		MAE Refugio de Vida Silvestre Manglares Estuario del Río Esmeraldas
Portete (Esmeraldas)					X		MAE Refugio de Vida Silvestre Manglares Estuario del Río Muisne
Quinta Playa (Galápagos)		X					MAE (DPNG)
Las Bachas (Galápagos)		X					MAE (DPNG)
<b>Guatemala</b>							
Hawaii	X				X		ARCAS
La Barrona					X		

Nombre de la playa/ Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsable de monitoreo/ Responsible of Monitoring
<b>Honduras-Atlántico</b>							
Plaplaya	X						
Pumpkin Hill, Utila			X				
Cayos Cochinos			X				
<b>Honduras - Pacífico</b>							
Punta Ratón					X		
El Venado					X		
<b>México - Atlántico</b>							
Playa Rancho Nuevo, Tamps		X		X		X	CONANP
Playa Rancho Nuevo, segmento Barra del Tordo, Tamps		X		X		X	CONANP
Miramar, Tamps						X	CONANP
Lechuguillas, Ver		X	X			X	CONANP
Isla Aguada, Camp		X	X				CONANP
Playa Ría Lagartos, segmento Las Coloradas, Yuc		X	X	X			CONANP
X'cacel, Q.Roo		X		X			Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México
Chemuyil, Q. Roo		X		X			Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México
Xel Há, Q. Roo		X		X			Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México
Aventuras DIF (antes Puerto Aventuras), Q. Roo		X		X			Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México
<b>México-Pacífico</b>							
El Verde Camacho, Sin	X				X		CONANP

Nombre de la playa/ Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsable de monitoreo/ Responsible of Monitoring
Tierra Colorada, Gro	X	X			X		CONANP
Playa Cahuitán, Segmento Piedras-La Cruz, Oax	X	X			X		CONANP
Escobilla, Oax*	X				X		CONANP
Barra de la Cruz-Playa Grande, Oax	X	X			X		CONANP
Colola, Mich		X					CONANP
<b>Panamá - Atlántico</b>							
Cayos Zapatillas (B.del Toro)			X				
Playa Chiriquí (B.del Toro)	X	X	X	X			
Playa Armila o Pito (Guna Yala)	X		X				
Playa Soropta (B.del Toro)	X		X				
<b>Panamá-Pacífico</b>							
RVS Isla Cañas		X			X		
Playa La Marinera		X			X		
<b>United States-Atlantic</b>							
Culebra Island, Puerto Rico	X						
Maunabo, Puerto Rico (New)	X		X				
Mona Island, Puerto Rico			X				
Buck Island Reef National Monument, U.S. Virgin		X	X				



Nombre de la playa/ Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsable de monitoreo/ Responsible of Monitoring
Islands							
Sandy Point NWR, U.S. Virgin Islands	X	X	X				
Florida Index Beaches	X	X		X			
Georgia Index Beaches				X			
North Carolina Index Beaches				X			
South Carolina Index Beaches				X			
Texas (South Padre Island)						X	
<b>United States - Pacific</b>							
French Frigate Shoals (HI)		X					
Hawaii			X				
<b>Venezuela</b>							
Querepare (Edo. Sucre)	X	X	X	X			CICTMAR
Cipara (Edo. Sucre)	X		X	X			CICTMAR
Macuro (varias playas cercanas, Edo. Sucre)	X	X	X				MINEC
San Juan de las Galdonas (Edo. Sucre)	X			X			MINEC
El Morro de Puerto Santo (Edo. Sucre)		X		X			MINEC
El Agua (Edo. Nueva Esparta)	X			X			MINEC
Parguito (Edo. Nueva Esparta)	X			X			MINEC

Nombre de la playa/ Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsable de monitoreo/ Responsible of Monitoring
Parque Nacional Archipiélago Los Roques (various cayos)		X	X	X			INPARQUES, FUNDAMAR
La Sabana (Edo. La Guaira)	X		X	X			MINEC, Consejo de Pescadores
Playa Cuyagua (Parque Nacional Henri Pittier)		X	X	X			INPARQUES, Lideres de la Comunidad
Playa Uricao y otras (PN. Henri Pittier)		X	X	X			INPARQUES, Lideres de la Comunidad
RFS Isla de Aves		X					MINEC
Playa Grande Choroní (Edo. Aragua)				X			INPARQUES, Lideres de la Comunidad
<b>Sint Maarten The Netherlands</b>							
Dawn Beach		X	X				
Gibbs Bay Beach		X	X				
Great Bay Beach		X					
Guana Bay Beach		X	X				
Indigo Bay Beach			X				
Maho Beach	X						
Mullet Bay Beach	X	X					
Oyster Bay Beach		X	X				
Simpson Bay Beach	X	X	X				
Pelican Beach			X				
Cupecoy Beach	X	X	X				

Comments from IAC Focal Points:

\*Mexico: CONANP reports that, following the review and analysis of the data, it reached the conclusion to omit Altamira Beach in Tamaulipas from the index beaches list, due to the lack of

consistent abundance data and nesting trend records obtained through strict and standardized methodologies.


\*Dominican Republic: In the 2025 IAC Annual Report, The Dominican Republic asked to remove Cabarete, Playa Bonita, and Palmar de Ocoa from the index beaches list. In some cases, there is no nesting record, and in others, challenges exist to continue with systematic monitoring. The Dominican Republic added 16 index beaches to the list.

\*The United States: Asked to remove Puerto Rico Vieques Island as it is not possible to do the monitoring at the moment, and added one beach Maunabo, Puerto Rico.

\*Belize: the IAC Focal Point added 8 new beaches to the list, because they have regular monitoring the past 3 years.

\*Sint Maarten: Reported 11 beaches for the first time. The Focal Point is analyzing the best way to provide the data for the beaches to IAC in the IAC Annual report. Once the Focal Point makes a decision it will be transmitted to IAC Secretariat.

#### Annex IX: Scientific Committee Agreements and Recommendations CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.7

<div>  <div> <b>Acuerdos y Recomendaciones</b>  <b>22ª Reunión del Comité Científico de la CIT (CC22)</b>    <b>Agreements and Recommendations</b>  <b>IAC 22<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Committee Meeting (SC22)</b>  <b>CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.7</b> </div> </div>		
1.	<b>Actualización del Plan de Trabajo del Comité Científico 2026 – 2028:</b>  El Comité Científico en su 22 <sup>va</sup> Reunión (CC2) actualizó su plan de trabajo para el próximo bienio 2026-2028 <b>CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.3</b> el cual será presentado para adopción a la 12 <sup>va</sup> Conferencia de las Partes (COP12) en 2026.  Se incluyeron actividades nuevas en los temas de Fibropapiloma y el estado de conservación de <i>Chelonia mydas</i> .	<b>Update of the Scientific Committee Work Plan 2026–2028:</b>  The 22 <sup>nd</sup> of the IAC Scientific Committee Meeting (SC22), updated its work plan for the upcoming 2026–2028 biennium <b>CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.3</b> , which will be presented for adoption at the 12 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP12) in 2026.  New activities were included under the topics of Fibropapillomatosis and <i>Chelonia mydas</i> conservation status.
2.	<b>Grupo de Trabajo Alianzas Estratégicas:</b>  El CC22 adoptó el documento técnico	<b>Strategic Alliances Working Group:</b>  The SC22 adopted the technical document <b>CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27</b> , “ <i>Electronic</i>

	<p><b>CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27</b> “Sistemas de Monitoreo Electrónico en Pesquerías para la Conservación de Tortugas Marinas”. El mismo se compartirá a los Puntos Focales de la CIT, y será presentado en la COP12 (2026).</p>	<p><i>Monitoring Systems in Fisheries for Sea Turtle Conservation.</i>” This document will be shared with the IAC Focal Points and will be presented at COP12 (2026).</p>
3.	<p><b>Grupo de Trabajo de Fibropapiloma:</b></p> <p>El CC22 adoptó el documento técnico <b>CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28</b> “<i>Fibropapilomatosis en las Tortugas Marinas dentro de la Región de la CIT</i>”. El mismo se compartirá a los Puntos Focales de la CIT, y será presentado en la COP12 (2026).</p>	<p><b>Fibropapilloma WG:</b></p> <p>The SC22 adopted the technical document <b>CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28</b>, “<i>Fibropapillomatosis in Sea Turtles within the IAC Region.</i>” This document will be shared with the IAC Focal Points and will be presented at COP12 (2026).</p>
4.	<p><b>Grupo de Trabajo de Fibropapiloma:</b></p> <p>En seguimiento a las recomendaciones del documento técnico CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28, el CC22 acuerda que se organice junto a la Secretaría de la CIT, el GT de Fibropapiloma y el Proyecto Save the Blue Five, un taller virtual para socializar el documento técnico con las agencias de gobiernos, técnicos y veterinarios de los Países de CIT interesados.</p> <p>El GT de Fibropapiloma diseñará la agenda del taller y podrá invitar a expertos de la región, y aquellos que aportaron información al documento técnico para profundizar en temas específicos.</p> <p>El taller virtual será co – organizado con Save the Blue five en el marco de la celebración del día de la tortuga marina en junio 2026.</p>	<p><b>Fibropapilloma Working Group:</b></p> <p>Following up with the recommendations in the technical document CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28, the SC22 agreed that, together with the IAC Secretariat, the Fibropapilloma Working Group and the Save the Blue Five Project will organize a virtual workshop to share the technical document with government agencies, technical staff, and veterinarians from interested IAC Countries.</p> <p>The Fibropapilloma Working Group will prepare the workshop agenda and may invite regional experts and contributors to the technical document to discuss specific topics.</p> <p>The virtual workshop will be co-organized with the Save the Blue Five project in the framework of the of Sea Turtle Day in June 2026.</p>
5.	<p><b>Grupo de Trabajo-Colisiones de Embarcaciones con Tortugas Marinas:</b></p> <p>El GT de Colisiones de Embarcaciones con Tortugas Marinas tomará en cuenta los comentarios de Chile, Perú, Ecuador y la Fundación Charles Darwin (observador acreditado a la CIT) para</p>	<p><b>Sea Turtle Vessel Strikes Working Group:</b></p> <p>The Vessel Strikes Working Group will consider the comments from Chile, Peru, Ecuador, and the Charles Darwin Foundation (IAC accredited observer) to include them the draft technical document “<i>Guidelines to</i></p>

	<p>integrarlos a la propuesta de documento técnico “<i>Lineamientos para la mitigación de las colisiones de embarcaciones con las tortugas marinas</i>” que se presentó en CC22.</p> <p>El GT compartirá al CC y al Comité Consultivo de Expertos (CCE) el documento técnico en la segunda semana de febrero de 2026 para consulta y solicitud de comentarios por correo electrónico para aprobación a finales de febrero 2026.</p> <p>El documento técnico será presentado a la COP12 2026.</p> <p>Se integran nuevos miembros al Grupo de Trabajo de Colisiones: Chile, Perú, Panamá, Ecuador. El Comité Científico invita a participar como experta invitada a la Lic. Macarena Parra - Fundación Charles Darwin (Observador acreditado a la CIT).</p> <p>El GT de Colisiones queda integrado por: República Dominicana, Costa Rica, Perú, Países Bajos del Caribe, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Belice y México, y expertos invitados Licda. Macarena Parra y Dr. Heriberto Santana.</p> <p>El Grupo de Trabajo tendrá su reunión de coordinación el 25 Noviembre 2026.</p>	<p><i>mitigate vessel strikes with Sea Turtles</i>” presented at SC22.</p> <p>The technical document will be shared with SC and the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) in the second week of February 2026, for email review for approval by the end of February 2026.</p> <p>The technical document will be presented at COP12 in 2026.</p> <p>New members join the Vessel Strikes Working Group: Chile, Peru, Panama, and Ecuador. The Scientific Committee invites Ms. Macarena Parra from the Charles Darwin Foundation (IAC accredited observer) to participate as a guest expert.</p> <p>The Vessel Strikes Working Group membership is as follow: Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Peru, Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Belize, and Mexico, along with invited experts Macarena Parra and Heriberto Santana.</p> <p>The Working Group will convene a coordination meeting on November 25, 2026.</p>
6.	<p><b>Informe del Grupo de Trabajo de Anidación de <i>L. olivacea</i></b></p> <p>El CC22 adoptó las recomendaciones contenidas en el informe sobre la temporada de anidación de <i>L. olivacea</i> en Centro América y México <b>CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4</b>. Dicho documento se incluirá en un anexo en el informe de la 22<sup>va</sup> Reunión del Comité Científico.</p> <p>El Comité Científico a través de la</p>	<p><b>Report of the <i>L. olivacea</i> Nesting Working Group</b></p> <p>The SC22 adopted the recommendations in the report on the <i>L. olivacea</i> nesting season in Central America and Mexico <b>CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.4</b>. This document will be included as an annex to the report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee.</p> <p>The Scientific Committee, through the IAC Secretariat, will send the technical report</p>

<p>Secretaría de la CIT enviará el informe técnico CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.6. al Punto Focal de Honduras con el fin de brindar información de soporte para la normativa de la veda de huevos de <i>L. olivacea</i> en Honduras con el propósito de apoyar con insumos técnicos para que Honduras pueda establecer su periodo de veda que coincida con el pico de la anidación para la mayor y más efectiva protección de la especie. Esto ayudará a recabar información del estado de conservación de la especie para apoyar la presentación de una excepción.</p> <p>El GT de <i>L. olivacea</i> del CC brindará asistencia técnica a Honduras en su proceso de análisis de datos e implementar las recomendaciones del documento según sea necesario.</p> <p>Las recomendaciones del informe técnico se detallan aquí:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recomendación de principio precautorio a Honduras: en la medida de lo posible extender la veda de 15 agosto a 15 de octubre, analizando los picos de anidamiento por año. Mediante los mecanismos que sean viables y poder determinar así un periodo pertinente de veda basado en datos actualizados, no más tarde de la temporada de anidación 2028. El Punto Focal de Honduras SERNA ante la CIT iniciará la gestión con la DIGEPESCA y las autoridades pertinentes para coordinar entre ellos el mecanismo para implementar esta recomendación.</li> <li>2. Recomendación a Honduras: en la medida de lo posible, en acuerdo con los principales actores locales e institucionales de pertinencia, aumentar el esfuerzo de monitoreo de anidación de toda la temporada extendiendo en un periodo de julio - noviembre para</li> </ol>	<p>CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.6 to Honduras Focal Point in order to provide supporting information to guide the regulations on the <i>L. olivacea</i> egg harvest closure in Honduras. This will help establish a closed season that coincides with the peak of nesting, ensuring greater and more effective protection of the species. This will also support the collection of information on the species' conservation status to aid in the submission of an exception.</p> <p>The IAC Scientific Committee <i>L. olivacea</i> Working Group, will provide technical assistance to Honduras in its data analysis and in implementing the recommendations of the document as needed.</p> <p>The report recommendations are below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Precautionary approach recommendation to Honduras: As far as possible, extend the closed season (veda) from August 15 to October 15, and carry out an analysis of the annual nesting peaks. Through feasible mechanisms, determine a pertinent closed season based on the updated data, no later than the 2028 nesting season. The IAC Focal Point for Honduras SERNA will begin coordination with DIGEPESCA and the relevant authorities to establish the mechanism for implementing this recommendation.</li> <li>2. Recommendation to Honduras: to the extent possible, and in agreement with key local stakeholders, increase the monitoring effort of the nesting activity throughout the entire nesting season, extending the monitoring period from July to November, in order to determine the peak nesting of <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> on the country's beaches.</li> <li>3. Recommendation to assess the feasibility of a dynamic closed season based on an</li> </ol>
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	<p>determinar el pico de anidamiento de <i>L. olivacea</i> en las playas de este país.</p> <p>3. Analizar la viabilidad de aplicar una veda dinámica basada en un indicador de número promedio de nidos por noche, en las playas índices, que indique el inicio y el final del pico de anidamiento que coincida con el periodo de veda a establecerse.</p> <p>4. Recomendación a Honduras: Se recomienda a Honduras que utilizando la Resolución “<i>Procedimiento de en caso de existir una excepción</i>” (<a href="#">CIT-COP5-2011-R2</a>) adoptado por al CIT COP5 que detalla la información necesaria para presentar una excepción, pueda impulsar esfuerzos para recabar la información que le permita presentar la solicitud de excepción en la Conferencia de las Partes de la CIT.</p> <p>5. Reporte anual: Honduras reportará sus avances del proceso de la colecta de información para la excepción cada año al Comité Científico de la CIT.</p>	<p>indicator of the average number of nests per night at index beaches, which would signal the start and end of the peak nesting, to be aligned with the closed season to be established.</p> <p>4. Recommendation to Honduras: Using the Resolution “<i>Procedures for cases where exceptions exist</i>” (<a href="#">CIT-COP5-2011-R2</a>) adopted by IAC COP5 which includes the information required to present an exception, Honduras may promote efforts to gather the necessary information to submit an exception request at the IAC Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>5. Annual reporting: Honduras will report its progress in the process of collecting information for the exception to the IAC Scientific Committee.</p>
7.	<p><b>Informe Anual de CIT Playas Índices</b></p> <p>El Comité Científico adoptó las actualizaciones en el listado de las playas índices en los Países Parte de la CIT documento CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.5. La Secretaría incluirá los cambios a playas índices en el Informe Anual de CIT 2026.</p>	<p><b>Annual Report IAC Index Beaches</b></p> <p>The 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Scientific Committee adopted the document CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.5 with the updates to the IAC index nesting beaches. The Secretariat will include the changes to the index beaches list in the IAC Annual Report 2026.</p>
8.	<p><b>Grupo de Trabajo Anidación:</b></p> <p>GT-Anidación: Iniciaré la colecta de información de anidación del Informe Anual de CIT para la próxima actualización 2024-2028 del documento técnico “<i>Análisis de Datos de Anidación de Playas Índices de a CIT</i>”. El último Informe Anual de CIT que será incluido en el documento técnico es Informe</p>	<p><b>WG-Nesting Beaches:</b></p> <p>The WG-Nesting: Will begin collecting nesting information from the IAC Annual Report for the upcoming 2024–2028 update of the technical document “<i>IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis</i>”. The last IAC Annual Report to be included in this update will be the 2028 report.</p>



	<p>Anual CIT de 2028.</p> <p>Para esta actualización el GT tomará en cuenta el listado actualizado de playas índices en CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.5</p> <p>Membresía del GT Anidación: Estados Unidos, Ecuador, Panamá, y Secretaría.</p>	<p>For this update the WG will take into consideration the updated list of index beaches in CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.5.</p> <p>Membership of the Nesting Working Group: United States, Ecuador, Panama, and the Secretariat.</p>
9.	<p><b>Actualización del listado de los Dispositivos Excluidores de Tortugas (DET).</b></p> <p>La Secretaria de la CIT enviará a los delegados del Comité Científico la solicitud de actualización de los DETs utilizados en sus países con la referencia al listado actualizado en 2018 en el documento “<i>Dispositivos Excluidores De Tortugas Marinas en la Región de la CIT</i>” <a href="http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/dets/CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.3">CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.3</a> que se encuentra en este enlace (<a href="http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/dets/CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.3_DETs_2018_ESP_Web.pdf">http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/dets/CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.3_DETs_2018_ESP_Web.pdf</a>). Se solicita que los delegados del Comité Científico hagan las consultas con los Puntos Focales CIT nacionales y agencias pesqueras respectivas. El listado actualizado será enviado a la Secretaría de la CIT a más tardar el 15 de febrero de 2026.</p> <p>El documento actualizado en 2026 “<i>Dispositivos Excluidores De Tortugas Marinas en la Región de la CIT</i>” CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.6 actualizado se presentará a COP12.</p>	<p><b>Update on the list of Turtle Excluder Devices (TED).</b></p> <p>The IAC Secretariat will send the request for the update of the TEDs to the Scientific Committee delegates, with reference to the document updated in 2018 “<i>IAC Region Sea Turtle Excluder Devices</i>” <a href="http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/dets/CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.3">CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.3</a> it can be found in this link (<a href="http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/dets/CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.3_TEDs_2018_ENG_Web.pdf">http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/dets/CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.3_TEDs_2018_ENG_Web.pdf</a>). Scientific Committee delegates are asked to consult with their Focal Points and respective fisheries agencies. The updated list of TEDs will be sent to the IAC Secretariat no later than February 15, 2026.</p> <p>The updated 2026 document “<i>IAC Region Sea Turtle Excluder Devices</i>” CIT-CC22-2025-Doc.6 will be presented at COP12.</p>
10.	<p><b>Grupo de Trabajo Tortuga Verde <i>C. mydas</i>:</b></p> <p>El CC22 acordó formar el Grupo de Trabajo Tortuga Verde con los siguientes miembros: Ecuador, Chile, Perú, Argentina, Estados Unidos, Países Bajos del Caribe, Panamá, Brasil, Uruguay, Costa Rica-Luis Fonseca – Costa Rica</p>	<p><b>WG-Green Turtle <i>C. mydas</i>:</b></p> <p>The SC22 agreed to create the Green Turtle Working Group with the following members: Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Argentina, the United States, Caribbean Netherlands, Panama, Brazil, Uruguay, and Costa Rica by Luis Fonseca from “Costa Rica por Siempre” sectorial member of the</p>



	<p>por Siempre miembro sectorial del Comité Consultivo de Expertos (CCE), y los siguientes observadores acreditados a la CIT: Esteban Estrada - Save the Blue Five Project, Alejandro Fallabrino - Karumbe, y Flora Fauna y Cultura de México. La coordinación del GT se decidirá en su primera reunión.</p> <p>La Secretaría enviará este acuerdo al presidente del Comité Consultivo para consultar si otros miembros de ese comité están interesados en unirse al GT.</p> <p>El GT preparará una comunicación para UICN sobre la conformación de grupo y lo objetivos del mismo y su disponibilidad para colaborar. La misma será enviada a través de la Secretaría.</p> <p>El objetivo del GT de Tortuga Verde es la preparación de un Documento Técnico con un análisis de la situación del estado poblacional de <i>C. mydas</i> en la región de la CIT, y el cambio de estatus poblacional global en la lista roja de UICN.</p> <p>El GT presentará un documento informativo a la COP12 de la CIT en junio de 2026 con las líneas de trabajo que el GT va a desarrollar.</p>	<p>Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE), and the following IAC accredited observers: Esteban Estrada - Save the Blue Five Project, Alejandro Fallabrino - Karumbe, and Flora Fauna y Cultura de México. The coordinator will be chosen at their first meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat will share this agreement with the Chair of the Consultative Committee (CCE) inviting other CCE members to join the WG should they be interested.</p> <p>The WG will prepare a letter addressed to IUCN with the objectives of the WG and the availability to collaborate. The letter will be transmitted by the IAC Secretariat.</p> <p>The objective of the WG is to prepare a Technical Document with an analysis of the population status of <i>C. mydas</i> in the IAC region, and the change in its population global status on the IUCN Red List.</p> <p>The Working Group will present an information document to IAC COP12 in June 2026 with the outline of the Working Group's topics that it will develop.</p>
11.	<p><b>Grupo de Trabajo- Pesquerías:</b></p> <p><b>Análisis de información de palangre en Informe Anual de CIT:</b></p> <p>El Comité Científico solicita a los países de CIT que cuenten con pesquerías de palangre —tanto industriales (embarcaciones con eslora superior a 20 metros) como artesanales (embarcaciones con eslora igual o inferior a 20 metros)— y que son monitoreadas por observadores científicos, revisar si han remitido de manera sistemática la información sobre</p>	<p><b>WG-Fisheries:</b></p> <p><b>Analysis of Longline Information in the IAC Annual Report:</b></p> <p>The Scientific Committee asks the IAC countries that have longline fisheries—both industrial (vessels over 20 meters in length) and artisanal (vessels 20 meters or less)—and that are monitored by scientific observers are asked to review whether they have systematically submitted information on sea turtle interactions using the longline format in Part VI of the IAC Annual Report</p>

	<p>interacciones con tortugas marinas en el formato de palangre de la Parte VI del Informe Anual de la CIT, correspondiente al período 2020–2025. El propósito de esta revisión es fortalecer la representatividad de los resultados del análisis sobre dichas interacciones en el documento técnico que el GT de Pesquerías está desarrollando.</p> <p>Los países que no hayan proporcionado esta información en el Informe Anual de la CIT deberán comunicar al Grupo de Trabajo de Pesquerías las razones de la omisión y/o remitir los datos faltantes a más tardar a finales de diciembre 2025.</p> <p>Esta solicitud es de carácter prioritario, dado que la información será utilizada en la elaboración del Documento Técnico “<i>Análisis de datos de observadores sobre interacciones de tortugas marinas con pesquerías de palangre de los Países Parte de la CIT</i>”, para ser presentado en la COP12 en 2026.</p>	<p>for the period 2020–2025. The purpose of this review is to strengthen the results of the analysis of these interactions in a Technical Document that the WG Fisheries is developing.</p> <p>Countries that have not provided this information must inform the Fisheries Working Group of the reasons for the omission and/or submit the missing data no later than the last week of December 2025.</p> <p>This request is of priority, as the information will be used in the preparation of the Technical Document “<i>Analysis of Observer Data on Sea Turtle Interactions with Longline Fisheries of the IAC Party Countries</i>” which will be presented at COP12 in 2026.</p>
12.	<p><b>Grupo de Trabajo Pesquerías Membresía:</b></p> <p>El Comité Científico invita al Dr. Heriberto Santana a que continúe su participación apoyando los trabajos de este comité en calidad de experto invitado participando como miembro del GT de Pesquerías y otro GT del Comité Científico que tenga a bien considerar apoyar.</p> <p>La membresía del GT de Pesquerías es: México (Coordinador), Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay, Chile, Perú, Estados Unidos, Panamá, y Dr. Heriberto Santana.</p>	<p><b>Working Group Fisheries Membership:</b></p> <p>The Scientific Committee invites Dr. Heriberto Santana to continue supporting the committee’s work as a guest expert, participating as a member of the Fisheries Working Group and any other group he may be willing to assist.</p> <p>The membership of the Fisheries Working Group is: Mexico (Coordinator), Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, the United States, Panama, and Dr. Heriberto Santana.</p>
13.	<p><b>EXCEPCIONES-Guatemala</b></p> <p>El Comité Científico reconoce que Guatemala ya tiene un borrador de plan</p>	<p><b>EXCEPTIONS-Guatemala</b></p> <p>The Scientific Committee acknowledges that Guatemala has a draft management plan,</p>

	<p>de manejo de su excepción y que fue presentado en CC21-2024.</p> <p>Guatemala reportó al CC22 que el plan de manejo de la excepción está finalizado y se trabaja en su implementación.</p> <p>Guatemala presentará al CC en diciembre de 2025 un informe circunstanciado sobre la “Ruta de Aprobación”, que se establezca en el Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (CONAP) para la adopción nacional del plan de manejo para la excepción según lo manda la Resolución de la CIT extendida para Guatemala Resolución CIT-COP10-2022-R4.</p> <p>En informe antes mencionado incluirá un cronograma para las actividades que conlleven a actualizar la estrategia nacional de tortugas marinas de Guatemala.</p>	<p>which was presented at SC21-2024.</p> <p>Guatemala reported to SC22 that the management plan has now been completed and work is underway on its implementation.</p> <p>Guatemala will submit to the SC, in December 2025, a detailed report on the “approval procedural pathway” to be established by Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (CONAP) in order to adopt the “management plan for the exception,” as required by the Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R4 for Guatemala.</p> <p>The above mentioned report will include a timeline for the activities required to update Guatemala’s national sea turtle strategy.</p>
14.	<p><b>Investigaciones Científicas en los Países de la CIT:</b></p> <p>México y Perú brindarán una presentación de sus investigaciones científicas en la 23<sup>va</sup> Reunión del Comité Científico en 2026.</p>	<p><b>Scientific Research IAC Countries:</b></p> <p>Mexico and Peru will present their research projects at the 23<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2026.</p>
15.	<p><b>Colaboración CIT-Acuerdo para la Conservación de Albatros y Petreles (ACAP)</b></p> <p>El Comité Científico recomienda al GT de Alianzas Estratégicas dar seguimiento a la colaboración con ACAP con apoyo del Dr. Marco Favero (ACAP) para explorar la posibilidad de realizar presentaciones conjuntas a las OROPs de la región por ejemplo CIAT y CICAA sobre las herramientas disponibles en ambos Convenios sobre los sistemas de monitoreo electrónico de las pesquerías a la conservación de las aves marinas y a las tortugas marinas. Esto estará sujeto a</p>	<p><b>IAC–Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP)</b></p> <p>The Scientific Committee recommends that the Strategic Partnerships Working Group follow up on the collaboration with ACAP, with support from Dr. Marco Favero (ACAP), to explore the possibility of delivering joint presentations to the RFMOs in the region—specifically IATTC and ICCAT—on the tools available under both Agreements regarding the contribution of electronic monitoring systems in fisheries to the conservation of seabirds and sea turtles. This will be subject to consultation and approval by the ACAP Secretariat, as well as</p>

	consultas y aprobación con la Secretaría de ACAP, y los temas de agenda de las OROPs. El GT de Alianzas estratégicas reportará al Comité Científico sobre esta u otra actividad con ACAP cuando sea pertinente.	to the agenda items of the RFMOs. The Strategic Partnerships Working Group will report to the Scientific Committee on this or any other activity with ACAP as appropriate.
16.	<p><b>Preparación de próxima reunión (CC23)</b></p> <p>Elección de Presidente y Vicepresidente del Comité Científico.</p> <p>El CC22 eligió por tercera vez consecutiva a la Ing. Lezlie Camila Bustos delegada de Chile ante la CIT como Presidenta del Comité Científico 2026 y 2027.</p> <p>El CC22 eligió al MSc. Didiher Chacón delegado de Costa Rica ante la CIT como Vicepresidente del Comité Científico 2026 y 2027.</p> <p>La reunión de CC23 se llevará a cabo en formato de videoconferencia.</p>	<p><b>Preparation of the next Meeting (SC23)</b></p> <p>Election of SC Chair and Vicechair</p> <p>The SC22 elected for the third consecutive time Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos, Chile's delegate to the IAC, as Chair of the Scientific Committee for 2026 and 2027.</p> <p>The SC22 elected MSc. Didiher Chacón, Costa Rica's delegate to the IAC, as Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee for 2026 and 2027.</p> <p>The SC23 meeting will be held via videoconference.</p>

## Annex X: SC22 Group Picture



Msc. Didiher Chacon-Elected Vicechair IAC-Scientific Committee

Ms. Lezlie C Bustos – Elected Chair IAC Scientific Committee