

### **Tunas Convention Act**

**Agencies:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Department of State

**Citation:** [16 U.S.C. §§ 951 et seq.](#)

**Enacted as:** the “Tunas Convention Act of 1950”, on September 7, 1950

#### **Summary:**

The [Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 \(Act\)](#) implements the Convention for the Establishment of an International Commission for the Scientific Investigation of Tuna, signed in Mexico City on January 25, 1949 and the Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, signed in Washington, D.C. on May 31, 1949.

The Act provides for the appointment of U.S. Commissioners, a General Advisory Committee, and a Scientific Advisory Committee. The Act requires that the Secretary of Commerce promulgate regulations recommended by each commission upon approval of such recommendations by the Secretary of State and publish such regulations in the Federal Register after such regulations undergo the proposed and final rulemaking process. These regulations shall be “applicable to all vessels and persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States” (16 U.S.C. § 955(b)).

The Act authorizes all federal agencies on request of the commissions “to cooperate in the conduct of scientific and other programs, or to furnish facilities and personnel for the purposes of assisting the commissions in the performance of their duties” (16 U.S.C. § 958(b)). Lastly, the Act mandates the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, to establish standards and measures for a bycatch reduction program for vessels fishing for yellowfin tuna in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (16 U.S.C. § 962).

**Source:** [16 U.S.C. §§ 951 et seq.](#)

**Information last updated:** September 20, 2012