

Dr Mark Maunder is head of the Stock Assessment Program at the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), which is based in La Jolla, California, USA. Originally from New Zealand, Dr Maunder worked as a stock assessment scientist for the New Zealand Fishing Industry Board (now the Seafood Industry Council) for two years after completing his Master's degree in Zoology at the University of Auckland. He then earned a PhD degree at the University of Washington's School of Fisheries under Professor Ray Hilborn before moving to the IATTC.

Dr Maunder is a co-founder and current President of the AD Model Builder Foundation, which, in collaboration with the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis and NOAA Fisheries, obtained funding from the Moore Foundation to make ADMB free and open source. ADMB, developed by Dr David Fournier, the most powerful software package for the development of state-of-the-art nonlinear statistical models, is used extensively in fisheries stock assessment. Dr Maunder is also co-founder of the Center for the Advancement of Population Assessment Methodology, recently established to coordinate and facilitate research on fisheries stock assessment (<http://www.capamresearch.org/>).

Dr Maunder's research focusses on developing methods for fisheries stock assessment and his workshop series on stock assessment methodology, which he coordinates and chairs, is highly regarded. In collaboration with Dr George Watters, he developed the A-SCALA stock assessment model that was used by the IATTC to assess tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean for ten years. Dr Maunder was also a main developer and lead programmer for the general Bayesian stock assessment model Coleraine. Dr Maunder has been a driving force behind the use of integrated models in fisheries stock assessment, and his PhD dissertation pioneered the integration of tagging data into stock assessment models.