

**Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission**  
**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON COMPLIANCE**  
**RULES OF PROCEDURE**

**June 2000**

**1. Functions**

In accordance with the Resolution on the Establishment of a Permanent Working Group on Compliance adopted by the members of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) (“the members”) during its 63<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, the functions of the Permanent Working Group on Compliance (“the Working Group”) shall be:

- a) To review and monitor compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC;
- b) To recommend to the IATTC means of promoting compatibility among the national fisheries management measures of the members, including infractions and sanctions;
- c) To recommend to the IATTC appropriate measures for addressing matters related to compliance with fisheries management measures;
- d) Analyze information by flag and, as necessary, by vessel, and other information necessary to carry out its functions;
- e) To report the results of its work to the IATTC, which will in turn inform the members and non-members.

**2. Governmental members**

The Working Group shall be composed of representatives of each of the Parties of the IATTC ("governmental members").

**3. Observers**

Representatives of non-Parties, pertinent intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental environmental organizations with recognized experience in matters pertaining to this Working Group, and owners of tuna vessels fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean under the jurisdiction of any of the Parties, may participate in the Working Group as observers.

**4. Decision making**

1. All participants in the Working Group shall have speaking rights, but only the governmental members shall have voting rights. The Working Group shall adopt its reports and recommendations by consensus of the governmental members present and voting. Any recommendations of the Working Group must be considered by the IATTC.
2. In cases of urgency, and without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 4 (1) of these rules of procedure, the Working Group may take decisions by correspondence through a vote of the governmental members, under the following procedures:
  - a) The proposal shall be circulated to all members of the Working Group, in writing, with all pertinent documentation, at least 14 days before the proposed effective date of the resolution, action, or measure and the votes shall be transmitted to the Director no less than 7 days before the proposed effective date;
  - b) The proposal shall be considered urgent unless a simple majority of the governmental members objects in writing and the proposal shall be accepted unless any governmental member objects in

writing; and

- c) The Director shall circulate the proposal as well as the accompanying documentation, receive and count the votes, and inform the members of the Working Group of the results of a vote as soon as the voting closes.

## **5. Chairperson**

1. The Chairperson of the Working Group, who shall be a member of a delegation of one of the Parties, shall be elected for a two-year term at the regular meeting of the Working Group, and may be reelected to the position by the Working Group. The Working Group shall also, on the same schedule, elect a vice-Chairperson, who shall fulfill the duties of the Chairperson until the end of the period of appointment, should the position become vacant. The vice-Chairperson shall also serve as Chairperson if the latter is unable to attend or participate in a meeting of the Working Group.
2. The duties of the Chairperson shall be to:
  - a) Propose the time and place of all regular meetings of the Working Group for its consideration;
  - b) To convene special meetings of the Working Group, at the request of at least two governmental members, as long as such request is supported by a majority of the governmental members;
  - c) Present to the regular meetings of the IATTC the reports, recommendations, and communications of the Working Group.

## **6. Information**

1. The Director shall provide to the governmental members and non-member governments all pertinent information relative to the operation of their flag vessels at least 15 days in advance of a meeting of the Working Group.
2. Governmental members and observers shall apply the rules of confidentiality adopted by the IATTC with respect to all information provided to the Working Group.

## **7. Attendance at meetings**

1. There shall be no restrictions on the number of persons a governmental member may include in its delegation to a meeting of the Working Group.
2. Observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations shall be limited to two delegates, but may bring more with the approval by consensus of the governmental members. If a consensus is not possible, this matter may be decided by a two-thirds majority of the governmental members.

## **8. Meetings**

The Working Group shall meet at least once each year, if possible in conjunction with a meeting of the IATTC. The quorum for a meeting is two-thirds of the governmental members.

## **9. Language**

The official languages of the Working Group shall be English and Spanish.

## **10. Amendments**

These rules of procedure shall be approved by the IATTC. The Working Group may recommend to the IATTC, for approval, any changes that may be necessary in order for the Working Group to fulfill its mandate.