

中华人民共和国农业部渔业渔政管理局

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Dr. Guillermo A. Compeán
Director
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
La Jolla, California

Subject: Progress on implementation for 2016 by Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO on FAO turtle guidelines as required by Para 2, C-07-03

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

-Data Collection

• Logbook

For Chinese longline fisheries, sea turtle is one of the major bycatches required to be accurately recorded in the logbook. The fisheries authority of China officially issued logbook for Tuna Fisheries in 2008 and renew it in a timely manner in accordance with the RFMO's requirements. Each tuna longline vessel, no matter of its fishing ground, is required to record the sea turtle bycatch or interaction, including the species and entangling state. Company does not fulfill the requirements, once discovered, will be punished by government in accordance with certain domestic fisheries management measures, as China implements performance review for each fishing company annually. According to last year's logbooks, most of our vessels did not accidentally catch sea turtles.

• Observer program

Longline observer program is the main source that bycatch information is collected in the Chinese tuna fisheries. In 2016, China conducted 4 longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (including overlapping areas) and no sea turtle was accidentally captured during the trip.

-Training

• Training course

In December, 2016, after the meetings of WCPFC in Fiji, we conducted a training course, which invited experts from ABNJ of FAO and Bird International to give lectures about bycatch mitigations. Each tuna fishing company was required to dispatch at least one fishing manager at the base(or captain) to attend the course.

• Tuna fisheries conference

In addition, national-wide conference on tuna fisheries, where major conservation

measures (including measures for sea turtle and others) are introduced and explained to the meeting participants from industries, are opened annually. Cases regarding violation of Domestic management measures and RFMO's CMM will be delivered to all participants including the punishment during the meeting, to call the attention of each company on compliance. The outcome of the performance review on compliance is circulated to fishing companies.

- **Propaganda**

Booklets/posters on sea turtle species identification and mitigation method in line with FAO guidelines are published and distributed to each longline vessel, which can guide the crew members to save and safely release captured or entangled turtles. Mitigation devices, such as de-hookers and cutters, are provided to each longline vessel since September 2009 free of charge by China Overseas Fisheries Association (This year, 22 sets are provided). We are hoping that by taking comprehensive actions, our fleet can strictly follow the measures and take good care of this species when caught or entangled.

Regards,

Liling Zhao

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