

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

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PROVISIONAL COMPLIANCE OVERVIEW 2023

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The following abbreviations are used in the document:

BLZ	Belize	PAN	Panama
BOL	Bolivia	PER	Peru
CAN	Canada	SLV	El Salvador
CHL	Chile	TWN	Chinese Taipei
CHN	China	USA	United States of America
COL	Colombia	VEN	Venezuela
CRI	Costa Rica	VUT	Vanuatu
ECU	Ecuador		
EUR	European Union	BET	Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)
EU (ESP)	European Union (Spain)	SKJ	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
FRA	France (French Polynesia)	YFT	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
(PYF)			
GTM	Guatemala		
HND	Honduras		
IDN	Indonesia		
JPN	Japan	CPC	Member or Cooperating Non-Member of the IATTC
KIR	Kiribati	EPO	Eastern Pacific Ocean
KOR	Republic of Korea	LOA	Length overall
LBR	Liberia	SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee
MEX	Mexico		
NIC	Nicaragua		

1. INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes compliance, or possible¹ lack thereof, with [IATTC resolutions](#) in force during 2023,

¹ In order to prevent or clarify any possible confusion as to the nature and scope of this report, it is important to emphasize that all the cases identified by the IATTC staff, from the observer program data, as possible

as well as trends in compliance over a five-year period (2019-2023).

It is worth recalling that Resolution [C-22-02](#) on compliance indicates, in paragraph 3b, that the Director “shall extract information on possible non-compliance with IATTC resolutions from the data from the observer programs for purse-seine fishing vessels, at-sea transshipment, and longliners as well as other available information, and send to each CPC, three months prior to the Committee meeting, such information related to the fishing vessels flagged to that CPC.”

This report is based mainly on data collected by the On-Board Observer Program of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), which includes both the national programs² and the IATTC program. Other data are obtained from various sources, such as vessel administrators and processing companies, either provided by the CPCs or directly by these companies, at their request, in compliance with their reporting obligations under various resolutions.

The AIDCP requires 100% observer coverage of Class-6 tuna purse-seine vessels³. By 2023, this coverage was achieved, leaving behind the possibility of exempting observers on board as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which ended as of 31 December 2023.

Information on the activities of vessels of lesser capacity is obtained mainly from their logbooks, which are copied by IATTC technicians. These smaller vessels very rarely carry observers, in particular when they are obliged to do so in compliance with the AIDCP or with the measures that are adopted by the IATTC, for instance when they seal wells in accordance with Resolution [C-12-08](#), but also when their requests on a voluntary basis the assignation of an observer, for instance in order to remain at sea without infringing the rules governing closures. Likewise, it can be mentioned that, during the year 2023, IATTC observers accompanied 13 trips of vessels smaller than Class 6, the Ecuadorian national program (PROBECUADOR) four trips.

Another case of vessels smaller than Class 6 that voluntarily carried observers on board is illustrated by the joint project between the Ecuadorian observer program (PROBECUADOR) and the Ecuadorian consortium TUNACONS, who carried out a voluntary sampling in 2023 with observers who had received the same training as PICD observers. PROBECUADOR covered 19 trips and TUNACONS 125 trips.

Regarding longline vessels, in accordance with Resolution [C-19-08](#), a minimum of 5% of trips by longline vessels over 20 m length overall (LOA) are required to carry an observer on board.

Pursuant to Resolution [C-22-02](#), paragraph 3, the Secretariat sent on 7 June 2024 to each CPC information on possible cases of non-compliance with IATTC resolutions (**Table 1**) by their flag vessels, together with a compliance questionnaire. The deadline for returning the completed questionnaires was 7 July; as of 31 July 2024, a total of 23 questionnaires have been received, together with complementary information, from 19 Members and four Cooperating Non-Members; Kiribati and Vanuatu did not send information. Honduras, Cooperating Non-Members, did not submit its questionnaire. These documents are available (with password) on the IATTC website. Table 1 shows, in yellow, the resolutions that were reviewed, but no information is included since there were no cases of possible non-compliance or other data to include.

Section 3 of this report deals with cases of possible non-compliance with IATTC resolutions. As was done during the 14th meeting of the Committee, the review of possible infractions was carried out by grouping the cases by resolution and not by country, as was done previously.

Section 4 includes cases or issues that are not possible infractions, but which some CPCs requested to be reviewed, with a view to developing guidelines for dealing with similar cases in the future.

Section 5 includes information on the follow-up of possible infractions for 2019-2023, covering a period of five

non-compliance are precisely and only this, as stated in Resolution [C-22-02](#) itself. Each one of them must be investigated by the competent authorities and confirmed in order to be eventually considered as an infraction.

² In addition to the IATTC international program, in 2023 Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the European Union, and Venezuela had national observer programs.

³ More than 363 tons of carrying capacity.

years as recommended by the Committee², IATTC resolutions included in the compliance questionnaire.

2. IATTC RESOLUTIONS INCLUDED IN THE COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

The IATTC resolutions in force in 2023 included in the *Compliance questionnaire*, and reviewed for this report, are the following:

TABLE 1. Resolutions included in the <i>Compliance questionnaire</i>		
Number	Subject	Content reviewed
C-23-03	FADs	Prohibits the use of auxiliary vessels operating in support of vessels that fish on FADs in the EPO.
C-22-02	Compliance	Each CPC must complete the compliance questionnaire (Annex 1) and return it to the Director. Each CPC will also investigate cases of possible non-compliance and notify the Director of the results of the investigation (paragraph 3c, page 2).
C-22-03	Transshipments	Allows transshipments at sea by large longline vessels to authorized carrier vessels with an observer aboard. Requires information on the species transshipped, including sharks. The work of the observers must be supported and they must be offered accommodation and food conditions similar to those of the officers.
C-22-05	Closure periods	The CPC must report by 15 July of each year to the Director the names of all its purse seine vessels that would observe each closure period, as well as those that should observe additional closure days.
C-22-08	Financing 2023	Cover financial contributions in accordance with the amount indicated in paragraph 2 of the resolution.
C-21-04	Tuna conservation 2022-2024	It establishes two annual closure periods for the purse-seine fishery with Class 4-6 vessels, a one-month purse-seine closure in the " <i>corralito</i> "; active FAD limits; longline catch limits for bigeye tuna; tuna discard prohibition; regulations for deploying and recovering FADs, as well as FAD activation, which must be done exclusively on board the vessel.
C-21-05	Bluefin tuna conservation 2021-2024	Bluefin annual catch limits in 2021-2024.
C-21-06	Silky shark, replaces C-19-05	Purse-seine vessels: prohibits the retention on board, transshipping, landing, or storing of silky sharks. Longline vessels: establishes measures related to bycatch.
C-21-07	Port State measures	Requires inspections to be carried out on at least 5% of the vessels that enter designated national ports and that catch species covered by the IATTC and submit the information to the Secretariat.
C-19-01	FADs, replaces C-18-05	Requires CPCs to submit information on interactions with FADs by their purse-seine vessels. It also requires, to reduce the entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, from 1 January 2019, that CPCs ensure that the design and deployment of FADs are based on the principles set out in Annex II, including the mesh size of the FAD net.
C-19-02	IUU vessel list	Requires information from CPCs on actions to eliminate illegal fishing by its vessels on the IUU list and to discourage IUU fishing by other vessels.
C-19-04	Sea turtles, replaces C-07-03	Requires owners/operators/vessel crew on vessels targeting species covered by the Convention to promptly release, in a manner that causes the least harm to the extent practicable, sea turtles entangled in floating objects, as well as the use of equipment on longliners to release incidentally caught turtles such as de-hookers, line cutters, and dip nets. Record all catches and report them to the IATTC in a specific format.

TABLE 1. Resolutions included in the *Compliance questionnaire*

Number	Subject	Content reviewed
C-19-06	Whale shark	Prohibits setting a purse-seine net on tuna associated with a live whale shark if the animal was observed prior to the start of the set. It also includes reporting requirements when whale sharks are caught incidentally.
C-19-08	Observers on long-line vessels	At least 5% of the effort by longline vessels > 20 m LOA must carry an observer and reports must be submitted to the IATTC.
C-18-03	North Pacific albacore	Catch reports of the species to the IATTC.
C-18-06	Regional Vessel Register	CPCs must notify the IATTC in a timely fashion of any modification of the information in the Regional Register, as well as report annually to the Secretariat of the vessels that were active in the previous year.
C-16-05	Sharks	Specific requirements for releasing sharks.
C-15-04	Mobulid rays	Prohibits the retention on board, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale of Mobulid rays.
C-14-02	Satellite monitoring	Fishing vessels over 24 meters LOA must be equipped with an operational satellite vessel monitoring system (VMS).
C-12-11	Recommendation on overlap area IATTC-WCPFC	In the case of vessels listed in the registers of both organizations, the corresponding flag Member shall decide and notify to both Commissions under which of the two commissions those vessels shall operate when fishing in the overlap area, as regards the application, for a period of not less than three years of the conservation and management measures of that Commission.
C-12-08	Sealing wells	Allows vessels to seal wells to reduce effective capacity; prohibits the use of sealed wells for storing fish. Requires IDCP observers on all vessels with sealed wells.
C-11-02	Seabirds	Establishes measures for reducing catches of seabirds in the longline fishery in the EPO, and for reporting bycatches.
C-11-03	Fishing on data buoys	Prohibits interactions with data buoys, and fishing < 1 nm from a buoy.
C-11-05	Longline vessels > 24 m	Only authorized longline vessels > 24 m may fish in the EPO.
C-11-10	Oceanic whitetip shark	Prohibits the retention on board, transshipment, unloading, storage, sale, or offering for sale oceanic white sharks, in part or whole.
C-09-04	IDCP	Implements the AIDCP requirement for an observer on every fishing trip in the EPO by purse-seine vessels > 363 t of carrying capacity. During 2022, the adoption of an exception procedure due to the restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic made it possible to exempt some fishing trips from this obligation.
C-05-02	North Pacific albacore tuna	Requires not increasing North Pacific albacore tuna catch levels to current levels.
C-05-03	Sharks	Prohibits “finning ⁴ ” and requires provision of data on shark catches.
C-04-05	Bycatch. Trash discard	Includes the prohibition of dumping plastic trash in the sea.
C-03-01	Statistical document for bigeye	Stipulates that all imported tuna must be accompanied by validated statistical documents.
C-03-04	At-sea reporting	Requires operators of purse-seine vessels with an on-board observer to transmit the at-sea report prepared by the observer directly to the IATTC staff.

⁴ Cutting the fins off sharks and discarding the rest of the animal

Number	Subject	Content reviewed
C-03-05	Data provision	Establishes the type and format of the fisheries data that CPCs with vessels that fish for tunas in the EPO must provide to the staff.
C-02-03	Capacity of the tuna fleet in the EPO	Establishes rules and procedures that govern the entry, transfer, and operation of purse-seine vessels in the tuna fisheries of the EPO.

3. POSSIBLE NON-COMPLIANCE WITH IATTC RESOLUTIONS

3.1 Resolution [C-23-03](#) on FADs

Resolution C-23-03 prohibits the use of auxiliary vessels operating in support of vessels that fish on FADs in the EPO.

Despite this prohibition, **paragraph 3** encourages CPCs to initiate recovery programs for drifting FADs through cooperative initiatives between fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area or vessels implementing projects for the recovery of such drifting FADs, without restricting the regular fishing operations of purse-seine vessels that fish with FADs, such recovery activities will be limited to the collection of drifting FADs for final disposal and not to carry out any type of maintenance or adaptation.

Drifting FADs that are collected within the voluntary recovery program must be brought on board and taken to port for recycling or disposal.

Paragraph 4 establishes that CPCs that decide to initiate these programs must report all information associated with FAD recovery activities to the IATTC Secretariat, so that scientific staff can analyze the data annually and report these results to the *Ad Hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs and the SAC.

In 2023, no possible infractions of auxiliary vessels operating in support of purse seiners fishing on FADs were recorded. Regarding paragraphs 3 and 4, no CPC has reported recovery programs for drifting FADs; if there are any in operation, CPCs are urged to inform the Secretariat.

3.2 Resolution [C-22-02 Compliance](#)

Paragraph 3c: Each CPC will complete the questionnaire and return it to the Director no later than two months before the Committee meeting.

A total of 23 completed questionnaires, along with supplementary information, were received from 19 Members and 4 Cooperating non-Members. Kiribati and Vanuatu did not send information, and as non-Cooperating Members, Honduras' was missing.

3.3 Resolution [C-22-03: program for transshipments by large-scale fishing vessels](#)

Resolution C-22-03 allows transshipments at sea, but only by longline vessels authorized to do so. It established a compulsory observer program for carrier vessels that receive transshipments.

Paragraph 10: Carrier vessels participating in the program must carry functioning VMS equipment.

Paragraph 19: CPCs shall submit a report to the Director on the functioning of the program by 15 September of each year.

In 2023, China, Korea, Japan, Panama, Vanuatu, and Chinese Taipei participated in the program. Vanuatu did not submit its 2023 report. It should be noted that Vanuatu has not submitted any reports in the last 5 years. All participants paid their contributions to the program for 2024.

The main task of observers on board carrier vessels is to corroborate the quantities of transshipped tuna and sharks correspond with those recorded in the transshipment declarations. It should be noted that there are

no significant differences, and when they exceed 10%, the Secretariat notifies the flag government of the carrier vessel for review.

At the 14th SAC meeting, a recommendation was issued to review whether the issue of differences in reporting between the tuna calculated by the observer and that indicated in the transshipment declaration was significant. To do this, the observers were asked to pay attention and report the information on all transshipments, reviewing what difference existed in each of them between their calculations of transshipped fish and that reported in the transshipment declaration.

A review of all trips made by carrier vessels in 2023 was carried out, verifying how many carrier vessels and how many transshipments had differences of more than 10% in the trips made in 2023. From this review the following information was obtained:

- Data from 23 carrier vessels trips with transshipments in 2023 were reviewed.
- In those 23 trips, 483 transshipments were made.
- In 390 of these transshipments (81%) there was no difference greater than 10% between the fish declared in the transshipment declaration and that calculated by the observer.
- In 86 of these transshipments (18%) this 10% difference was exceeded, and they were sent to the flag authorities of the carrier vessel for investigation. For 1 trip, observer data were not available to establish differences (7 transshipments).
- A carrier vessel company has been identified as responsible for 67 cases that exceed a 10% difference in 2023, that is, 78% of those cases, while another 18 vessels contributed only the remaining 20%.

Figure 1 shows the distribution range of the cases that registered differences greater than 10%. The largest number of cases are between 10 and 20% difference, which may explain that the differences lie in the calculation that derives from a mere estimate made by the observers.

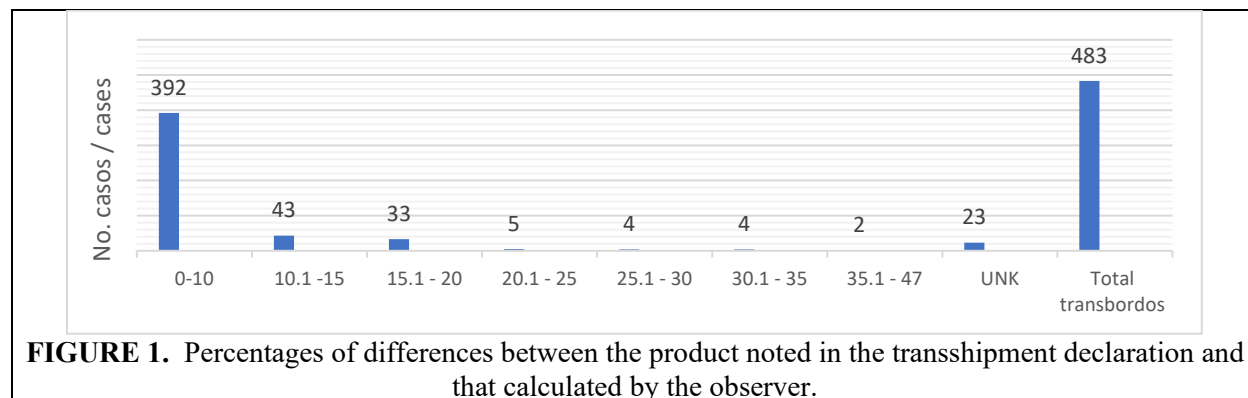


FIGURE 1. Percentages of differences between the product noted in the transshipment declaration and that calculated by the observer.

It has been previously discussed in the SAC that experimental work should be done to see if the use of scales could help to dispel doubts regarding the differences between the tuna calculated by the observer and that indicated in the transshipment declaration. This work would require financial resources to carry it out, however, the differences discussed do not seem serious enough to imply urgent work.

Paragraph 20: “All tuna and tuna-like species and sharks caught in the Convention Area , landed in, or imported into, the territory or area of a CPC, either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transshipped, shall be accompanied by the IATTC transshipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.”

The Resolution does not oblige CPCs to inform the Secretariat about compliance with this provision, but CPCs that receive transshipped fish in their ports are requested to report it voluntarily. The United States, the European Union (Spain), Japan and Korea submitted a report.

Appendix 3: The obligations of carrier vessels regarding observers include, among others, providing accommodation, food, and suitable sanitary facilities, and not interfering with his functions through intimidation or attempted bribery, among others.

Table 2 summarizes the possible infractions reported from 2019 to 2023. In the document called *Draft Provisional Compliance Report*, they are broken down by vessel and flag, as well as the responses of the flag's CPCs for the possible infractions of 2023 and four years back.

TABLE 2. Possible infractions reported by observers in carrier vessels 2019-2023					
Possible infraction and relevant resolution	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Poor sanitary conditions (C-22-03, Annex 3)	8	6	4	5	3
Differences between the fish reported by the vessel and the observer (C-22-03, Annex 3)	4	8	2	5	6
Trash discarded at sea (C-04-05)	2	2	0	1	2
Shark fins on board (C-05-03)	1	4	1	0	0
Unreported tuna catches (C-22-03, Annex 3)	1	2	0	0	0
Interference with the observer's work (C-22-03, Annex 3)	0	0	0	0	0
Insufficient support for the observer's work (C-22-03, Annex 3)	1	5	0	3	1
Possible falsified declaration (C-22-03, Annex 3)	0	1	0	0	0
Others					
Fuel spilt at sea (MARPOL)	2	1	0	0	0
Poor safety conditions (SOLAS)	4	4	2	3	1

The Committee has stressed the importance of having additional information on cases of possible non-compliance related to health issues. Therefore, a list of the carrier vessels for which this possible infraction has been reported from 2017 to 2023 can be found below (**Table 3**).

TABLE 3. Possible infractions reported by observers on carrier vessels on sanitary conditions, 2017-2023			
Vessel	Flag	Possible infraction	Response
Ping Tai Rong	CHN	1 report of poor food handling hygiene con-	Action taken: individual food for the observer
Ping Tai Rong Leng 1	CHN	Unsanitary conditions in the water. All brown. 2023	Action taken: pipes were repaired after the trip.
SL Bogo	KOR	-2 cases of bed bugs and 1 case of insufficient water in 2017 -1 case of bedbugs and 1 case of insufficient water in 2019 -2 cases of bed bugs in 2020	No response It was determined that there was no infraction The vessel owner went bankrupt and cannot be located
Seybu	KOR	-1 case of no air filters in good condition in 2017.	The air issue was corrected Fumigation was performed
Sein Shin	KOR	-2 cases of bedbugs in 2020 and 2021	Action taken: fumigation
Seiyu	KOR	-Poor accommodation for the observer in 2020 and 2022 - 1 report of insufficient water in 2022	Action taken: better room will be provided on future trips. The fresh water machine was repaired
Pontos	PAN	-1 case of bedbugs, 2017 -1 case of poor accommodation for the ob-	Vessel removed from Panamanian registry in 2020
Yun Run 3	PAN	-1 case of bedbugs, 2017 -4 reports of poor water sanitary conditions: 2017 (2 trips), 2018 and 2020.	The vessel was removed from the Panamanian registry in 2022. All cases concluded.
Victoria 168	PAN	1 case of bedbugs, 2017	A fine was applied
Rising Star	PAN	1 case of bedbugs, 2019	When reviewing the observer on board report, IATTC 369 trip belongs to TAIHO MARU and there is no possible non-compliance.
Lady Tuna	PAN	1 report of poor water sanitary conditions,	Case closed., No infraction identified
Full Kuo Shin	PAN	-1 report of poor water sanitary conditions, 2019 -2 reports of insufficient food in 2020 and 2022. -1 case of bedbugs 2021 - 1 report of poor feeding conditions. Food was donated by longliners but damaged fish were often unmarketable. 2023	-Case concluded and no infraction was identified. -Concluded and insufficient food was NOT identified. -Notice was sent to vessel representatives to take corrective action and provide evidence. Corrective actions were taken and evidence was provided. Case closed. -Case closed, no possible fisheries infraction found. The case will be referred to the Panama Maritime Authority.
Taiho Maru	PAN	-1 case of poor air conditioning in 2021	Notice was sent to vessel representatives to take corrective action and provide evidence. Corrective actions were taken and evidence was provided. Case closed.
Sheng Hong	TWN	-1 case of bedbugs, 2022 -1 report of poor water sanitary conditions, 2021	Sanction was applied
Lian Jyi Hsing	TWN	-2 cases of bedbugs in 2017 (2 trips)	Action taken: fumigation
Shun Tian Fa 168	TWN	-2 cases of bedbugs in 2018 and 2019	Action taken: fumigation

Table 4 of this report includes a list of the responses received to possible infractions in the program of transshipments at sea that were notified to the participants of the program in 2023.

Resolution / Possible Infraction	CPC	Response / Situation	Cases
C-22-07, Annex 3			
Poor sanitary conditions	CHN	Corrective actions were taken	1
	KOR	Not considered an infraction	1
	PAN	Not considered an infraction	1
C-22-07, Annex 3			
Differences between fish reported by vessel and observer	CHN	Not considered an infraction	3
	PAN	Not considered an infraction	1
	TWN	Not considered an infraction	2
C-22-07, Annex 3			
Insufficient support for the observer's work	CHN	Under investigation	1
C-04-05. Bycatch			
Trash discarded to the sea	KOR	Not considered an infraction	1
	CHN	Under investigation	1
SOLAS			
Poor safety conditions	CHN	Corrective actions were taken	1

3.4 Resolution [C-22-08](#): Financing

Paragraph 2. Establishes the contribution to the IATTC budget for the financial year 2023.

The following Table 5 shows countries which have outstanding debts with IATTC for 2023 and previous years.

CPC	Amount US\$	CPC Comments
PAN	1,240,890	Panama complies with the payment arrangement until 2027 approved at the 101 st meeting of the Commission in Canada for debt from previous years.
GTM	7,206	Payments will be made in 2024 to meet the amount owed in 2023.
MEX	1,155,883	Mexico is updating the corresponding procedures to make the pending payment.
VEN	1,739,932	Since 2015, Venezuela has been subjected to more than 930 Unilateral Coercive Measures imposed in an unjustified manner, which has made it impossible to make international payments. They reaffirm the commitment to comply and honor membership payments.

3.5 Resolution [c-21-04](#): tuna conservation 2022-2024

Resolution [C-21-04](#) established or continued a series of conservation measures for 2022-2024:

- Two annual closure periods for the purse-seine fishery, one of which every vessel must observe; the list of vessels and their respective closure periods is published on the [IATTC website](#).
- One-month purse-seine closure in the “*corralito*”;
- Limits on active FADs;
- Possible increases of 10 days of closure if a vessel, for the years 2023 and 2024, during the previous year exceeds the limit of 1,200 tons of bigeye tuna catch. If in this same period it exceeds the annual bigeye catch limit of 1,500 tons, its closure will increase by 13 days; If it exceeds the annual catch limit of 1,800 tons, its closure will increase by 16 days; If it exceeds the annual catch limit of 2,100 tons, its closure will increase by 19 days; and if it exceeds the annual catch limit of 2,400 tons, its closure will increase by 22 days, in addition to the closure days.
- Longline catch limits for bigeye;

- Prohibition on discarding tuna.
- Regulations for deploying and recovering FADs, as well as FAD activation, which must be done exclusively on board the vessel.
- Send reports on vessels monitoring with VMS

Paragraph 3. Fishing during the closure (entire EPO; 72 days, July-October/November-January).

Paragraph 5. Additional days of closure. As indicated above.

Paragraph 12. Fishing in the “corralito” (96°-110°O and 4°N-3°S) during the closure (9 October-8 November).

In 2023, there was only one case of a vessel, the *Panama Tuna*, that captured more than 1,500 t of bigeye tuna, for which an additional period of 13 days of closure corresponds, which was communicated to the State of the vessel's flag (Ecuador), which has stated that the vessel will comply with the additional closure period.

In 2023, there were no possible fishing infractions in the area known as *El Corralito*, as well as no cases of vessels that have fished during closure periods. In this case, this type of infraction in recent years is illustrated in the following **Table 6**.

TABLE 6. Cases of vessels fishing during the closure period or in the <i>corralito</i> , 2018-2023						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Number of cases with possible infractions					
Fishing in the “ <i>corralito</i> ”				1		--
Fishing during the closure	1	1	1		1	--

Paragraph 17. CPCs shall ensure that purse-seine vessels flying their flag have no more than the number of FADs, defined in Annex I of Resolution C-21-04, active at any one time.

In 2023, the Ecuadorian-flagged *María José* vessel exceeded the limit of active buoys allowed. The flag State of the vessel has notified that it is in the process of applying a sanction. This is the first time that a case of this type has happened since 2021 when this provision came into force.

Paragraph 24. Monthly reports on FADs. CPCs shall “report, or require their vessels to report, daily information on all active FADs to the Secretariat ... Reporting shall occur at monthly intervals and with a time delay of at least 60 days, but no longer than 90 days.”

The Secretariat staff sent communications to Colombia, Ecuador, the European Union, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador, the United States and Venezuela indicating that some of their vessels had reported on their active buoys partially or had not sent reports. For all reported cases, it was clarified by the CPCs that the information sent was all that was generated when the buoys were active. In the months that were not reported, the vessels were not in operation. For each specific case, the information is presented in the document called *Draft Provisional Compliance Report*.

Paragraph 25. Beginning in 2023, CPCs will report, or require their vessels to report to the IATTC, using a format to be developed by IATTC staff and approved by the Commission, complete VMS data for all vessels that are required to carry VMS in accordance with Resolution C-14-02. The reports will be presented bimonthly and with a period of no more than 90 days. The data collected in accordance with this paragraph will be treated in accordance with Resolution C-15-07 on rules and procedures related to data confidentiality.

The format has not been approved, however the Secretariat sent a memorandum with a proposal for fields to be filled out in accordance with the requirements of Resolution C-14-02 and with that data the reports could be sent to the Secretariat. Few reports have been received and it has been argued by several CPCs that when they have the approved format they will report as required by the resolution. The information for each country is provided in the document called “*Draft Provisional Compliance Report*.”

The Committee should review and recommend to the Commission the corresponding format.

Paragraph 26a. Deployment/recovery of FADs: Each CPC shall ensure that:

- a. “its purse-seine vessels do not deploy FADs during a period of 15 days prior to the start of the selected closure period;
- b. all its Class-6 purse-seine vessels recover within 15 days prior to the start of the closure period a number of FADs equal to the number of FADs set upon during that same period.”

Deployment: Four Ecuadorian flag vessels: *Doménica L*, *Don Bartolo*, *Nataly*, and *Tuna II* deployed FADs 15 days before the selected closure period. Ecuador indicated that the *Doménica L* is class 5 and provides data voluntarily and only for research purposes. In the case of the other three vessels, a penalty will be applied. This type of infraction had not occurred in the last two years.

Recovery: The Class-6 vessels in **Table 7** did not recover a number of FADs equal to the number of FADs on which they made sets during the 15 days prior to their closure. As can be seen in the table, there has been an improvement in compliance with this measure compared to 2018 to date, but there is still room for improvement. The 2023 cases of Ecuador and Mexico are under investigation, while for the panamian vessel, the Government did not identify an infraction when carrying out the corresponding investigation.

TABLE 7. Number of vessels, by flag, that did not recover the required number of FADs before the closure*, 2018-2023

Flag	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
COL	3	1	-	1	-	-
ECU	7	6	1	1	4	1
MEX	5	-	-	2	2	2
NIC	1	-	-	1	-	-
PAN	3	2				1
USA	-	-	1	1	1	-
VEN	2	1	-	2	2	-
TOTAL	21	10	2	8	9	4

Paragraph 29: Annual catch limits for bigeye tuna in the EPO (**Table 8**).

China, Japan, Korea, United States, and Chinese Taipei undertake to ensure that the total annual catches of bigeye tuna by their longline vessels in the Convention Area during 2023 do not exceed 55,131 metric tons, distributed at the levels established in the resolution.

TABLE 8. Catch limits and catches of bigeye (t), 2023

	Limit in C-21-04	Adjusted limit	Catch	
China	2,507	8,507*	2,134	Limits respected during the last 5 years
Japan	32,372	24,372*	2,366	
Korea	11,947	13,947*	9,715	
Chinese Taipei	7,555	7,555	5,121	
United States	750	750	ND	

*Adjusted. In 2023, Japan transferred to China and Korea 6,000 t and 2,000 t, respectively, of its 2023 national limit.

As can be seen in the table, this provision has been complied with and has generally been complied with since the provision was introduced.

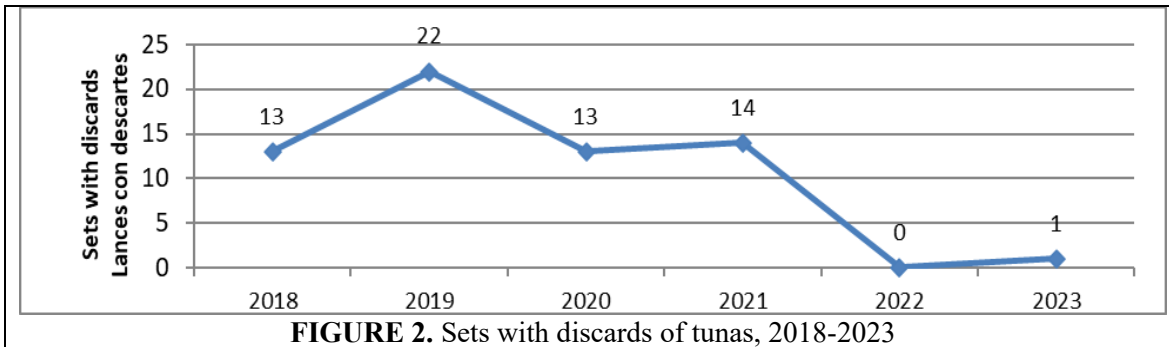
Paragraph 34: An annual report must be sent on the regulatory actions taken to comply with the resolution on tuna conservation 2022-2024.

Vanuatu has not sent this report for several years.

Paragraph 37: Discards of tuna. All tuna caught must be retained on board, except fish considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size, or when there is insufficient space available in the wells

to load all the tuna caught in the last set of a trip.

In 2023, the US-flagged Class-6 vessel *Western Pacific*, on trip 158951, discarded skipjack tuna. The number of sets with discards, in general terms, has been reduced if we compare by cycle, for example from 2004 to 2011 and from 2012 to 2023. (Figure 2).



3.6 Resolution [C-21-05](#) replacing Resolution C-18-01: Pacific bluefin tuna

Paragraph 5: Annual limit for 2023-2024 of 6,973 t for Mexico and 1,017 t for USA.

Paragraph 5a. During 2023-2024, the United States may catch up to 1,017 tons during both years combined (biennial limit), and up to 720 tons in either year (annual maximum).

Paragraph 5b: During 2023-2024, Mexico may catch up to 6,973 tons during both years combined (biennial limit), and up to 4,068 tons in either year (annual maximum).

Table 9 shows the level of commercial catch by two of the CPCs with commercial catches in the two-year period 2023-2024. The limits established for the two-year period were respected by Mexico and the United States.

CPC	Limit in 2023-2024 in resolution (t)	Catch in 2023 (t)	Catch in 2022 (t)	Total 2023-2024 (t)
MEX*	6,973	3,399	3,533	6,932
USA	1,017	186	NA	

*Mexico has already closed the fishery with purse seiners in 2024, longliners still catch small quantities

3.7 Resolution [C-21-06](#): sharks with special emphasis on the silky shark

Resolution [C-21-06](#), paragraph 2: “CPCs shall prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, landing, or storing, in part or whole, carcasses of silky sharks ... caught by purse-seine vessels in the IATTC Convention Area.”

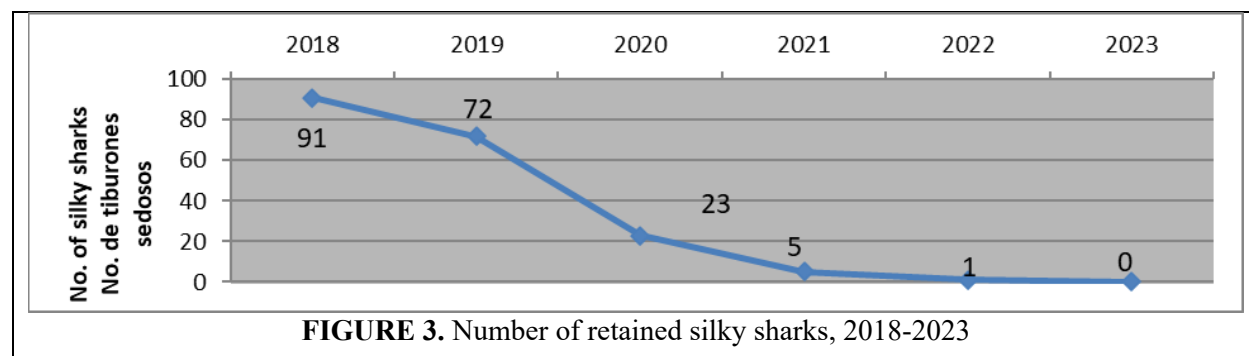
Paragraph 13. “CPCs shall require the collection and submission of catch data for silky sharks, in accordance with IATTC data reporting requirements. CPCs shall also record, through observer programs and other means, for purse-seine vessels of all capacity classes, the number and status (dead/alive) of silky sharks caught and released and report it to the IATTC.”

In 2023, NO cases of retaining silky sharks were reported (**Table 10**). This represents a good effort by the tuna fleet compared to previous years. There has been a substantial improvement in compliance with this provision, since in the first year of its implementation about 1,396 silky sharks were retained, in 2023 only 6 by one single vessel, and none in 2023. The reduction can be seen in **Figure 3**.

Other cases of incidental retentions of silky sharks were recorded, which, according to the resolution, should not be considered an infraction if the procedure established in the resolution is fully complied with: “CPCs shall require that their purse-seine vessels release live silky sharks whenever possible. However, if silky sharks are unintentionally caught and frozen as part of purse-seine vessel’s operations, if the flag CPC’s governmental authorities are present at the point of landing, the whole silky shark must be surrendered to them. If the flag CPC’s governmental authorities are unavailable, the whole silky shark surrendered may

not be sold or bartered but may be donated for purposes of domestic human consumption. Silky sharks surrendered in this manner shall be reported to the Secretariat.”

	COL	ECU	MEX	NIC	PAN	SLV	EUR	USA	VEN	Total
2018	12	45	9	1	0	0	1	6	17	91
2019	5	31	1	0	6	17	0	11	1	72
2020	0	7	0	0	0	10	6	0	0	23
2021	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Regarding paragraph 13, we have reports from Belize, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Chinese Taipei, and United States for 2023 on the [IATTC website](#).

3.8 Resolution [C-21-07](#): Port State measures

Paragraph 13: Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels is encouraged to designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Resolution.

Paragraph 28. The port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report electronically or by other means to the flag CPC point of contact and the IATTC Director no later than 30 days following the date of completion of the inspection.

The Secretariat, in accordance with the resolution, has taken a number of actions to advance compliance with the resolution:

- Circulated a form for port inspections and port entry requests for foreign vessels.
- After requesting information from the CPCs, created [a website](#) to identify the authorized ports for each CPC, as well as the points of contact.
- Requested CPCs to send a copy of the inspection forms for the 5% sample of port inspections conducted on foreign vessels landing species caught under the IATTC.
- A questionnaire was sent out by the Secretariat to identify the needs of developing countries to build capacity and fully implement the resolution. The main needs identified were training assistance for port inspections and financial assistance, as well as training to clarify all the requirements of the Resolution.

Inspection reports have been received on the e-mail address set up for this purpose: portinspections@iattc.org. By June 2024, inspection reports have been received as shown in **Table 11**. This table does not include CPCs such as Belize and China, which indicated that they would not define access ports, as well as Bolivia, which has no coastline and no access ports. It also excludes Cooperating Non-Members Liberia, Honduras and Indonesia, which did not respond to the consultations, as well as Kiribati and Vanuatu.

It is important to highlight that, of the copies of inspections carried out in port, no inspections with alleged violations have been detected.

TABLE 11. Port State actions regarding inspection of foreign vessels entering their ports and landing species covered by the IATTC.

	CAN	COL	CRI	ECU	EUR	FRA	GTM	JPN	KOR	MEX	NIC	PAN	PER	SLV	TWN	USA	VEN	CHL
Defined access ports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Defined points of contact	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Send copies of inspections to IATTC	✓	ND	✓	✓	ND	NA	✓	✓	✓	✓	ND	✓	✓	✓	✓	ND	ND	ND
Inspection 5% foreign vessels*	✓		✓	✓	ND	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	ND	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	ND	ND

ND. Do not land in 2023 from foreign vessels unloading fish under the jurisdiction of the IATTC and caught in the EPO.

3.9 Resolution [C-19-01](#): FADs

Resolution [C-19-01](#), paragraph 2, “Beginning 1 January 2020, on all purse-seine vessels that carry an on-board observer, observers shall be responsible for collecting all the information on FADs, and the captain shall be required to provide the observer with the FAD identification code and, as appropriate, the other information in Annex 1 of Resolution C-18-05. On purse-seine vessels without an observer aboard, the captain shall be responsible for recording the information on the FAD form developed by the IATTC staff,” using a standard format developed by the IATTC staff.

CPCs must provide the data for the previous year to the Director, at the latest 90 days before the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee. The data due are from vessels that did not carry an observer on board, mainly Class 6.

Paragraph 10 states that “To reduce the entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or any other species, as of 1 January 2019 CPCs shall ensure that the design and deployment of FADs are based on the principles set out in Annex II.”

In 2023, compliance with the obligation of providing this information in the standard format developed by the staff can be seen in **Table 12**. It is important to mention that the cases indicated in the table do not necessarily refer to situations in which sets associated with FADs have been made, but are fishing trips without observers, for which the flag State was required to report whether interactions with FADs had occurred and whether it had asked the operators for the information in the corresponding format. The second part of the table refers to the forms that were submitted in compliance with the obligation to submit them, regardless of the existence or not of sets associated with FADs, within the deadline established for their submission in advance of the annual meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee. Some CPCs have provided this information, but after this deadline.

Flag	Total trips			Forms provided			% Compliance CPC comments
	Class			Class			
	< 5	5	Total	< 5	5	Total	
COL	2	8	10	0	8	8	They are reviewing whether there were interactions on the 2 missing trips.
ECU	116	30	146	116	30	146	100%
MEX	31	2	33	0	0	0	Their vessels smaller than Class 6 had no incidents with FADs.
PAN		1	1	1	0	0	It has already been provided 100%.
USA	19		19	0	0	0	They did not fish on FADs
Total	168	41	209	116	38	154	

Regarding paragraph 10, which refers to FADs having to follow the guidelines established in Annex II of the resolution, the Committee at its 13th meeting asked the *ad hoc* Working Group on FADs to analyze the issue to make a recommendation. The recommendation of the FAD Working Group, which was adopted by the Scientific Advisory Committee, was to "Revise Annex II of C-19-01 to require exclusively the design and deployment of non-entangling FADs".

In this sense, the cases of FADs with 7 cm hanging mesh are described in **Table 13**, listed by flag. It involves the use of 703 FADs with a mesh size of 7 cm or larger up to 10.8 cm. In general terms, the responses given to this possible infraction can be seen in the table.

CPC	Vessels with possible infractions	No. trips	No. FADs	CPC Comments
COL	3	4	16	These cases are being reviewed.
ECU	27	38	336	It was concluded that there were no grounds to initiate sanctioning proceedings.
ESP (UE)	3	3	22	They obtain their FADs from the same supplier based on standardized specifications, designs and sizes. The nets never have a stretched mesh of 7 cm or more.
PAN	2	2	10	They determined they couldn't classify it as an infraction after reviewing the observer reports.
SLV	1	1	201	It is concluded that the observer's report is inconsistent, indicating two measures for the same portion of the FAD, one that would imply compliance and the other that would not. Under these conditions, the possible non-compliance is not proven.
SLV	1	1	2	These cases are being reviewed.
USA	3	4	108	These cases are being reviewed.
VEN	1	1	8	The mesh was tied tightly to the FADs and was wrapped in resistant plastic, so there is no possibility of entanglement, since it was not part of the underwater component. No evidence of infraction.
TOTAL	41	54	703	

3.10 Resolution [C-19-02](#): IUU vessel list

Requires information from CPCs on actions to eliminate illegal fishing by their vessels and to deter IUU fishing by other vessels. The tool is the creation of an IATTC IUU list and a cross-list with other RFMOs.

In 2024, Colombia requested the inclusion of a Spanish (EU) flag vessel *Mar Aral* to the draft IUU list for fishing without authorization in Colombian waters. Both Parties have exchanged information but have not yet resolved the situation. In document [COR-15-04 IUU Vessel List 2024-2025](#), the background and complete documentation of this case are presented.

3.11 Resolution [C-19-04](#): mitigating the impact of fishing on sea turtles

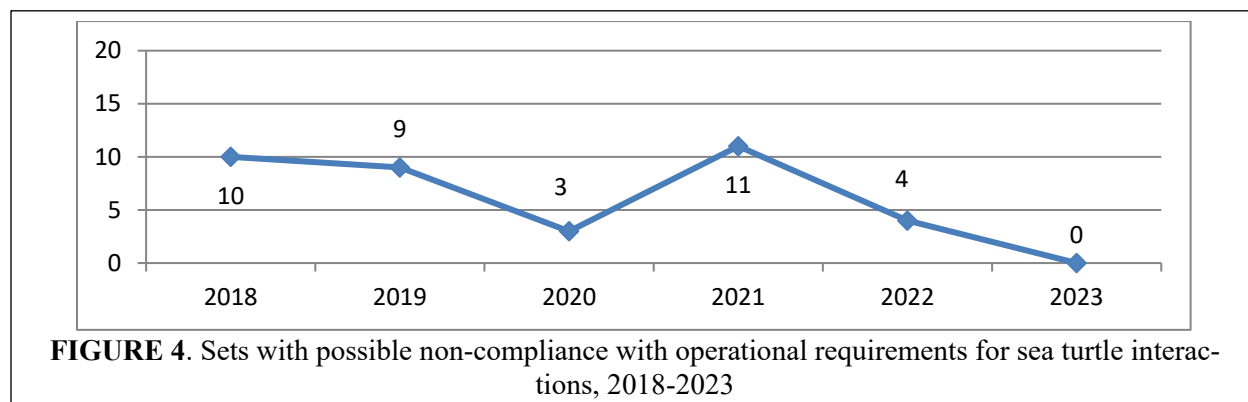
C-19-04, paragraph 1: “a. Require owners/operators/vessel crew on vessels targeting species covered by the Convention to promptly release, in a manner that causes the least harm to the extent practicable, all sea turtles, without compromising the safety of any persons.”

Paragraph 3d: “Require owners/operators of longline vessels fishing in a shallow-set manner to employ at least one of the following mitigation measures: use only large circle hooks, use only finfish for bait, or another mitigation measure to reduce sea turtle bycatch that has been approved by the Commission.”

Paragraph 4a: “CPCs shall report to the Director annually, by June 30 (beginning in 2022), the information in this paragraph in a standardized format, unless it is already submitted in accordance with other requirements, such as observer programs. The IATTC staff shall develop the standardized format for this report and submit it to the 2020 Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting for review and Commission adoption.”

4.a.i. “Any changes to laws, regulations, and other instruments in place to implement the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations (2009) and this Resolution.”

In 2023 there were no cases of possible infractions related to non-compliance with the operational requirements for the rescue and release of sea turtles. **Figure 4** shows the sets with possible non-compliance during 2011-2023, as identified in the reports of observers on purse-seine vessels.



Regarding paragraph 3d, which requires longline vessels fishing in shallow sets to use mitigation measures such as large circle hooks, or to use only finfish as bait, this question was specifically included in the compliance questionnaire. The following 10 CPCs replied that this does not apply to them, as they did not have any longliners operating in 2023: Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Venezuela; Korea also indicated that this does not apply to them, but because they do not have multi-species fisheries that use shallow-set longlines. Panama indicated that its longline vessels did not make shallow sets in 2023. Kiribati, Liberia and Honduras did not respond, but it is known that they do not have longliners operating in the EPO. **Table 14** lists the CPCs and the mitigation measures they reported to have implemented at least in 2023:

	CHN	CRI	ECU	EUR	JPN	MEX	PAN	PER	TWN	USA	VUT	CHL
Use large circle hooks	✓	✓					NA	✓	✓		NR	
Use only finfish for bait				✓					✓		NR	
Not specify which measure			✓		✓	✓				✓	NR	✓

NR: No response. NO, their vessels did not operate in 2023. NA Not applicable.

Regarding paragraph 4a, the Secretariat is working on the design of the standardized format and it will soon be circulated for consultation with the CPCs.

The following CPCs have submitted a report pursuant to resolution C-19-04: Belize, China, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union, France, Guatemala, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Chinese Taipei, United States, European Union, Vanuatu, and Venezuela. These reports are published on the [IATTC website](#).

3.12 Resolution [C-19-06](#): whale sharks

Paragraph 1: “CPCs shall prohibit their flag vessels from setting a purse-seine net on a school of tunas associated with a live whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), if the animal is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.” In addition, **Resolution C-16-05, paragraph 3.c.** states: “No whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) may be towed out of a purse-seine net”.

In 2023 there were NO cases of possible infractions of towing or setting a net on whale sharks. This type of infraction is becoming less common, as there was one case in 2019 and none thereafter.

3.13 Resolution [C-19-08](#): observers on longliners

Resolution [C-19-08](#) is applicable to all CPCs with longline vessels > 20 m LOA on the Regional Vessel Register.

Paragraph 3 requires CPCs to ensure that at least 5% of the fishing effort made by its longline vessels > 20 m LOA be observed by a scientific observer.

Paragraph 6 establishes a requirement for annual summary reporting by CPCs regarding the operation of their longline observer programs in the previous year in context with the overall operation of their longline fleets. These metrics include measures of fishing effort and the calculation of the percent observer coverage achieved in the previous year, as well as summarized catches of non-retained species. The summary reports for the most recent year are required to be submitted to the Director by 31 March the following year, using the template provided in Annex A of the Resolution.

Paragraph 7 requires CPCs to submit to the director the operational-level observer data collected by their programs in the previous year, reporting by 30 June for the following year. CPC may choose to report their operational longline observer data using one of two possible minimum data reporting standards found in Annex B of the Resolution.

1. Longline Observer coverage and reporting

Table 15 shows the longline observer coverage rates reported by CPCs from 2019 to 2023. Costa Rica has reported that they continue to have difficulties establishing and maintaining a longline observer program and that they see the monitoring of their relevant vessels using electronic monitoring as the possible solution. Mexico reported that they did not place observers on longline vessels in 2023 because of financial limitations. It should be noted that El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Venezuela do not have any large longliners operating in the area, which was reported by them. Belize, Chile, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela, which had qualifying longline vessels on the RVR in 2023 have indicated either that their vessels did not operate in 2023 or did not fish for IATTC species, and thus the Resolution was not applicable.

France has indicated that the fleet operating out of French Polynesia fishes exclusively in the IATTC/WCPFC overlap area, where France has elected to apply the requirements of the WCPFC. However, it is worth noting that IATTC has received operational observer data for this fleets activities for the years 2013-2022.

Although the operational longline observer data for 2023 for EU fleets has not yet been submitted, IATTC staff and has been working with the EU regarding the format of their longline data submissions and consider that the submission of the pending data will be completed after the formatting issue has been addressed. Overall, there has recently been tremendous improvement regarding previously missing longline observer data submissions from past years. Only one data submission from one CPC remains pending for years prior to 2023. In all other cases, IATTC has now received previously missing data submissions or now has clarity

that no data was collected or the requirements were not applicable in the relevant years.

It is also worth noting that 2023 was the first year since 2020 that no CPCs reported deficiencies in their longline observer program related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although three CPCs reported observer coverage rates for 2023 less than 5%, two of these CPCs, Japan and Chinese Taipei, sometimes do not have all of their longline observer data accounted for when summary reporting is due on March 31, and then subsequently submit updates at a later date indicating that they did achieve 5%. The third CPC, Vanuatu, has indicated to IATTC staff that although they achieved limited longline observer coverage in 2023, after not placing longline observers from 2020-2022, they are now in the process of improving this situation and expect observer coverage to continue to increase in 2024.

Table 15 presents the longline observer coverage rates reported by CPCs for the years 2019-2023.

TABLE 15. CPCs that submitted longline observer reports and coverage, 2018-2023					
% or no report: yellow. Preliminary or < 5% >5%: green					
CPC	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BLZ	NA	0%	0%	NA	NA
CHL	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
CHN	7.80%	4.86%	8.90%	7%	14%
CRI	NA	0%	0%	0%	0%
ECU	5.60%	5.66%	9.00%	9%	8.40%
EU	6% ESP 16% PRT	3.80%	0.8% ESP, 0% PRT	6%	6.50%
FRA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR/NA
JPN	5.00%	5.97%	0%	0%	4.30%
KOR	5.00%	2.87%	0.70%	4.70%	5.70%
MEX	10%	6.17%	9.50%	18%	0%
NIC	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
PAN	0%	0%	5%	4.40%	33%
PER	UNK COVID delay	NA	NA	NA	NA
TWN	11%	17.80%	9.70%	5.00%	2.10%
USA	22%	16.31%	21.00%	21%	14.50%
VEN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
VUT	4.80%	0%	0%	0%	0.50%

Table 16 shows the status of the reporting of operational-level longline observer data to IATTC pursuant to Paragraph 7 of the Resolution for the years 2019 to 2023.

TABLE 16. Submission of operational data by CPCs					
CPC	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BLZ	NA ¹	NR ⁴	NR ²	NA ¹	NA ¹
CHL	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹
CHN					
CRI	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²
ECU					
EU (Portugal)			NR ⁴		
EU (España)					
FRA					
JPN			NR ⁴	NR ⁴	
KOR					
MEX					NR ²

NIC	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹
PAN	NR ²	NR ⁴			
PER		NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹
TWN					
USA					
VEN	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹
VUT		NR ⁴	NR ⁴	NR ⁴	

NR- Not reporting

NR¹- CPC stated they will not be reporting data because they cannot report against the IATTC standards for these years

NR²- CPC reports that they had qualifying vessels, but did not have a longline observer program in this fishing year or the program was not active

NR³- CPC reports that relevant vessel was only active during the last quarter of the fishing year and an observer could not be assigned

NR⁴- CPC reports that their observer program was not active in this year because of the conditions of the pandemic

NA- CPC reports that the observer requirements were not applicable

NA¹- CPC reports that the observer requirements were not applicable because relevant vessels listed on the RVR were not active or did not fish for IATTC species in this year

NA²- CPC reports that all of the EPO catches are in the IATTC/WCPFC overlap area, where they have elected to apply requirements of the WCPFC, so C-19-08 is not applicable

P- CPC has indicated that data will be submitted in the near future

3.14 Resolution [C-18-03](#) amendment to Resolution C-13-03 on north Pacific albacore tuna

C-18-03, paragraph 1: “All CPCs shall report to the Director by December 1, 2018, using the template in Annex A, a list of all their specific fisheries or fleets that had any catch of North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area from 2013 through 2017; whether or not those fisheries or fleets were targeting North Pacific albacore; **and the annual catch by fishery or fleet. Thereafter, all CPCs shall report for each year such information annually to the Director by the following June 30.**”

The information received was posted on the [IATTC website](#). The CPCs that submitted information for 2021-2023 can be seen in **Table 17**.

NA: Not applicable; NR: No report		CAN	CHN	KOR	USA	JPN	TWN	VUT
Par.	Information received 2021	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1	2022	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	2023	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pending	✓	NR

Resolution C-05-02, also related to north Pacific albacore tuna, requires that catches of this species not be increased to current levels. The resolution was adopted in 2005, so *current levels* are calculated as the average of the previous 3 years: 2002-2004. Accordingly, from 2018 to 2022, it has been within these levels.

2002-2004	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
19,954	16,588	18,925	16,502	15,276	18,265

3.15 Resolution [C-18-06](#): Regional Vessel Register

Resolution [C-18-06](#) states that CPCs must notify the IATTC in a timely manner of any changes to the information in the Regional Vessel Register, as well as the vessels that were active during the previous year, both purse-seine and longline vessels and other fishing gear targeting tunas and tuna-like species.

Although progress has been made, there are still some CPCs that do not submit this report or do so after the deadline (it must be submitted by 30 June each year). This information is important for defining the reporting obligations of CPCs as well as for stock assessments. **Table 19** shows the CPCs that have submitted information since the implementation of this part of the resolution. CPCs that have no vessels on the register and therefore have no information to report are not included. Those reporting for only one fleet, purse seine or longline, are shown in yellow (i.e., missing reports for one of these two fishing gears). This information is available on the [IATTC website](#).

TABLE 19. Notification of vessels active in the previous year, 2018 - 2022

	BLZ	CAN	CHN	COL	CRI	ECU	EUR	GTM	JPN	KOR	MEX*	NIC	PAN	PER	SLV	TWN	USA	VEN	VUT	CHL
2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2020	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2021	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2022	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2023	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Pending report on its small purse-seine vessels, longliners and baitboats for several years, as explained in the Draft Provisional Compliance Report.

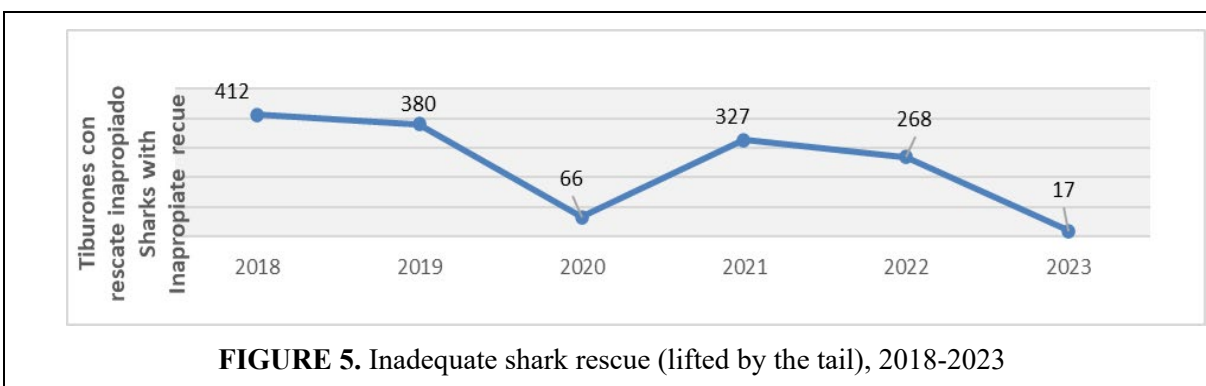
3.16 Resolution [C-16-05](#): Sharks

Resolution [C-16-05](#), paragraph 3: CPCs should require that their flag purse-seine vessels follow the safe release requirements for all sharks, except those retained aboard the vessel. The requirements include a prohibition on the “*use of gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments is prohibited for the handling of sharks. No shark may be lifted by the head, tail, gill slits, or spiracles, or by using bind wire against or inserted through the body, and no holes may be punched through the bodies of sharks.*”

Table 20 contains information about the instances in which, since 2018, observers documented a possible non-compliance with this rule. The table, as well as **Figure 4**, show that there was a spike in the total number of cases in 2021 compared to 2020, but was better in 2023.

TABLE 20. Non-compliance with shark release requirements, 2018- 2023

	2018	2019		2020	2021	2022	2023
	Sharks lifted by the tail	Use of gaffs		Sharks lifted by the tail			
COL	43	-	-	-	9	-	-
ECU	163	-	-	8	3	58	7
EUR (SPN)	6	8	-	7	-	-	-
MEX	71	-		-	-	1	-
PAN	19	-	1	-	-	-	1
SLV	48	323	-	48	-	205	-
USA	50	49	-	3	278	5	9
VEN	12	-		-	37	-	-
Total	412	380	1	66	327	268	17

**FIGURE 5.** Inadequate shark rescue (lifted by the tail), 2018-2023

3.17 Resolution [C-15-04](#): Mobulid rays

Resolution [C-15-04](#), paragraph 4: “CPCs shall record, inter alia through the observer programs, the number of discards and releases of Mobulid rays, indicating the status (dead or alive) and report it to the IATTC ...”.

Paragraph 1: “Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of Mobulid rays (which includes Manta rays and Mobula rays) caught in the IATTC Convention Area.”

The reports are published on the [IATTC website](#) and can be consulted by the general public. To date, the most recent reports for 2023 are from Belize, China, Ecuador, Panama, United States, and Venezuela. From 2022 there are from Colombia, European Union (Spain), and from 2021 from Mexico, and from 2020 Costa Rica. It is understood that this report must be done annually and the Secretariat has information from observers of Class-6 purse-seine vessels but not lower class vessels.

For the longline fleet, some countries indicate that this information is provided in the report of observers on longline vessels. However, if this is the case, the coverage is only 5% and surely information from other vessels without observers could be obtained from the logbooks. It should be noted that recently most CPCs submit their observer reports with 5% coverage and another one for Mobulid rays as well as for whitetip and silky sharks.

3.18 Resolution [C-14-02](#): satellite monitoring

Resolution [C-14-02](#): Fishing vessels over 24 meters LOA must be equipped with an operational satellite vessel monitoring system (VMS).

This provision is generally complied with. CPC reports on the use of VMS are posted on the [IATTC website](#). However, it is important to recall that Resolution C-21-04, in paragraph 25, establishes that VMS data shall be shared with the Secretariat beginning in 2023.

“In order to provide the IATTC scientific staff with valuable information to feed their work, starting in 2023 CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report to the IATTC, utilizing a format to be developed by the IATTC staff and approved by the Commission, complete VMS data for all vessels required to carry VMS pursuant to Resolution C-14-02. The information reported to the Secretariat shall include, at a minimum, the information specified in Paragraphs 2(a) of and 2(b) of that Resolution. Where the flag CPC requires more frequent polling rates, CPCs are encouraged to submit higher-frequency VMS data. Reporting shall occur every two months and with a time delay no longer than 90 days. Data collected pursuant to this paragraph shall be treated in accordance with Resolution C-15-07 on data confidentiality policy and procedures.”

3.19 Recommendation [C-12-11](#): overlap area

Recommendation [C-12-11](#): For vessels listed in the registers of both organizations, the corresponding flag Member shall decide and notify to both Commissions under which of the two commissions those vessels shall operate when fishing in the overlap area, as regards the application, for a period of not less than three years, of the conservation and management measures of that Commission.

On 5 April 2023, a memorandum was sent to the CPCs reminding them of the need to notify the measures they apply in the overlap area, those of the IATTC, the WCPFC or both, in the case of CPCs that are members of both commissions and have vessels registered in both. As a result of the memorandum, information describing the measures adopted has been received and is published on the [IATTC website](#). The measures applied according to the responses received are shown in the table (**Table 21**).

From the 2023 compliance questionnaire, the following responses were obtained:

- **They indicated that its not applicable for them:** Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica (they do not have vessels registered in the WCPFC), Guatemala, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.
- **They indicated that they comply:** Ecuador, and Chinese Taipei

TABLE 21. Measures applied in the overlap area by CPCs of the two organizations and with vessels on the register of both organizations

CPC	Response
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CAN	Its vessels do not operate in the overlap area, but they apply IATTC rules.
CHL	Juts operates in the IATTC area.
CHN	Applies the measures of the two organizations. The catches have to be attributable to the WCPFC.
EUR	Applies IATTC measures.
FRA	Applies WCPFC measures.
JPN	Does not have purse seiners operating in the EPO.
KOR	The measures of both organizations apply. Catches must be attributable to the WCPFC.
SLV	IATTC measures are applied in the overlap zone.
TWN	Applies the measures of the two organizations.
USA	According to the June 2020 regulations, they apply all IATTC management measures in the overlap area.
VUT	For vessels fishing in the overlap area and registered in both commissions, it applies WCPFC measures; however, for vessels only registered in the IATTC, it applies IATTC measures.

3.20 Resolution [C-11-02](#): mitigating the impact of fisheries on seabirds

Resolution [C-11-02](#) is applicable to longline vessels > 24 m LOA only.

Paragraph 1: CPCs shall “report to the IATTC on their implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries”;

Paragraph 5: CPCs shall “inform the IATTC ... annually ... of the mitigation measures that their flag vessels plan to employ”; and

Paragraph 7: CPCs shall “provide annually to the IATTC any available information regarding interactions with seabirds involving their flag vessels in the fishery, including bycatches of seabirds and details of seabird species and all relevant information available from observer or other monitoring programs”.

Some CPCs consider that not all these requirements are applicable to them because they do not have large longline vessels, or their fleets do not interact with seabirds or, in the case of Mexico, because the resolution is not applicable in its waters. The information provided by CPCs is summarized in **Table 22**. The table includes the last year in which the report was received. This is important because the resolution states that information on mitigation measures implemented or interactions of their longliners with seabirds must be submitted annually. These reports are available on the [IATTC website](#). CPCs that did not have longliners operating in the EPO in 2023 are not included in this table: Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Indonesia, Kiribati and Venezuela.

TABLE 22. Reports on interactions with seabirds, 2023																		
Green: report submitted; Yellow: no interactions with seabirds or no operating longliners;																		
Brown: resolution not applicable																		
BLZ	CAN	CHL	CHN	COL	CRI	ECU	EUR	FRA	JPN	KOR	MEX	PAN	PER	SLV	TWN	USA	VEN	VUT
23	21	23	22			23	23		22	23		22		21	22	22	23	21

3.21 Resolution [C-11-03](#): fishing on data buoys

Resolution [C-11-03](#) prohibits fishing less than a nautical mile from a data buoy in the EPO, and requires measures to be taken to avoid entangling the buoys in the fishing gear, and if they are entangled, that they be extracted without damage.

In 2023, there were no reports of vessels fishing or interacting with a research buoy.

3.22 Resolution [C-11-10](#): oceanic whitetip sharks

Resolution [C-11-10](#). CPCs shall:

Paragraph 1: “prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks in the fisheries covered by the Antigua Convention”;

Paragraph 3: “record inter alia, through the observer programs, the number of discards and releases of oceanic whitetip sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to IATTC.”

In 2023, no cases of retention of oceanic whitetip sharks were recorded. Since 2018 possible infractions have not been recorded, with the exception of 2022 when 2 cases occurred in purse-seine vessels with an observer (**Figure 6**).

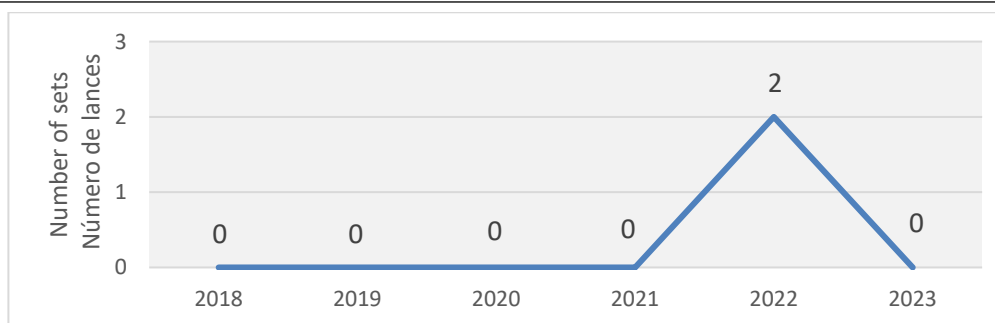


FIGURE 6. Oceanic whitetip sharks retained on purse-seine vessels, 2018-2023

3.23 Resolution [C-09-04](#) on the IDCP

[C-09-04](#): The Commission approved the requirement of the AIDCP of “placing an observer on each trip made in the EPO by [Class-6] purse-seine vessels”.

Exemptions from carrying observers not reported or reported late

In 2023, two vessels departed without an observer without notifying the Secretariat, and on other 11 occasions the Secretariat was not notified on time (**Table 23**). It should be noted that this non-compliance occurs year after year, but generally is due to an administrative problem on the part of the fisheries authorities rather than non-compliance by the vessels, in which case it is up to the respective governments to find ways to ensure prompt notification of the exemptions granted to travel without an observer.

In the case of Ecuador, which did not notify the granting of the exemption to travel without an observer, the Government is analyzing the case, and in the case of Venezuela, it was noted that the vessel traveled with a reduced crew without the possibility of carrying out fishing activities.

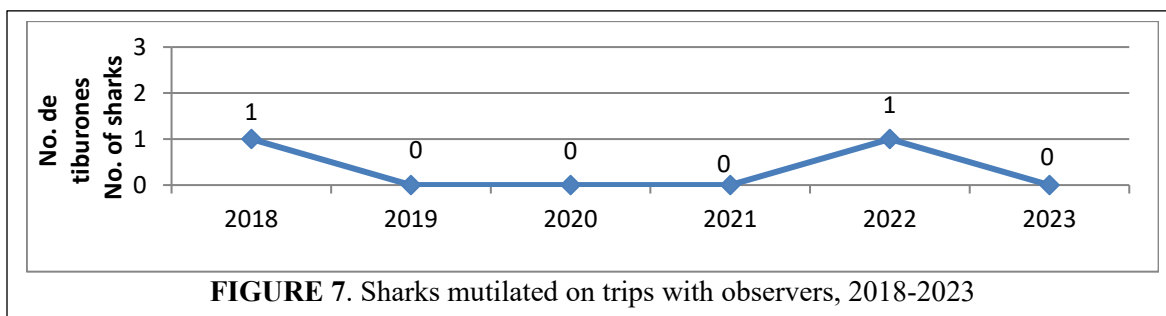
TABLE 23. Trips by Class-6 vessels without an observer, 2023		
No exemption reported to the Secretariat,		
ECU	USA	Total
1	1	2
Exemption reported late to the Secretariat		
ECU	MEX	Total
2	9	11

3.24 Resolution [C-05-03](#): conservation of sharks

[C-05-03](#), paragraph 3: CPCs shall “take the measures necessary to require that their fishers fully utilize any retained catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, and skins, to the point of first landing.”

In 2023, observers on purse-seine tuna fishing vessels did not record cases of shark “finning”. **Figure 7**

shows the cases reported historically since 2006. It should be noted that, in the observer program for transshipments at sea, no such cases (the presence or transshipment of shark fins) were recorded in 2023 either.



C-05-03, paragraph 11: Each CPC shall “*annually report data for catches, effort by gear type, landing and trade of sharks by species, where possible, ... including available historical data*”.

Paragraph 11: CPCs shall send to the Director “*by May 1, at the latest, a comprehensive annual report of the implementation of this Resolution during the previous year*”.

For the purse-seine fishery, complete data from Class-6 vessels with observers are available for all CPCs, as are the data obtained by PROBECUADOR and TUNACONS from smaller vessels. For the longline fishery, information collected by observers is available, whose level of coverage is 5% (Resolution [C-19-08](#)). It should be noted that paragraph 11 also mentions providing, if possible, shark trade data by species, which few reports include. Obviously, these data are not collected by the on-board observer.

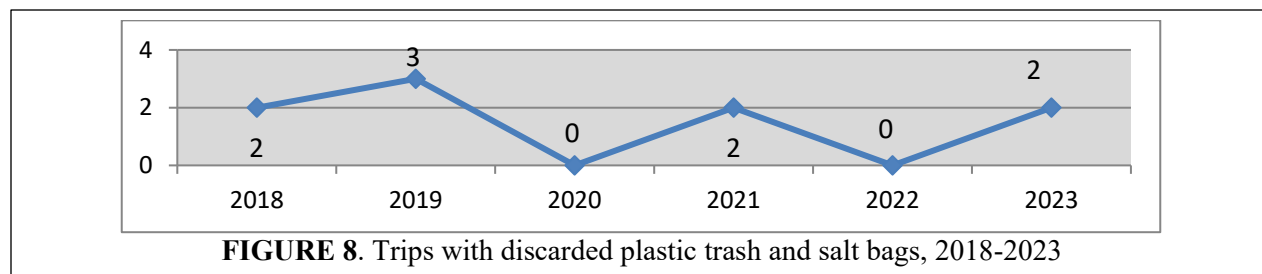
The reports received pursuant to this resolution are published on the [IATTC website](#). The most recent reports are for 2023 from BLZ, CAN, CHL, CHN, COL, ECU, JPN, KOR, MEX, PAN, TWN, USA, EUR, and VEN. For 2021 from PER; for 2020 from GTM; and for 2018 from CRI and SLV.

3.25 Resolution [C-04-05](#): bycatch

Discards of trash at sea

C-04-05, paragraph 4.d.ii, prohibits disposing of salt bags or plastic trash at sea.

In 2021, two cases of possible infractions were reported, and in 2022 none were reported, but 2 cases were registered for 2023. As can be seen, the trend of this possible infraction remains low and close to zero in recent years (**Figure 8**).



3.26 Resolution [C-03-05](#): data provision

C-03-05: CPCs “*and other relevant governments whose vessels fish for species covered by the Commission*” should provide to the Director each year the fisheries data specified in the resolution. They must be provided before 30 June of the following year; *i.e.*, the data for 2021 should arrive by 30 June 2022, the data for 2022 by 30 June 2023, etc.

The failure to send data to IATTC has been classified by COR as a very serious infraction. The missing

information described in **Table 24** could be considered in that situation.

TABLA 24. CPCs que no han provisto información de conformidad con la resolución C-03-05		
CHL	Chile has 1 longline vessel over 24 meters in length (<i>Vama II</i>) registered in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register and has not provided information regarding Task 2 of this Resolution from 2018 to 2022.	
ECU	20 longline vessels longer than 20 m overall with no data for the task 2 for 2019 to 2022	They have offered to submit the information
MEX	It has 209 small longline vessels and 35 pole and line vessels registered in the RVR and has not provided information regarding task 1 of this resolution from 2018 to 2022. Likewise, it has 65 longline vessels of more than 24 meters in length and has not provided information on task 2 from 2018 to 2022	
PER	It has 7 purse-seine vessels smaller than Class 6 with no catch data for 2019-2022. Likewise, there is no Task I information available for other fishing gears for 2022.	

4. CASES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE THAT ARE NOT POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS

4.1 Retention of incidental catches of sharks

Resolution **C-04-05, paragraph 2**, establishes that fishers shall be required to “promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, all sharks, billfishes, rays, dorado, and other non-target species”. However, Resolution **C-05-03, paragraphs 3 and 7**, appears to approve, implicitly, the retention of sharks caught incidentally (that fishers “fully utilize any retained catches of sharks”; that “live sharks ... that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence” be released alive). This situation has implications for compliance, and it would be advisable to resolve it. The information in **Table 25** and **Figure 9** is shown at the request of some CPCs.

TABLE 25. Sharks retained by purse-seine vessels, by CPC, 2018-2023											
	COL	ECU	EUR (SPN)	MEX	NIC	PAN	PER	SLV	USA	VEN	Total
2018	12	56	1	39	2	-	1	-	6	29	146
2019	5	37	-	1	-	7	-	21	11	2	84
2020	0	27	6	1	-	-	-	12	-	-	46
2021	4	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	8	7	28
2022	1	2	-	5	-	-	-	9	11	-	28
2023	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	1	-	5	12

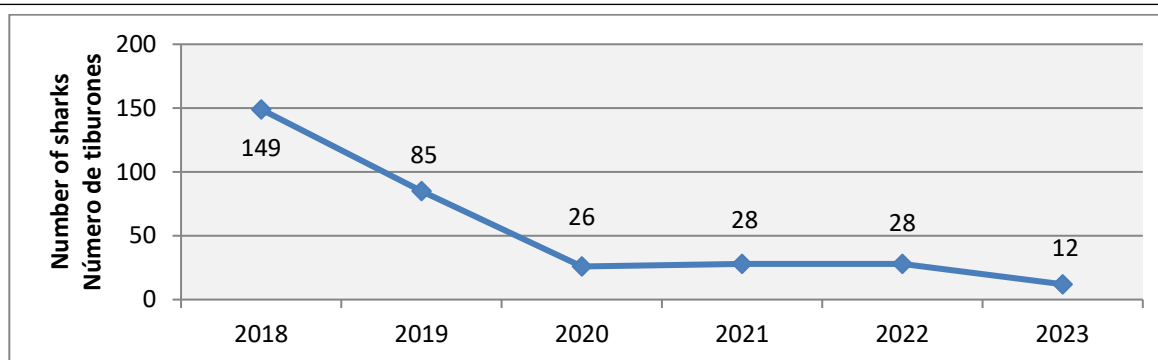


FIGURE 9. Sharks retained on Class-6 purse-seine vessels, 2018-2023

5.FOLLOW-UP ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY CPCs ON POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS IDENTIFIED IN 2018-2023

a) Responses by CPCs to cases of possible non-compliance related to the operations of purse-seine vessels with an observer, 2018-2023

Since 2015, the actions taken by CPCs on cases of possible non-compliance reported in previous years have been monitored, based on the *Compendium of infractions* and now *Draft Provisional Compliance Report*. **Table 26** summarizes the situation with regard to purse-seine vessels with an observer aboard during 2018-2023, and **Table 27** breaks the data down by type of infraction, CPC, and response. It is very important to mention that for 2023, possible infractions due to missing data or reports, which basically corresponds to the Governments, are being accounted for in this table. Previously, only possible infractions from vessels were included. It is important to highlight that for all reported cases regarding the operation of the vessels, there was a response from each CPC.

Response by CPC	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Casos
Under investigation	294	389	74	358	261	471
Infraction	27	39	0	0	0	5
No infraction	331	124	24	21	38	258
No response	25	0	6	8	0	0
TOTAL	677	552	104	387	299	734

Resolution-Possible infraction	Flag	Response/Situation	No. cases
C-02-03			
Increase capacity without reducing it on Regional Register	0	--	0
C-19-04			
Non-compliance with sea turtle release requirements	0	--	
C-04-05			
Discards of trash at sea	ECU	No infraction	1
C-05-03			
Shark "finning"	0	--	0
C-11-03			
Fishing with interaction with data buoys	0	--	0
C-11-10			

Retention of oceanic whitetip sharks	0	--	0
C-12-08			
Use of sealed wells	0	-	0
C-19-06			
Set on whale sharks	0	--	0
C-15-04			
Retention of Mobulid rays or inadequate rescue (measured in sets with incidents)	PAN	Under investigation	1
	USA	Under investigation	2
C-16-05			
Inadequate shark rescue actions (measured in number of sharks affected)	PAN	Under investigation	1
	USA	Under investigation	2
C-21-04			
Sets with discarded tuna	VEN	No infraction	1
	USA	Under investigation	1
Fishing during the closure in the “corralito”	0	-	0
Fishing during a closure	0	0	0
Deploying FADs 15 days before a closure	ECU	Sanction	3
Failure to remove a number of FADs equal to the number of sets on FADs made < 15 days prior to the closure (number of FADs not removed)	ECU	No infraction	1
	PAN	No infraction	1
	ECU	Under investigation	1
	MEX	Under investigation	1
	COL	Under investigation	16
FAD mesh size of 7 cm or greater (number of FADs)	ECU	Under investigation	336
	EUR	No infraction	22
	PAN	No infraction	10
	SLV	No infraction	201
	SLV	Under investigation	2
	USA	Under investigation	108
	VEN	No infraction	8
	ECU	Sanction	1
No. of active buoys greater than authorized in resolution	ECU	Sanction	1
C-21-06			
Retention of silky sharks (in number of retained sharks)	0	--	0
C-09-04			
Transit without notification of waiver during closure period or late notification.	ECU	Late submission. No infraction	4
	ECU	Sanction	1
	MEX	Late submission. No Infraction	8
	VEN	No infraction	1