

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

12TH MEETING

(by videoconference)
 19 August 2021

DOCUMENT COR-12-05

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED
DURING THE PREVIOUS MEETING (11TH) OF THE REVIEW
COMMITTEE: PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES

At its annual meetings, the Review Committee (COR) makes recommendations to the Commission, many of which involve action by the staff. This document lists the recommendations currently requiring action by the staff and/or the Commission, and their current status: **green**: completed; **yellow**: in progress, incomplete; **orange**: pending of discussion in the Commission; **red**: no action.

	Recommendation, COR-11	Status (August 2021)
Recommendations to the Secretariat		
1.	Ensure consistency between the documents submitted to the Committee, especially between the compliance report and the compendium.	A major revision of the working documents has been carried out to ensure full consistency.
2.	To the extent possible, the material submitted for the review of the Review Committee should be in both English and Spanish.	The material is prepared in the two working languages of the IATTC, through the translations that would have been required, including the questionnaires that were filled out by the CPCs.
3.	CPCs should be asked in the Compliance Questionnaire whether, as appropriate, they have complied with the provision of Recommendation C-12-11 regarding notification of which conservation and management measures in the IATTC-WCPFC overlap area would be observed by their vessels included in the Registers of both commissions.	It was not possible to include the question in this year's questionnaire, but it will be included in future questionnaires. However, a memorandum was sent to all CPCs reminding them of this reporting requirement.
4.	That reports on possible infractions concerning shark finning consider that Resolution C-05-03 states in paragraph 4: " <i>CPCs shall require their vessels to have onboard fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing.</i> "	The above was taken into consideration for reporting a possible infraction to the CPCs in relation to the application of these provisions of resolution C-05-03. It should be noted that no cases of this kind of possible infraction have been recorded during the year 2020 for purse-seine vessels with an observer on board.
5.	When reporting observer coverage on longliners, the percentage should not be rounded.	This recommendation has been duly noted and the corresponding reports prepared subsequently do not round the percentage of coverage.

Recommendation, COR-11		Status (August 2021)
Recommendations to the Committee		
6.	<p>The Review Committee should focus time during its next meeting to explore ways to implement the provisions of paragraphs 5-9 of Resolution C-11-07. regarding actions to improve compliance such as:</p> <p>a) Consider a process by which a CPC must report on the steps it plans to take to improve its compliance.</p> <p>b) Consider the development of capacity-building activities and any other mechanisms to support and facilitate compliance.</p>	<p>Consistent with informal discussions with one member, it is expected that a proposal will be submitted for an informal meeting of the Committee to be held during the intersessional period in the spring of 2022, possibly by videoconference, to initiate this exploration as that has been recommended.</p>
7.	<p>The Committee should pay special attention to all cases that were initially reported as under investigation, to ensure that information on their conclusion is provided appropriately, through a transparent and systematic tracking of these cases.</p>	<p>In order to facilitate the implementation of this recommendation, the Secretariat will notify each CPC of the cases that are reported to be under investigation in order for them to submit updated information on the status of each of them, including whether they can be considered concluded.</p>
Recommendations to the Commission		
8.	<p>That CPCs be requested to provide written updates on cases under investigation or concluded, so that this information can be promptly processed by the Secretariat and presented to the Committee and the Commission.</p>	<p>As noted above, the Secretariat will contact each CPC to this effect and to ensure that this information can be received in a timely manner in the future.</p>
9.	<p>That CPCs be requested to use the reporting forms and formats that have been developed by the Secretariat and endorsed by the Commission, such as the FAD data reporting format.</p>	<p>This point has been emphasized on several occasions, however, there is still room for improvement in the process, both in terms of the use of the forms and formats established and made available to the CPCs including on the Commission's web page where they can be downloaded, as well as in terms of the timely delivery of the information. The Secretariat will remain at the disposal of the CPCs to facilitate the implementation of this recommendation.</p>
10.	<p>Monitor the working conditions of observers, including those who are placed on carrier vessels authorized to make transshipments at sea, and urge the respective flag States to take all the necessary corrective measures to ensure their health, welfare, and safety.</p>	<p>The corresponding information is periodically updated and made available to the Commission through the transshipment program database in which all cases of possible infractions regarding the health, welfare and safety of observers are recorded, as well as the responses submitted by the flag CPCs of the carrier vessels involved. It should be mentioned, that, in general terms, this type of infraction decreased between 2019 and 2020 by 25%. In future reports to CPCs, special emphasis will be placed on those vessels that are recidivists in this type of possible infraction.</p>
11.	<p>Encourage the adoption of all appropriate actions to assist and facilitate compliance by CPCs, including through capacity building or other means.</p>	<p>This is an issue to be discussed within the IATTC plenary, or that might be discussed during the informal meeting of the Compliance Committee, which is expected to be proposed as indicated above.</p>

Pending recommendations of the 10th meeting of the COR

All pending recommendations from the tenth meeting of the COR should be discussed at the Commission plenary in order to advance in their implementation.

	Recommendation, COR-10	Status (February 2021)
Recommendations to the Committee / Secretariat		
1.	In order to address cases of wrapping large sharks by the tail to remove them from the net, ask the Secretariat to examine from a scientific perspective any available information on handling of large sharks based on threats to human safety, and determine at the Commission whether the existing protocols in force in the shark resolution may need to be revised. The Committee recognized and reiterated that the shark handling requirements remain in force.	To this end, the Secretariat has signed an agreement with the Spanish technology center AZTI to research technologies to improve the handling and release of megafauna, including sharks. One of the procedures being explored is the use of devices that allow sharks to be manipulated around the tail, but in such a way that the weight of the animal is distributed throughout its body, thus without causing harmful effects on its physical condition. In addition, the project will tag the sharks to monitor them in order to evaluate their post-release survival according to the devices and procedures tested.
2.	The Secretariat should examine what types of data or monitoring would be needed to report on compliance with FAD requirements, including rules on activation/deactivation	The Secretariat has reported on this issue on several occasions. This is a work that is actively in progress..

Pending recommendations of the 9th meeting of the COR

All pending recommendations from the tenth meeting of the COR should be discussed at the Commission plenary in order to advance in their implementation.

	Recommendation, COR-09	Status (May 2019)
Recommendations to the Committee / Secretariat		
1.	Consider whether the timing of the compliance reporting procedure in Resolution C-11-07 can be improved or should be changed, as appropriate, in particular to minimize, when possible, the period of time for the Secretariat to initially report possible infractions to flag States, recognizing that it is also important for national observer programs to submit their data to the Secretariat in a timely way and make direct reports to their flag authorities.	The Secretariat has expressed the need to review these deadlines, but the adoption of a specific recommendation by the Committee or a decision by the Commission is still pending.
2.	The Committee should explore whether a verification step should be added in the reporting of possible infractions, similar to the function of the IRP under the AIDCP.	This is an issue that the Committee and the Commission should address still, in particular which cases should be notified to the CPCs, in a similar manner to what the IRP does in the framework of the AIDCP; this would mean more time and work before the Committee reviews the cases of possible infractions.
Recommendations to the Commission		
1.	Consider clarifying the implementation of paragraph 1 of Resolution C-16-06 on conservation of sharks (silky sharks) regarding the prohibition of retention on board, transshipment, landing or storage, to clarify the scope of applicability of the prohibition.	<p>The Commission should still consider and discuss this matter, since it was unable to do so during its last meeting. It could even, as in the previous recommendation, instruct the Working Group for reviewing the legal and operative coherence of IATTC resolutions to undertake this task and subsequently submit relevant recommendations. As background, it should be recalled that while there is a total ban on retention on board, transshipment, unloading or storage for purse seiners, for longliners there is only a limit of 20% of bycatch, but it is not defined whether it is legal to retain on board, unload or transship that 20%.</p> <p>It should also be clarified whether accidental retention should be considered as a possible infraction.</p>