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UNILATERAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2008

1. INTRODUCTION

The IATTC did not adopt a resolution on tuna conservation for 2008; however, several member countries adopted unilateral management measures intended to conserve tuna (Table 1). We investigate the effectiveness of these measures for the purse-seine fleet by examining the changes in purse-seine fishing effort (measured by days fishing) expected under the measures, and by measuring compliance by Class-6 vessels (over 363 metric tons carrying capacity) with the measures enacted by the respective flag state. A brief evaluation is made of conservation measures for the longline fishery by examining the landings reported for 2008.

2. EFFECTIVENESS OF PURSE-SEINE MEASURES

The conservation measures recommended by the IATTC staff for the purse-seine fishery in 2008 are described in Document [IATTC-78-06b](#)¹. These included a 12-week (84-day) closure in the entire eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), from 20 June through 11 September, and the closure of an offshore area (between 94° and 110°W and from 3°N to 5°S) from 12 September through 31 December.

The duration of the unilateral closures for the entire EPO (Table 1) for Class-6 vessels varied from 42 to 49 days. Therefore, their effectiveness ranged from 50% to 58% of the recommended closure for vessels that complied fully with their flag state's closure.

Four countries enacted separate closures of an offshore area. Three of these used the area in the staff's proposal, and only one covered a period longer than that in the proposal. In aggregate, the conservation effectiveness of these closures was less than that of the recommended closure.

Data recorded by observers aboard Class-6 purse-seine vessels indicate that about 18% of those vessels made sets on tunas during closures of the entire EPO enacted by their respective flag states, and about 29% during closures of the offshore area.

Compliance by purse-seine vessels with the closures established for 2007 in Resolution C-06-02 was also examined. The observer data indicate that the level of compliance was generally high; the exceptions are reported in [Document COM-9-04](#)², the report on compliance with IATTC resolutions in 2007.

3. EFFECTIVENESS OF LONGLINE MEASURES

The conservation measures for the longline fishery proposed by the IATTC staff in 2008, also described in Document IATTC-78-06b, were:

- a. China, Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei shall take the measures necessary to ensure that their total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the EPO during 2008, 2009, and 2010 do not exceed the following levels:

¹ <http://iattc.org/PDFFiles2/IATTC-78-06b-Conservation-recommendationsREV2.pdf>

² <http://iattc.org/PDFFiles2/COM-9-04-Compliance-Report-2007REV.pdf>

China	2,190 t
Japan	28,283 t
Korea	10,438 t
Chinese Taipei	6,601 t

- b. Other CPCs shall take the measures necessary to ensure that their total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the EPO during 2008, 2009, and 2010 do not exceed the greater of 83% of 2001 catches or 500 t.

The only country with a major industrial longline fishery in the EPO that enacted a conservation measure for the longline fishery was Japan, which set a limit higher than that in the staff's proposal. However, the landings reported by the four CPCs with the largest longline fleets for 2008 were well below those in the staff's proposal (see [longline catches for 2008 reported on the IATTC website](http://iattc.org/IATTCLonglineCatches2008ENG.htm)³).

³ <http://iattc.org/IATTCLonglineCatches2008ENG.htm>

TABLE 1. Unilateral tuna conservation measures enacted in 2008 for vessels fishing in the EPO.

	Applicability	Closure period, entire EPO	Closure, offshore area	Measures for FADs	Catches of juvenile fish	Additional measures
Colombia	All purse-seine vessels	Staggered closure; Class 6, 49 days; others, 30 days	No fishing on FADs between 94° and 110°W from 3°N to 5°S, 01 Aug - 31 Dec	No fishing on FADs in national EEZ	Catches of tunas less than 3 lbs prohibited	Landing in national ports of tunas caught in contravention to these measures prohibited
Ecuador	All Class-5 and 6 purse-seine vessels	Class-6 vessels: 42 days, 01 Aug - 11 Sep; not required to be in port during closure. Class-5 vessels: one 30-day trip with observer aboard during closure	No fishing between 100° and 116°W from 2°N to 3°S, 12 Sep -11 Oct	In 2009, Class-6 vessels must use sorting grids for excluding small fish		
Spain	Purse-seine vessels	42 days; 01 Aug - 11 Sep.				
Guatemala	.	One of two 49-day periods: 01 Aug - 18 Sep or 13 Nov - 31 Dec. Vessels must be in port	No fishing between 94° and 110°W from 3°N to 5°S, 01 Nov - 31 Dec			
Japan	Longline vessels					Bigeye: catch limit of 34,076 t
Mexico	Purse-seine vessels	1 Dec 2008 - 15 Jan 2009				
Nicaragua		49 days 2 vessels: 01 Aug - 18 Sep. 2 vessels: 13 Nov - 31 Dec. 1 vessel: 01 Aug - 11 Sep				
Panama		13 vessels: 01 Aug -18 Sep 13 vessels: 13 Nov - 31 Dec.				
Peru	Purse-seine and longline vessels	For purse seine vessels: 49 days; 01 Aug - 18 Sep				Landing in national ports of tunas caught in contravention to these measures prohibited Bigeye: longline catch limit of 500 t
Venezuela	All purse-seine and longline fisheries for tunas	One of two 49-day periods: 01 Aug - 18 Sep or 20 Nov 2008 - 8 Jan 2009. Vessels must be in port	No fishing between 94° and 110°W from 3°N to 5°S, 19 Sep - 19 Nov	Develop pilot program to obtain information on FADs, including marking FADs, beginning at the end of 2008		Landing in national ports, transshipments of, and transactions in tunas caught in contravention to these measures prohibited