

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

13TH MEETING

(by videoconference)

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SYNOPSIS OF LONGLINE OBSERVER DATA REPORTING PURSUANT TO
RESOLUTION [C-19-08](#)

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This document and accompanying tables summarize current reporting by IATTC CPCs¹ pursuant to Resolution [C-19-08](#). Resolution C-19-08 amended and replaced Resolution C-11-08, updating the requirements and formats for CPCs' reporting of observer data to the Commission. Through C-19-08, CPCs adopted a new standardized template for annual summary reporting for fishing effort and bycatch interactions (Annex A of the Resolution) and formalization of two options for minimum data standards to be collected by longline observers and reported to the Commission (Annex B of the Resolution), which were previously approved and adopted by SAC-08 under C-11-08.

1. LIST OF LONGLINE VESSELS THAT FISHERD IN THE EPO IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

For the purposes of this report, IATTC staff assume that the provisions of C-19-08 applied to all CPCs with longline vessels >20 m LOA on the Regional Vessel Register (RVR) in 2021. In some cases, this assumption is based on the listing of a CPC's longline vessels on the RVR without an indication of the vessels length overall (LOA). That is, if the vessel's LOA is not listed, we must assume that it could be greater than 20 m and the requirements of C-19-08 apply.

In other cases, sometimes a CPC may have one or more qualifying longline vessels on the RVR, but they do not fish in the relevant year, and so the longline observer requirements do not apply. In order to avoid mistaken application of these and other requirements, the Commission included in Resolution C-18-06, paragraph 5, which states that "*CPCs shall notify the Director by 30 June each year of their vessels on the Regional Vessel Register flying their flag that were actively fishing in the IATTC Convention Area for species covered by the Convention from 1 January to 31 December of the previous year.*" However, because the deadline for this submission is not until June 30, this means that in most cases, the lists of active vessels are not submitted in time to inform the reporting assessments in this paper. Without a clear indication of which CPCs had qualifying vessels that were inactive in the previous year, we assume that the longline observer requirements applied to any CPC that had longline vessels >20 m LOA on the RVR in the previous year.

¹ Members and Cooperating non-Members

2. ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORTS

Each CPC subject to the longline observer coverage requirement is required to submit an annual summary report to the SAC using the template provided in Annex A of C-19-08. To facilitate reporting, IATTC staff developed fillable electronic versions of Annex A—in English and Spanish—for ease of [download](#) and submission. The primary purpose of summary reporting is for each CPC to demonstrate compliance with two specific requirements under the Resolution, those being at least 5% observer coverage of their total longline fishing effort, and that this coverage is representative of the activities of their entire fleet, particularly with regards to ‘shallow’ and ‘deep’ sets. C-19-08 defines longline fishing effort as either “as the number of effective days of fishing² or hooks deployed.” The summary reports received for 2021 are posted on the [SAC-13 meeting page](#) under “INF Longliners scientific observer program annual reports 2021.”

Table 1 summarizes compliance by each CPC with the requirement to submit a summary report using Annex A and to report the percent observer coverage. Black cells indicate the CPC had at least one qualifying longline vessel on the RVR in 2021 but subsequently informed the Director that the vessel(s) did not fish in the EPO or did not fish for IATTC species. The majority of reporting CPCs indicated they met the 5% observer coverage requirement, or project that they will have done so once all of their 2021 longline observer data are processed. However, as in past years, there are a number of CPCs that have qualifying longline vessels on the RVR, but which have not submitted summary reporting on their longline observer coverage or, alternately, informed IATTC that their vessels were not active in 2021.

² As defined by SAC-03 in 2012

TABLE 1. Summary of Annex A reporting by CPC showing whether Annex A was submitted, the percent observer coverage reported in 2021, and the fishing effort metric used to calculate observer coverage. Cell color denotes whether a CPC correctly completed and submitted Annex A (green). Red cells denote that a CPC had longline vessels >20 LOA on the IATTC RVR (or longline vessels without registered LOAs) but did not report. Black cells indicate that although the CPC had qualifying vessels on the RVR, C-19-08 did not apply in 2021 because the relevant vessels were not active or did not fish for IATTC species. Orange cells denote incomplete, preliminary data or other issues.

CPC	Annex A Summary submitted?	% Observer coverage reported 2020
BLZ	Yes	0% - CPC reports that vessels only operated for 5 days in 2021 and no observers were deployed
CHL	NA	qualifying vessels did not operate in 2021
CHN	Yes	8.9% (# hooks); 9.2% (effective days fished)
CRI	No	
ECU	Yes	9% (effective days fished)
EU	Yes	0.8% effective days fished
FRA	No	
GTM	No	
JPN	No	
KOR	Yes	0.7% (effective days fished) preliminary data
MEX	Yes	9.5% (effective days fished)
NIC	No	
PAN	P	CPC indicated that they had LL observer program in 2021, and summary reporting is pending
PER	No	
SLV	NA	Qualifying vessels changed gear type, no longer LL vessels
TWN	Yes	0.6% (effective days fished) preliminary data; final expected to be 13%
USA	Yes	21% (# hooks)
VEN	NA	qualifying vessels did not operate in 2021
VUT	No	

3. OPERATIONAL OBSERVER DATA

In 2017, SAC-08 established minimum data standards for the reporting of operational longline observer data to the Commission, allowing CPCs to choose between reporting (a) data recorded on the IATTC longline observer forms, or (b) data representing a subset of the WCPFC list of minimum standard data fields. These minimum standards were reaffirmed by the Commission with the adoption of C-19-08 and are

found in Annex B of that Resolution. Under C-19-08, submissions of longline observer data for the previous year are due by June 30 of the following year.

Since the 5% observer requirement has been in force since 2013, CPCs should possess the operational observer data for 2013–2017 that is required to be reported to the Commission. However, some CPCs have not submitted longline observer data for these all relevant years, or in some cases have never submitted operational longline observer data. In some instances, it is possible that CPCs are reflected as not reporting when, in fact, the requirement did not apply to them in a given year but updating this table to increase its accuracy requires the input of the relevant CPCs. IATTC staff requests that CPCs with “red” cells listed in Table 2 inform the Commission of the disposition for each year by indicating which of the following situations apply:

1. CPC did not have a qualifying longline vessel(s) operating in this fishing year and thus the requirement does not apply (e.g., there were longline vessels over 20 meters length overall on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, but they were not active or were not fishing for IATTC species).
2. CPC had qualifying longline vessel(s) operating in this fishing year, but the CPC did not have a longline observer program; and so there are no longline observer data to provide.
3. CPC had qualifying longline vessel(s) operating in this fishing year and some portion of that effort was observed, but the data have not yet been submitted to the Commission. *Where this response is relevant, please also indicate when you plan to submit this data and identify any challenges that must first be overcome.*
4. Other. *Please explain.*

Where Director has not received any clarifying information from a CPC for a given year, the cells in **Table 2** remain red, indicating that the longline observer requirements are presumed to have applied and that no operational observer data for that year has been received.

TABLE 2. Status of reporting of operational observer data by CPCs, by year. Cell color denotes whether a CPC reported operational observer data (green), intends to submit data in the near future (orange), nominated not to report, or were exempt from reporting (black), or have not reported (red).

Status of reporting of operational observer data by CPCs									
CPC	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
BLZ	NR ²	NR ²	P	P	P	P	NR ³		
CHL							NA ¹	NA ¹	
CHN									
CRI							NR ²		
ECU	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
EU (Portugal)	NR	NR	NR		NR	NR			
EU (Spain)	NR	NR	NR	NR					
FRA									
GTM	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NA	NA	NA		
JPN	NR ¹	NR ¹							
KOR									
MEX									
NIC					NA ¹			NA ¹	
PAN	NR ²	P							
PER	NA ¹								
SLV	NA ¹	NA							
TWN									
USA									
VEN					NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	
VUT									

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

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

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

P- CPC has indicated that data will be submitted soon