

The Pew Charitable Trusts Statement to the 1st IATTC Meeting of the Special Biennial Committee for Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission

August 2024

One of the primary responsibilities of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) is to ensure that its Members comply with regulations intended to manage and conserve the tuna and tuna-like species, associated species, and their ecosystems that are found throughout the Eastern Pacific Ocean. Since 2010 the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission has been responsible for this task, providing a venue for Members to review compliance with Resolutions adopted by the Commission. The Pew Charitable Trusts commends Members for agreeing to hold this Special Biennial meeting and welcomes the opportunity to share our views on how the Committee can continue to strengthen its processes and effectively carry out its mandate.

Agenda Item 3: Strengths and Weaknesses of the Current IATTC Compliance Review Process

In 2020 and 2021, a series of three workshops and two compliance review-focused webinars were convened by Pew, in collaboration with the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation. Building on the outcomes of those workshops, along with existing RFMO practices, a group of international experts developed [a toolkit](#) that provides RFMOs with approaches and guidance to strengthen and effectively implement processes to review and improve member compliance.

Based on the recommendations included in the toolkit, we have identified several areas of strength of the current Commission Compliance Review Process, along with areas that could be improved.

Strengths:

- The Commission has adopted (through C-22-02) defined timeframes for submission of data and completion of provisional reports.
- The IATTC webpage highlights active recommendations.
- Capacity funding is available to help members attend meetings of the Compliance Committee in person.
- Observers can attend the entire Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission meeting and can effectively engage in all discussions.

Weaknesses:

- Unlike other tuna RFMOs there are no pre-agreed actions, either sanctions or incentives, to confirmed cases of noncompliance.
- There is little to no action taken in response to repeat offenses.
- Not all instances of noncompliance are categorized.
- There is no automated online submission system for compliance data submission.
- There is no agreed format for submission of compliance data.

- Member responses to potential instances of non-compliance lack detail in why they did not adhere to IATTC Resolutions.
- There is little or no capacity funding to support Members in making changes to improve adherence to Resolutions.
- Compliance questionnaires are lengthy

Agenda Item 4: Priority elements of a draft work plan workplan

Based on the strengths and weaknesses identified above, Pew recommends that the Committee prioritize the following elements for inclusion in a draft workplan. These actions would assist in improving compliance with Commission regulations, increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Compliance Committee, or have positive effects on both areas.

Theme- Addressing noncompliance

1. Development of a criterion to categorize serious or very-serious infractions.
2. Development of a system of pre-agreed corrective actions in response to identified cases of noncompliance and repeat offenses.

Theme – Capacity Building

3. Improving the effectiveness of the Commission’s Capacity building programs by creating a process to request capacity assistance, increase available funding, and identifying common types of capacity requests.

Theme – Resolutions

4. Increasing clarity of the obligations included in each Resolution, including through development of audit points.

Theme – Data Collection and Reporting

5. Implementing necessary improvements to compliance data reporting, including development of an automated online submissions system.
6. Designing and adopting reporting templates to ensure uniformity and the inclusion of appropriate details in each Member’s compliance-related submissions.

Theme – Follow Up

7. Addressing other issues identified by Members during the meeting or which were included in previous COR Recommendations.