

**IATTC REPORTING OBLIGATIONS  
ON RESOLUTIONS C-19-04/ C-11-02  
ON TURTLES AND SEABIRDS  
FOR LONGLINE VESSELS  
PORTUGAL | 2023**



Report progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines to reduce the by-catch, injury, and mortality of sea turtles in fishing operations and to ensure the safe handling of all captured sea turtles, in order to improve their survival, including information collected on interactions with sea turtles in fisheries managed under the Convention.

Report progress of implementation of the IATTC resolution to mitigate the impact on seabirds of fishing for species and the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries knowing that the extent of interactions between seabirds and fisheries, and the evaluation of how seabird bycatch mitigation measures can be most effectively applied.

The operators of vessels for pelagic longline fisheries permanently informed of all the measures adopted by IATTC including those taken to mitigate the impact on seabirds of fishing for species covered by IATTC and to avoid by-catches of sea turtles.

During 2023, four Portuguese longliners were active in IATTC area:

REGISTRATION NUMBER	VESSEL'S NAME	NATIONAL ID NUMBER	FISHING GEAR
PRT000023398	MAR DE JAVA	PTVDC-117632-N	Surface Longline
PRT000022914	AVO MUSICO	PTVDC-118159-N	Surface Longline
PRT000023097	BALUEIRO	PTOLH-117343-N	Surface Longline
PRT000019088	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE	PTVDC-113651-N	Surface Longline

During 2023 these interactions were registered by the Portuguese vessels regarding marine turtles:

DATE	POSITION	SCIENTIFIC NAME	FAO CODE	FATE	ACTIONS TAKEN
07/01/2023	26°54'5 118°42'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
21/01/2023	21°48'S 111°07'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
07/02/2023	22°08'S 111°03'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
09/02/2023	21°58'S 111°10'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
12/02/2023	21°29'S 111°26'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook

18/02/2023	22°05'S 112°13'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
28/02/2023	22°21'S 107°51'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
24/04/2023	04°30'N 109°14'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
28/04/2023	04°36'N 110°20'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
22/05/2023	00°01'N 106°30'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
30/05/2023	00°23'N 105°18'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
12/06/2023	01°37'N 103°53'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
15/06/2023	01°35'N 103°52'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
20/06/2023	01°15'N 103°42'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
11/07/2023	00°33'N 097°20'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
17/07/2023	00°37'N 099°34'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
14/08/2023	00°50'S 117°54'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
27/08/2023	00°55'S 117°20'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
26/09/2023	00°53'S 117°01'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
22/10/2023	17°39'S 103°40'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
26/10/2023	00°28'S 118°11'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook
03/11/2023	01°14'S 117°04'W	Dermochelys coriacea	DKK	Alive	Released without hook

During 2023 no interactions were registered by the Portuguese vessels regarding sea-birds.

Only two (AVÔ MÚSICO E MAR DE JAVA) of 4 active vessels in the IATTC area, declared interactions with turtles in 2023.

In order to minimize the impact of the interactions with marine turtles and seabirds (In attached (Declaracion capitán Balueiro) we send the statement of the captain of the vessel **BALUEIRO**), mitigation measures utilized are consisted to:

## 1. MARINE TURTLES

- Large circle hooks were used and adequate equipment for the disentanglement of turtles was available onboard. (Circle hooks are already being used at a rate

of 50% in longline sets).Release techniques are used with line cutters and de-hooker sticks. (Ex. Vessel is equipped with rods to release turtles if accidentally cached, as described in picture (see attached file “Pertiga tortugas\_Balueiro”);

- The operators are permanently informed of all time-and area closures eventually decided by IATTC;
- Manuals are regularly made available to the industry, containing instructions and information for a proper use of this equipment and for identification of the various species of marine turtles;
- Fishermen have information on handling methods to assess the condition of the turtles before releasing, identifying the species name, return to the sea, ensuring higher survival rates and reducing post-release mortality. The Interaction is recorded on logbook;
- At national level there is a policy to encourage all operators of vessels for pelagic longline fisheries to adopt measures to avoid by-catches of sea turtles, in different international areas.

## 2. SEABIRDS

- Deep setting line shooter(The vessel uses hydraulic equipment to begin the fisheries operations with the main line less than 1 m from the stern so the hooks can sink rapidly);
- Use of Tori lines (In attached photograph of the tori lines as a mitigation measure on birds (file “balueiro pajareras\_Balueiro” and “Pajareras Balueiro”);
- Side-setting with bird curtains and weighted branch lines.

Application of the IATTC Guidelines	Yes	No
Use only large circle hooks	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, BALUEIRO	AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA
Use only finfish for bait	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA	BALUEIRO
Another mitigation measure to reduce sea turtle bycatch that has been approved by the IATTC Commission		HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, BALUEIRO, MAR DE JAVA

Mitigation measures					
Specifications in Table I and Annex 2 of Resolution C-11-02					
Column A			Column B		

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Side-setting with bird curtains and weighted branch lines	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, BALUEIRO		Tori line	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, BALUEIRO, MAR DE JAVA	
Night setting with minimum deck lighting	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA		Weighted branch lines	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA	
Tori-line	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA		Blue-dyed bait		
Weighted branch lines	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE, AVO MUSICO, MAR DE JAVA		Deep-setting line shooter		
			Underwater setting chute	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE	
			Management of offal discharge	HEMISFÉRIO NORTE	

Lisbon, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023