

JOINT WORKING GROUP ON FISHING BY NON-PARTIES

8TH MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
6 JUNE 2009

DOCUMENT JWG-8-05

COOPERATING NON-PARTIES OR FISHING ENTITIES

In 2004 the IATTC and the AIDCP Parties adopted parallel resolutions, [C-04-02](#) and [A-04-08](#), which establish the criteria for attaining the status of cooperating non-Party or cooperating fishing entity in the respective organizations. These criteria include requirements relating to the provision of information, compliance with conservation and management measures, and participation in meetings.

In 2007 the IATTC adopted Resolution [C-07-02](#), which replaced C-04-02. The resolutions establish that each year, the Director (Secretariat) shall contact all non-parties and fishing entities with vessels known to be fishing for covered species to urge them to become a Party to the IATTC (AIDCP) or to attain the status of a Cooperating Non-Party or Cooperating Fishing Entity (Cooperating Status).

The resolutions further establish that any non-party or fishing entity that seeks to be accorded Cooperating Status shall apply to the Director (Secretariat) requesting such status. Such requests must be received by the Director (Secretariat) no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an annual meeting of the Commission (Parties) in order to be considered at that meeting.

The resolutions also state that the Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties shall be responsible for reviewing requests for Cooperating Status and for recommending to the Commission (Parties) whether an applicant should receive Cooperating Status.

At its 79th meeting, in November 2008, the IATTC approved the recommendation made by the Joint Working Group that the cooperating non-Parties to the IATTC in 2009 would be Belize, Canada, China, Cook Islands, and the European Union. Chinese Taipei was determined to be a cooperating fishing entity.

It should be noted that, pursuant to paragraph 7 of Resolution C-07-02, "Any Cooperating Non-Party or Cooperating Fishing Entity that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Antigua Convention or the Instrument for the Participation of Fishing Entities . . . shall be exempted from submission of the annual application for Cooperating Status . . . Such Cooperating Status shall be subject to annual review as prescribed in paragraph 5 above, and may be revoked by the Commission, if the Cooperating Non-Party or Cooperating Fishing Entity has not complied with the criteria for attaining such status established by this resolution."

Belize, Canada, China, and the European Union have signed and/or ratified the Antigua Convention, and Chinese Taipei has signed the instrument noted above; consequently, these governments do not need to submit an application for Cooperating Status. It is assumed that they all wish to continue in that status.

As a result of this provision of Resolution C-07-02, this year the only applicants for Cooperating Non-Party Status to the IATTC are the Cook Islands and the Republic of Kiribati. Kiribati is a new applicant; the Secretariat circulated its request on 26 March 2009.

Pursuant to the Commission's procedures, Kiribati's request will be decided by the Commission at its 80th meeting, as will the continued cooperating status of Belize, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Cook Islands, and the European Union.

The Secretariat is not aware of any reasons why the Cooperating Status of all seven interested governments should be called into question. The specific requirements mentioned in Resolution C-07-02 have essentially been met by all of them.