

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

89TH MEETING

Guayaquil (Ecuador)
29 June-3 July 2015

PROPOSAL IATTC-89 M-1 REV

SUBMITTED BY MEXICO

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-11-08 ON OBSERVERS ON LONGLINE VESSELS

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The current resolution C-11-08 on observers on longline vessels makes it obligatory to have a coverage of 5% of fishing effort made by its longline fishing vessels more than 20 meters long.

Within the recommendations on tuna conservation for this year, the scientific staff the IATTC notes as follows:

“The information provided is insufficient for a rigorous evaluation of the adequacy of 5% coverage for their longline fisheries. The data show that 5% is too low a level of coverage to allow accurate estimates of the catch of species caught infrequently in those fisheries. In other studies in which large amounts of information has been collected, a 20% level of coverage has been calculated to be adequate to provide reliable estimates of the infrequently-caught species.

The staff maintains its recommendation of 20% observer coverage of large longline vessels until sufficient information is available to justify a revision.”

In this context, it is considered advisable that the current resolution be modified in order to accommodate a coverage that is necessary and greater than 20%.

The changes that should be made to the current resolution are indicated below.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on the occasion of its 82nd Meeting:

Recognising the need to collect better scientific information on target species as well as comprehensive data on interactions with non-target species, in particular, sea turtles, sharks and seabirds;

Noting the need to ensure and promote uniform and equitable treatment of all tuna-fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area;

Noting that large purse-seine vessels operating in the Antigua Convention Area are required to carry 100% scientific observers aboard, in accordance with the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program;

Taking into account and reaffirming the recommendation by the Commission’s scientific staff to increase the coverage by observers of large longline vessel fishing effort by observers to 20%;

Agrees that:

1. Each Member and cooperating non-Member (CPCs) shall ensure that, from 1 January 2016:
 - a. ~~At~~ at least 20% of the fishing effort made by its longline fishing vessels greater than ~~20-30~~ me-

tres length overall carry a scientific observer.

b. At least % of the fishing effort made by its longline fishing vessels greater than 25 metres length overall and less than 30 metres length overall carry a scientific observer.

c. At least 5% of the fishing effort made by its longline fishing vessels less than 25 metres length overall carry a scientific observer.

2. Fishing effort shall be determined by the number of fishing days.
3. Each CPC shall ensure that observer coverage will be representative of the activities of its fleet.
4. The main task of the scientific observers shall be to record any available biological information, the catches of targeted fish species, species composition and any available biological information as well as any interactions with non-target species such as sea turtles, seabirds and sharks.
5. The Director, in cooperation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall review the reporting format detailing the required data to be collected by scientific observers on longline vessels and will communicate it to the Commission.
6. Scientific observers shall submit to their flag CPC authorities a report on these observations at the latest 30 days after the end of each fishing trip.
- ~~7.~~ Every year, CPCs shall submit to the Scientific Advisory Committee, through the Director, by 31 March, the scientific observers' information on the previous year's fishery in a format established by the Scientific Advisory Committee.
7. Recognizing that the electronic observers systems (CCTV[1]) are progressing substantially and considering the good opportunity that those systems could bring to improve observer coverage, the Scientific Committee at its next meeting in 2016, is instructed by the Commission to -analyze the feasibility, including costs and benefits for the application of verifiable electronic observer systems on board tuna vessels.
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