INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

87TH MEETING

Lima (Peru)
14-18 July 2014

PROPOSAL IATTC-87 H-1

SUBMITTED BY JAPAN

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY

1. Japan is concerned about over capacity of purse seine fishing vessels in the Eastern Pacific Ocean as it is likely to negatively affect stocks of tunas and species incidentally caught, especially where there is no catch limit on these stocks. Although IATTC has been adopting the measures on specified closure period and area to offset such negative impacts, adjustment of capacity to the level commensurate with the stock level would be much better in terms of enforcement feasibility and response to unexpected decrease of stocks of tunas.
2. In addition to this, the results of the stock assessment of bigeye in the EPO provided at the 5th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee indicate that the decline of the spawning biomass that began at the start of 2010 persisted through 2013, and reduced both summary and spawning biomasses to their lowest historic levels at the start of 2014. The results of the stock assessment also show that both the recent fishing mortality rates and levels of spawning biomass are estimated to be slightly below the level corresponding to MSY.
3. Japan submitted a draft resolution on Management of Fishing Capacity to the previous meetings of IATTC. Taking into account comments received from the Technical Experts Workshop on the capacity of the tuna-fishing fleet in the EPO, Japan has revised the draft and herewith submitted to the 87th Meeting of IATTC.
4. The Commission needs to proceed to the reduction of the excessive fishing capacity in the EPO in accordance with Resolution C-02-03. Japan hopes that this draft will be a good basis for discussions on capacity issues.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Lima, Peru~~, La Jolla, California (USA)~~ on the occasion of its 87th~~83rd~~ Meeting:

Concerned that purse-seine fishing capacity in the eastern Pacific Ocean (hereinafter referred to as "EPO") has been increasing in recent years;

Understanding that excess fishing capacity in a region makes it more difficult for governments to consent on and implement effective conservation and management measures for the fisheries of that region;

Believing that it is important to limit fishing capacity in the EPO in order to help ensure that the tuna fisheries in the region are conducted at a sustainable level;

Recalling that the Commission adopted Resolution on the Capacity of the Tuna Fleet Operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (C-02-03) at the 69th Meeting in 2002 in order to address the problem of excess capacity in the tuna purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO;

Further recalling that the Commission adopted Plan for Regional Management of Fishing Capacity at the 73rd Meeting in 2005 toward the same objective;

Concerned that the results of the stock assessment of bigeye in the EPO provided at the 5TH meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee indicate:

- The decline of the spawning biomass that began at the start of 2010 persisted through 2013, and reduced both summary and spawning biomasses to their lowest historic levels at the start of 2014; and
- Both the recent fishing mortality rates and levels of spawning biomass are slightly below the level corresponding to MSY.

Reminded that Article VII, paragraph 1 (h) of the Antigua Convention reads "adopt appropriate measures to prevent or eliminate over-fishing and excess fishing capacity and to ensure that levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention";

Agrees:

I. CAPACITY MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR PURSE-SEINE FISHING VESSELS

Objective

1. The Commission shall gradually reduce the capacity of purse seine fishing vessels in order to ensure sustainable use of tuna stocks in the EPO.

Basic principle

2. Any capacity change under this scheme shall be effective only with the consent of the flag Member and Cooperating non-Member of IATTC (hereinafter referred to as "CPC").

Reduction of capacity

3. The total fishing~~active~~ capacity of purse seine fishing vessels shall be gradually reduced to 158,000 cubic meters, while giving due consideration to development of purse seine fisheries by coastal developing CPCs. The benchmark "158,000 cubic meters" may be changed by the Commission based on advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the scientific staff of the Secretariat.

4. Reduction of fishing~~active~~ capacity will be achieved automatically~~by automatic reduction of active capacity~~ at the time of replacing current active vessels in accordance with paragraph 5 and 6 below. ~~This automatic reduction shall be applied to any case including those caused by force majeure.~~The reduction rate referred to in these paragraphs may be changed by the Commission based on advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the scientific staff of the Secretariat.

Automatic reduction of capacity at the time of replacing current active vessels

5. When an active purse seine vessel is replaced by a second-hand vessel, no more than 90% of the existing vessel's capacity shall be used (i.e., the capacity of the replacing second-hand vessel must be 90% or less than that of the one to be replaced). When an active purse seine vessel is replaced by a newly built vessel, no more than 80% of the existing vessel's capacity shall be used (i.e., the capacity of the replacing newly built vessel must be 80% or less than that of the one to be replaced). CPCs shall not increase number of its purse seine vessels utilizing this scheme.

6. If available/inactive capacity is used~~activated~~ for purchasing a second-hand vessel or constructing a new one, the actual capacity of the vessel shall be no more than 95% of the available/inactive

capacity ~~used~~ (i.e., if 500 cubic meters of available/inactive capacity is used, the actual capacity of the vessel shall be no more than 450 cubic meters. When such a vessel is replaced with a second-hand vessel or a newly built vessel, paragraph 5 above shall be applied.). The purchased capacity may not be activated until the documented proof certifying that the purchased vessel has been scrapped is provided to the Secretariat.

7. In case the vessel, which was previously introduced in accordance with paragraph 5, is replaced again due to force majeure within the period of ten (10) years from the date of the previous introduction, ~~After an active purse seine vessel is replaced with a second-hand vessel or a newly built vessel in accordance with paragraph 5,~~ the vessel replaced~~such a second-hand vessel or a newly built vessel~~ shall be exempted from paragraph 5 ~~for 10 years if the vessel must be replaced again due to force majeure~~. Under no circumstances, however, the capacity of the new vessel shall be no more than that of the previous one.

Others

8. This scheme does not cover any capacity of purse seine fishing vessels under disputes.

II. CAPACITY MONITORING SCHEME FOR LONG LINE FISHING VESSELS

Objective

9. The objective of the scheme is to enable the Commission to properly monitor changes in total active capacity of long line fishing vessels operating in the EPO so that the Commission will be able to consider introduction of capacity management measures in the future.

Basic principle

10. Each CPC shall report its active long line fishing capacity every year in accordance with the scheme below.

Scheme

11. By the end of 2014~~2012~~, each CPC shall report to the Director the number of tuna long line fishing vessels (hereinafter referred to as "TLFV") under their flag which actually operated in the EPO in 2013~~2011~~. The number of TLFV shall be reported in accordance with the following categories:

    1. 24 m or greater in overall length
    2. Less than 24 m in overall length with freezing capacity
    3. Less than 24 m in overall length without freezing capacity

    In 2013 and thereafter, each CPC shall submit such information for the previous year to the Director by the end of March.

12. The Director shall compile the information submitted in accordance with paragraph 3 and 4 above by CPCs by category and circulate it to all CPCs one month prior to the annual meeting.

13. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall evaluate relative impact of each category and report the result back to the 2014 Commission meeting.