INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

17TH MEETING

Lisbon, Portugal, 25-26 August 2026

PUBLIC SUMMARY OF THE FINAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

This summary has been prepared by the IATTC staff in consultation with the Chair of the COR, in strict adherence to the applicable confidentiality rules and in accordance with Recommendation 12 of COR-16, which requests the Committee, upon conclusion of its meeting, to make public a summary of the *Final Compliance Report*, excluding confidential information, after allowing sufficient time for its review by the CPCs. This is further reinforced by Recommendation 2 of COR-17, which specifies that once reviewed by the CPCs —30 days after the conclusion of the meeting of the Commission— the public summary of the *Final Compliance Report* shall be published on the public meeting webpage within 90 days after the conclusion of the meeting of the Commission.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), through its Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (COR), held its 17th meeting (COR-17) in Lisbon, Portugal. The meeting reviewed 65 cases of possible non-compliance identified during 2025 and assessed the overall compliance performance of Members and Cooperating Non-Members with respect to each of the IATTC resolutions in force.

This report summarizes the status of the cases reviewed and the areas where the instances of non-compliance identified by the fleet and the CPCs during 2025 were concentrated.

1. Cases reviewed in 2025: areas of concentration.

During 2025, 65 cases of possible non-compliance were identified. Of these, 58 were submitted to the COR for review and assessment, grouped under 12 different resolutions, while the remaining 7 had already been resolved at the time of the meeting through late submission of the corresponding information, grouped under 3 resolutions. Together, both groups account for the 13 resolutions and the 65 cases referred to throughout this report.

Cases reviewed and assessed by the COR (58 cases)

The following table lists these cases by thematic area, from the highest to the lowest number of cases, to quickly identify where the review was concentrated:

Area / resolution	Main aspect reviewed	No. of cases	% of total
Conservation of tuna in the EPO	Closures (incl. “El Corralito”), VMS and active buoy reporting, FAD limits, unloading reports from processing plants, and tuna discards	13	22.4%
Management and release of sharks	Safe release of sharks not retained on board	11	19.0%
At-sea transshipments	Verification of declared weight against that recorded by the observer, and conditions on board	9	15.5%

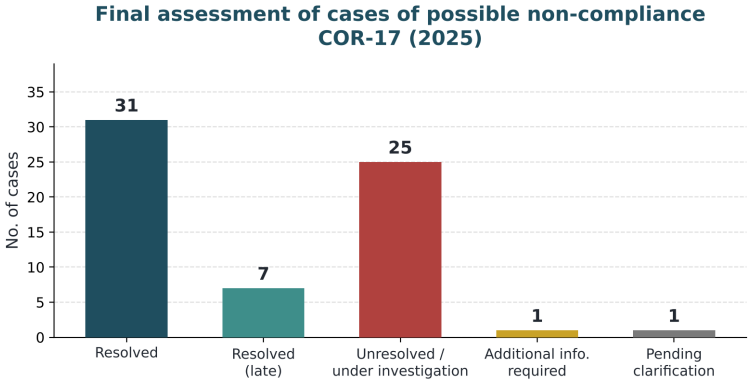
Area / resolution	Main aspect reviewed	No. of cases	% of total
Design of non-entangling FADs	Transition of the fleet to the new FAD design	7	12.1%
Port inspections	Coverage and reporting of port inspections	5	8.6%
Mitigation of impacts on sea turtles	Rescue and release of sea turtles	3	5.2%
Provision of data	Submission of catch and fishing effort information	3	5.2%
Observers on longline vessels	Minimum observer coverage on board	2	3.4%
Retention of silky sharks	Prohibition on retention on board	2	3.4%
Other obligations		3	5.2%
Total		**58**	**100%**

2. Outcome of the case review.

Of the total of 65 cases, the Committee assessed 31 as directly resolved and a further 7 as resolved through late submission of information, which amounts to 58.5% of the total already formally closed. The remaining 27 cases are distributed among 25 unresolved and under active investigation, 1 requiring additional information, and 1 pending a final clarification.

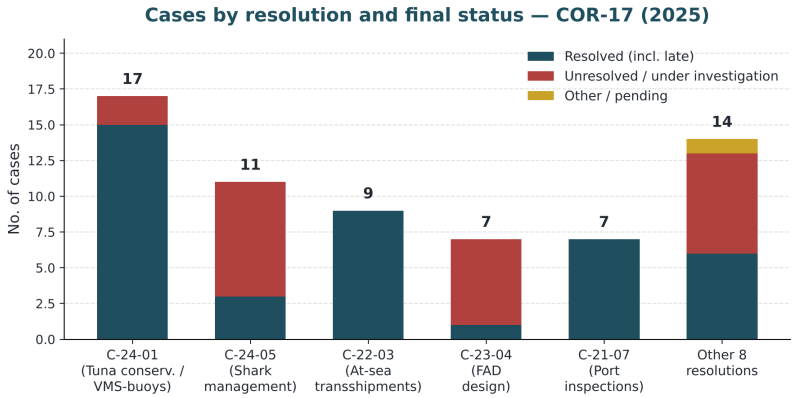
This means that almost six out of every ten situations flagged for 2025 already have a formal resolution by the Committee, and that the files that remain open correspond mostly to cases under active follow-up rather than to unattended non-compliance.

It should be noted that each of the cases that remains unresolved has a response or explanation from the CPC concerned regarding its current status—whether under review by the competent authority, awaiting additional information, or in the process of verification with the observer—so that follow-up is always based on updated information provided by each CPC.



3. Areas where non-compliance was concentrated

The 65 cases originate from 13 different resolutions, but five of them account for 78% of the total. The resolution on the conservation of tuna in the EPO alone accounts for the largest number of cases (17 of 65). This is because the resolution groups together five different types of requirement, each assessed independently: reporting of VMS and active buoy data, limits on simultaneously active FADs, reporting of unloading data at processing plants, compliance with closure periods, and tuna discards, each with its own universe of possible cases.



Resolutions with the highest concentration of unresolved cases

- **Management and safe release of sharks.** Most of the open cases under this resolution remain unresolved. All of them relate to the same requirement—the safe release of sharks not retained on board—which suggests a gap in training or in the review of procedures on board, rather than isolated instances of non-compliance.
- **Design of non-entangling FADs.** Most of the open cases under this resolution remain unresolved. All of them relate to the deployment of FADs with a netting component after the deadline of 1 January 2025, indicating that the transition of the fleet to the new design was not completed on time.
- **Fishing during closure periods and in the area known as "El Corralito".** Under the tuna conservation resolution, the purse-seine fleet must observe an annual ocean-wide closure period (72 days, in July-October or November-January), in addition to an additional one-month closure (9 October to 8 November) in a specific area known as "El Corralito" (96°-110° W and 4° N-3° S). In 2025, 2 cases of possible fishing within this area during its closure period were identified, while no cases of fishing during the general closure period in the rest of the EPO were recorded.

Furthermore, with regard to the provision of data, 3 CPC cases related to missing information from the longline fleet or artisanal fisheries were identified for 2025.

4. Compliance recorded during 2025

The review for 2025 covered all of the obligations established in the IATTC resolutions in force. In most of the categories with 2021-2025 historical series—including tuna discards, interactions with data buoys, recovery of FADs, and dumping of garbage at sea— the number of cases recorded decreased compared with previous years. The obligations for which no cases of possible non-compliance were identified, or for which a sustained reduction was recorded, are detailed below.

- **Catch limits for Pacific bluefin tuna.** CPCs with commercial fisheries in the EPO fully complied with their catch limits during 2025.
- **Bigeye catch limits for the longline fleet.** CPCs with an allocated catch limit complied with their bigeye limits in 2025.
- **Tuna discards.** Sets with tuna discards fell to 1 case in 2025, compared with 31 cases in 2023, virtually eliminating this type of possible non-compliance.
- **Responses to possible non-compliance.** More than 95% of the cases assessed received a response from the CPC concerned.
- **Submission of reports and data to the IATTC.** Of all applicable reports and datasets assessed by CPC, 79% were rated as compliant with direct submission of the corresponding report, a proportion that rises to 90% when including cases in which the information is obtained indirectly through the observer programs. In addition, virtually all of the CPCs assessed submitted their annual compliance questionnaire.

- **Zero shark finning.** Observers on board purse-seine vessels recorded no cases of shark fin removal in 2025.
- **Widespread use of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).** Of the 1,361 purse-seine fleet trips in 2025, 79% (1,079 trips) had full VMS coverage in the EPO, and only 6.5% had missing data, for which the corresponding CPCs have already been contacted.
- **No vessels nominated to the IUU Vessel List.** During 2025 and up to 15 July 2026, no nominations were submitted to include vessels on the IATTC IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) Vessel List.
- **Interactions with oceanographic data buoys.** Cases of possible non-compliance fell from 4 in 2020 to a sustained zero between 2023 and 2025, a 100% reduction from the initial value.
- **Zero dumping of garbage at sea.** No trips with dumping of salt bags or plastic at sea were recorded in 2025, the second year without cases in the last five.
- **Observer coverage of the longline fleet.** Compliance with the minimum coverage threshold of 5% improved over the period analyzed, with most of the CPCs assessed meeting it in 2025, as only one CPC did not reach the required percentage.
- **Recovery of FADs before the closure.** Cases of non-recovery fell from 8 in 2021 to 0 in 2025, showing steady improvement in the final years of the period.
- **Safe release of vulnerable species (regulatory framework).** The vast majority of the CPCs assessed report full compliance with this general provision, supported by national regulations, observer programs, or administrative memoranda.
- **Notification of the register of active vessels.** The vast majority of IATTC Members submitted their information for 2024 and 2025, representing substantial progress compared with previous years.
- **Rescue of sharks not retained.** Although cases of inadequate rescue persist, the figures show a significant underlying reduction: from 327 cases in 2021 to 83 in 2025 (despite fluctuations in the intervening years), suggesting medium-term progress that has not yet fully stabilized.
- **Whale sharks.** No cases of sets on live individuals or towing of whale sharks were recorded in 2025; this type of infraction has been virtually non-existent since 2019.

Overall, the Committee took note of the level of compliance achieved during 2025, noting that the areas requiring greater attention are more closely related to administrative gaps—reports pending update, reliance on indirect data from the observer programs, missing information on port inspections—than to widespread substantive non-compliance.

The cases that remain unresolved are clearly concentrated in two areas: the management and safe release of sharks, and the transition to the design of non-entangling FADs.

The review carried out by the Committee led to the development of recommendations, which can be consulted on the IATTC website: Recommendations of COR-17 and of the 2nd Special Biennial Meeting.