

中华人民共和国农业农村部渔业渔政管理局

BUREAU OF FISHERIES, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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June 21, 2024

Dr. Arnulfo Franco
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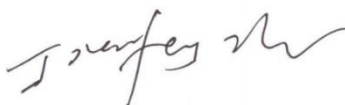
Subject: Annual report on implementation for 2023 by China on C-19-04

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

According to the request by Notification by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Completely Comply with International Tuna Measures [Nongbanyu (2022) No.1], all longline vessels shall equip de-hooks, and use circle hooks whenever possible, to minimum the harm to possible bycaught sea turtles. Longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner (the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters) shall use circle hooks and shall not use squid as bait.

Based on the observer data from Chinese longline fisheries in 2023, one Leatherback turtle was accidentally hooked on its front right flipper and released in accordance with the guideline cautiously. The curved length of this turtle is about 100 cm. The observed interaction occurred on October 4, 2023 at 12°54'S, 115°13'W.

Regards,



Jiangfeng ZHU

Consultant/Commissioner to IATTC&IOTC
Division of Distant-water Fisheries
Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
P. R. China

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June 27, 2023

Dr. Arnulfo Franco
Director
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La Jolla, California

Subject: Annual report on implementation for 2022 by China on C-19-04

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

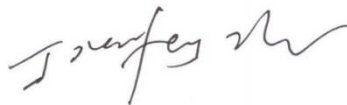
According to the request by Notification by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Completely Comply with International Tuna Measures [Nongbanyu (2022) No.1], all longline vessels shall equip de-hooks, and use circle hooks whenever possible, to minimum the harm to possible bycaught sea turtles. Longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner (the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters) shall use circle hooks and shall not use squid as bait.

Based on the observer data from Chinese longline fisheries in 2022, twenty-seven sea turtles were accidentally captured and released in accordance with the guideline cautiously. The detailed interaction information is as follows.

Number	Date	Location	Species	Curved length (cm)	Capture and release condition	Hook location
1	11 November, 2022	17°33'S, 98°02'W	Leatherback turtle	120	live/live	entangled
2	12 January, 2023	20°19'S, 113°04'W	Olive Ridley turtle	60	live/live	-
3	20 February, 2022	10°31'N, 115°W	Olive Ridley turtle	70	live/live	swallowed
4	21 February, 2022	10°28'N, 115°W	Olive Ridley turtle	50	live/live	flipper
5	1 March, 2022	9°42'N, 113°W	Olive Ridley turtle	70	live/live	flipper
6	2 March, 2022	9°6'N, 114°W	Leatherback turtle	110	live/live	entangled
7	29 March, 2022	11°20'N, 113°W	Olive Ridley turtle	50	live/live	swallowed
8	30 March, 2022	11°37'N, 113°W	Olive Ridley turtle	70	live/live	entangled
9	30 March, 2022	11°37'N, 113°W	Olive Ridley turtle	63	live/live	swallowed
10	4 April, 2022	10°39'N, 114°W	Olive Ridley turtle	70	live/live	swallowed
11	5 April, 2022	10°37'N, 114°W	Olive Ridley turtle	65	live/live	swallowed
12	6 April, 2022	10°35'N, 115°W	Olive Ridley turtle	50	live/live	entangled
13	8 April, 2022	10°14'N, 115°W	Olive Ridley turtle	60	live/live	flipper
14	15 April, 2022	11°6'N, 113°W	Olive Ridley turtle	60	live/live	swallowed

15	15 April, 2022	11°6'N, 113°W	Olive Ridley turtle	50	live/live	flipper
16	20 April, 2022	9°53'N, 114°W	Olive Ridley turtle	50	live/live	flipper
17	4 May, 2022	10°18'N, 116°W	Olive Ridley turtle	30	live/live	entangled
18	14 May, 2022	10°33'N, 117°W	Green turtle	53	live/live	entangled
19	10 July, 2022	6°19'N, 114°W	Olive Ridley turtle	68	live/live	flipper
20	10 July, 2022	6°19'N, 114°W	Olive Ridley turtle	60	live/live	swallowed
21	12 July, 2022	7°27'N, 115°W	Olive Ridley turtle	70	live/live	swallowed
22	12 July, 2022	7°27'N, 115°W	Green turtle	50	live/live	flipper
23	13 July, 2022	6°25'N, 115°W	Green turtle	66	live/live	flipper
24	13 July, 2022	6°25'N, 115°W	Olive Ridley turtle	60	live/live	swallowed
25	20 July, 2022	9°43'N, 118°W	Olive Ridley turtle	50	live/live	entangled
26	31 July, 2022	8°3'N, 121°W	Olive Ridley turtle	54	live/live	flipper
27	31 July, 2022	8°3'N, 121°W	Green turtle	70	live/live	flipper

Regards,



Jiangfeng ZHU

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Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
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June 27th, 2022

Mr. Jean-Francois Pulvenis
Director ad interim
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
La Jolla, California


Subject: Annual report on implementation for 2021 by Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO on C-19-04 para 4

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

According to the request by Notification by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Completely Comply with International Tuna Measures [Nongbanyu (2022) No.1], all longline vessels shall equip de-hooks, and use circle hooks whenever possible, to minimum the harm to possible bycaught sea turtles. Longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner (the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters) shall use circle hooks and shall not use squid as bait.

Based on the logbook and observer data, only 1 sea turtle was accidentally captured by Chinese longline vessels in 2021. The species was Leatherback turtle which accidentally captured with its fore-flippers entangled by the branchline of longline. The estimated straight carapace length of the Leatherback turtle was 115cm. The turtle was alive and released in accordance with the guideline cautiously. The observed interaction occurred on October 16, 2021 at 14° 46' S, 100° 12' W.

Regards,



Jiangfeng ZHU

Consultant/Commissioner to IATTC&IOTC
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Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
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June 21th, 2021

Mr. Jean-Francois Pulvenis
Director ad interim
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
La Jolla, California

Subject: Progress on implementation for 2020 by Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO on FAO turtle guidelines as required by Para 2, C-07-03

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

-Management

• Notification from Authority

In 2018, China Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs issued *the Plan of Action for the conservation of Sea Turtle (2019-2033)* to coastal authorities, in order to enhance the management of conservation of the species, and to effectively tackle with the new challenges this species is facing. The Plan of Action has indicated the principle and the target of the conservation of sea turtle, and has laid down the main task in the next 15 years for related authorities.

In 2019, China Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs issued a notification on further strictly complying with international tuna management measures, which included all sea turtle measures from t-RFMOs that China participated. The notification has been communicated to all tuna industries in China, and has made instructions for Chinese fisherman to deal with different scenarios of sea turtles when conducting fishing activities overseas.

-Data Collection

• Logbook

For Chinese longline fisheries, sea turtle is one of the major bycatches required to be accurately recorded in the logbook. The fisheries authority of China officially issued logbook for Tuna Fisheries in 2008 and renew it in a timely manner in accordance with the RFMO's requirements. Each tuna longline vessel, no matter of its fishing ground, is required to record the sea turtle bycatch or interaction, including the species and entangling state. Company does not fulfill the requirements, once discovered, will be punished by government in accordance with certain domestic fisheries management measures, as China implements performance review for each

fishing company annually.

- **Observer program**

Longline observer program is one of the ways that bycatch information is collected in Chinese tuna fisheries. In 2020, China conducted 18 longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (including overlapping areas) and 3 sea turtles (two green turtles and one Hawksbill turtle) were accidentally captured during the trips. All the sea turtles are retrieved on board with proper treatment and are safely released alive (with dehooker equipment based on Sea Turtle Handle Guideline).

-Training

- **lectures on bycatch mitigation**

We conducted training programme, which invited experts to give lectures about bycatch mitigations. Each tuna fishing company was required to dispatch at least one fishing manager at the base(or captain) to attend the course.

- **Tuna fisheries conference**

In addition, national-wide conference on tuna fisheries, where major conservation measures (including measures for sea turtle and others) are introduced and explained repeatedly to the meeting participants from industries, are opened annually. Cases regarding infringement of domestic laws and RFMO's CMMs will be shown to all participants during the meeting as an alarm for each company. The outcome of annual performance review on compliance is also circulated to fishing companies.

- **Propaganda**

Booklets/posters on sea turtle species identification and mitigation method in line with FAO guidelines are published and distributed to each longline vessel, which can guide the crew members to save and safely release captured or entangled turtles. Mitigation devices, such as de-hookers and cutters, are provided to each longline vessel since September 2009 free of charge by China Overseas Fisheries Association. We are hoping that by taking comprehensive actions, our fleet can strictly follow the measures and take good care of this species when caught or entangled.

- **Cultural consideration**

In Chinese culture, both sea turtles and tortoises are symbols of longevity, and no one would intentionally harm a sea turtle or a tortoise because they believe that such bad behaviour would bring them bad luck. Especially for fishermen, sea turtles are regarded as the sign of fortune and as such they respect and like sea turtles very much. Therefore sailors of fishing vessels would do whatever they can do to safely release a sea turtle incidentally caught rather than injure/harm them intentionally.

Regards,

Jiangfeng ZHU

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June 28th, 2019

Dr. Guillermo A. Compeán
Director
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
La Jolla, California

**Subject: Progress on implementation for 2018
by Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO
on FAO turtle guidelines as required by Para 2, C-07-03**

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

Domestic Regulations

In 2003, Ministry of Agriculture, P.R.China has issued the regulation concerning strictly abide by tuna international management measures in accordance with relevant RFMO's tuna conservation and management measures. The regulation stipulates the management measures of bycatch including sea turtle, requiring all longline vessels be equipped with de-hookers to mitigate hurt sea turtle captured incidentally and encouraging fishing vessels using round hooks.

-Data Collection

• Logbook

Chinese longline fishing vessels are required to accurately record sea turtles caught incidentally as bycatch in the logbook. China Fishery Authority has officially issued logbook for Tuna Fisheries in 2008 and renew it in a timely manner in accordance with the RFMO's requirements. Each tuna longline vessel, no matter of its fishing ground, is required to record the sea turtle bycatch or interaction, including the species and entangling state. A company does not fulfill the requirements, once discovered, will be punished by Chinese government in accordance with certain domestic fisheries management measures, as China implements performance review for each fishing company annually.

• Observer program

Longline observer program is the main source of collecting bycatch information in Chinese tuna fisheries. In 2018, China conducted 9 longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (including overlapping areas) and 24 sea turtles were accidentally captured during the trips. All the sea turtles were alive and set free in accordance with the guideline cautiously.

-Training

• Tuna fisheries conference

In addition, national-wide conference on tuna fisheries, where major conservation measures including measures for sea turtle and others are introduced and explained repeatedly to the meeting participants from industries, are opened annually. Cases regarding infringement of domestic laws and RFMO's CMMs will be shown to all participants during the meeting as an alarm for each company. The outcome of annual performance review on compliance is also circulated to fishing companies. During the conference we also invite domestic experts to give lectures regarding bycatch mitigations and correct ways to deal with sea turtle when caught.

• Propaganda

Booklets/posters on sea turtle species identification and mitigation method in line with FAO guidelines are published and distributed to each longline vessel, which can guide the crew members to save and safely release captured or entangled turtles. Mitigation devices, such as de-hookers and cutters, are provided to each longline vessel since September 2009 free of charge by China Overseas Fisheries Association (28 sets are provided in 2018 each vessel). We are hoping that by taking comprehensive actions, our fleet can strictly follow the measures and take good care of this species when caught or entangled.

Regards,

Liu Liming

Division Consultant
Division of Distant Water Fishing
Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
People's republic of China

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June 20th, 2018

Dr. Guillermo A. Compeán
Director
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
La Jolla, California

Subject: Progress on implementation for 2017 by Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO on FAO turtle guidelines as required by Para 2, C-07-03

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

-Data Collection

• Logbook

For Chinese longline fisheries, sea turtle is one of the major bycatches required to be accurately recorded in the logbook. The fisheries authority of China officially issued logbook for Tuna Fisheries in 2008 and renew it in a timely manner in accordance with the RFMO's requirements. Each tuna longline vessel, no matter of its fishing ground, is required to record the sea turtle bycatch or interaction, including the species and entangling state. Company does not fulfill the requirements, once discovered, will be punished by government in accordance with certain domestic fisheries management measures, as China implements performance review for each fishing company annually.

• Observer program

Longline observer program is the main source that bycatch information is collected in Chinese tuna fisheries. In 2017, China conducted 9 longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (including overlapping areas) and 27 sea turtles were accidentally captured during the trips. All the sea turtles were alive and set free in accordance with the guideline cautiously.

-Training

• lectures on bycatch mitigation

In August, 2017, we conducted a training course, which invited experts from ISSF to give lectures about bycatch mitigations. Each tuna fishing company was required to dispatch at least one fishing manager at the base(or captain) to attend the course.

• Tuna fisheries conference

In addition, national-wide conference on tuna fisheries, where major conservation measures (including measures for sea turtle and others) are introduced and explained repeatedly to the meeting participants from industries, are opened annually. Cases regarding infringement of domestic laws and RFMO's CMMs will be shown to all participants during the meeting as an alarm for each company. The outcome of annual performance review on compliance is also circulated to fishing companies.

• **Propaganda**

Booklets/posters on sea turtle species identification and mitigation method in line with FAO guidelines are published and distributed to each longline vessel, which can guide the crew members to save and safely release captured or entangled turtles. Mitigation devices, such as de-hookers and cutters, are provided to each longline vessel since September 2009 free of charge by China Overseas Fisheries Association (This year, 32 sets are provided). We are hoping that by taking comprehensive actions, our fleet can strictly follow the measures and take good care of this species when caught or entangled.

Regards,

Wan Chen

Deputy Director
Division of deepsea fishing
Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
People's republic of China

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June 29th, 2017

Dr. Guillermo A. Compeán
Director
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
La Jolla, California

**Subject: Progress on implementation for 2016
by Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO
on FAO turtle guidelines as required by Para 2, C-07-03**

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

-Data Collection

• Logbook

For Chinese longline fisheries, sea turtle is one of the major bycatches required to be accurately recorded in the logbook. The fisheries authority of China officially issued logbook for Tuna Fisheries in 2008 and renew it in a timely manner in accordance with the RFMO's requirements. Each tuna longline vessel, no matter of its fishing ground, is required to record the sea turtle bycatch or interaction, including the species and entangling state. Company does not fulfill the requirements, once discovered, will be punished by government in accordance with certain domestic fisheries management measures, as China implements performance review for each fishing company annually. According to last year's logbooks, most of our vessels did not accidentally catch sea turtles.

• Observer program

Longline observer program is the main source that bycatch information is collected in the Chinese tuna fisheries. In 2016, China conducted 4 longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (including overlapping areas) and no sea turtle was accidentally captured during the trip.

-Training

• Training course

In December, 2016, after the meetings of WCPFC in Fiji, we conducted a training course, which invited experts from ABNJ of FAO and Bird International to give lectures about bycatch mitigations. Each tuna fishing company was required to dispatch at least one fishing manager at the base(or captain) to attend the course.

• Tuna fisheries conference

In addition, national-wide conference on tuna fisheries, where major conservation

measures (including measures for sea turtle and others) are introduced and explained to the meeting participants from industries, are opened annually. Cases regarding violation of Domestic management measures and RFMO's CMM will be delivered to all participants including the punishment during the meeting, to call the attention of each company on compliance. The outcome of the performance review on compliance is circulated to fishing companies.

• **Propaganda**

Booklets/posters on sea turtle species identification and mitigation method in line with FAO guidelines are published and distributed to each longline vessel, which can guide the crew members to save and safely release captured or entangled turtles. Mitigation devices, such as de-hookers and cutters, are provided to each longline vessel since September 2009 free of charge by China Overseas Fisheries Association (This year, 22 sets are provided). We are hoping that by taking comprehensive actions, our fleet can strictly follow the measures and take good care of this species when caught or entangled.

Regards,

Liling Zhao

Director
Division of deepsea fishing
Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
China