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SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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SYNOPSIS OF LONGLINE OBSERVER DATA REPORTING PURSUANT TO
RESOLUTION [C-19-08](#) (AMENDING AND REPLACING C-11-08)

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This document and accompanying tables summarize current reporting by IATTC CPCs² pursuant to Resolution [C-19-08](#). Resolution C-19-08 amended and replaced Resolution C-11-08, updating the requirements and formats for CPCs’ reporting of observer data to the Commission. Through C-19-08, CPCs adopted a new standardized template for annual summary reporting for fishing effort and bycatch interactions (Annex A of the Resolution) and formalization of two options for minimum data standards to be collected by longline observers and reported to the Commission (Annex B of the Resolution), which were previously approved and adopted by SAC08 under C-11-08.

1. LIST OF LONGLINE VESSELS THAT FISHERD IN THE EPO IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

At the ninth meeting of the SAC in May 2018 (SAC-09), some CPCs stated that they were incorrectly listed in document [SAC-09 INF-A](#) as non-compliant with reporting requirements, since their longline vessels over 20 m length overall (LOA) listed on the IATTC [Regional Vessel Register](#) (RVR) were not active in the EPO during the previous year. Taking note of this situation and also noting that knowledge of fleet activity is necessary to assess the implementation of C-11-08 and other data reporting requirements, the SAC recommended that CPCs submit annually to the Secretariat a list of their longline vessels that fished in the EPO in the previous year ([Recommendation 9](#)). This recommendation was then expanded to include all vessel types and adopted by the Commission in paragraph 5 of Resolution C-18-06, which states that “CPCs shall notify the Director by 30 June each year of their vessels on the Regional Vessel Register flying their flag that were actively fishing in the IATTC Convention Area for species covered by the Convention from 1 January to 31 December of the previous year.” As of 30 June 2019, only 5 CPCs had made submissions pursuant to this requirement. Therefore, for the purposes of this report with respect to the remaining CPCs, the IATTC staff assumed that the provisions of C-19-08 applied to all non-responding CPCs with longline vessels >20 m LOA on the RVR in 2019. In some cases, this assumption was based on the listing

¹ Postponed until a later date to be determined

² Members and Cooperating non-Members

of a CPC’s longline vessels on the RVR having no reported vessel length measurement. Accordingly, compliance with reporting requirements is assessed in this paper based on these assumptions.

2. ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORTS

Each CPC with a longline observer program is required to submit an annual summary report to the SAC using the template provided in Annex A of C-19-08. To facilitate reporting, IATTC staff developed fillable electronic versions of Annex A—in English and Spanish—for ease of [download](#) and submission. The primary purpose of summary reporting is for each CPC to demonstrate compliance with two specific requirements under the Resolution, those being at least 5% observer coverage of their total longline fishing effort, and that this coverage is representative of the activities of their entire fleet, particularly with regards to ‘shallow’ and ‘deep’ sets. C-19-08 defines longline fishing effort as either “as the number of effective days of fishing³ or hooks deployed.” The summary reports received for 2019 are posted on the [SAC-11 meeting page](#) under “INF Longliners scientific observer program annual reports 2019.”

Table 1 summarizes compliance by each CPC with the requirement to submit a summary report using Annex A and to report the percent observer coverage. Black cells indicate the CPC had at least one qualifying longline vessel on the RVR in 2019 but either did not fish in the EPO or did not fish for IATTC species. Generally, reporting CPCs used the Annex A template, but the extent to which the template was completed varied significantly, indicating improvement is required. Additionally, nearly all reporting CPCs indicated they met the 5% observer coverage requirement, or project that they will have done so once all of their 2019 longline observer data are processed. For one CPC, compliance with the 5% minimum coverage requirement could not be assessed by IATTC staff because fishing effort was not reported using either of the approved metrics.

³ As defined by SAC-03 in 2012

Table 1. Summary of Annex A reporting by CPC showing whether Annex A was submitted, the percent observer coverage reported in 2019, and the fishing effort metric used to calculate observer coverage. Cell color denotes whether a CPC correctly completed and submitted Annex A (green), have incurred issues with submission (orange), or were exempt from reporting because their vessel >20m did not fish for IATTC species in 2019 (black).

CPC	Annex A Summary submitted	% Observer coverage reported 2019	Fishing effort metric(s) used
BLZ	NA		
CHL	NA		
CHN		7.80%	Number of hooks & Number of effective days fishing
CRI	NA		
ECU		5.60%	Number of hooks & Number of effective days fishing
EU (Portugal)		16%	Number of hooks & Number of effective days fishing
EU (Spain)		6%	Number of effective days fishing
FRA			
GTM	NA		
JPN		4.98%	Number of hooks
KOR		5.00%	Number of effective days fishing
MEX		10% of trips, % coverage based on effective days fished or number of hooks not reported	Number of trips
NIC			
PAN			
PER	COVID delay	COVID delay	
SLV	NA		
TWN		4% preliminary, 12.8% projected	Number of hooks
USA		100% shallow set, not reported for deep set, but typically 20%	Number of hooks
VEN	NA		
VUT			

3. OPERATIONAL OBSERVER DATA

In 2017, SAC-08 established minimum data standards for the reporting of operational longline observer data to the Commission, allowing CPCs to choose between reporting (a) data recorded on the IATTC longline observer forms, or (b) data representing a subset of the WCPFC list of minimum standard data fields. These minimum standards were reaffirmed by the Commission with the adoption of C-19-08 and are found in Annex B of that Resolution. Under C-19-08, submissions of longline observer data for a specific year (e.g., 2019) are due by June 30 of the following year (2020).

Since the 5% observer requirement has been in force since 2013, CPCs should possess the operational observer data for 2013–2017 that is required to be reported to the Commission. However, several CPCs

have not submitted longline observer data for these years, while eight CPCs have never submitted operational longline observer data. In some instances, CPCs had at least one active qualifying vessel and/or an operational longline observer program in a given year because an observer longline summary report was submitted. In other cases, it may be that a CPC had qualifying longline vessels on the RVR in a given year, but these vessels did not fish for IATTC species, or the CPC did not have an observer program in place. In order to gain clarity on these situations, the Director circulated letters to all relevant CPCs in February 2020, seeking further clarification. Specifically, for each year between 2013 and 2017, the Director asked for CPCs to choose from one of the following responses:

1. CPC did not have a qualifying longline vessel operating in this fishing year and thus the requirement does not apply (e.g., there were longline vessels over 20 meters length overall on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, but they were not active or were not fishing for IATTC species).
2. CPC had qualifying longline vessel operating in this fishing year, but the CPC did not have a longline observer program; and so there are no longline observer data to provide.
3. CPC had qualifying longline vessel operating in this fishing year and some portion of that effort was observed, but the data have not yet been submitted to the Commission. *Where this response is relevant, please also indicate when you plan to submit this data and identify any challenges that must first be overcome.*
4. Other. *Please explain.*

Table 2 shows the status of each CPCs reporting of operational longline observer data as of 30 June 2020. Black cells indicate where a CPC nominated not to report longline observer data for a specific year or has communicated that the requirement was not applicable in a specific year because their qualifying longline vessels on the RVR did not fish for IATTC species. Red cells indicate CPCs that did not respond to IATTC staff inquiries. IATTC staff requests that CPCs with red cells in Table 2 inform the Director regarding their status using the response categories provided above.

Table 2. Status of reporting of operational observer data by CPCs, by year. Cell color denotes whether a CPC reported operational observer data (green), intends to submit data in the near future (orange), nominated not to report, or were exempt from reporting (black), or have not reported and have not responded to the IATTC Director’s request for clarification (red).

CPC	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BLZ	NR ²	NR ²	P	P	P	P	NR ³
CHL							NA ¹
CHN							
CRI							NR ²
ECU							
EU (Portugal)	NR	NR	NR		NR	NR	
EU (Spain)	NR	NR	NR	NR			
FRA							
GTM	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NA	NA	NA
JPN	NR ¹	NR ¹					
KOR							
MEX							
NIC					NA ¹		
PAN							
PER	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	
SLV	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	
TWN							
USA							
VEN					NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹
VUT							

NR- Not reporting

NR¹- CPC stated they will not be reporting data because they cannot report against the IATTC standards for these years

NR²- CPC reports that they had qualifying vessels, but did not have a longline observer program in this fishing year

NR³- CPC reports that relevant vessel was only active during the last quarter of the fishing year and an observer could not be assigned

NA- CPC reports that the observer requirements were not applicable

NA¹- CPC reports that the observer requirements were not applicable because relevant vessels listed on the RVR were not active or did not fish for IATTC species in this year

P- CPC has indicated that data will be submitted soon