

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**  
**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FLEET CAPACITY**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

Lima, Peru  
12-13 July 2014

## REPORT OF THE MEETING

### AGENDA

|                                                                                                             | Documents |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Opening of the meeting                                                                                   |           |
| 2. Adoption of the agenda                                                                                   |           |
| 3. Review of pending capacity requests                                                                      |           |
| 4. Report of the Technical Experts Workshop on the capacity of the tuna-fishing fleet in the EPO            |           |
| 5. Issues related to the implementation of <a href="#">Resolution C-02-03</a> on purse-seine fleet capacity | CAP-15-05 |
| 6. Recommendations to the Commission                                                                        |           |
| 7. Other business                                                                                           |           |
| 8. Adjournment                                                                                              |           |

### APPENDIX

#### 1. List of attendees

The fifteenth meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity was held in Lima, Peru, on 12 and 13 July 2014. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Luis Dobles, of Costa Rica. Mr. Arnulfo Franco, of Panama, was appointed rapporteur.

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda was adopted with a request by Peru to include as item 3 the issue of the utilization of the capacity that it was granted by Resolution [C-11-12](#).

#### **3. Review of the capacity granted to Peru**

Peru explained that its request was not for capacity but rather with the way in which the 5,000 m<sup>3</sup> of well volume that it was granted in 2011 by means of Resolution C-11-12 could be utilized: it asked that the restrictions regarding the use of that capacity be removed. After long deliberations the Working Group decided to recommend to the Commission that this request be accepted.

#### **4. Review of pending capacity requests**

##### a) **Capacity disputes or claims.**

##### i) **Guatemala**

Requested granting the restitution of 3,762 m<sup>3</sup> of capacity that were transferred without its consent. He

indicated that the claim was over ten years old and that Guatemala did not consider itself in dispute with the other country involved. He insisted on the legitimacy of that request, which, if approved, would result in an increase of only about 2% of the global capacity in the EPO.

**ii) Ecuador**

Requested the regularization of the situation on the Regional Vessel Register of the three vessels *Ignacio Mar I*, *Tuna I*, and *Tuna II*, which utilize the capacity of the vessel *Roberto M*, which had been transferred out of Ecuador and its capacity transferred without that country's consent. The *Roberto M* is still on the Register by that name under Ecuador and simultaneously by another name under the Member of its new flag.

**iii) Venezuela**

While not abandoning its claim for 5,473 m<sup>3</sup> corresponding to the capacity of four vessels that were transferred without its consent, Venezuela requested specifically for now the granting of the 1,668 m<sup>3</sup> corresponding to the vessel *Napoleón I*, on the basis of the information supplied. It reserved the right to activate its claim to the remaining volume as and when the tuna resource showed signs of further recovery.

**iv) Vanuatu**

Requested granting the restitution of 1,358 m<sup>3</sup> of capacity corresponding to the vessel *Esmeralda C*, which was transferred without its consent to another flag.

Regarding these cases of disputes, the United States recalled that a proposal had been submitted for establishing an *ad hoc* expert panel for resolving those disputes, and the Unión Europea added its interest in contributing resources if it was decided to utilize this mechanism. In the course of the discussion, however, the wish of the group not to deal with these cases strictly as disputes but rather in a pragmatic manner became evident, by granting an additional capacity volume to the requesting member without requiring the return of the capacity that had been transferred. The United States noted that this group does not have the mandate nor the competence to take capacity away from one participant to return it to another. On an increase in capacity being presented in this way the discussion focused finally on the need to adopt additional compensatory measures as a condition for considering in a positive manner the requests by Guatemala, Ecuador, Vanuatu, and Venezuela.

**b) Requests for additional capacity**

The following countries made requests for capacity in view of the need that they as developing coastal nations have to develop their tuna industry: Costa Rica (7,058 m<sup>3</sup>), Nicaragua (4,200 m<sup>3</sup>), and El Salvador (2,105 m<sup>3</sup>).

**c) Other cases**

Ecuador requested authorization for a correction on the Regional Register of the measurement of the Ecuadorean vessel *Ugavi Dos*, whose well volume is 1,881 m<sup>3</sup>, instead of 1,864 m<sup>3</sup> with which it is currently recorded on the Register on the basis of a review measurement which had been carried out after the vessel was added to that Register. The Working Group agreed to void that measurement and the decision adopted by the *ad hoc* group for the review of vessel capacities, reestablishing the original measurement of 1,881 m<sup>3</sup>.

On another matter, Ecuador requested that the cases regarding the vessels *Victoria A* (850 m<sup>3</sup>), *María del Mar* (198 m<sup>3</sup>), *Doña Roge* and *Eli*, be reviewed by the IATTC plenary.

**5. Report of the technical experts workshop on the capacity of the tuna-fishing fleet in the EPO**

Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director of the IATTC, presented in detail the recommendations of the expert workshop on fleet capacity fleet in the EPO, held in Cartagena (Colombia) in April 2014, referring to each one of the options identified at that workshop. In conclusion he noted the need to resolve all the pending disputes and that the Regional Register be closed without any additional increase in capacity, in

order to define the path to follow by resorting to the options most appropriate for agreement in the concrete and specific situations considered, as well as timelines for reaching the desired objective.

Japan noted that it would present at the IATTC a [proposal](#) for the management of capacity that would take into account the points of view expressed and the discussion held during the Cartagena workshop.

## **6. Issues related to the implementation of Resolution [C-02-03](#) on purse-seine fleet capacity**

Dr. Compeán made a presentation on the status of the capacity of the fleet operating in the EPO. He stated that the active purse-seine capacity on the Regional Register as of 31 May 2014 is 237,853 m<sup>3</sup>. The capacity of inactive or sunk vessels is 5,607 m<sup>3</sup>, and the capacity available deriving from movements on the Regional Register is 50,959 m<sup>3</sup>, for a potential total of 294,419 m<sup>3</sup>. When Resolution C-02-03 entered into force in June 2002, the active capacity was 218,482 m<sup>3</sup>, while the sum total of active and inactive capacity, plus that included in paragraph 10 of the resolution, was 273,467 m<sup>3</sup>.

The European Union noted that it was clear that capacity was increasing and should be reduced. Mexico commented that the capacity of the longline fleet should also be reviewed. Canada expressed its great concern about this situation of overcapacity, although not having a fleet, and asked that appropriate solutions be actively sought.

## **7. Recommendations to the Commission**

The Group agreed to make the following recommendations to the Commission:

- a. Remove the restrictions established in Resolution C-11-12 regarding the utilization by Peru of the 5,000 m<sup>3</sup> of capacity volume that it was granted by that resolution.
- b. Authorize the correction on the Regional Register of the well measurement of the vessel *Ugavi Dos* to indicate that its well volume is 1,881 m<sup>3</sup> instead of 1,864 m<sup>3</sup>.
- c. Consider favorably the request by Guatemala that it be granted as a restitution the amount of 3,762 m<sup>3</sup> that was transferred without its consent. Guatemala stated that “*The case of Guatemala was discussed under a previous agenda item and this Permanent Working Group decided on a course of action and the decisions that may be taken under another agenda item cannot affect what was resolved in the case of Guatemala, which has been recognized as a legitimate claim by the Members.*”
- d. Consider favorably the requests by Ecuador (*Roberto M*; 1,161 m<sup>3</sup>), Vanuatu (*Esmeralda C*; 1,358 m<sup>3</sup>), and Venezuela (*Napoleón I*; 1,668 m<sup>3</sup>) that they be granted as restitution of the amounts corresponding to well volumes that were transferred without their consent.
- e. Consider favorably the requests by Costa Rica (7,058 m<sup>3</sup>), Nicaragua (4,200 m<sup>3</sup>) and El Salvador (2,105 m<sup>3</sup>), in their character of developing coastal countries.
- f. Discuss, at Ecuador’s request, the cases of the Ecuadorean vessels *Victoria A*, *María del Mar*, *Doña Roge*, and *Eli* at the Commission plenary.
- g. Discuss, at Bolivia’s request, granting that country 5,830 m<sup>3</sup> as restitution of that capacity that was transferred without the consent of the Bolivian government.

It was likewise agreed that that the approval of any request or claim for capacity that resulted in an increase in the capacity of the fleet would necessarily mean the matching adoption of alternative or additional conservation measures to mitigate the capacity increase, including days of closure, as well as a plan for the overall progressive reduction of the capacity of the fleet in the EPO.

Additionally, Mexico requested that the list of all the longline vessels included in the Regional Register be reviewed and purged, a request that met with the approval of the Working Group.

## **8. Other business**

No other business was submitted.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 14:40 on 13 July 2014.