

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

89TH MEETING

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PROPOSAL IATTC-89 F-1

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

**IATTC RESOLUTION FOR AN IATTC SCHEME FOR MINIMUM
STANDARDS FOR INSPECTION IN PORT**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Goal: this Resolution is intended to fight against IUU fishing and contribute to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources in the IATTC Convention Area through strengthened, harmonized and transparent minimum standards for inspections.

In line with similar proposals adopted by other RFMOs, the most essential elements of the proposal is the inspection of vessels, designation of ports, prior notifications and reporting of possible infringements. It is therefore more in line with the requests from developing coastal CPCs as it also includes a number of simplified provisions in order to facilitate consensus at the IATTC.

In addition to that, it will be the first ever port inspection measure adopted by IATTC. Therefore it will ensure consistency with management measures taken in other RFMOs and improve the results of the measures aimed towards conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. This will contribute to more responsible management of the stocks under the IATTC's mandate.

**IATTC RESOLUTION FOR AN IATTC SCHEME FOR MINIMUM
STANDARDS FOR INSPECTION IN PORT**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

DEEPLY CONCERNED about illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the IATTC Area and its detrimental effect upon fish stocks, marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of legitimate fishers in particular in Developing States,

CONSCIOUS of the role of the port State in the adoption of effective measures to promote the sustainable use and the long-term conservation of living marine resources,

RECOGNIZING that measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing should build on the primary responsibility of flag States and use all available jurisdiction in accordance with international law, including port State measures, coastal State measures, market related measures and measures to ensure that nationals do not support or engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

RECOGNIZING that port State measures provide a powerful and cost-effective means of preventing, deterring and eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

AWARE of the need for increasing coordination at the regional and interregional levels to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing through port State measures,

BEARING IN MIND that, in the exercise of their sovereignty over ports located in their territory, Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Commission may adopt more stringent measures, in accordance with international law,

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, hereinafter referred to as the Convention,

RECALLING the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 4 December 1995, the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas of 24 November 1993 and the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries,

Agrees as follows:

Scope

1. Nothing in this Resolution shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Commission (hereinafter referred to as "CPCs") under international law. In particular, nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to affect the exercise by CPCs of their authority over their ports in accordance with international law, including their right to deny entry thereto as well as to adopt more stringent measures than those provided for in this Resolution.

This Resolution shall be interpreted and applied in conformity with international law, taking into account applicable international rules and standards, including those established through the International Maritime Organization, as well as other international instruments.

CPCs shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed pursuant to this Resolution and shall exercise the rights recognized herein in a manner that would not constitute an abuse of right.

2. With a view to monitoring compliance with IATTC Resolutions, each CPC, in its capacity as a port CPC, shall apply this Resolution for an effective scheme of port inspections in respect of foreign fishing vessels carrying IATTC-managed species caught in the IATTC Convention Area (Convention Area) and/or fish products originating from such species caught in the Convention Area that have not been previously landed or transhipped at port, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels".
3. A CPC may, in its capacity as a port CPC, decide not to apply this Resolution to foreign fishing vessels chartered by its nationals operating under its authority and returning to its ports. Such chartered fishing vessels shall be subject to measures by the CPC which are as effective as measures applied in relation to vessels entitled to fly its flag.
4. Without prejudice to specifically applicable provisions of other IATTC Resolutions, and except as otherwise provided in this Resolution, this Resolution shall apply to foreign fishing vessels equal to or greater than 20 meters in length overall.
5. Each CPC shall subject foreign fishing vessels below 20 meters length overall, foreign fishing vessels operating under charter as referred to under paragraph 3, and fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag to measures that are at least as effective in combating IUU fishing as measures applied to vessels referred to in paragraph 2.
6. CPCs shall take necessary action to inform fishing vessels' entitled to fly their flag of this and other relevant IATTC Resolutions.

Points of Contact

7. Each CPC shall designate a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications pursuant to paragraph 12. Each CPC shall designate a point of contact for the purpose of receiving inspection reports pursuant to paragraph 25(b) of this Resolution. It shall transmit the name and contact

information for its points of contact to the IATTC Director no later than 30 days following the entry into force of this Resolution. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the IATTC Director at least 7 days before such changes take effect. The IATTC Director shall promptly notify CPCs of any such change.

8. The IATTC Director shall establish and maintain a register of points of contact based on the lists submitted by the CPCs. The register and any subsequent changes shall be published promptly on the IATTC website.

Designated ports

9. Each CPC shall designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Resolution.
10. Each CPC shall, to the greatest extent possible, ensure that it has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections in every designated port pursuant to this Resolution.
11. Each CPC shall provide to the IATTC Director within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Resolution a list of designated ports. Any subsequent changes to this list shall be notified to the IATTC Director at least 14 days before the change takes effect.
12. The IATTC Director shall establish and maintain a register of designated ports based on the lists submitted by the port CPCs. The register and any subsequent change shall be published promptly on the IATTC website.

Force majeure or distress

13. Nothing in this Resolution affects the entry of vessels to port in accordance with international law for reasons of *force majeure* or distress or for the purpose of rendering assistance to persons, ships or aircraft in danger or distress.

Prior notification

14. Each port CPC shall, except as provided under paragraphs 13 and 15 of this Resolution, require foreign fishing vessels seeking to use its ports for the purpose of landing and/or transshipment to provide, at least 48 hours before the estimated time of arrival at the port, the following information:
 - a) Vessel identification (External identification, Name, Flag CPC, IMO No, if any, and IRCS);
 - b) Name of the designated port, as referred to in the IATTC register, to which it seeks entry and the purpose of the port call (landing and/or transshipment);
 - c) Fishing authorization or, where appropriate, any other authorization held by the vessel to support fishing operations on IATTC-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species, or to transship related fishery products;
 - d) Estimated date and time of arrival in port;
 - e) The estimated quantities in kilograms of each IATTC-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species held on board, with associated catch areas;
 - f) The estimated quantities for each IATTC-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species in kilograms to be landed or transshipped, with associated catch areas.
 - g) If no IATTC species and/or fish products originating from such species are held on board, a 'nil' report shall be transmitted.

The port CPC may also request other information as it may require to determine whether the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, or related activities.

15. The port CPC may prescribe a longer or shorter notification period than specified in paragraph 14,

taking into account, *inter alia*, the type of fishery product, the distance between the fishing grounds and its ports. In such a case, the port CPC shall inform the IATTC Director, who shall publish the information promptly on the IATTC website.

Port inspections

16. Inspections shall be carried out by the competent authority of the port CPC.
17. Each year CPCs shall inspect at least 5% of landing and transshipment operations in their designated ports as are made by foreign fishing vessels.
18. In determining which foreign fishing vessel to inspect, the port CPC shall, in accordance with their domestic law, take into account, *inter alia* :
 - a) Whether a vessel has failed to provide complete information as required in paragraph 14;
 - b) requests from other CPCs or relevant regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) that a particular vessel be inspected, particularly where such requests are supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question;
 - c) whether clear grounds exist for suspecting that they have engaged in IUU fishing, including information derived from RFMOs.
 - d) After receiving the relevant information pursuant to paragraph 14, as well as such other information as it may require to determine whether the foreign fishing vessel requesting entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, the port CPC shall decide whether to authorize or deny the entry of the vessel into its port. In case the port CPC decides to authorize the entry of the vessel into its port, the following provisions on port inspection shall apply..

Inspection procedure

19. Each inspector shall carry a document of identity issued by the port CPC. In accordance with domestic laws, port CPC inspectors may examine all relevant areas, decks and rooms of the fishing vessel, catches processed or otherwise, nets or other fishing gears, equipment both technical and electronic, records of transmissions and any relevant documents, including fishing logbooks, Cargo Manifests and Mates Receipts and landing declarations in case of transshipment, which they deem necessary to ensure compliance with the IATTC Resolutions. They may take copies of any documents considered relevant, and they may also question the Master and any other person on the vessel being inspected.
20. Inspections shall involve the monitoring of the landing or transshipment and include a cross-check between the quantities by species notified in the prior notification message in paragraph 14 and the quantities which are landed, transhipped or held on board by the vessels. Inspections shall be carried out in such a way that the fishing vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience, and that degradation of the quality of the catch is avoided to the extent practicable.
21. On completion of the inspection, the port CPC inspector shall provide the Master of the foreign fishing vessel with the inspection report containing the findings of the inspection, including possible subsequent measures that could be taken by the port CPC competent authority, to be signed by The inspector and the Master. The Master's signature shall serve only as acknowledgement of the receipt of a copy of the report. The Master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report, to contact the competent authority of the flag CPC. A copy of the report shall be provided to the Master.
22. The port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report electronically or by other means to the flag CPC point of contact and the IATTC Director no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port CPC should notify the IATTC Director within the 14 day time period the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted.

23. CPCs shall take necessary action to ensure that Masters facilitate safe access to the fishing vessel, cooperate with the competent authority of the port CPC, facilitate the inspection and communication and not obstruct, intimidate or interfere, or cause other persons to obstruct, intimidate or interfere with port CPC inspectors in the execution of their duties.

Procedure in the event of infringements

24. If the information collected during the inspection provides evidence that a foreign fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the IATTC Resolutions, the inspector shall:
- a) record the infringement in the inspection report;
 - b) transmit the inspection report to the port CPC competent authority, which shall promptly forward a copy to the IATTC Director and to the flag CPC point of contact;
 - c) to the extent practicable, ensure safekeeping of the evidence pertaining to such alleged infringement.
25. If the infringement falls within the legal jurisdiction of the port CPC, the port CPC may take action in accordance with its domestic laws. The port CPC shall promptly notify the action taken to the competent authority of the flag CPC and to the IATTC Director, which shall promptly publish this information in a secured part of the IATTC website.
26. Infringements that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the port CPC, and infringements referred to in paragraph 26 for which the port CPC has not taken action, shall be referred to the flag State and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State.. Upon receiving the copy of the inspection report, the flag CPC shall promptly investigate the alleged infringement and notify the IATTC Director of the status of the investigation and of any enforcement action that may have been taken within 6 months of such receipt. If the flag CPC cannot provide the IATTC Director this status report within 6 months of such receipt, the flag CPC should notify the IATTC within the 6 month time period the reasons for the delay and when the status report will be submitted. The IATTC Director shall promptly publish this information in a secured part of the IATTC website. CPCs shall include in their Compliance questionnaire information regarding the status of such investigations.
27. Should the inspection provide evidence that the inspected vessel has engaged in IUU activities as referred to in Resolution C-05-07, the port CPC shall promptly report the case to the flag CPC and notify as soon as possible the IATTC Director, along with its supporting evidence.

Requirements of developing CPCs

28. CPCs shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to a port inspection scheme consistent with this Resolution. CPCs shall, either directly or through the IATTC, provide assistance to developing CPCs in order to, inter alia:
- a) Develop their capacity including by providing technical assistance and establishing an appropriate funding mechanism to support and strengthen the development and implementation of an effective system of port inspection at national, regional or international levels and to ensure that a disproportionate burden resulting from the implementation of this Resolution is not unnecessarily transferred to them;
 - b) Facilitate their participation in meetings and/or training programmes of relevant regional and international organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of a system of port inspection, including monitoring, control and surveillance, enforcement and legal proceedings for infractions and dispute settlements pursuant to this Resolution; and
 - c) Either directly or through the IATTC, assess the special requirements of developing CPCs concerning the implementation of this Resolution.

General provisions

29. CPCs are encouraged to enter into bilateral agreements/arrangements that allow for an inspector exchange program designed to promote cooperation, share information, and educate each party's inspectors on inspection strategies and methodologies which promote compliance with IATTC Resolutions. A description of such programs should be provided to the IATTC Director which should publish it on the IATTC website.
30. The port CPC may, in accordance with its domestic laws and regulations, invite officials from the flag CPC to observe or take part in the inspection of a vessel of that flag CPC based on appropriate agreements or arrangements. Flag CPCs shall consider and act on reports of infringements from inspectors of a port CPC on a similar basis as the reports from their own inspectors, in accordance with their domestic laws. CPCs shall collaborate, in accordance with their domestic laws, in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from inspection reports as set out in this Resolution.
31. The IATTC Director shall develop model formats for prior notification reports and inspection reports required under this Resolution, taking into account forms adopted in other relevant instruments, such as the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and other RFMOs, for consideration at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Commission.
32. The Commission shall review this Resolution no later than its 2018 Annual Meeting and take into account developments in other RFMOs and the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness. The Secretariat will report annually on the implementation of this measure.
33. This Resolution shall enter into force on January 1, 2016.