

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla CA 92037-1508, USA – www.iattc.org
Tel: (858) 546-7100 – Fax: (858) 546-7133 – Director: Robin Allen

WORKING GROUP ON VESSEL MEASUREMENT

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

26-27 October 2006

AGENDA

Documents

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chairman
3. Consideration of agenda
4. New measurements of previously confirmed well volumes
5. Treatment of additional fish-storage spaces aboard vessels
6. Protocols for vessels with sealed wells VES-1-06
7. Establishment of a correspondence group to assist IATTC staff
8. Other business
9. Adjournment

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees
2. Draft protocol for sealing wells

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the IATTC, who noted that this was the first meeting of this working group and asked for nominations for Chairman.

2. Election of Chairman

Mr. Staffan Ekwall, of the European Union, was elected Chairman of the meeting.

3. Consideration of agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted without modification.

4. New measurements of previously confirmed well volumes

Dr. Allen explained that, with regard to purse-seine vessels, a confirmed well volume on the Regional Vessel Register meant that the vessel's well volume had been verified, pursuant to the [procedures](#) agreed by the AIDCP Working Group on Vessel Assessments and Financing in February 2005, and the criteria developed by an [ad hoc well volume review group](#) in April 2005.

He noted that seven vessels – *Nair II*, *Nair III*, *Atlantis IV*, *Cape Breton*, *Cape Ferrat*, *Gabriela F*, and *Victoria F* – have changed their well volumes from those verified by the review group in April 2005, and

that the staff had accepted these new volumes for the purposes of the Regional Register, but wished to confirm that was how such changes should be handled.

The meeting decided that it did not wish to review these cases individually, and recommended that, as a general rule, the staff should accept as valid new measurements received from a vessel's flag government that had been verified according to the established procedures.

5. Treatment of additional fish storage spaces aboard vessels

Dr. Allen explained that there are two sister ships, the *Athena F* and *Daniela F*, each with a 1200-m³ fish storage space in the bow which was not included in the confirmed well volumes for the vessels provided to the staff. This storage space is not capable of freezing fish, but can maintain fish frozen. Dr. Allen advised the meeting that the *Athena F* has used its bow locker to store fish at sea, while there is no such information for the *Daniela F*.

Panama noted that, when these vessels flew its flag, it had proposed sealing the bow storage space in order to reduce the volume of the vessels, and suggested that the vessels' current flag government now undertake this action.

The Working Group recommended to the IATTC that the well volume of the *Daniela F* be recorded as 3157 m³ on the Regional Register, and that the *Athena F* be considered to have the same well volume.

6. Protocols for vessels with sealed wells

Dr. Allen presented Document VES-1-06, which included a draft protocol for sealing fish wells on purse-seine vessels prepared by IATTC staff, based largely on a proposal presented by several countries at the Commission meeting in June 2006. He also noted that there were already five vessels – *Atlantis IV*, *Gabriela F*, *Jeannine*, *María Isabel*, and *Victoria F* – with sealed wells on the Regional Register, and that in all these cases, the well volume recorded on the Register reflects the vessel's reduced capacity. In response to a question about compliance by these vessels, Dr. Allen noted that the *María Isabel*, whose well volume was reduced by sealing wells to below the level that requires an observer under the AIDCP, has not carried an observer since its wells were sealed, but that some of its unloadings have been greater than its current recorded carrying capacity. He noted that he would be communicating with the flag government regarding this vessel.

Regarding the draft protocol, some countries expressed their view that Resolution C-02-03 on fleet capacity did not provide for the sealing of wells, while others observed that there was nothing in the resolution to prohibit sealing wells. It was therefore agreed to refer this matter to the Commission for decision. Nevertheless, the delegations agreed to negotiate a protocol for sealing wells, with the understanding that, if the Commission considers that the practice of sealing wells, with the aim of reducing the vessel's capacity, can be considered to be in conformity with Resolution C-02-03, the protocol shall be followed. After extensive discussion, considerable progress was made towards agreement on a text, but some differences of opinion were not resolved (Appendix 2). At the end of the meeting, it was decided to continue the negotiation of the protocol at the next meeting of the Commission.

On a related matter raised by the staff, Ecuador suggested that the vessel assessments mandated pursuant to the AIDCP should be based on the well volume of the vessel *before* the sealing of any wells. The United States and Spain agreed with this proposal. The Chairman observed that, while this was an AIDCP matter, it appears that no Party was opposed to this idea. It was therefore agreed to defer this question to the Parties to the AIDCP.

Finally, the Working Group recommended that, pending a decision by the Commission on the sealing of wells, the Regional Vessel Register should continue to list the well volume of a vessel with sealed wells at its lower capacity, but that it should also indicate the well volume of the vessel both before and after the sealing of the wells. Dr. Allen noted that it was important that it be clear that the vessel's operative well volume was the lower of these two values, to avoid the possibility of a vessel being replaced on the

basis of its original well volume, thus increasing overall fleet capacity.

7. Establishment of a correspondence group to assist IATTC staff

Dr. Allen explained the idea of establishing a small correspondence group of technical experts that could possibly be of assistance to the IATTC staff on vessel measurement issues. Almost all of the delegations commented that their governments would like to be involved in any such correspondence, but that it should be done at the level of CPCs rather than technical experts. Thus there is no need for the establishment of a special correspondence group.

8. Other business

Dr. Allen noted, as a point of information to the governments, that there were two vessels – the *Jane IV* and the *Tarqui* - which were the subject of discussions between Commission staff and the relevant flag governments with respect to the correct capacity of the vessels. Panama noted that it had documentation relating to the *Jane IV* which it would provide to the staff.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on 27 October 2006.

Appendix 1.

ATTENDEES – ASISTENTES

COSTA RICA

ASDRÚBAL VÁSQUEZ - COMISIONADO
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca
vazquezal@ice.co.cr

ECUADOR

ORLANDO CRESPO
Dirección General de Pesca
competitividad@subpesca.gov.ec

RAFAEL TRUJILLO
Cámara Nacional de Pesquería
direjec@camaradepesqueria.com

ESPAÑA – SPAIN

SAMUEL JUÁREZ - COMISIONADO
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
juarez@mapausa.org
ELISA BARAHONA
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima
ebarahon@mapya.es

JAVIER ARÍZ
Instituto Español de Oceanografía
javier.ariz@ca.ieo.es
JULIO MORÓN
OPAGAC
opagac@arrakis.es

GUATEMALA

ERICK VILLAGRÁN - COMISIONADO
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación
villagranerick@hotmail.com

HUGO ALSINA
Ministerio de Agricultura , Ganadería y Alimentación
h_alsina@ufm.edu.gt

MEXICO

GUILLERMO COMPEÁN - COMISIONADO
Instituto Nacional de la Pesca
compean@inp.sagarpa.gob.mx

MICHEL DREYFUS - COMISIONADO
Instituto Nacional de la Pesca
dreyfus@cicese.mx

RICARDO BELMONTES
Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca
rbelmontesa@conapesca.sagarpa.gob.mx

MARIO AGUILAR
Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca
mariogaguilars@aol.com

HUMBERTO ROBLES
Instituto Nacional de la Pesca
hrobles@cicese.mx

NICARAGUA

MIGUEL MARENCO - COMISIONADO
Administración Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura
miguel.marenco@mific.gob.ni

VICTOR M. DE LA IGLESIA - COMISIONADO
Grupo Fextun
victor@gruposuena.com

PANAMA

ARNULFO FRANCO - COMISIONADO
FIPESCA
afranco@cwpanama.net

MARIA PATRICIA DÍAZ - COMISIONADO
Robles y Robles
mpdiaz@robleslaw.com

DAVID SILVA
Autoridad Marítima de Panamá
Davidsilvat@yahoo.com

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

WILLIAM JACOBSON
NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill.jacobson@noaa.gov

JESSICA KONDEL
NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service
Jessica.kondel@noaa.com

BRADLEY WILEY
NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Services
Brad.Wiley@noaa.gov

PAUL KRAMPE
American Tuna Boat Association
krampepaul@aol.com

VENEZUELA

ALVIN DELGADO - COMISIONADO
PNOV/FUNDATUN
fundatunpnov@cantv.net

LILLO MANISCALCHI
AVATUN
lillomaniscalchi@yahoo.com

OBSERVERS - OBSERVADORES

COLOMBIA

ARMANDO HERNÁNDEZ
Programa Nacional de Observadores
observadores@incoder.gov.co

ALEJANDRO LONDOÑO
Cámara Nacional de la Industria Pesquera
alondono@andi.com.co

EUROPEAN UNION – UNIÓN EUROPEA

STAFFAN EKWALL
European Commission
staffan.ekwall@cec.eu.int

STAFF - PERSONAL

ROBIN ALLEN, Director
rallen@iattc.org
ERNESTO ALTAMIRANO
ealtamirano@iattc.org
DAVID BRATTEN
dbratten@iattc.org
EDWARD EVERETT
eeverett@iattc.org
ALEJANDRA FERREIRA
aferreira@iattc.org

MÓNICA GALVÁN
mgalvan@iattc.org
BRIAN HALLMAN
bhallman@iattc.org
MARTIN HALL
mhall@iattc.org
JOYDELEE MARROW
jmarrow@iattc.org
NICHOLAS WEBB
nwebb@iattc.org

Appendix 2.

PROPOSAL A1 REV

PROTOCOL FOR SEALING FISH WELLS ON PURSE-SEINE VESSELS

If vessel wells are sealed, with the aim of reducing the vessel's overall capacity, this protocol shall be followed. This protocol, by regulating the sealing of wells as exceptional cases, shall be applied in a way that does not contravene the provisions of Resolution C-02-03, in particular its articles 6 and 7, regarding the system for verifying capacity measurements and the introduction of new vessels. In order for the reduced well volume of the vessel to be recorded on the Regional Vessel Register for purposes of the implementation of Resolution C-02-03 on fleet capacity, the following procedure must be followed by all vessels with wells sealed after the adoption of Resolution C-02-03:

1. A sealed well is defined as any space on board a vessel, intended for the freezing, maintenance, or storage of fish, access to which has been blocked to prevent its use for these purposes.
2. The well must be physically sealed in a tamper-proof manner, and in such a way that it does not communicate with any other space on the vessel [and that its use for any other storage is prevented].
3. It should be possible to open a sealed well in case an emergency arises. If a sealed well is opened at sea, the observer must be present both when the well is opened and when it is resealed.
4. [All refrigeration equipment must be removed from the well.]
5. Any wells that are sealed must be inspected by the vessel's flag government to verify compliance with this protocol, and the results reported to the Director.
6. Any vessel [whose carrying capacity was originally 363 t or more] with one or more of its wells sealed to reduce its well volume recorded on the Regional Vessel Register shall be required to carry an AIDCP observer on board.
7. Observers shall be notified as to which vessels are operating with sealed wells, and shall report any instances of sealed wells being used for storing fish.
8. Unloadings and transshipments by vessels with sealed wells shall be closely monitored [by IATTC staff] to ensure that the sealed wells have not been used.

Recommendation for the Parties to the AIDCP

The Working Group recommends that the Commission inform the Parties to the AIDCP of this protocol, and recommend that they adopt paragraphs 6 and 7 and base the assessments of vessels with sealed wells on the well volume of the vessel before any wells were sealed.