

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

74TH MEETING

BUSAN (KOREA)
26-30 JUNE 2006

DOCUMENT IATTC-74-11

**INCLUSION OF VESSELS OF FLAGS OF NON-PARTIES ON THE IATTC
REGIONAL REGISTER**

Over the course of the past five years, the Commission has adopted four different resolutions ([C-00-06](#), [C-02-03](#), [C-03-07](#), and [C-05-07](#); attached) affecting the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, and creating different lists of vessels. While these resolutions are not contradictory, there is a certain coherence lacking in their linkages and in the lists they create, and it would appear that some clarifications would be in order. On 13 July 2005, Commissioners were sent the attached memorandum addressing this matter.

From the few responses to this memorandum, and from other correspondence received, it would appear that most member countries consider that only the vessels of CPCs should be on the Register, as is the case for vessels on the longline 'positive' list (Resolution C-03-07), but this is not stipulated in the Resolution creating the Register (Resolution C-00-06). It also appears that there is a consensus view that vessels on the IUU list (Resolution C-05-07) should not also be on the Register. Less clear is whether the lists of purse-seine vessels should also be limited to CPCs, which is not currently stipulated in the Resolution creating these lists (Resolution C-02-03).

If the Commission can confirm how it wishes to address these three matters, a Resolution could be adopted that would clarify these linkages, and the lists could be reviewed and any necessary adjustments made.

RESOLUTION C-00-06

RESOLUTION ON A REGIONAL VESSEL REGISTER

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Affirming the importance of ensuring that all vessels fishing in the Convention Area comply with the conservation and management measures agreed by its member governments;

Inspired by the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas;

Aware of the need to have pertinent information relative to the operations of vessels fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Therefore recommends to the High Contracting Parties that:

1. They request the Director to establish and maintain a record of vessels that have been authorized to fish in the Convention Area for species under the purview of the Commission, on the basis of the information detailed in paragraph 2 below.
2. Each Party supply the Director the following information with respect to each vessel under its jurisdiction to be included in the record established pursuant to paragraph 1:
 - a. name of vessel, registration number, previous names (if known), and port of registry;
 - b. a photograph of the vessel showing its registration number;
 - c. previous flag (if known and if any);
 - d. International Radio Call Sign (if any);
 - e. name and address of registered owner or owners;
 - f. where and when built;
 - g. length, beam, and moulded depth;
 - h. fish hold capacity in cubic meters, and carrying capacity in metric tons;
 - i. name and address of operator (manager) or operators (if any);
 - j. type of fishing method or methods;
 - k. gross tonnage;
 - l. power of main engine or engines.
3. Each Party promptly notify the staff of any modifications to the information listed in paragraph 2.
4. Each Party also promptly notify the staff of any additions to or deletions from the record of vessels authorized to fish.
5. Each Party promptly notify the staff of any fishing vessel that is no longer entitled to fly its flag.
6. They request non-member governments with vessels fishing in the EPO under their jurisdiction to provide to the Director the information detailed in paragraph 2 and to otherwise follow the terms of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION C-02-03

RESOLUTION ON THE CAPACITY OF THE TUNA FLEET OPERATING IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN (REVISED)

The Parties to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Aware that the issue of excess fishing capacity is of concern worldwide and is the subject of an International Plan of Action developed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization;

Understanding that excess fishing capacity in a region makes it more difficult for governments to agree on and implement effective conservation and management measures for the fisheries of that region;

Concerned that purse-seine fishing capacity in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) has been increasing in recent years;

Believing that it is important to limit fishing capacity in the EPO in order to help ensure that the tuna fisheries in the region are conducted at a sustainable level;

Aware of the importance of tuna fishing to the economic development of the Parties;

Committed to giving full effect to the relevant rules of international law, as reflected in the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention;

Recalling the resolutions to limit the capacity of the tuna purse-seine fleet in the EPO approved by the IATTC at its 62nd Meeting in October 1998 and by correspondence on 19 August 2000;

Seeking to address the problem of excess capacity in the tuna purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO by limiting such capacity to a level which, in harmony with other agreed management measures and projected and actual levels of catch, will ensure that tuna fisheries in the region are conducted at a sustainable level:

Have agreed as follows:

1. For the purposes of this Resolution, the EPO is defined as the area bounded by the coastline of the American continents, the 40° North parallel, the 150° West meridian and the 40° South parallel.
2. For the purposes of this Resolution, and without setting any precedent, “participant” means Parties to the IATTC, and States and regional economic integration organizations (REIOs), and fishing entities that have applied for membership of the Commission or that cooperate with the management and conservation measures adopted by the Commission. The Commission shall determine which States, REIOs and fishing entities are considered to be cooperating with such management and conservation measures.
3. To finalize and adopt, as soon as possible, a plan for regional management of fishing capacity, as specified in the resolution on fleet capacity of 19 August 2000. Such a plan shall take into account the right of coastal States and other States with a longstanding and significant interest in the tuna fisheries of the EPO to develop and maintain their own tuna fishing industries.
4. To review on a regular basis, and modify if necessary, the methods for estimating fishing capacity and the target level of 158,000 m³, established in the resolution on fleet capacity of 19 August 2000, for the total capacity of the purse-seine fleet, taking into account the level of the stocks of tuna and other relevant factors.
5. To use the Regional Vessel Register (“the Register”) established by the resolution of the 66th

Meeting of the Commission, as of 28 June 2002, with any subsequent modifications that do not increase the total capacity of purse-seine vessels established in the Register, as the definitive list of purse-seine vessels authorized by the participants to fish for tunas in the EPO. Any purse-seine vessel fishing for tunas in the EPO that is not on the Register would be considered to be undermining IATTC management measures. The Register shall include only vessels flying the flags of participants. Each participant shall verify the existence and operational status of, and confirm the accuracy of the information on, its vessels, as required by that resolution, including the requirement to promptly notify the Director of the Commission (“the Director”) of any modifications to that information. For purse-seine vessels, the Register shall include only vessels that have fished in the EPO before 28 June 2002. A participant may remove any vessel flying its flag from the Register by notifying the Director.

6. The well volume of each purse-seine vessel, once confirmed by the relevant participant and verified by an independent survey supervised by the Director, shall be reflected in the Register.
7. To prohibit the entry of new vessels, defined as those not included in the Register, to the EPO purse-seine fleet, except to replace vessels removed from the Register, and provided that the total capacity of any replacement vessel or vessels does not exceed that of the vessel or vessels replaced.
8. To prohibit increasing the capacity of any existing purse-seine vessel unless a purse-seine vessel or vessels of equal or greater capacity is removed from the Register.
9. Notwithstanding paragraphs (7) and (8), above, by January 1 of each year, a participant may notify the Director of any purse-seine vessel operating under its jurisdiction and listed on the Register that will not fish in the EPO in that year. Any vessel identified pursuant to this paragraph shall remain on the Register as “inactive” and shall not fish in the EPO in that year. In such cases, the participant may substitute another purse-seine vessel or vessels on the Register, and those vessels shall be authorized to fish in the EPO provided that the total “active” capacity of purse-seine vessels flying the flag of that participant in any year does not exceed the capacity listed for such vessels on the Register as of 28 June 2002.

10. Subject to the provisions of this resolution:

10.1. Notwithstanding paragraphs (7) and (8), the following participants may add purse-seine vessels to the Register after 28 June 2002, within the following limits*:

Costa Rica:	9364 m ³
El Salvador:	861 m ³
Nicaragua: ¹	5300m ³
Peru:	3195 m ³

10.2. Guatemala may increase its purse-seine fleet by 1700 m³ and commits to obtaining that capacity within a period of two years.

11. In the implementation of paragraph (10.1) above, a participant wishing to bring a new vessel into the EPO shall (1) so notify the other participants, through the Director, and (2) undertake efforts to find a suitable vessel from the Register for at least four months following such notification

* Costa Rica, Colombia, and Peru maintain long-term capacity requests of up to 16,422 m³, 14,046 m³, and 14,046 m³, respectively. The Parties also acknowledge that France has expressed an interest in developing a tuna purse-seine fleet on behalf of its overseas territories in the EPO.

¹ 4038 m³ in the original resolution adopted in June; modified by consensus of the Parties, 3 November 2002

before bringing a new vessel into the EPO.

12. Notwithstanding paragraphs (7) and (8), a limit of 32 United States vessels authorized and licensed to fish in other areas of the Pacific Ocean under an alternative international fisheries management regime, and that may occasionally fish to the east of 150° West, shall be authorized to fish in the EPO provided that: a) the fishing activity of any such vessels in the EPO is limited to a single trip not to exceed 90 days in one calendar year; b) the vessels do not possess a Dolphin Mortality Limit pursuant to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program; and c) the vessels carry an approved observer. A similar exception shall be considered for vessels of other participants with a similar record of participation in the EPO tuna purse-seine fishery and that meet the criteria listed above.
13. Nothing in this resolution shall be interpreted to limit the rights and obligations of any participant to manage and develop the tuna fisheries under its jurisdiction or in which it maintains a longstanding and significant interest.²
14. To urge all non-Parties to provide the information required by this resolution and comply with its provisions.

² This paragraph was agreed *ad referendum* pending consultations among Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela on a possible alternative.

RESOLUTION C-03-07

RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIST OF LONGLINE FISHING VESSELS OVER 24 METERS (LSTLFVs) AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), meeting in Antigua, Guatemala, on the occasion of its 70th Meeting:

Recalling that the FAO Council adopted, on June 23, 2001, an International Plan of Action (IPOA) aiming to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, that this plan stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, and in particular to establish records of vessels authorized to fish and of vessels engaged in or supporting IUU fishing,

Noting that large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLFVs) are highly mobile, and can easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, and thus have a high potential for operating in the Convention Area without timely registration with the Commission,

Considering that the other regional fisheries management organizations have been taking measures in their areas of competence to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by LSTLFVs,

Reaffirming the *Resolutions on Fishing by Vessels of Non-Parties* adopted in June 2000 and June 2001, and

Reaffirming the Commission's action to establish a Regional Vessel Register that contains, for all fishing vessels, including LSTLFVs, that are authorized to fish for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area, the information specified in paragraph 2 of this resolution,

Recognizing that this resolution will be implemented in conjunction with the *Resolution on Criteria for Cooperating non Parties* adopted at this meeting

Noting that nothing in this Resolution will preclude the rights and obligations of Parties based on other international agreements,

Has agreed, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 5, of the Convention, subject to the international obligations of the Parties, that:

1. The Commission shall establish, by August 1, 2003, and thereafter maintain a list of longline fishing vessels larger than 24 meters overall length ("the LSTLFV List"). For the purposes of this resolution, LSTLFVs not included the LSTLFV Record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land tuna and tuna-like species in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).
2. The initial LSTLFV List shall consist of the LSTLFVs of IATTC Parties, cooperating non-Parties, entities, fishing entities or regional economic integration organizations (collectively "CPCs") on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. The LSTLFV List shall include the following information for each vessel:
 - a. name of vessel, registration number, previous names (if known), and port of registry;
 - b. a photograph of the vessel showing its registration number;
 - c. previous flag (if known and if any);
 - d. International Radio Call Sign (if any);
 - e. name and address of registered owner or owners;

- f. where and when built;
- g. length, beam, and moulded depth;
- h. fish hold capacity in cubic meters, and carrying capacity in metric tons;
- i. name and address of operator (manager) or operators (if any);
- j. type of fishing method or methods;
- k. gross tonnage;
- l. power of main engine or engines.

Each CPC shall notify the Director of any addition to, deletion from, and/or modification of its LSTLFVs on the Regional Vessel Register by July 31, 2003. Each CPC shall thereafter notify the Director of any changes affecting the LSTLFV List at any time they occur.

3. The Director shall maintain the LSTLFV List, and shall ensure publicity of the Record, including placing it on the IATTC website, in a manner consistent with the confidentiality requirements of the pertinent CPCs.
4. The flag CPCs of the vessels on the LSTLFV List shall:
 - a. authorize their vessels on the LSTLFV List to operate in the EPO only if they are able to fulfill, in respect of these vessels, the requirements and responsibilities under the Convention and its conservation and management measures;
 - b. take the measures necessary to ensure that their vessels on the LSTLFV List comply with all relevant IATTC conservation and management measures;
 - c. take the measures necessary to ensure that their vessels on the LSTLFV List keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorizations to fish and/or transship;
 - d. ensure that their vessels on the LSTLFV List have no history of IUU fishing activities or, if any vessel does have such history, that the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over the vessel, or that, having taken into account all relevant information, the vessel is not engaged in, or associated with, IUU fishing;
 - e. ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their vessels on the LSTLFV List are not engaged in, or associated with, tuna fishing activities conducted in the EPO by LSTLFV not included in the LSTLFV List.
 - f. take measures necessary to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the vessels on the LSTLFV List are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs, so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.
5. CPCs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 4, including punitive and sanction actions and, in a manner consistent with domestic law, report the results of the review to the Commission at its 2004 meeting and annually thereafter. In considering the results of such reviews, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag CPCs of LSTLFVs on the LSTLFV List to take further actions to enhance compliance by their vessels with IATTC conservation and management measures.
6. With respect to LSTLFVs:
 - a. CPCs shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit fishing for, retaining on board, transshipment and landing of tuna and tuna-like species by LSTLFVs not included in the LSTLFV List.
 - b. To ensure the effectiveness of IATTC conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:
 - i. Flag CPCs shall validate statistical documents only for vessels on the LSTLFV List,
 - ii. CPCs shall require that species covered by Statistical Document Programs caught by

- LSTLFVs in the EPO, when imported into the territory of an IATTC Party, be accompanied by statistical documents validated for vessels on the LSTLFV List and,
- iii. CPCs importing species covered by Statistical Document Programs and the flag States of vessels shall cooperate to ensure the accuracy and legitimacy of statistical documents.
7. Each CPC shall notify the Director of any factual information indicating that LSTLFVs not on the LSTLFVs List are engaged in fishing for, and/or transshipment of, tuna and tuna-like species in the EPO.
 8.
 - a. If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 7 is flying the flag of a CPC, the Director shall ask that CPC to take the measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the EPO.
 - b. If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 7 cannot be determined or is of a non-cooperating non-Party, the Director shall report this to the Commission.
 9. The Commission and the CPCs concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies, to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature so as to avoid adverse effects upon tuna resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU LSTLFVs from the EPO to other oceans.

RESOLUTION C-05-07

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A LIST OF VESSELS PRESUMED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Recalling that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU). This plan stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory way.

Concerned that IUU fishing activities in the Convention area undermine the effectiveness of the IATTC conservation and management measures.

Further concerned that there is a possibility that vessel owners engaged in such fishing activities may have re-flagged their vessels to avoid compliance with IATTC management and conservation measures.

Determined to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of counter-measures to be applied in respect to vessels, without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of flag States under the relevant IATTC instruments.

Considering the action undertaken in other regional tuna fisheries organizations to address this issue;

Conscious of the need to address, as a matter of priority, the issue of vessels conducting IUU fishing activities; and

Noting that the situation must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with the relevant rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement;

Resolves as follows:

1. For the purposes of this resolution, vessels fishing for species covered by the IATTC Convention are presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the EPO, *inter alia*, when an IATTC Party, cooperating non-Party, fishing entity or regional economic integration organization (collectively "CPCs") presents evidence that such vessels:
 - a. Harvest species covered by the IATTC Convention in the EPO and are not on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, or
 - b. Do not record or report their catches made in the EPO, or make false reports, or
 - c. Take or land undersized fish in contravention of IATTC conservation measures, or
 - d. Fish during closures in contravention of IATTC conservation measures, or
 - e. Use prohibited fishing gear in contravention of IATTC conservation measures, or
 - f. Transship with vessels included in the IATTC IUU Vessel List, established by this resolution, or
 - g. Are without nationality and harvest species covered by the IATTC Convention in the EPO, or
 - h. Engage in fishing activities contrary to any other IATTC conservation and management measures, or
 - i. Are under the control of the owner of any vessel on the IATTC IUU Vessel List.

2. Each CPC shall transmit to the Director, before 1 February of every year, a list of any vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the EPO during the current and previous years, accompanied by the evidence supporting the presumption of IUU fishing activity. The IATTC IUU Vessel List shall be based on information collected by CPCs and from any other relevant sources. Information from CPCs should be provided in the format approved by the Parties.
3. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 2, the Director shall draw up a draft IATTC IUU Vessel List and shall transmit it, together with all the supporting evidence provided, to all CPCs, as well as to non-parties with vessels on the List, before 1 March of each year. CPCs and non-parties shall, before 15 April, transmit their comments to the Director, as appropriate, including evidence showing that the vessels neither have fished in contravention of IATTC conservation and management measures nor had the possibility of fishing for species covered by the IATTC Convention in the EPO.
Upon receipt of the draft IATTC IUU Vessel List, CPCs shall closely monitor the vessels included in the draft List in order to determine their activities and possible changes of name, flag and/or registered owner.
4. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 3, the Director shall draw up a provisional IATTC IUU Vessel List, and transmit it, two weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting of the Commission, to the CPCs and the non-parties concerned, together with all the evidence provided.
5. CPCs may at any time submit to the Director any additional information which might be relevant for the establishment of the IATTC IUU Vessel List. The Director shall circulate the information, together with all the evidence provided, to the CPCs and to the non-parties concerned, at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting of the Commission.
6. The IATTC-AIDCP Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties (Joint Working Group) shall each year examine the provisional IATTC IUU Vessel List, as well as the information referred to in paragraphs 3 and 5. The results of this examination may, if necessary, be referred to the Permanent Working Group on Compliance.
The Joint Working Group shall remove a vessel from the provisional IATTC IUU Vessel List if the vessel's flag State demonstrates that:
 - a. The vessel did not engage in any of the IUU fishing activities described in paragraph 1, or
 - b. Effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution, and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity.
7. Following the examination referred to in paragraph 6, the Joint Working Group shall recommend that the Commission approve the provisional IATTC IUU Vessel List, as amended by the Joint Working Group.
8. Once the provisional IATTC IUU Vessel List is adopted by the Commission, the Commission shall ask non-parties with vessels on the IATTC IUU Vessel List to take all the necessary measures to eliminate these IUU fishing activities, including, if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration or the fishing licenses of these vessels, and to inform the Commission of the measures taken in this respect.
9. CPCs shall take all necessary measures, under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU, to:
 - a. ensure that vessels flying their flag do not transship with vessels on the IATTC IUU Vessel List;
 - b. ensure that vessels on the IATTC IUU Vessel List that enter ports voluntarily are not authorized

- to land or transship therein;
- c. prohibit the chartering of a vessel on the IATTC IUU Vessel List;
 - d. refuse to grant their flag to vessels on the IATTC IUU Vessel List, unless the vessel has changed owner, and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel or, having taken into account all relevant facts, the flag CPC determines that granting the vessel its flag will not result in IUU fishing;
 - e. prohibit commercial transactions, imports, landings and/or transshipment of species covered by the IATTC Convention from vessels on the IATTC IUU Vessel List;
 - f. encourage traders, importers, transporters and others involved, to refrain from transactions in, and transshipment of, species covered by the IATTC Convention caught by vessels on the IATTC IUU Vessel List;
 - g. collect, and exchange with other CPCs, any appropriate information with the aim of searching for, controlling and preventing false import/export certificates for species covered by the IATTC Convention from vessels on the IATTC IUU Vessel List.
10. The Director shall take any measure necessary to ensure publicity of the IATTC IUU Vessel List, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, including placing it on the IATTC website. Furthermore, the Director shall transmit the IATTC IUU Vessel List to other regional fisheries organizations for the purposes of enhancing co-operation between the IATTC and these organizations aimed at preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing.
 11. This resolution shall apply to any fishing vessel greater than 24 meters overall length.
 12. Without prejudice to the rights of CPCs and coastal states to take proper action, consistent with international law, the CPCs shall not take any unilateral trade measures or other sanctions against vessels on the draft or provisional IATTC IUU Vessel Lists, pursuant to paragraphs 3 or 4, or that have been removed from the IATTC IUU Vessel List, pursuant to paragraph 6, on the grounds that such vessels are involved in IUU fishing activities.
 13. This resolution replaces Resolution C-04-04.

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

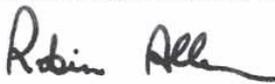
8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla CA 92037-1508, USA – www.iattc.org
Tel: (858) 546-7100 – Fax: (858) 546-7133 – Director: Robin Allen

13 July 2005
Ref.: 0540-410

To: Commissioners

cc: Canada, China, European Union, Honduras, Korea, Chinese Taipei

From: Robin Allen, Director



Re: Inclusion of vessels of flags of non-Parties on the IATTC Regional Register

I am writing to seek your guidance on an important issue relating to the maintenance of the Commission's Regional Vessel Register. It is particularly important that this matter be addressed now that the Commission has established its list of IUU fishing vessels, in accordance with [Resolution C-04-04](#).

I have corresponded with Mr. Hanafusa, the Japanese Commissioner, on the question of whether longline vessels of a non-CPC¹, specifically Belize, should be included in the Regional Register. Japan's view is that they should not be included, noting that both ICCAT and IOTC include only vessels of CPCs in their registers.

The purpose of the Regional Register, as established in [Resolution C-00-06](#) (which predated the FAO IPOA on IUU fishing), was simply to list vessels which were authorized by their respective governments to fish for species under the purview of the Commission. It had no regulatory function, and the Resolution invited non-Parties to have their vessels included on the Regional Register .

The Regional Register was modified by [Resolution C-02-03](#) on fleet capacity, which primarily deals with purse-seine vessels and introduced the term *Participant*, meaning IATTC Parties and states or REIOs and fishing entities that have applied for membership in the IATTC or cooperate with IATTC management and conservation measures. The Regional Register thus became a list that determined which purse-seine vessels could fish in the eastern Pacific Ocean. At the time the resolution was adopted, Colombia was considered a Participant, and therefore its purse-seine vessels have continued on the Regional Register, even though Colombia is not a CPC.

[Resolution C-03-07](#) on the positive list of longline vessels, which introduced the term *CPC*, is also relevant. Only vessels flying the flags of CPCs can be included in the Positive List. CPCs are required to take measures to prohibit large-scale longline vessels that are not on the Positive List from fishing, transshipping and landing tunas and tuna-like species.

The situation is complicated by the reference in [Resolution C-04-04](#) to vessels that are not on the Regional Register being included on the IUU list.

¹ A CPC is defined as a Party or cooperating non-Party, fishing entity, or regional economic integration organization (REIO); the criteria for attaining cooperating status are established in [Resolution C-04-02](#).

Under [Resolution C-00-06](#), it seems clear that the longline vessels of Belize are qualified to be on the Regional Register, at the same time as being on the IATTC IUU List. While that might seem contradictory, excluding these vessels from the Regional Register would constitute an *ad hoc* exemption to the provisions of Resolution C-00-06 for which I think a decision by the Commission is required. However, in view of Japan's position, these vessels are not currently included on the Regional Register, but, as I said above, I would appreciate further guidance.

In summary, it appears that the Commission has adopted a series of resolutions that affect the Regional Register and that may have created certain incongruencies among the lists of vessels maintained by the Commission. You may wish to address this matter at the next meeting of the Commission; in the meantime, the question of whether to include the Belize vessels on the Regional Register is pressing, and I would appreciate guidance on how to proceed with this.