

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

**81<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**

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**DOCUMENT IATTC-81-11 REV**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IATTC REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM  
FOR TRANSSHIPMENTS AT SEA**

1. Introduction..... 1  
2. Implementation and operation..... 1  
3. Results to date..... 3  
4. Financing..... 4  
4.1. Current budget..... 4  
4.2. Budget for 2011..... 5  
5. Points for agreement..... 5

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The IATTC observer program for transshipments at sea began in January 2009.

At its 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting in June 2009, the Commission approved continuing to work with the Marine Resources Assessment Group Ltd. (MRAG) consortium for the operation of the observer program on carrier vessels for monitoring transshipments at sea. Accordingly, the staff renewed the contract with MRAG for 2010, and will do so for 2011 as well.

The program is funded by the participating Members. In 2010, these are China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, and Vanuatu. Peru began its participation in August 2010, with one fishing vessel and three transshipments.

**2. IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION**

In general, there have been no major problems in relation to the implementation and management of the program. No incidents have been reported by the observers in relation to inspection, safety and correct deployment procedures, which have so far been fully implemented and respected by the operators and vessel masters.

Paragraph 6 of Resolution [C-08-02](#), which established the list of carrier vessels, states that “*the Commission shall establish and maintain a record of carrier vessels authorized by their respective flag governments to receive tuna and tuna-like species at sea from LSTLFVs in the Convention Area (IATTC Record of Carrier Vessels). For the purposes of this Resolution, carrier vessels not on this Record are deemed not to be authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species in at-sea transshipment operations*”.

In May 2010 the [list of carrier vessels](#) authorized to receive transshipments at sea was published on the IATTC website. The current list includes 43 vessels (Table 2.1).

Member	Vessels
Japan	4
Korea	2
Kiribati	1
Panama	17
Sierra Leone	1
Singapore	3
Chinese Taipei	1
Vanuatu	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>

**TABLE 2.1** Authorized carrier vessels, by flag

The staff has received several requests to modify information on that list. In some cases the requests for changes involve a vessel that was not originally proposed for inclusion on the list by the government now requesting changes. In such cases, the staff has to check whether the government originally proposing the inclusion of the vessel on the list agrees with the change. This process can take a long time, so the staff would like a simple and fast process to be established for changes. One option would be for the staff to distribute a list of the member that originally included the vessel in the list, and the member intending to make a change could check directly with that member regarding any information changes before requesting the staff to make the change.

As regards longline vessels authorized to make transshipments at sea, Resolution C-08-02 does not specify that they must be on the IATTC list of longline vessels authorized to fish in the Convention Area. (The vessels authorized to make transshipments are considered to be the longline vessels of the five members fully participating in the transshipment program, plus one Peruvian longline vessel which has also transshipped at sea.) The staff considers that this is an omission, and that it should be a requirement for longline vessels to make transshipments at sea. This would require an amendment to Resolution C-08-02. This issue was addressed at the 80<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission in June 2009, but was not resolved.

In order to address this issue, the staff proposes that the following text be added to paragraph 5 of Resolution [C-08-02](#):

*“5. Each member shall determine whether or not to authorize its LSTLFVs<sup>1</sup> to tranship at sea. For the purposes of this resolution, only those vessels that are included in the IATTC list of authorized longline vessels and that operate under the jurisdiction of the members that participate in the observer program established by this Resolution and that finance the costs of its implementation are authorized to make transshipments at sea. The staff will maintain a list of such vessels. Any such transshipments must be conducted in accordance with the procedures defined in Sections 3, 4 and 5, and annexes 2 and 3 of this Resolution.”*

Paragraph 19 of Resolution C-08-02 states that:

*“Each CPC shall report annually before 15 September to the Director:*

- a. The quantities by species transshipped during the previous year.*
- b. The names of its vessels on the IATTC LSTLFV List which have transshipped during the previous year.*
- c. A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received transshipment from its LSTLFVs.”*

The reports for 2009 are expected to be sent to the staff by 15 September 2010. As of 7 September, the staff has received reports from China and Chinese Taipei.

On 12 May 2010 the staff wrote to the members of the informal *ad hoc* working group, established by the participating members to decide how the costs of the program shall be shared, and MRAG regarding the implementation of Resolution C-08-02. It proposed that, now that the transshipment program is in its second year, and is fully operational and functioning smoothly, some other requirements of the Resolution should be addressed.

Specifically, the obligations for the observers on carrier vessels with respect to the LSTFLV intending to transship, established in paragraph 5.1 of Annex 3 of the Resolution (Appendix 1) were noted.

Most of the specified tasks are being carried out by observers without the necessity of actually boarding the fishing vessels. Observers are verifying whether the fishing vessel has an authorization to fish, whether any fish are left aboard the vessel after the transshipment, and whether any of the fish on board resulted from a transshipment.

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<sup>1</sup> Longline vessels over 24 meters length overall

However, the tasks of checking the functionality of VMS and the quantities of any fish remaining in the fishing vessel's holds after transshipment require that the observer board the fishing vessel. This can be dangerous, as the transfer must take place via the crane (used to transfer fish from the fishing vessel) on board the carrier vessel, occasionally under less than optimal at-sea conditions.

Further, in order to verify how much fish is left aboard the fishing vessels after the transshipment, observers may need to enter the vessel's fish holds. This can be dangerous, and requires proper gear, and determining the quantity of fish is both difficult and time-consuming.

The staff seeks guidance from the Commission on whether observers should be required to board fishing vessels, in view of the potential risks to the observer's safety. One alternative would be to require the vessel captain to complete a questionnaire before the transshipment, supplying information such as whether the fish was transshipped from another vessel, the numbers and weights of the fish transshipped, by species, and the numbers and weights of species not transshipped. The questionnaire should be in several languages (Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and English).

Regarding the verification of the type and functionality of VMS equipment, observers could check only whether the vessel has the equipment aboard and turned on, and that the antenna is not obstructed.

If observers are to board fishing vessels, the members participating in the program need to inform their respective fishing vessels in order to facilitate this procedure for the observers, and to complete the questionnaires.

### 3. RESULTS TO DATE

Table 3.1 shows the number of observer requests, the number of transshipments and days at sea by the observers during 2009 and 2010 to date. The staff has received 25 requests for observers in 2010, and observers have been, or will be, deployed in all of these cases (Appendix 2). The number of both observer requests and days at sea have been considerably higher in 2010 to date than in the corresponding period of 2009.

The locations of transshipments made in 2009 and 2010 are shown in Appendix 3.

Table 3.2 shows the number of longline vessels that made transshipments, and the number of transshipments in the entire Pacific Ocean during 2009 and 2010.

Table 3.3 shows the quantities of fish transshipped in the entire Pacific Ocean, by species and longline vessel flag, in metric tons.

	2009		2010 <sup>1</sup>	
Requests for observers	30		25	
Days at sea	1,477		1,400 <sup>2</sup>	
	EPO	Outside EPO	EPO	Outside EPO
Transshipments	429	79	243	112

**TABLE 3.1** Activity of the transshipment observer program, 2009-2010.  
<sup>1</sup> To 7 September  
<sup>2</sup> To 1 September

	2009		2010	
	Vessel	Transshipments	Vessel	Transshipments
Belize	0	0	1	2
China	79	179	66	95
Japan	47	101	47	77
Korea	20	38	16	19
Philippines*	1	1	2	3
Chinese Taipei	60	100	63	103
Vanuatu	30	89	42	56
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>355</b>

**TABLE 3.2.** Fishing vessels and transshipments, 2009 y 2010.  
 \*Transshipments made in the western Pacific Ocean

<b>2009</b>	Bigeye	Yellowfin	Swordfish	Albacore	Other	<b>Total</b>
Belize	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
China	8,611	1,755	1,241	440	728	<b>12,775</b>
Japan	4,834	1,268	632	772	681	<b>8,187</b>
Korea	2,460	324	323	79	553	<b>3,739</b>
Philippines	72	34	0	0	0	<b>106</b>
Chinese Taipei	3,546	845	408	1,663	490	<b>6,952</b>
Vanuatu	1,145	258	125	3,836	1,133	<b>6,498</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,666</b>	<b>4,484</b>	<b>2,729</b>	<b>6,791</b>	<b>3,585</b>	<b>38,256</b>
<b>2010</b>						
Belize	36	8	1	8	2	54
China	3,960	867	641	282	443	6,192
Japan	3,767	1,289	605	148	641	6,451
Korea	1,833	271	270	31	483	2,888
Philippines	92	20	12	0	1	124
Chinese Taipei	4,496	1,027	632	725	549	7,430
Vanuatu	1,200	242	117	1,531	116	3,205
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,384</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>2,725</b>	<b>2,234</b>	<b>26,344</b>

**TABLE 3.3.** Fish transshipped in 2009 and 2010 (to 7 September), in metric tons.

#### 4. FINANCING

##### 4.1. Current budget

The budget for the operation of the program in 2010 was calculated at about USD 650,000. Contributions are payable in two installments, as agreed by the *ad hoc* working group, and were paid in full (Table 4.1).

<b>2010</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>First allocation</b>	<b>Second allocation</b>
China	211,412.50	105,706.30	105,706.30
Japan	117,910.00	58,955.00	58,955.00
Korea	71,402.50	35,701.25	35,701.25
Peru	4,640.00	-	4,640.00
Chinese Taipei	115,212.50	57,606.25	57,606.25
Vanuatu	134,062.50	67,031.25	67,031.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>654,640.00</b>	<b>325,000.00</b>	<b>329,640.00</b>

**TABLE 4.1.** Financial contributions for 2010, in USD.

Peru's contribution was calculated on the basis of the total budget of USD 650,000 divided by number of transshipments made in 2009, or USD 1,515 per transshipment. Peru indicated that its vessel would make three transshipments in 2010.

The financial situation as of 1 September 2010 is shown in Table 4.2. Appendix 4 summarizes in more detail the expenditures for the period of 1 January - 1 September 2010.

In August, the amount paid to MRAG was about 83,000 USD, and it is expected that the monthly cost for the remaining four months of 2010 will be about 78,500 USD. The shortfall is therefore about 150,000 USD, so a third round of contributions will be needed in order to fund the operation of the program for the rest of 2010. This amount, if calculated as agreed by the *ad hoc* working group for the second 2010

Contributions received	Paid invoices to MRAG (Jan-Aug)	Remaining budget (Sep-Dec)	Estimated additional amount needed, Sep-Dec
654,640.00	490,106.79	164,533.21	150,000.00

**TABLE 4.2.** Financial situation as of 1 September 2010, in USD.

payment, would result in the payments shown in Table 4.3.

	<b>% agreed for second payment</b>	<b>Additional third contribution</b>
China	33.8	50,700
Japan	18.59	27,885
Korea	9.59	14,385
Chinese Taipei	16.90	25,350
Vanuatu	21.13	31,695
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.01</b>	<b>150,015</b>

**TABLE 4.3.** Additional third contribution for 2010, in USD.

#### 4.2. Budget for 2011

MRAG presented an indicative budget for implementing the program in 2011, with an approximate total cost of 750,000 USD, similar to the amount that will be expended during 2010. This budget takes into account the increased number of observer deployments in 2010, as well as the increased number of days at sea.

In accordance with the distribution of costs for 2010 agreed by the *ad hoc* working group, the budget for the program in 2011 will be distributed as shown in Table 4.4. If Peru continues to participate on an irregular basis, as it did in 2010, its 2011 contribution could be calculated as in 2010. Peru announced its intention to make about six transshipments in 2011, for each of which it would pay 1,515 USD, as in 2010.

<b>2011</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>First allocation</b>	<b>Second allocation</b>
China	243,938	121,968	121,968
Japan	136,050	68,025	68,025
Korea	82,388	41,193	41,193
Peru	9,090	4,545	4,545
Chinese Taipei	132,938	66,468	66,468
Vanuatu	154,688	77,343	77,343
<b>Total</b>	<b>759,092</b>	<b>379,542</b>	<b>379,542</b>

**TABLE 4.4.** Allocations for 2011, in USD.

The first contribution for 2011 will be payable by 15 January, and in May the staff will send a reminder for the second contribution, which will payable by 15 June.

#### 5. POINTS FOR AGREEMENT

In order to progress in the development of this program and the implementation of Resolution C-08-02, the Commission needs to reach agreement on the following points:

1. Approve the additional contribution of 150,000 USD for 2010.
2. Approve the 2011 budget and the allocations by participating country.
3. Agree to the requirement that fishing vessels have to be included in the IATTC list of authorized longline vessels in order to make transshipments.
4. Decide whether to amend paragraph 5.1 of Annex 3 of Resolution C-08-02.
5. A process for modifying the IATTC [list of carrier vessels](#).

## Appendix 1.

From Resolution C-08-02 on establishing a program for transshipments by large-scale fishing vessels, Annex 3, *Obligations of the observer*:

5. The observer's tasks shall be, in particular, to:

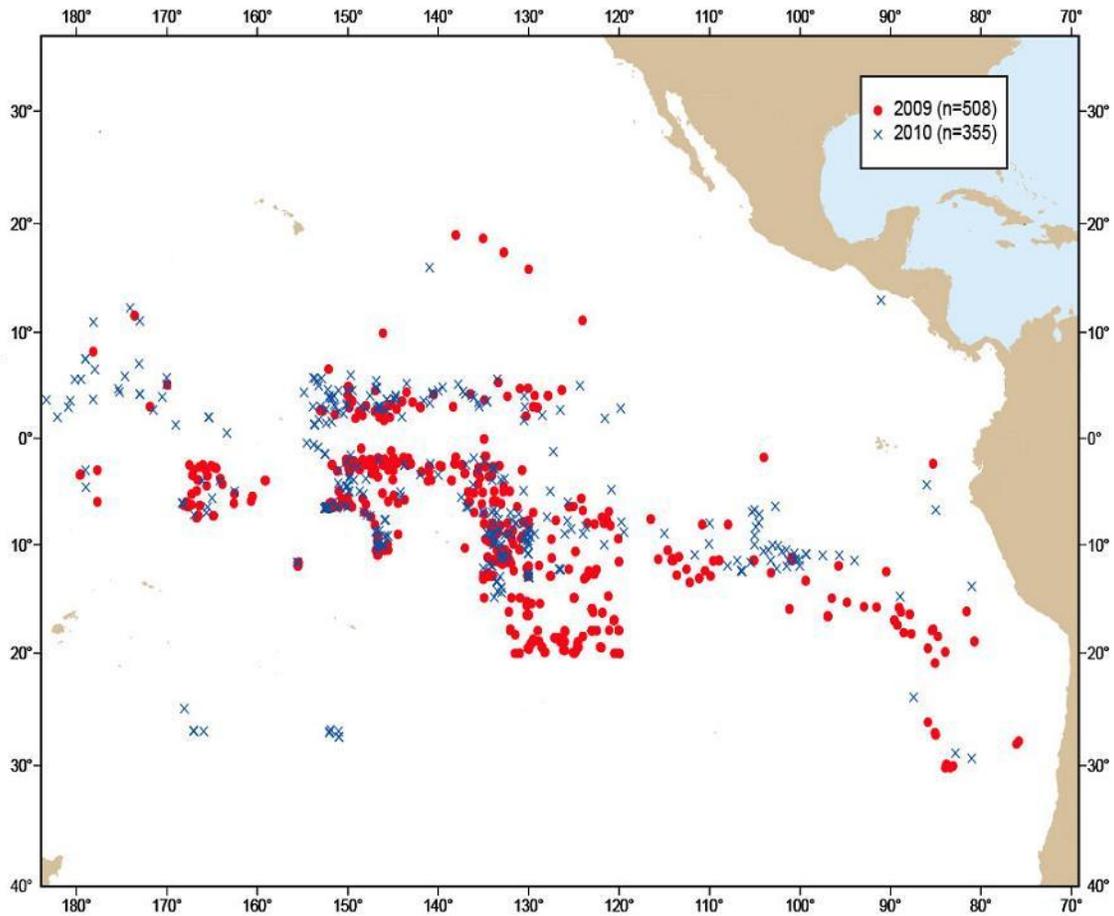
- 5.1. on the [fishing vessel] intending to tranship to a carrier vessel, and before the transhipment takes place:
  - i. check the validity of the fishing vessel's authorization or license to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;
  - ii. check and record the total quantity of catch on board, and the quantity to be transferred to the carrier vessel;
  - iii. check that the VMS is functioning, and examine the logbook;
  - iv. verify whether any of the catch on board resulted from transfers from other vessels, and check the documentation on such transfers;
  - v. in the case of an indication that there are any violations involving the fishing vessel, immediately report the violations to the master of the carrier vessel.
  - vi. record the results of these duties on the fishing vessel in the observer's report.

## Appendix 2.

### CARRIER VESSEL TRIPS, 2010

Status	IATTC trip	Carrier vessel	Flag	Departure date 2010	Departure Port	Arrival date 2010	Arrival Port
Ended	31	<i>Tenho Maru</i>	PAN	2-Feb	Suva, Fiji	13-Apr	Papeete, Tahiti
	32	<i>Lung Yuin</i>	PAN	31-Jan	Papeete, Tahiti	24-Feb	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	33	<i>Hatsukari</i>	PAN	9-Feb	Papeete, Tahiti	8-May	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	34	<i>Taiho Maru</i>	JPN	15-Apr	Papeete, Tahiti	6-Jun	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	35	<i>Houta Maru</i>	PAN	6-Mar	Majuro, Marsh. Is.	25-Apr	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	36	<i>Harima 2</i>	PAN	13-Mar	Papeete, Tahiti	26-Apr	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	37	<i>Ryoma</i>	PAN	28-Apr	Majuro, Marsh. Is.	9-Jul	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	38	<i>Yu Hsiang Maru</i>	VUT	20-Apr	Majuro, Marsh. Is.	10-Jun	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	39	<i>Lung Yuin</i>	PAN	7-Jun	Papeete, Tahiti	21-Jun	Papeete, Tahiti
	40	<i>Shin Izu</i>	VUT	17-May	Majuro, Marsh. Is.	2-Aug	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	41	<i>New Satsuki</i>	PAN	16-May	Majuro, Marsh. Is.	24-Jun	Busan, Korea
	42	<i>Haru</i>	PAN	1-Jun	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	3-Sep	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	43	<i>Tenho Maru</i>	PAN	12-Jul	Papeete, Tahiti	5-Aug	Papeete, Tahiti
	44	<i>Houta Maru</i>	PAN	28-Jun	Majuro, Marsh. Is.	10-Aug	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	45	<i>Seiwa</i>	PAN	11-Jun	Busan, Korea	10-Aug	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
At sea	46	<i>Kaiho Maru</i>	PAN	6-Aug	Papeete, Tahiti	4-Sep	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	47	<i>Taiho Maru</i>	JPN	21-Aug	Suva, Fiji	25-Oct	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	48	<i>Satsuma</i>	SGP	29-Jul	Shimizu, Japan	15-Oct	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	49	<i>Tuna States</i>	VUT	4-Aug	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	30-Oct	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	50	<i>Yu Hsiang Maru</i>	VUT	23-Aug	Suva, Fiji	15-Oct	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	51	<i>Ryoma</i>	PAN	25-Aug	Kaohsiung, TWN	10-Nov	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
Not initiated	52	<i>Meita Maru</i>	VUT	1-Sep	Busan, Korea	30-Oct	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	53	<i>Futugami</i>	VUT	8-Sep	Cristóbal, Panama	10-Nov	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	54	<i>Shin Izu</i>	VUT	13-Sep	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	15-Nov	Majuro, Marsh. Is.
	55	<i>Lung Yuin</i>	PAN	5-Oct	Papeete, Tahiti	29-Oct	Papeete, Tahiti

**Appendix 3.**



Locations of transshipments, 2009 and 2010 (to 7 September).

**Appendix 4.**

**TOTAL EXPENSES, 2010 (USD)**

Item	Unit cost	Total units	Cost in contract	Units billed to date	Cost to date	Units to end*	Est. cost to complete	% left
Observed sea days	359	1,400	502,600	1,077	386,643	323	115,957	23
Observer travel days	469	100	46,900	85	39,865	15	7,035	15
Observer training	630	36	22,680	36	22,680	0	0.00	0
Equipment, supplies, observer travel	-	-	50,000	-	40,919	-	9,080	18
<b>Total costs</b>			<b>622,180</b>		<b>490,107</b>		<b>132,072</b>	<b>21</b>

• Estimated