

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

81ST MEETING

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA
27 SEPTEMBER-1 OCTOBER 2010

DOCUMENT IATTC-81-17

LENGTH LIMIT FOR INCLUDING VESSELS IN THE IATTC IUU VESSEL LIST

For the past several years, the Commission has been discussing the limit of 24 meters overall length, established in paragraph 11 of Resolution [C-05-07](#) on the IATTC IUU Vessel List, for vessels to be eligible for inclusion in the List. During the 74th meeting of the Commission in June 2006, it became clear that most Parties believe that the 24-meter limit is too high.

Paragraph 11 of Resolution C-05-07 reads “*This resolution shall apply to any fishing vessel greater than 24 meters overall length*”. In 2007, the Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties recommended to the 75th meeting of the Commission an amendment to Resolution C-05-07 which combined a length limit, to be decided by the Commission, with the criterion that all vessels with a history of fishing in waters outside the jurisdiction of their flag states be eligible for inclusion in the IUU List.

The Commission discussed this recommendation, and several delegations favored lowering the length limit (with 18 meters mentioned as a possibility), noting that many longline vessels have been built with measurements just below 24 meters in order to avoid regulation. However, one delegation was not in favor of this. The Commission did not agree to lower the length limit, but did decide to continue considering the issue and to address it again at a future meeting.

The issue has been on the agenda for subsequent meetings of the IATTC, but there has not been enough time to discuss it. Any proposal to amend Resolution C-05-07 should include this consideration.

Figure 1, updated in August 2010, shows the distribution of lengths of vessels on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, and indicates that 2,655 vessels are of 24 meters or less.

The staff believes it would be appropriate to eliminate paragraph 11 of the present resolution or to avoid its inclusion in the new text of the resolution, as there is no valid reason for protecting a vessel from being considered IUU on the basis of size, and keeping in mind that no vessel of a Party can be added to the IUU List without the approval of that Party.

A related question is the definition of vessel length. Three IATTC Resolutions ([C-03-07](#), [C-04-06](#), and [C-05-07](#)) contain measures applying to vessels longer than 24 meters. In two of these, length is specified as “overall length”, and the third simply refers to “length.” It has been proposed that the IATTC and other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) should harmonize their definitions of vessel length, and use a common standard for defining length. The staff recommends that it be clarified that “overall length” be the standard definition of vessel length in all IATTC resolutions.

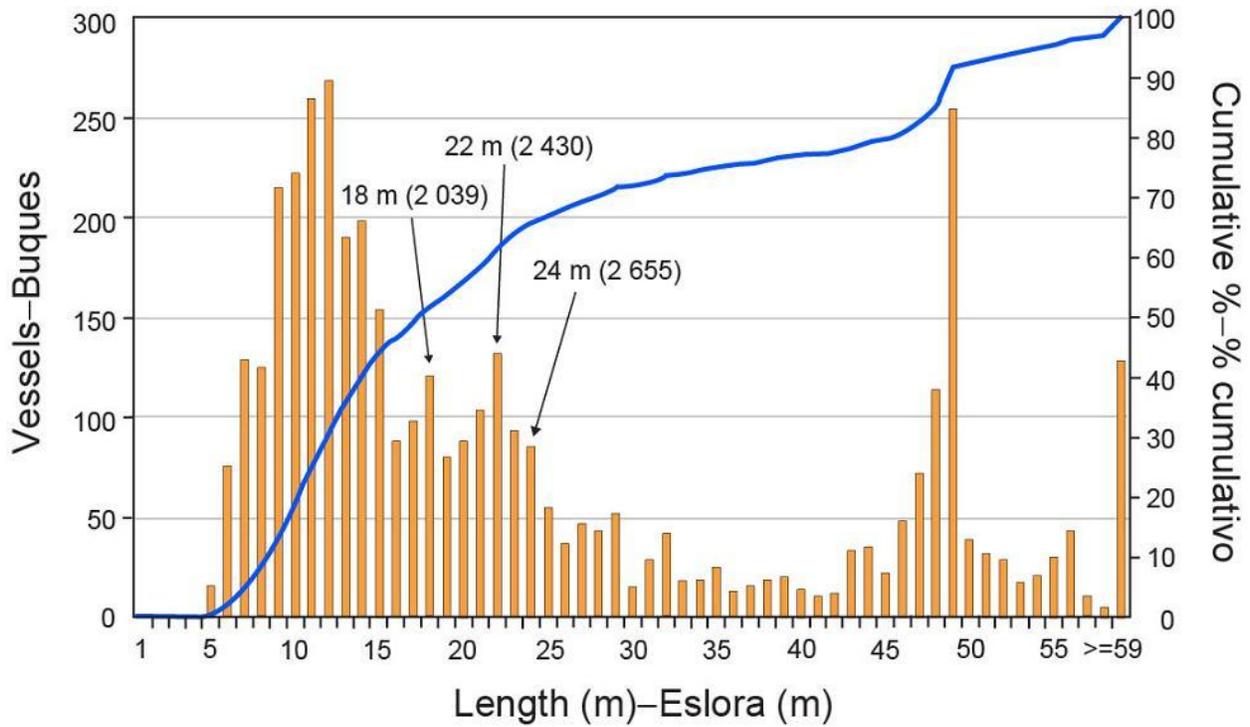


FIGURE 1. Vessels on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register for which length information is available (4,159 vessels). This information is not available for 341 vessels. The line indicates the cumulative percentage. Numbers in parentheses are the number of vessels smaller than 18, 22 and 24 m.

FIGURA 1. Buques incluidos en el Registro Regional de Buques de la CIAT para los que se dispone de información de eslora (4.159 buques). No se dispone de esta información para 341 buques. La línea indica el porcentaje cumulativo. Los números en paréntesis indican el total acumulado para buques de menos de 18, 22 y 24 m.