

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

**COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF  
MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION**

**1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA  
24 SEPTEMBER 2010

**DOCUMENT COR-01-06**

**COMPLIANCE WITH IATTC MEASURES IN 2009**

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The following abbreviations are used:

**Countries and fishing entities:**

BLZ	Belize
BOL	Bolivia
CHN	China
COL	Colombia
CRI	Costa Rica
ECU	Ecuador
ESP	Spain
EUR	European Union
GTM	Guatemala
HND	Honduras
JPN	Japan
KOR	Republic of Korea
MEX	Mexico
NIC	Nicaragua
SLV	El Salvador
TWN	Chinese Taipei
USA	United States of America

VEN	Venezuela
VUT	Vanuatu

**Species:**

BET	Bigeye tuna ( <i>Thunnus obesus</i> )
SKJ	Skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )
YFT	Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )

**Forms:**

RDC	Compliance Record
RDT	Shark Record
RTM	Sea Turtle Record

**Other:**

CPC	IATTC Party, cooperating non-party, fishing entity or regional economic integration organization
FAD	Fish-aggregating device
EPO	Eastern Pacific Ocean

The information presented in this document relates to some of the issues on the agenda of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures adopted by the Commission, to be held on 24 September 2010.

Unless otherwise noted, the data related to purse-seine fisheries in this report cover all observed trips initiated in 2009 (2009 trips) with fishing activity in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), regardless of the year the activity occurred, and covered by the IATTC observer program. Data received from national observer programs are also included.

The number of 2009 trips is as follows:

	Program		Total
	IATTC	National	
COL	24	22	46
ECU	145	77	222 <sup>1</sup>
EUR	9	9	18
GTM	9	-	9
HND	12	-	12
MEX	99	83	182
NIC	10	9	19
PAN	49	45	94
PER	3	-	3
SLV	23	-	23
USA	3	1 <sup>2</sup>	4
VEN	35	35	70
VUT	11	-	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>713</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes two trips by Class-4 vessels with observers, pursuant to paragraph 4 of Resolution C-09-01

<sup>2</sup> The vessel changed flags during the trip.

Besides the number of trips indicated in the table, the IATTC and national programs sampled one trip by a vessel that sank before starting fishing operations, and nine trips without sets in the Convention Area.

In addition, five trips by Class-4 vessels were accompanied by observers of a program managed by the Subsecretaría de Pesca of Ecuador, not the regular national observer program. The Secretariat has little information regarding these trips. Paragraph 4 of Resolution C-09-01 allows vessels of Classes 4 and 5 *‘to make only one single fishing trip of up to 30 days duration during the specified closure periods, provided that any such vessel carries an observer of the On-Board Observer Program of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP).’*

## 1. RELEVANT COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS

The IATTC resolutions which were in effect during 2009 and which can be analyzed in terms of compliance are:

	Adopted
<a href="#">C-99-07</a> <i>Resolution on fish-aggregating devices</i>	July 1999
<a href="#">C-02-03</a> <i>Resolution on the capacity of the tuna fleet operating in the EPO</i>	June 2002
<a href="#">C-03-04</a> <i>Resolution on at-sea reporting</i>	June 2003
<a href="#">C-03-05</a> <i>Resolution on data provision</i>	June 2003
<a href="#">C-04-05</a> <i>Consolidated resolution on bycatch (Rev 2)</i>	June 2006
<a href="#">C-05-02</a> <i>Resolution on northern albacore tuna</i>	June 2005
<a href="#">C-05-03</a> <i>Resolution on the conservation of sharks</i>	June 2005
<a href="#">C-07-03</a> <i>Resolution to mitigate the impact of tuna fishing vessels on sea turtles</i>	June 2007
<a href="#">C-09-01</a> <i>Resolution on a multiannual program for the conservation of tuna in the EPO</i>	June 2009

The *Resolution on Fish-Aggregating Devices* continues the prohibition of transshipment of tuna at sea and of the use of tender vessels.

The *Resolution on the capacity of the tuna fleet operating in the EPO* establishes rules and procedures governing the entry, transfer and operation of purse-seine vessels in the tuna fisheries of the EPO.

The *Resolution on at-sea reporting* requires all purse-seine vessels which carry an on-board observer to transmit the observer's weekly report to the staff.

The *Resolution on data provision* establishes the types and format of fisheries data to be provided to the Director by countries with vessels fishing for tunas in the EPO.

The *Consolidated Resolution on Bycatch* has a requirement to release unharmed, to the extent practicable, non-target species, with special requirements for releasing sea turtles.

The *Resolution on northern albacore tuna* establishes limits on the catch of albacore in the EPO.

The *Resolution on the conservation of sharks* calls for restrictions on the finning<sup>1</sup> of sharks and the provision of information on shark catches.

The *Resolution on the conservation of tuna* calls for restrictions on fishing for tunas by time and area during 2009-2011.

## 2. REVIEW OF POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS DURING 2009

### 2.1. Consolidated resolution on bycatch ([C-04-05](#))

#### 2.1.1. Release requirement

The resolution calls for fishermen to release unharmed, to the extent practicable, all sea turtles, sharks, billfishes, rays, dorado, and other non-target species, with specific requirements for the release of encircled or entangled sea turtles.

It should be noted that this report includes information provided by observers, on occurrences within the Convention Area, without extrapolations for unobserved trips or for injured animals that may die as a result of their injuries. This may account for a difference with other IATTC reports in which the mortalities reported are estimated.

##### 2.1.1.a Sea turtles

With respect to sea turtles, the resolution requires that all sea turtles be released by fishermen on purse-seine vessels. More specifically, the resolution calls for the following:

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<sup>1</sup> Defined as cutting off the shark's fins and discarding the rest of the animal

1. Require fishermen on vessels targeting species covered by the Convention to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, all sea turtles.

2. Require specific measures for encircled or entangled sea turtles, as follows:

i. Whenever a sea turtle is sighted in the net, all reasonable efforts should be made to rescue the turtle before it becomes entangled in the net, including, if necessary, the deployment of a speedboat.

ii. If a turtle is entangled in the net, net roll should stop as soon as the turtle comes out of the water and should not start again until the turtle has been disentangled and released.

iii. If a turtle is brought aboard the vessel, all appropriate efforts to assist in the recovery of the turtle should be made before returning it to the water.

iv. Also, Resolution C-07-03 on mitigating the impact of tuna fishing vessels on sea turtles requires all sea turtles observed entangled in FADs to be released.

3. Prohibit vessels targeting species covered by the Convention from disposing of salt bags or any other type of plastic trash at sea.

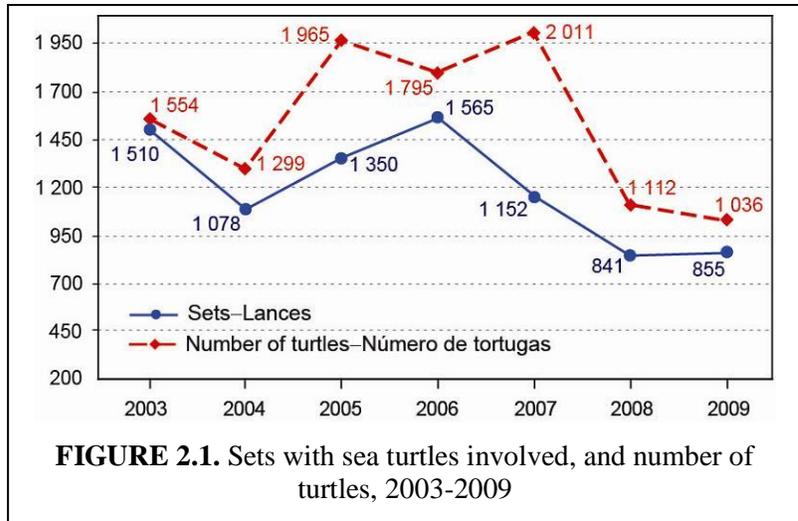


FIGURE 2.1. Sets with sea turtles involved, and number of turtles, 2003-2009

Figure 2.1 illustrates the number of sets with turtles involved and the number of turtles involved, observed by the IATTC and national observer programs during 2004-2009. During 2009 trips 1,036 sea turtles were involved in 825 sets, a slight decrease from previous years.

Table 2.1 shows the condition of the turtles involved, by vessel flag.

The data in Table 2.2 show that compliance has been constant over the years, with over 90% of the involved turtles being released unharmed, although the number of turtles killed during fishing operations in 2009 increased to 10 from none in 2008. Three of these turtles died as a result of being passed through the power block, as noted in Table 2.3, which indicates the condition of the six turtles reported by observers as having been passed through the power block. In comparison, three turtles were reported in

	COL	ECU	ESP	GTM	HND	MEX	NIC	PAN	SLV	USA	VEN	VUT	Tot	%
Escaped	3	14	1			7	1	3	1		12	1	43	4
Released:														
Unharmed	70	349	22	19	3	79	18	194	24	2	109	27	916	88
Slightly injured	8	10	-	1	-	6	-	13	-	-	4	1	43	4
Severely injured	-	4	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	8	1
Left entangled	-	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killed	-	4	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	10	1
Consumed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	2	3	3	-	-	2	1	4		-	1	-	16	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1,036</b>	

TABLE 2.1. Condition of sea turtles involved in purse-seine sets, 2009

Involved	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	1,965		1,795		2,011		1,112		1,036	
Escaped/Released unharmed	1,840	(94)	1,678	(93)	1,926	(96)	1,065	(95)	959	(92)
Slightly injured	74	(4)	86	(5)	60	(3)	3	<1	43	(4)
Severely injured	18	(1)	15	(1)	16	(1)	5	<1	8	(1)
Killed	6	<1	6	<1	3	<1	-	-	10	(1)
Consumed	1	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	26	(1)	10	(1)	-	-	-	-	16	(2)

**TABLE 2.2.** Condition of turtles involved in purse-seine sets, 2005-2009. Numbers in parentheses are percentages.

this category in 2008, five in 2007, three in 2006, four in 2005, six in 2004 and eight in 2003. Five of the six cases in 2009 occurred on trips with IATTC observers aboard; the staff is notifying the vessels' flag governments of these violations of the resolution.

It should be noted that observers make a visual assessment of the condition of all turtles involved in sets, and specifically those passed through the power block, but do not have the time or specialized knowledge necessary to make a thorough examination.

Sea turtles can also become entangled in webbing discarded at sea or webbing hung under fish-aggregating devices (FADs). The fate of the 22 turtles that were found entangled alive in a FAD prior to the set (18 sets) is shown in Table 2.4. The number of sets and the number of turtles entangled in FADs in previous years were: 2008: 22 turtles in 19 sets; 2007: 28 turtles in 23 sets; 2006: 53 turtles in 33 sets; and 2005: 28 turtles in 21 sets. No compliance issues were identified under this requirement.

Observers also record sightings of turtles entangled in netting associated with floating objects on which **no set** is made. The 153 turtles involved in the 119 sightings recorded in 2009 (excluding turtles recorded as previously dead) are broken down in Table 2.5 by the action taken by the crew after the sighting.

Reports by observers during 2003-2009 of turtles left entangled in FADs on which no set was made are summarized in Table 2.6.

In terms of compliance, the staff identified, through the RDC and the RTM, four categories of violations of the sea turtle release requirements which occurred during 2009 trips:

Released unharmed	-
Slightly injured	-
Severely injured	2
Killed	3
Consumed	-
Other/Unknown	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

**TABLE 2.3.** Condition of sea turtles passed through power block, 2009

	COL	ECU	ESP	GTM	HND	MEX	NIC	PAN	SLV	USA	VEN	VUT	Tot	
<b>Sets</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>%</b>
Escaped	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Released:														
Unharmed	6	6	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	17	77
Slightly injured	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		-	-	-	1	5
Severely injured	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	14
Left entangled	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consumed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	-	-	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	-	<b>1</b>	-	<b>22</b>	

**TABLE 2.4.** Fate of sea turtles found entangled alive in webbing in FADs involved in sets, 2009

<b>Sightings</b>	5	46	1		1	2	3	18	3	5	28	7	<b>119</b>	<b>%</b>
Escaped	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Released:														
Unharm ed	5	33	1	-		3	1	8	5	8	21	3	<b>88</b>	<b>57</b>
Slightly injured		20	-	-	1	-	15	9	-	-	8	2	<b>55</b>	<b>35</b>
Severely injured	1		-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	3	3	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>
Left entangled		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>
Killed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consumed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>155</b>	

**TABLE 2.5.** Fate of sea turtles sighted entangled in webbing (no set), 2009

1. No effort to avoid entanglement of turtles;
2. Failure to stop net roll to release turtles;
3. Failure to make all appropriate efforts for the recovery of a turtle brought aboard the vessel, before returning it to the water; and
4. Failure to release turtles entangled in FADs.

In addition to the failure to stop net roll, which resulted in the mortality of the three turtles noted in Table 2.3

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Sightings of FADs	119	167	140	185	134	124	183
Turtles left entangled	1	15	23	26	17	26	25

**TABLE 2.6.** Number of turtles left entangled in FADs (no set), 2003-2009

caused by their going through the power block, the violations recorded by IATTC observers during 2009 trips and reported to the pertinent national authorities, are listed in Table 2.7.

The number of violations in three of the four categories was lower than in 2008, when the total number of violations was 91.

Resolution C-04-05 prohibits vessels from disposing of salt bags or any other type of plastic trash at sea. Accordingly, observers are required to record on the RDC whether any such trash was discarded. Since the size of the trash items is not defined in the resolution, the observers record, in addition to discards of salt bags, any discards of large plastic bags, like those used for trash containers. Observers do not record

	<b>No effort to avoid entanglement</b>	<b>No recovery effort</b>	<b>Did not stop net roll</b>	<b>No release of turtles entangled in FADs</b>	<b>Total</b>
COL	2	-	-	-	<b>2</b>
ECU	15	1	8	1	<b>24</b>
ESP	-	-	-	-	-
HND	-	1	1	-	<b>2</b>
MEX	4	2	1	-	<b>7</b>
NIC	1	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
PAN	7	-	-	-	<b>7</b>
SLV	-	-	-	-	-
USA	-	-	-	-	-
VEN	3	-	1	-	<b>4</b>
VUT	7	-	3	-	<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>57</b>

**TABLE 2.7.** Violations of sea turtle release requirements recorded by IATTC observers, 2009

each instance of such discards, nor estimate the number or volume of salt bags or other trash discarded; they simply record whether such trash was disposed of during the trip. Therefore, Table 2.8 indicates only the number of trips during which there was at least one occurrence of discards of salt or plastic bags. However, in most cases there were several occurrences of discards during a trip. In 2007, observers reported disposal of plastic trash in 29% of trips (130 of 453 trips); in 2008 this fell to 18% (85 of 471 trips), and in 2009 to 13% (57 of 432 trips).

### 2.1.1.b Sharks

On the RDT, observers record the ‘fate’ (released alive, discarded dead, retained as catch) of any shark involved in a set on tunas. The data for 2009 are summarized in Table 2.9.

It should be noted that, as with turtles, the observer, with limited experience and very little time to handle these animals in a potentially dangerous situation, can only estimate the condition of the shark.

Vessel flag	Trips with RDCs	Trips with trash discarded
COL	24	3
ECU	145	12
ESP	9	-
GTM	9	-
HND	12	1
MEX	99	21
NIC	10	-
PAN	49	4
PER	3	-
SLV	23	1
USA	3	-
VEN	35	14
VUT	11	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>57</b>

**TABLE 2.8.** Trips with discards of trash recorded by IATTC observers, 2009

	COL	ECU	ESP	GTM	HND	MEX	NIC	PAN	PER	SLV	USA	VEN	VUT	Total	%
<b>Sets</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>3,367</b>	
Released	175	1,317	559	65	10	3	32	526	-	219	2	546	115	3,569	12
Discarded	399	4,285	1,053	125	65	17	166	1,638	-	1,096	10	190	726	9,770	34
Retained	964	1,328	1	1	6	11,099	40	146	10	50	1	1,767	2	15,415	53
Other	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	33	-	1	-	2	-	39	<1
Unknown	30	25	1	-	-	9	11	288	-	23	1	4	-	361	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>6,956</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>11,128</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,509</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>29,154</b>	

**TABLE 2.9.** Fate of sharks involved in purse-seine sets, 2009

The number of sharks involved in the fishery in 2009 reverted to levels similar to those in years prior to 2008 (Table 2.10). Twelve percent of the sharks involved in the purse-seine fishery were released alive, possibly with a certain degree of injury, an increase from 8% in 2008. Similarly, although the percentage of sharks retained as catch, 53%, was lower than in 2008 (66%), it was similar to that of years prior to 2008.

Nonetheless, the retention of sharks may represent a violation of Resolution C-04-05, which requires the release, to the extent practicable, of all sharks taken as bycatch. The Commission may wish to review this requirement, and provide guidelines for defining the term ‘to the extent

	2009	2008	2007	2006
Sets with sharks involved	3,367	3,817	3,041	3,224
Number of sharks involved	29,154	44,168	33,514	24,796
Sharks per set	8.7	11.6	11.0	7.7
Sharks retained as catch	15,415	29,287	18,376	11,309
Sharks retained per set	4.6	7.7	6.0	3.5
Percentage retained	53	66	55	46

**TABLE 2.10.** Sharks involved in purse-seine sets, 2006-2009

	Trips with RDC	Trips with finned sharks	%	Finned sharks
COL	24	6	25	76
ECU	145	2	1	70
ESP	9	-	-	-
GTM	9	-	-	-
HND	12	1	8	25
MEX	99	3	3	10
NIC	10	-	-	-
PAN	49	1	2	2
PER	3	-	-	-
SLV	23	-	-	-
USA	3	-	-	-
VEN	35	1	3	1
VUT	11	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>184</b>

**TABLE 2.11.** Finned sharks recorded by IATTC observers, 2009.

practicable’.

Observers record on the RDC information on finned sharks, which are also recorded on the RDT as ‘Discarded’. Table 2.11 shows that 184 sharks caught in sets on tunas were finned during 2009 trips. This is a considerable improvement (>85%) in compliance, compared to previous years, as shown in Figure 2.2.

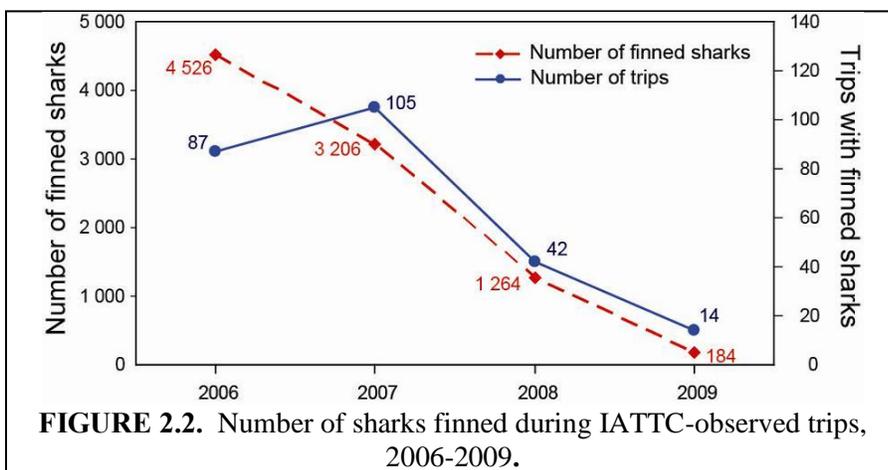
## 2.2. Resolution on fish-aggregating devices (FADs) (C-99-07)

There are two elements of this resolution which need to be considered in terms of compliance: the prohibition of trans-shipment of tuna at sea by purse-seine vessels fishing for tuna in the EPO, and the prohibition on the use of tender vessels operating in support of vessels fishing on FADs in the EPO.

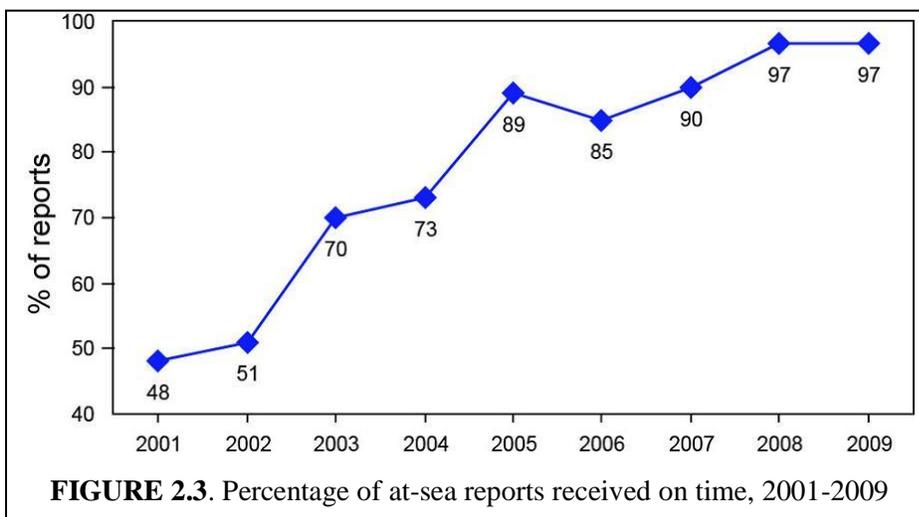
The staff has received no reports of transshipments at sea. The last definitive report to the staff of a tender vessel in the EPO was on 17 June 2000.

## 2.3. Resolution on at-sea reporting (C-03-04)

In June 2003, the Commission adopted a modification to the resolution adopted in June 2001 regarding reporting information of fishing activities while the vessel is at sea. The operative change in the new resolution is that the vessel personnel are responsible for transmitting the observer’s weekly report of catches (and dolphin mortalities, if applicable) to the staff; previously, the vessel personnel had merely



**FIGURE 2.2.** Number of sharks finned during IATTC-observed trips, 2006-2009.



**FIGURE 2.3.** Percentage of at-sea reports received on time, 2001-2009

	Program	Weeks	Reports	%
COL	IATTC	231	223	96.5
	National	223	211	94.6
ECU	IATTC	956	946	99
	National	495	464	93.7
EUR	IATTC	63	62	98.4
	National	71	71	100
GTM	IATTC	64	64	100
HND	IATTC	61	58	95.1
MEX	IATTC	615	599	97.4
	National	587	516	87.9
NIC	IATTC	72	72	100
	National	66	62	93.9
PAN	IATTC	363	363	100
	National	338	327	96.7
PER	IATTC	18	18	100
SLV	IATTC	148	148	100
USA	IATTC	31	31	100
	National	14	14	100
VEN	IATTC	312	312	100
	National	288	282	97.9
VUT	IATTC	103	103	100
<b>Total</b>		5,119	4,946	96.6

**TABLE 2.12.** Percentages of at-sea reports received on time, 2009

been requested to allow the observer to transmit the report. The intention of the change was to improve the low percentage of reports received prior to 2003. The resolution appears to have been successful; the level of on-time reporting increased to levels close to 100% in 2008 and 2009 (Figure 2.3; Table 2.12).

#### 2.4. Conservation of tuna

In June 2009 the Commission adopted Resolution C-09-01 on a multi-annual program for the conservation of tuna in the EPO during 2009-2011. The resolution established, *inter alia*, a prohibition, for specified periods, on any fishing by purse-seine vessels in the EPO. During 2009, the closure was set for the following periods and areas:

- a) For the entire Convention Area, from either (1) 1 August to 28 September 2009; or (2) 21 November 2009 to 18 January 2010; and,
- b) For the offshore area (96°-110°W, 4°N-3°S), from 29 September to 29 October 2009.

Purse-seine vessels under Class 4 were not subject to this resolution. Class-4 vessels were allowed one single trip of up to of 30 days' duration during the closure specified by the respective government, provided they carried an observer from the AIDCP observer program.

As requested by the Commission, and in accordance with past practice, the staff has analyzed compliance with this resolution on a vessel-by-vessel basis.

#### 2.4.1. Compliance with the principal closures for purse-seine vessels

All the CPCs, with the exception of Colombia and Bolivia, notified the Director of the names of the vessels that would follow the closure for each period. Colombia notified the Director that it would follow a modified version of the closure, by which its fleet would observe Individual Vessel Closures (*Veda de Buque Individual*; VBI), which allowed each of its eleven Class-6 vessels to choose any period of 49

Vessel	Days
<i>Amanda S</i>	86
<i>Cabo De Hornos</i>	63
<i>Grenadier</i>	61
<i>María Isabel C</i>	59
<i>Enterprise</i>	55
<i>Nazca</i>	54
<i>Sandra C</i>	54
<i>American Eagle</i>	52
<i>Sea Gem</i>	52
<i>El Rey</i>	49
<i>Marta Lucía R.</i>	43

**TABLE 2-13.** Maximum number of consecutive days without sets by Colombian vessels, 2009

consecutive days during which it would not make sets in the EPO (Resolution C-09-01 establishes closure periods of 59 consecutive days). The two Colombian Class-5 vessels (*Dominador I* and *El Dorado*) were granted a VBI of 30 days. Colombia informed the staff of the required closure dates for nine of its vessels.

Based on information from the IATTC observer program, the staff calculated the maximum number of consecutive days in 2009 during which the eleven Class-6 Colombian vessels did not make sets (Table 2.13).

The two Colombian Class-5 vessels, *Dominador I* and *El Dorado*, were at sea during both closure periods in 2009.

The Class-6 vessels identified in Table 2-14 made sets in the EPO during the closure period chosen by their respective governments for 2009.

Flag	Vessel	Sets	Closure
PAN	<i>La Parrula</i>	30	Nov-Jan
VEN	<i>Don Francesco</i>	19	Nov-Jan

**TABLE 2.14.** Sets made by Class-6 vessels during closures, 2009

The Class-5 Bolivian purse-seine vessel *Mar Cantábrico* was at sea during both closure periods of 2009. The exact dates and nature of its trips have not been determined.

The vessel *Ocean Lady* (formerly a trawler) made trips during both closure periods in

2009. The staff was not notified of its capacity or flag until 2010. It is now on the Regional Vessel Register as an Ecuadorean- flag Class-4 purse seiner.

Four vessels did not comply with the requirements of Resolution C-09-01 regarding trips during closures (Table 2.15):

Flag	Vessel	Class	Closure	Comments
ECU	<i>Ingalapagos</i>	4	Aug-Sep	Made a short trip without an observer or a transit waiver
ECU	<i>Ignacio Mar 1</i>	5	Aug-Sep	Made a short trip without an observer or a transit waiver
PAN	<i>Sirenza I</i>	5	Aug-Sep	Not in port at the beginning of the closure
VEN	<i>Athena F</i>	6	Nov-Dec	Made a transit trip without an observer or a waiver

**TABLE 2.15.** Vessels at sea during closures, 2009

#### 2.4.2. Compliance with the offshore area closure for purse-seine vessels

Resolution C-09-01 requires that the purse-seine fishery be closed 29 September-29 October within the high-seas area between 96° and 110°W from 4°N to 3°S.

The vessels that did not comply with this requirement are listed in Table 2.16.

Flag	Vessel	Sets
ECU	<i>Lizi</i>	2
MEX	<i>Nair</i>	1
PAN	<i>Julie L</i>	1

**TABLE 2.16.** Sets made during the closure of the offshore area, 2009

#### 2.4.3. Compliance with measures for the longline fishery

Resolution C-09-01 established the following measures for catches of bigeye tuna by longline vessels in 2009:

- a. *China, Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei shall take the measures necessary to ensure that their total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the EPO during 2009 do not exceed the following levels:*

Metric tons	2009
<i>China</i>	2,533
<i>Japan</i>	32,713
<i>Korea</i>	12,073
<i>Chinese Taipei</i>	7,635

- b. *Other CPCs shall take the measures necessary to ensure that their total annual longline catches of bigeye tuna in the EPO during 2009-2010 do not exceed the greater of 500 metric tons or their respective catches of bigeye tuna in 2001, CPCs whose annual catches have exceeded 500 metric tons shall provide monthly catch reports to the Director.*

No CPCs exceeded the longline catch limits for bigeye tuna.

### 2.5. Resolution on northern albacore tuna (C-05-02)

Resolution C-05-02 on northern albacore tuna calls upon all CPCs to take the necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort by their vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore tuna is not increased. It also calls upon all CPCs to report all catches of North Pacific albacore, by gear type, to the IATTC every six months.

It is very difficult, if not impossible, to monitor compliance with this resolution because of the way that it is structured. Specifically, the requirement is to limit effort, but it is catches that are reported, not effort. Also, the resolution calls for limiting effort to “current” levels, but “current” is not defined.

Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, and the United States submitted catch reports semi-annually for 2009. The United States and Chinese Taipei reported their catches for the entire north Pacific, whereas other CPCs reported catches from the EPO only.

Because of the difficulties associated with the proper implementation and monitoring of this resolution, the staff is again recommending to the Commission modifications of the resolution to define what is meant by “current” effort, to require reporting of effort in addition to catch, and to clarify that the six-month catch and effort reports should be for the EPO only.

## **2.6. Resolution on fleet capacity (C-02-03)**

In June 2002, the Commission adopted Resolution C-02-03 on the capacity of the tuna purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO. The capacity management system established by the resolution does not include the concept of national capacity allocations or limits; instead, fleet capacity limitations are essentially determined by the Regional Vessel Register. Therefore, the key elements of the resolution address how vessels may be added to or removed from the Register. The participating governments have agreed to use the Register as the definitive list of purse-seine vessels authorized by the participants to fish for tunas in the EPO. According to the resolution, any purse-seine vessel fishing for tunas in the EPO that is not on the Register is considered to be undermining IATTC management measures.

The resolution prohibits the entry of new vessels, defined as those not included on the Register, to the EPO purse-seine fleet, except to replace vessels removed from the Register. There are some limited and specific exceptions to this rule for five countries, and these are elaborated in the resolution. Thus, a country cannot add a purse-seine vessel to its fleet unless it is a replacement or the country is allowed an exception.

There are several purse-seine vessels that have fished in the EPO during recent years while not on the Register, and are thus in violation of Resolution C-02-03.

The following vessels fished during 2009 while not on the Register:

1. *Marta Lucía R* (Colombia): entered the fishery in February 2004, and has been fishing in the EPO since that time. Made four trips in 2009.
2. *Dominador I* (Colombia): entered the fishery in March 2008 while not on the Register. Made five trips between March and November 2008, and six trips in 2009.
3. *Cap. Tino B.* (Ecuador): entered the fishery in February 2009, and made two trips while not on the Register. Added to the Register on 17 April 2009.
4. *Ignacio Mar I* (Ecuador): entered the fishery in May 2007 while not on the Register. Made five trips in 2007, ten trips in 2008, and nine trips in 2009.
5. *Ocean Lady* (Ecuador): entered the fishery in June 2009, and made five trips while not on the Register. Added to the Register on 25 March 2010.
6. *Tunamar* (Panama): entered the fishery in May 2009, and made one trip while not on the Register. Added to the Register on 2 July 2009.
7. *Tuna I* (Ecuador): entered the fishery in June 2009, and made three trips while not on the Register.

Also, the staff has information that at least three vessels have increased their capacity contrary to Resolution C-02-03: *Doña Roge*, *Ricky A*, and *Tarqui*, all Ecuador flag.

The staff has written to Ecuador regarding these increases, but has received no reply.

## **2.7. Resolution on data provision (C-03-05) and other data reporting requirements**

Resolution C-03-05 on data provision makes mandatory the provision of specified fisheries data to the Director, on an annual basis, for all vessels fishing for species under the purview of the Commission.

The nature and format of the data to be provided are spelled out in detail in the resolution. The aggregated data required for each year are to be provided by 30 June of the following year.

All the countries with purse-seine vessels fishing in the EPO are meeting the requirements of the resolution.

With respect to catch data for longline vessels, particularly smaller vessels based in coastal countries, the minimum required information for 2009 has not been received from a number of countries.

With respect to catch data for troll vessels, the required information for 2009 has been received from all three countries with troll vessels operating in the EPO, Canada, Cook Islands, and the United States.

It has come to the Secretariat's attention that there are catches of southern albacore tuna in the Convention Area. However, it has not received any information about these catches from the flag governments of those vessels involved in this fishery.

Also, there are reporting requirements in Resolutions C-04-05, C-07-03, C-05-03, and C-05-01. Resolution C-04-05 encourages all CPCs to provide the Commission with all data on catches of sea turtles in all fisheries targeting species covered by the IATTC Convention, and Resolution C-07-03 requires reporting to the IATTC by 30 June of each year on the progress of implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations. Resolution C-05-03 requires each CPC to report annually data on catches, effort by gear type, landing and trade of sharks, by species where possible, including available historical data, and also requires sending to the IATTC staff, by 1 May, a comprehensive annual report of the implementation of this Resolution during the previous year. Resolution C-05-01 encourages CPCs to collect and voluntarily provide the Commission with all available information on interactions with seabirds, including incidental catches in all fisheries under the purview of the IATTC.

Very few CPCs provide any of the reports noted in the paragraph above.

## **2.8. Resolution on sharks (C-05-03)**

Resolution C-05-03 prohibits the finning of sharks, and establishes that any shark fins on board a vessel must account for at least 5% of the weight of sharks on board the vessel.

Information on the finning of sharks by purse-seine vessels is included in section 2.1.1 b. The staff has no information on this matter with respect to longline vessels.