INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FLEET CAPACITY 14TH MEETING

Veracruz, Mexico 8 June 2013

REPORT OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

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1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Approval of the minutes of the 13 th Meeting of the Working Group	
4. Review of pending capacity requests	
5. Issues related with the implementation of <u>Resolution C-02-03</u> on purse-seine fleet capacity	CAP-14-05
6. Recommendations to the Commission	
7. Other business	
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The 14th meeting of the Permanent Working Group on fleet capacity was held in Veracruz, Mexico, on seven-8 June 2013. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening of the meeting

the meeting was opened by the Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Luis Dobles, of Costa Rica. Mr. Arnulfo Franco, of Panama, was appointed rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was approved with the inclusion of the review of two proposals by Japan and the European Union for the management of capacity, and a review of the carrying capacity allocated to Peru.

El Salvador requested the inclusion in the agenda of an item to address the matter of the letter circulated by the European Union regarding the change in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register to reflect a capacity loan of 1,860 cubic meters (m³) by the European Union (Spain) for the Salvadoran-flag vessel *Monteale-gre*. The European Union requested that the matter be dealt with bilaterally, and this was agreed.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 13th meeting of the Working Group

The minutes were approved with the change requested by Colombia to specify that its request for 2,024 m³ of capacity was made in order to regularize its fleet.

4. Review of pending capacity requests

a) Cases based of the footnote in Resolution C-02-03.

Costa Rica requested 7,058 m³, on the basis of paragraph 10.1 of Resolution $\underline{C-02-03}$, indicating that it was its right as a coastal country and because it had maintained strict compliance with IATTC measures.

Colombia requested 2.024 m^3 to regularise its fleet, indicating that it had been presenting this request, which was of an exceptional nature, for 11 years, and that the capacity being requested was already being taken into account in the Commission staff's stock assessments. The working group thanked Colombia, and recognised its efforts to manage its fisheries.

Peru requested that the $5,000 \text{ m}^3$ that it had been assigned by means of Resolution C-11-12 could be utilised not only for fishing in its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) but also to fish in the high seas. It indicated that, as a coastal country, it had the right to develop its fleet and that it was not asking for an increase in its capacity, only that the current limitations for its utilisation be removed.

Numerous delegations supported these three requests.

Various delegations indicated that they were sympathetic to the aspirations of developing countries of increasing the possibilities of enlarging their fleets, but that the matter should be seen in global terms, and take into consideration the status of the tuna resource and the consequences in terms of days of closure that granting these requests would involve.

The Director explained that the catches of yellowfin and bigeye are already at the level of maximum sustainable yield, and that further increases in fishing mortality are not advisable. Sr. Richard Deriso, Chief Scientist of the IATTC staff, indicated that every 1000 m³ increase in capacity meant an additional day of closure, and every 5,000 m³ about a week. Japan indicated that it sympathised with the requests, but that granting them would have a negative effect on the longline fishery.

b) Capacity disputes or claims.

The Director reported that no requests for forming an *ad hoc* group for resolving disputes had been received, and that there is already an international institution that can assist in this process.

Ecuador requested the addition to the IATTC Regional Vessel Register Pacific af the vessel *Sajambre*, arguing that it had been inadvertently omitted from the list of vessels supplied by Ecuador when Resolution C-02-03 was adopted in 2002. If. Various delegations supported this request. Also, the cases of the vessels *Roberto M*, *Victoria A*, and *María del Mar* should be reviewed, and asked that the vessel *Doña Roge* also be added.

Venezuela reminded the group that it maintained its request for 5,473 m³, and Guatemala reiterated its demand for the return of 3,762 m³ (Appendix 2).

c) Requests for additional capacity

Korea reiterated its interest of its purse-seine vessels in entering the fishery in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, but stated that it would present a request only if the status of the tuna stocks allowed it.

Nicaragua repeated its request for $5,000 \text{ m}^3$ for the addition of three vessels to the Regional Register, and El Salvador indicated that it maintained its request for $1,861 \text{ m}^3$ in order to add a new vessel.

5. Issues related to the implementation of <u>Resolution C-02-03</u> on purse-seine fleet capacity

a) Implementation of Resolution C-02-03

The Director presented Document CAP-14-04, indicating that it was an update of the document presented at previous meetings, which describes the situation regarding the utilisation of capacity and the procedures that are applied to implement the resolution.

Various delegations commented on the importance of having a capacity plan and a roadmap to follow towards it, and proposed that a special meeting of the working group be held for this purpose. Colombia offered to host the meeting.

The Director indicated that any change that might be adopted regarding the procedures for implementing Resolution C-02-03 should be clearly specified, in order to avoid any questions regarding the application

of such changes by the Director and the Commission staff.

b) Proposal by the European Union on the management of fleet capacity (IATTC-85 PROP H-1)

The European Union presented this proposal, whose main objective is that each CPC limit, in 2014 and subsequent years, the number of its fishing vessels of 24 or more meters length overall to the number of its active fishing vessels recorded in the Regional Register as of 31 December 2012.

Various delegations expressed concern that this proposal, noting that they would not be able to renounce their inactive capacity, that the capacity of the fleet is already frozen under Resolution C-02-03, and also taking into account that some claims for capacity are already being granted.

In view of the lack of consensus, the European Union stated that it would review the proposal.

c) Proposal by Japan on the management of fleet capacity (IATTC-85 PROP H-2)

Japan explained its proposal, noting that it would gradually reduce the total active capacity of the purseseine fleet to 158,000 m³, while taking due account of the development of purse-seine fisheries by coastal CPCs, and that this target could be changed in accordance with the advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the IATTC scientific staff. Under this proposal, the reduction in capacity would be achieved by means of an automatic reduction when currently active vessels were replaced.

The proposal did not achieve consensus, and Japan requested that it be submitted to the IATTC plenary for consideration.

6. Recommendations to the Commission

- 1. Maintain issues related to capacity for later consideration by the working group, and evaluate the possibility of using the mechanism of an *ad hoc* group for resolving disputes in cases of differences or disputes.
- 2. Consider the cases of: (a) the pending capacity requests by Costa Rica and Colombia involving the application of the footnote to paragraph 10 of Resolution C-02-03; (b) the request by Peru to be allowed to use throughout the EPO the 5,000 m³ of capacity that was allocated to it for use in its EEZ; and (c) capacity disputes and requests for additional capacity (new requests).
- 3. That the review of matters related to issues of capacity, requests made under the footnote to Resolution C-02-03, requests for additional capacity or other related cases, should the considered holistically in the context of the status of the tuna stocks and the implementation of conservation measures, within the framework of an ecosystem approach.
- 4. Consider the proposals for the management of fishing capacity by the European Union (85-H1) and Japan (85-H2), which did not achieve consensus within the working group.
- 5. Establish a working group or a meeting process to agree upon, in accordance with the decision of the Commission in 2005, a viable proposal on the management of fleet capacity
- 6. Making expressly clear that the request by Colombia for the allocation of 2,024 m3 of additional capacity was supported by many delegations and opposed by none, consider this request.
- 7. Review the case of the Ecuadorian vessel *Sajambre*, with a view to including it in the Regional Register, in order to correct its omission from the Register in 2002.
- 8. Consider the pending requests for capacity presented by Nicaragua and El Salvador, the capacity disputes of Guatemala and Venezuela, and the requests by Ecuador regarding the capacity of the vessels *Roberto M, Victoria A, María del Mar*, as well as the *Doña Roge*.
- 9. Take note of Korea's interest in the entry of its flag vessels to the purse-seine fishery in the EPO, and

of Korea's commitment to not request their entry before the status of the stocks allows it.

7. Other business

No other matters were discussed.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m. on 8 June 2013.

Appendix 1.

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