

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

**82<sup>ND</sup> MEETING**

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

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

The IATTC observer program for transshipments at sea began in January 2009, and by July 2011 will have been operating for two and a half years.

The Secretariat plans to continue working 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 contract with MRAG will be renewed for 2012.

The program is funded in 2011 by China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, and Vanuatu. An extraordinary contribution was received from Belize for a fishing vessel that made two transshipments in 2010.

**2. IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION**

The program has continued without major problems in relation to its implementation and management. 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.

The Secretariat maintains on the IATTC website the [list of carrier vessels](#) authorized to receive transshipments at sea, which is constantly updated with the information which the Members provide on additions of carrier vessels or modifications of data on such vessels. The current list includes 46 vessels (Table 2.1).

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.) 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

	Vessels
Japan	2
Korea	4
Kiribati	2
Panama	2
Sierra Leone	17
Singapore	1
Chinese Taipei	1
Vanuatu	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>

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

amendment to Resolution C-08-02. This issue was addressed at the 81<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Commission in September 2010, and was approved, but there was not enough time for the Commission to make the corresponding amendment to the resolution, so the paragraph that was approved to be added to paragraph 5 of Resolution [C-08-02](#) is being presented again:

“5. Each member shall determine whether or not to authorize its LSTLFVs<sup>1</sup> to transship 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 2010 are expected to be sent to the staff by 15 September 2011. The Secretariat sent the observer reports for 2010 to each participant in the program on 16 May 2011.

The observers are carrying out their tasks without going aboard the fishing vessels, in order to avoid the risk of accidents. They verify whether the vessel is authorized to fish and whether it has VMS equipment, and that it is turned on.

In 2010 an observer reported a transshipment of shark fins to a carrier vessel. The transshipment statement identified by the observer was sent to the flag government of the fishing vessel, so that the corresponding investigation could be carried out. If such cases in the future, the Secretariat will send to the flag government of the fishing vessel the respective transshipment statements, so that any possible violations may be investigated. It should be noted that Resolution C-08-02 does not provide for actions relating to these kinds of cases.

### 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, 2010, and 2011. In 2011, as of 1 June 2011, 25 requests for observers have been received, and observers have been, or will be, deployed in all of these cases. The number of both observer requests and days at sea have been considerably greater in 2011 than in previous years. In the first four months of 2011 alone, there has been a 60% increase in observer days at sea than in the corresponding period of 2010, which has had repercussions on the budget for 2011.

	2009	2010	2011 (to 1 June)
Requests for observers	30	34	21
Days at sea	1,477	1,727	898

**TABLE 3.1** Activity of the transshipment observer program, 2009-2011.

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

	2009		2010		2011 (to 6 June)	
	Vessels	Transshipments	Vessels	Transshipments	Vessels	Transshipments
Belize	0	0	1	3	1	1
China	79	179	95	177	41	52
Japan	47	101	71	148	36	44
Korea	20	38	38	45	38	39
Peru	--	--	1	2	--	--
Philippines*	1	1	2	3	3	3
Chinese Taipei	60	100	89	178	50	55
Vanuatu	30	89	55	92	21	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>219</b>

**TABLE 3.2.** Fishing vessels and transshipments, 2009-2011

\*Transshipments made in the western Pacific Ocean

Table 3.2 shows the number of each participant's longline vessels that made transshipments, and the number of transshipments in the entire Pacific Ocean during 2009, 2010, and 2011. Table 3.3 shows the

	2009	2010	2011 (to 6 June)
Dentro del OPO	429	457	178
Fuera del OPO	79	191	41

**TABLE 3.3.** Transshipments inside and outside the EPO, 2009-2011

number of transshipments made inside and outside the EPO, and Table 3.4 shows the

quantities of fish transhipped in the entire Pacific Ocean, by species and longline vessel flag, in metric tons (t), and Appendix 1 shows the total amounts of fish transhipped during the same period both inside and outside the EPO. The positions of the transshipments are shown in Appendix 2.

## 4. FINANCING

### 4.1. Current budget

The budget for the operation of the program in 2011 was calculated at about USD 750,000. Contributions were payable in two installments, as agreed by the *ad hoc* working group. Table 4.1 shows the situation with regard to these contributions; as of 5 June payment of the second allocation has been received only from Korea and Chinese Taipei.

Belize made a contribution of USD 3,030 for transshipments made by a longline vessel in 2010. Its contribution was calculated on the basis of the 2010 budget of USD 650,000 divided by the number of transshipments made in 2009, or USD 1,515 per transshipment. The Secretariat considers that in the future, for cases such as that of Belize, in which transshipments are made on a sporadic basis, a payment of USD 1,515 per transshipment could be applied, as has been done to date.

There are surpluses from 2009 and 2010 of USD 41,204 y 12,210, respectively, which will be applied to

cover the payments to MRAG in 2011 for the increase in the number of observer days at sea.

2011	Total	First allocation	Second allocation	Paid
China	152,438	76,219	76,219	
Japan	204,375	102,187	102,188	
Korea	80,258	40,129	40,129	✓
Chinese Taipei	167,062	83,531	83,531	✓
Vanuatu	145,867	72,934	72,933	
<b>Total</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>375,000</b>	<b>375,000</b>	

**TABLE 4.1.** Financial contributions for 2011, in USD.

In spite of

		Bigeye	Yellowfin	Swordfish	Albacore	Others	Total
2009	Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0
	China	8.611	1.755	1.241	440	728	12.775
	Japan	4.834	1.268	632	772	681	8.187
	Korea	2.460	324	323	79	553	3.739
	Philippines	72	34	0	0	0	106
	Chinese Taipei	3.546	845	408	1.663	490	6.952
	Vanuatu	1.145	258	125	3.836	1.133	6.498
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20.668</b>	<b>4.484</b>	<b>2.729</b>	<b>6.790</b>	<b>3.585</b>	<b>38.257</b>
2010	Belize	81	13	3	10	2	109
	China	6,998	1,734	887	626	802	11,047
	Japan	6,623	1,942	1,049	819	1,502	11,935
	Korea	3,207	673	409	115	1,076	5,480
	Perú	80	15	7	3	3	108
	Philippines	92	20	12	0	1	125
	Chinese Taipei	7,731	1,789	870	1,818	1,115	13,323
	Vanuatu	1,788	375	157	3,416	371	6,107
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,600</b>	<b>6,561</b>	<b>3,394</b>	<b>6,807</b>	<b>4,872</b>	<b>48,234</b>	
2011	Belize	55	6	11	2	0	74
	China	2759	409	357	138	223	3,886
	Japan	1936	353	396	273	325	3,283
	Korea	3044	545	310	217	769	4,885
	Philippines	113	22	4	0	1	140
	Chinese Taipei	1890	319	252	1570	151	4,182
	Vanuatu	426	52	59	1369	64	1,970
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10223</b>	<b>1706</b>	<b>1389</b>	<b>3569</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>18,420</b>

**TABLE 3.4.** Fish transshipped in 2009-2011 (to 6 June), in metric tons.

the above, the members of the transshipments working group need to make an additional contribution to cover this amount. MRAG has calculated that the final budget for 2011 will be USD 940,000, therefore, given the established contributions of USD 750,000 plus the surpluses from 2009 and 2010, an additional contribution of USD 200,000 will be necessary to cover the costs of the program in 2011 and have funds to cover the first invoice in January 2012.

The financial situation as of 1 June 2011 is shown in Table 4.2. Appendix 3 summarizes in more detail the expenditures for the period of 1 January - 1 June 2011.

The additional contribution calculated as agreed by the *ad hoc* working group for 2011 would result in the payments for the third contribution shown in Table 4.3, based on the transshipments made between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2010, the period agreed by the *ad hoc* working group.

#### 4.2. Budget for 2012

MRAG presented an indicative budget for implementing the program in 2012, with an approximate total cost of USD 940,000, similar to the amount that will be expended during 2011. This budget takes into

Contributions received as of 1 June + 2008-2009 surplus*	Paid invoices to MRAG (Jan-May)	Remaining budget (Jun-Dec)	Unpaid second-semester allocations	Estimated total costs 2011	Total 2011 resources (allocations + surplus)	Estimated additional amount needed, 2011
555,112	431,637	123,474	251,341	940,000	806,452	200,000**

**TABLE 4.2.** Financial situation as of 17 June 2011, in USD.

\* Includes payment of USD 3,030 by Belize  
\*\* Includes USD 66,000 for payment of January 2012 invoice

	Amount (USD)	Transshipments	Fish transhipped in the EPO
China	41,151	100	7,132
Japan	54,687	121	10,419
Korea	20,847	38	4,615
Chinese Taipei	44,224	105	7,860
Vanuatu	39,091	98	6,537
<b>Total</b>	<b>200,000</b>		

**TABLE 4.3.** Additional third contribution for 2011, in USD, transshipments, and transshipments in the EPO, 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010, used as a basis for calculating the contributions.

account the increased number of observer deployments in 2011, as well as the increased number of days at sea recorded in that year.

In accordance with the distribution of costs agreed by the *ad hoc* working group, the budget for the program in 2012 will be distributed as shown in Table 4.5.

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<b>Budget %</b>	<b>Basis for distribution</b>	
50%	Number of transshipments in the EPO	From 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011.
50%	Amount of fish transhipped in the EPO	

**TABLE 4.4.** Basis for distribution of costs in 2012

By November the Secretariat will notify the Members about the contributions based on the transshipments recorded during the period in Table 4.4. The first contribution for 2012 is expected to be paid by 15 January of that year, and in May the Secretariat will send a reminder for the second contribution, which will payable by 15 June.

## 5. POINTS FOR AGREEMENT

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

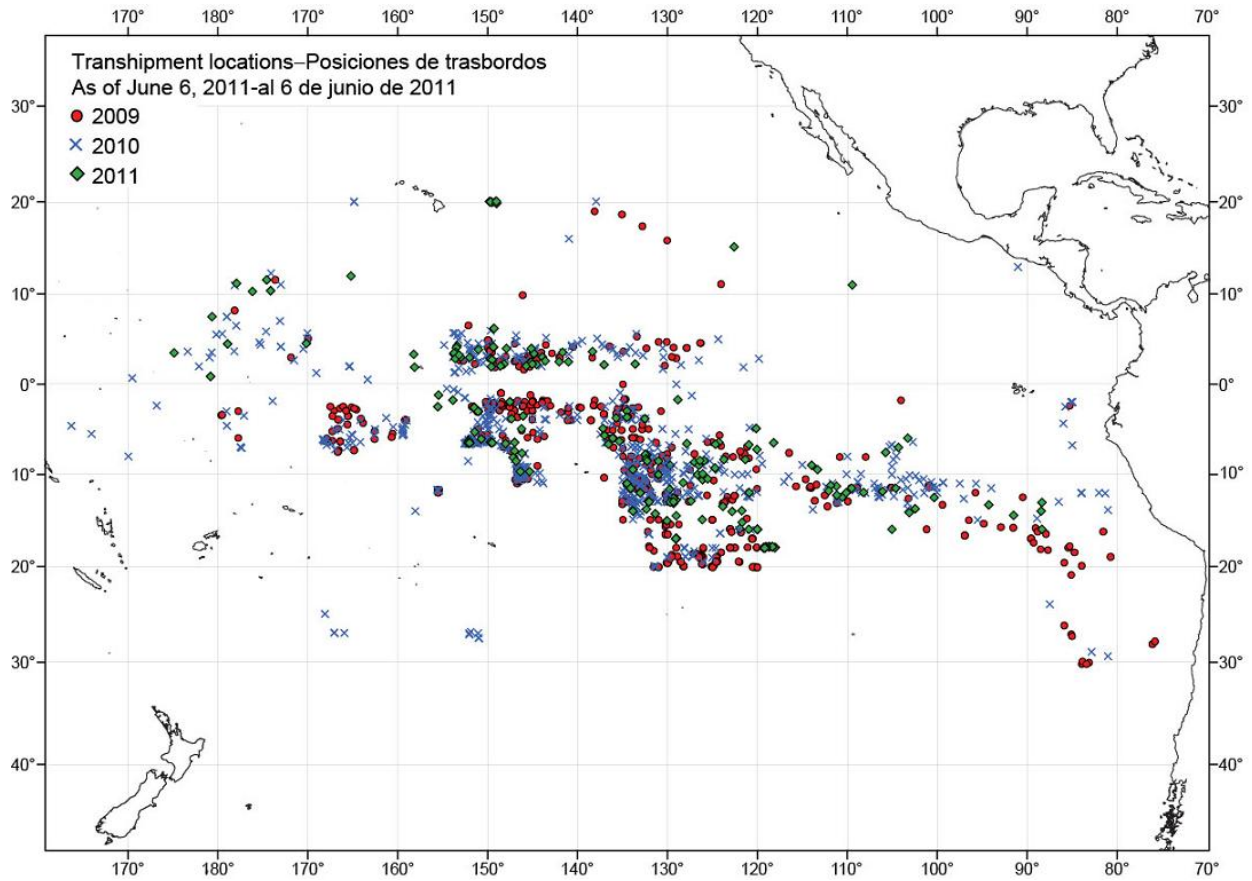
1. Approve the additional contribution of USD 200,000 for 2011.
2. Approve the 2012 budget and the dates for payment of contributions by participants.
3. Agree to the requirement that fishing vessels have to be included in the IATTC list of authorized longline vessels in order to make transshipments.
4. Decide whether to amend paragraph 5.1 of Annex 3 of Resolution C-08-02.

Appendix 1.

CARRIER VESSEL TRIPS, 2011 (as of 6 June)

Status	IATTC trip	Carrier vessel	Flag	Departure date 2010/2011	Departure port	Arrival date 2011	Arrival port		
Ended	59	<i>Tenho Maru</i>	VUT	21-Dic	Papeete, Tahití	24-Ene/Jan	Papeete, Tahití		
	60	<i>Victiria</i>	VUT	09-Nov	Shimizu, Japón	12-Feb	Majuro, Is. Marsh.		
	61	<i>Meita Maru</i>	VUT	7-Dec	Suva, Fiji	21-Jan	Majuro, Is. Marsh.		
	62	<i>Shin Chun No. 10</i>	PAN	20-Dec	Papeete, Tahití	23-Jun	Papeete, Tahití		
	63	<i>SL Bogo</i>	KOR	9-Dec	Pohnpei Micronesia	15-Feb	Busan, Corea		
	64	<i>Seiwa</i>	KIR	25-Dec	Tarawa, Kiribati	8-Feb	Majuro, Is. Marsh.		
	65	<i>Ryoma</i>	PAN	31- Dec	Kaohsiung, Taiwán	24-Ene/Jan	Shimizu, Japan		
	66	<i>Taiho Maru</i>	JPN	3-Jan /Ene	Papeete, Tahití	12-Feb	Papeete, Tahití		
	67	<i>Shin Izu</i>	VUT	25-Jan/Ene	Shimizu, Japan	01-May	Majuro, Is. Marsh		
	68	<i>Yu Hsiang Maru</i>	VUT	02-Feb	Papeete, Tahití	21-Mar	Majuro, Is. Marsh.		
	69	<i>Hatsukari</i>	PAN	11-Feb	Cristobo, Panama	11-Feb	Papeete, Tahití		
	70	<i>Haru</i>	Cancelled						
	71	<i>Harima 2</i>	PAN	24-Jan/Ene	Shimizu, Japan	8-April	Majuro, Is. Marsh		
	72	<i>Kaiho Maru</i>	VUT	06-April	Papeete, Tahití	06-May	Majuro, Is. Marsh.		
	73	<i>Lung Yiun</i>	VUT	10-Mar	Suva, Fiji	03-April	Majuro, Is. Marsh.		
	74	<i>Meita Maru</i>	VUT	02-Mar	Kaohsiung, Taiwán	06-May	Busan, Corea		
	75	<i>Tenho Maru</i>	VUT	26-April	Papeete, Tahití	18-May	Papeete, Tahití		
76	<i>SL Bogo</i>	KOR	07-Mar	Busan, Corea	22-April	Xmas Is, Kiribati			
77	<i>Seiwa</i>	KIR	17-Mar	Okinawa, Japan	15-May	Busan, Corea			
At sea	78	<i>Haru</i>	PAN	3-April	Kaohsiung, Taiwán	15-Jun	Majuro, Is. Marsh.		
	79	<i>Taiho Maru</i>	JPN	25-May	Papeete, Tahití	15-Jul	Majuro, Is. Marsh		
	80	<i>Tuna Princess</i>	VUT	03-May	Shimizu, Japan	05-Jun	Balboa, Panama		
	81	<i>Hatsukari</i>	PAN	11-May	Kaohsiung, Taiwán	30-Jul	Majuro, Is. Marsh.		
	82	<i>Harima 2</i>	PAN	15-May	Kaohsiung, Taiwán	01-Aug	Majuro, Is. Marsh.		
	83	<i>Tuna States</i>	VUT	17-May	Kaohsiung, Taiwán	01-Aug	Majuro, Is. Marsh.		
	84	<i>Yu Hsiang Maru</i>	VUT	13-Jun	Suva, Fiji	15-Jul	Majuro, Is. Marsh		
	85	<i>Seiwa</i>	KIR	1-Jun	Busan, Corea	28-Jul	Majuro, Is. Marsh		
	86	<i>SL Bogo</i>	KOR	10-Jun	Honiara, Solomon Is	15-Jul	Busan, Corea		
	87	<i>Lung Yiun</i>	VUT	27 Jun	Suva, Fiji	28-Jul	Majuro, Is. Marsh		

## Appendix 2



Locations of transshipments, 2009-2011 (to 6 June).

## Appendix 3.

### TOTAL EXPENSES, 2011 (to 6 June) (USD)

Item	Unit cost	Total units	Cost in contract	Units billed to date	Cost to date	% of contract cost left
Observed sea days	359.00	1,675	601,325.00	898	322,382.00	46%
Observer travel days	469.00	140	65,660.00	86	40,334.00	39%
Observer training	630.00	36	22,680.00	36	22,680.00	0%
Equipment, supplies, observer travel	-----	-----	60,335.00	-----	46,404.65	23%
<b>Total costs</b>			<b>750,000.00</b>		<b>431,800.65</b>	<b>42%</b>