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SYNOPSIS OF LONGLINE OBSERVER DATA REPORTING PURSUANT TO
RESOLUTION [C-19-08](#)

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The purpose of this document and its accompanying tables is to provide a summary of the current reporting practices of IATTC CPCs in accordance with Resolution [C-19-08](#). This resolution replaced and updated the requirements and formats for CPCs to report observer data to the Commission previously established in Resolution C-11-08.

Under C-19-08, CPCs adopted a new standardized template for annual summary reporting of fishing effort and bycatch interactions (Annex A of the Resolution). Additionally, the Resolution formalizes two options for minimum data standards to be collected by longline observers and reported to the Commission (Annex B of the Resolution), both of which were previously approved and adopted by SAC-08 under C-11-08.

1. LIST OF LONGLINE VESSELS THAT FISHED IN THE EPO IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

For the purposes of this report, IATTC staff assume that the provisions of C-19-08 applied to all CPCs with longline vessels >20 m LOA on the Regional Vessel Register (RVR) in 2022. In some cases, this assumption can be based on the listing of a CPC's longline vessels on the RVR without an indication of the vessels length overall (LOA). That is, unless the Secretariat is informed otherwise, we must assume that vessels without a listed LOA could be greater than 20 m and the requirements of C-19-08 apply.

In other cases, a CPC may have one or more qualifying longline vessels on the RVR, but those vessels did not fish in the relevant year, and so the longline observer requirements did not apply. In order to avoid mistaken application of these and other requirements, the Commission included in Resolution C-18-06, paragraph 5, which states that *"CPCs shall notify the Director by 30 June each year of their vessels on the Regional Vessel Register flying their flag that were actively fishing in the IATTC Convention Area for species covered by the Convention from 1 January to 31 December of the previous year."* However, in many cases, these lists of active vessels are not submitted in time to inform the reporting assessments in this paper because the deadline for this submission is not until June 30. In some situations, there have been consecutive years where a CPC has communicated that their qualifying vessels did not fish for IATTC species (or have not fished at all), but as long these vessels remain on the RVR, we assume that the longline observer requirements may have applied, unless we receive a communication to the contrary relative to that fishing year.

2. ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORTS

Each CPC subject to the longline observer coverage requirement is required to submit an annual summary report to the SAC using the template provided in Annex A of Resolution C-19-08. To facilitate reporting, IATTC staff developed fillable electronic versions of Annex A—in English and Spanish—for ease of [download](#) and submission. The primary purpose of summary reporting is for each CPC to demonstrate compliance with two specific requirements under the Resolution, those being at least 5% observer coverage of their total longline fishing effort, and that this coverage is representative of the activities of their entire fleet, particularly with regards to ‘shallow’ and ‘deep’ sets. C-19-08 defines longline fishing effort as either “as the number of effective days of fishing¹ or hooks deployed.” The summary reports received for 2022, along with updated reporting submitted for previous years, are posted on the [SAC-14 meeting page](#) under “Annual summary reporting – scientific observers for longline vessels (Resolution C-19-08).”

Table 1 summarizes compliance by each CPC with the requirement to submit a summary report using Annex A and to report the percent observer coverage. The majority of reporting CPCs indicated they met the 5% observer coverage requirement. However, as in past years, there are a number of CPCs that have qualifying longline vessels on the RVR, but which have not submitted summary reporting on their longline observer coverage or, alternately, informed IATTC that their vessels were not active in 2022, and this corresponds to the red -filled cells.

In evaluating whether the 5% minimum observer coverage requirement was met, IATTC staff considers that as long as 5% coverage was achieved according to at least one of the two approved effort metrics, the requirement was met. That is, Resolution C-19-08 effectively allows for the requirement to be fulfilled by meeting at least 5% by either metric and does not require that it be met in both instances. IATTC staff consider that number of hooks is the preferred and more accurate measure of longline fishing effort.

¹ As defined by SAC-03 in 2012

TABLE 1. Summary of Annex A reporting by CPC showing whether Annex A was submitted for the 2022 fishing year, the percent observer coverage achieved², and the fishing effort metric used to calculate observer coverage. Red cells denote that a CPC had longline vessels >20 LOA on the IATTC RVR (or longline vessels without registered LOAs) but did not report. Black cells indicate that although the CPC had qualifying vessels on the RVR, but the CPC has communicated that C-19-08 did not apply in 2022 because the relevant vessel(s) were not active or did not fish for IATTC species. Green fill indicates that the CPC submitted summary reporting in the required format, and in the % observer coverage column, that the 5% minimum coverage requirement was met. Yellow is used to highlight where reporting was received, but the % coverage reported was below 5%.

CPC	Annex A Summary submitted?	% Observer coverage reported 2022
BLZ	NA	Qualifying vessels did not operate in 2022
CHL	NA	Qualifying vessels did not operate in 2022
CHN	yes	7% (# hooks), 6.8% (effective days fished)
CRI	NR	Did not have a LL observer program in 2022
ECU	yes	9% (# hooks), 5% (effective days fished)
EU	yes	6% (effective days fished), 5% (# hooks)
FRA	NA	CPC reports that 100% of LL catches are from the IATTC/WCPFC overlap area, where they have elected to apply the requirements of WCPFC
JPN	yes	0% because of COVID-19 pandemic
KOR	yes	5% (effective days fished), 3% (# hooks)
MEX	yes	18% (effective days fished), 13% (# hooks)
NIC	NA	Qualifying vessels did not operate in 2022
PAN	yes	4.4% (# hooks), 3% (effective days fished)
PER	NA	Qualifying vessels did not operate in 2022
TWN	yes	5.1% (effective days fished) 3.3% (# hooks)
USA	yes	21% (# of hooks)
VEN	NA	Qualifying vessels did not operate in 2022
VUT		No reporting received

3. SUBMISSION OF OPERATIONAL LONGLINE OBSERVER DATA

In 2017, SAC-08 established minimum data standards for the reporting of operational longline observer data to the Commission, allowing CPCs to choose between reporting (a) data recorded on the IATTC longline observer forms, or (b) data representing a subset of the WCPFC list of minimum standard data fields. These minimum standards were reaffirmed by the Commission with the adoption of C-19-08 and are found in Annex B of that Resolution. Under C-19-08, submissions of longline observer data for the previous year are due by June 30 of the following year.

² Some of the percentages listed in the table above have been rounded up, and may slightly differ from the corresponding numbers, if expressed in decimals, which may be higher or lower, although in their close vicinity.

Since the 5% observer requirement has been in force since 2013, CPCs should possess the operational observer data for 2013–2017 that is required to be reported to the Commission. However, some CPCs have not submitted longline observer data for all relevant years, or in some cases have never submitted operational longline observer data. In some instances, it is possible that CPCs are reflected as not reporting when, in fact, the requirement did not apply to them in a given year but updating this table to increase its accuracy requires the input of the relevant CPCs. IATTC staff requests that CPCs with “red” cells listed in Table 2 inform the Commission of the disposition for each year by indicating which of the following situations apply:

1. CPC did not have a qualifying longline vessel(s) operating in this fishing year and thus the requirement does not apply (e.g., there were longline vessels over 20 meters length overall on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, but they were not active or were not fishing for IATTC species).
2. CPC had qualifying longline vessel(s) operating in this fishing year, but the CPC did not have a longline observer program; and so there are no longline observer data to provide.
3. CPC had qualifying longline vessel(s) operating in this fishing year and some portion of that effort was observed, but the data have not yet been submitted to the Commission. *Where this response is relevant, please also indicate when you plan to submit this data and identify any challenges that must first be overcome.*
4. Other. *Please explain.*

Where Director has not received any clarifying information from a CPC for a given year, the cells in **Table 2** remain red, indicating that the longline observer requirements are presumed to have applied and that no operational observer data for that year has been received.

TABLE 2. Status of reporting of operational observer data by CPCs, by year. Cell color denotes whether a CPC reported operational observer data (green), has informed the Secretariat that their data submission is pending (orange), nominated not to report, or were exempt from reporting (black), or have not reported (red).

Status of reporting of operational observer data by CPCs										
CPC	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BLZ	NR ²	NR ²	P	P	P	P	NA	NR ⁴	NR ²	
CHL							NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹
CHN										
CRI	NR ²	NR ²	P	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²
ECU	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
EU (Portugal)	NR	NR	NR		NR	NR			NR ⁴	
EU (Spain)	NR	NR	NR	NR						
FRA							NA ²	NA ²	NA ²	NA ²
JPN	NR ¹	NR ¹							NR ⁴	
KOR										
MEX										
NIC	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹
PAN	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ⁴		
PER	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹		NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹
TWN										
USA										
VEN	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹
VUT	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	P	P	NR ⁴	NR ⁴	NR ⁴

NR- Not reporting

NR¹- CPC stated they will not be reporting data because they cannot report against the IATTC standards for these years

NR²- CPC reports that they had qualifying vessels, but did not have a longline observer program in this fishing year or the program was not active

NR³- CPC reports that relevant vessel was only active during the last quarter of the fishing year and an observer could not be assigned

NR⁴- CPC reports that their observer program was not active in this year because of the conditions of the pandemic

NA- CPC reports that the observer requirements were not applicable

NA¹- CPC reports that the observer requirements were not applicable because relevant vessels listed on the RVR were not active or did not fish for IATTC species in this year

NA²- CPC reports that all of the EPO catches are in the IATTC/WCPFC overlap area, where they have elected to apply requirements of the WCPFC, so C-19-08 is not applicable

P- CPC has indicated that data will be submitted in the near future