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**IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION C-06-04 ON ESTABLISHING A
PROGRAM FOR TRANSHIPMENTS BY LARGE-SCALE FISHING VESSELS**

Resolution [C-06-04](#) on establishing a program for transshipments by large-scale longline vessels (LSTLFVs), approved at the 74th Meeting of the IATTC in 2006, indicates that it is obligatory that transshipments of tuna and tuna-like species in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) be carried out in port. The resolution is not applicable to troll or pole-and-line vessels, nor to vessels that transship fresh fish at sea.

Carrying out these transshipments in port is subject to various notifications and transmission of data by the captains of the transshipping vessels, as well as the captains of the carrier vessels that receive the product, to the authorities of the vessel's flag, the port State, and the State of final unloading.

An important element is the IATTC *Transshipment Declaration*, a document that must be completed by the captain of the fishing vessel and the captain of the carrier vessel, and that must be sent within well-defined periods to the three authorities indicated above, as well as to the Director of the IATTC. These authorities should take the appropriate measures to check the accuracy of the information.

The Resolution allows for one exception to this general rule, which permits transshipments to take place at sea, provided the carrier and fishing vessels that wish to transship at sea (1) are previously authorized to do so by their government, and (2) abide by the program for monitoring these transshipments that the IATTC establishes.

This monitoring program involves, among other actions, the following:

1. Create a register of carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments at sea in the EPO. To this end, CPCs should send to the Secretariat a list of the carrier vessels that will be authorized to receive transshipments. The interested CPCs should send the list to the Secretariat before 1 July 2008.
2. The IATTC Secretariat shall maintain the register, and will update it in accordance with the notifications by CPCs.
3. Carrier vessels authorized to transship at sea shall be equipped with a satellite monitoring device (VMS), in accordance with Resolution [C-04-06](#).
4. Transshipments within the jurisdictional zone of a CPC shall be subject to the authorization of the coastal State.
5. Completing the IATTC *Transshipment Declaration* is obligatory, both for the captain of the transshipping fishing vessel and the captain of the receiving carrier vessel, and a copy should be sent to the Director of the IATTC and to the competent authorities of the vessel's flag CPC and of the country where the final unloading will take place.
6. As of 1 January 2009, carrier vessels that receive transshipments at sea must have an IATTC observer aboard, who will verify that the quantities transshipped match the catch recorded on the IATTC *Transshipment Declaration*.
7. Vessels shall be prohibited from starting or continuing a transshipment in the EPO without an observer aboard, except in cases of *force majeure* duly notified to the IATTC Director.

8. The costs of the observer program shall be borne by the flag CPCs of the fishing vessels that wish to carry out transshipment operations. No observer will be assigned to any vessel whose flag government has not paid its fees.
9. In validating any required statistical documents, the flag CPC shall ensure that the quantity of fish transshipped is consistent with the catches reported by the fishing vessel. When tuna species are imported into a CPC, the importing government will ensure that any required statistical documents are properly validated and are accompanied by a copy of the IATTC Transshipment Declaration.
10. Each CPC shall inform the Director, by 30 June of each year, of the quantities transshipped the previous year, by species, and of the names of its vessels that made transshipments, plus a complete report that assesses the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to the carrier vessels that received transshipments from its fishing vessels.
11. All tuna and tuna-like species unloaded in, or imported into, the territory of a CPC unprocessed or after being processed at sea, and that has been transshipped, shall be accompanied by the IATTC Transshipment Declaration until the first sale takes place.

1. TRANSSHIPMENTS PROGRAMS IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL TUNA FISHERY MANAGEMENT BODIES

The resolutions adopted or contemplated by the four organizations described below are very similar; they are based on the same text, modified to suit the particular circumstances of each Commission.

1.1. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)

ICCAT approved a resolution on a transshipment program in 2006. It includes the creation of a register of carrier vessels, allows transshipments in port only, except that transshipments at sea may be carried out subject to a program of regulation, with observers aboard the carrier vessels.

ICCAT hired an external agency to implement the on-board observer program, which began in April 2007. The budget for the period of April 2007 to April 2008 was € 461,416 (approximately US\$ 728,700); the program employed 15 observers, and involved 16 carrier vessels and 102 large longliners, some with more than one transshipment. In total 234 transshipment declarations were made during the period from 20 April 2007 to 20 March 2008.

The financial contributions for this observer program are made by its participants, on the basis of a calculation based on the catches of the principal species in the previous three years.

1.2. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

This Commission adopted its resolution on a transshipments program at its 2006 annual meeting.

Within the IOTC, the possibility of a total prohibition of transshipments at sea has been discussed, but to date it has been decided to postpone the search for alternative schemes until the results of the implementation of the current resolution are available.

For the implementation of the program, the possibility of contracting a consulting company that will take charge of organizing and implementing the observer program, as with ICCAT, is being evaluated.

1.3. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

Within the WCPFC an intensive discussion has taken place on the introduction of a resolution on transshipments similar to those of the other commissions, but no agreement has been reached on the matter, so no progress has been made toward the implementation of a program that would allow transshipments at sea.

This situation is the result of the different positions of the member countries. Some consider that a total prohibition of transshipments at sea is necessary, while others support a resolution that would allow such

transshipments as exceptions, regulated by the program, and would not limit transshipments to ports only.

Given the lack of agreement, an intersessional virtual working group has been created to consider elements such as identifying the characteristics of the fisheries related to transshipments in the WCPFC area, developing procedures for obtaining and verifying data on the quantity and species transhipped in port and at sea, and developing guidelines to be applied should the countries designate transshipment ports.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSSHIPMENT PROGRAM IN THE IATTC

There are two items of fundamental importance for a transshipment program:

1. Drawing up the IATTC Register of Carrier Vessels, for which each CPC must send to the Director of the IATTC the list of carrier vessels that should be included in the Register.
2. The formation of the program for observers aboard carrier vessels, under which every carrier vessel authorized to receive transshipments at sea must have an observer aboard as of 1 January 2009.

Regarding the Register of Carrier Vessels, the Secretariat sent a note to the CPCs at the beginning of April requesting the information specified in the Resolution. As of 21 May, no information has been received by the Secretariat. The Resolution establishes 1 July 2008 as the deadline for sending this information, so it is urgent that it be received from the CPCs that wish to include vessels on the Register, since these will be the only ones authorized to receive transshipments at sea in the EPO.

As regards the observer program, the Secretariat has explored the possibility of adopting a scheme similar to that established by ICCAT a year ago, which, according to the Director of that Commission, has been satisfactory. In order to be able to calculate the cost of a similar program in the EPO, it will be necessary to complete the Register of Carrier Vessels.

Similarly, in accordance with Resolution C-06-04, the longline vessels authorized by their CPCs to transship at sea will pay the costs of the program. Therefore, the calculation of the contributions of the CPCs with vessels in this category could be done in several ways, among them the following:

1. Distribute the total cost of the program equally among all the longline vessels authorized to transship at sea. Each CPC would be responsible for collecting the contributions of its vessels and of remitting them to the Secretariat. For this, a complete and detailed list of these vessels would be necessary.
2. Distribute the total cost of the program among the CPCs that participate in it, basing the contribution of each CPC on an average of its catches in the previous three years, as is done in ICCAT. Under this scheme, the CPC would make contributions to the carrier vessel observer program without committing to a set number of longline vessels that could carry out transshipments.

In order to make progress in the development of this program and the implementation of Resolution C-06-04, the Commission would need to reach agreement on the following points:

1. The establishment of a scheme similar to that implemented in ICCAT by means of a service contract with an external agency. The Secretariat is evaluating the possibility of contracting with the same agency currently being utilized by ICCAT.
2. Given that, pursuant to the Resolution, the costs of the observer program should be covered by the vessels interested in making transshipments at sea, the Commission needs to define the scheme under which the contributions for covering the program costs will be made.
3. The program established in Resolution C-06-04 will come into operation in July 2008, although the provision that authorized carrier vessels must have an observer aboard, and that only these may receive transshipments, does not enter into force until January 2009. The Secretariat's

interpretation of this provision is that, until observers have been placed on the carrier vessels, transshipments at sea may not be made, and will be limited to what the Resolution indicates regarding transshipments in port.