

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION  
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON COMPLIANCE**

**MINUTES OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

BUSAN (KOREA)  
22 JUNE 2006

**AGENDA**

	<b>Documents</b>
1. Opening of the meeting	
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Review of relevant <a href="#">Commission Resolutions</a>	
4. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2005:	COM-7-04
a) <a href="#">Resolution on bycatch</a> (C-04-05):	
i. release of live bycatch	
ii. full retention	
b) <a href="#">Resolution on fish-aggregating devices</a> (C-99-07)	
c) <a href="#">Resolution on the conservation of tuna</a> (C-04-09):	
i. Purse-seine closures	
ii. Limitation on longline catch	
d) <a href="#">Resolution on at-sea reporting</a> (C-03-04)	
e) <a href="#">Resolution on fleet capacity</a> (C-02-03)	
f) <a href="#">Resolution on data provision</a> (C-03-05)	
g) National reports	
5. Definition of fishing	COM-7-05
6. Recommendations to the Commission	
7. Other business	
8. Adjournment	

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, David Hogan of the United States.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda was adopted as presented with one addition regarding an information item on transshipment proposed by Spain.

**3. Review of relevant Commission Resolutions and**

**4. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2005**

The staff presented its report on compliance in 2005 (Document COM-7-04), beginning with the review of relevant Commission Resolutions under agenda item 3 and continuing with the review of possible violations under agenda item 4.

Regarding sea turtles, it was noted that in 2004 there were 1,350 sets involving 1,965 sea turtles, compared to 1,078 sets involving 1,299 turtles in 2004. Of the 1,965 turtles involved in 2005, 87% were released unharmed and 7% escaped, so 94% of the turtles involved suffered no adverse effects from the fishery, and only 7 turtle mortalities were recorded by observers. In 2005 a total of 13 violations were identified and reported to governments.

Regarding sharks, observers reported 2770 sets that involved 26,123 sharks. Of these, 1,060 were released alive.

Regarding the requirement for purse-seine vessels to retain on board all tuna caught, the staff reported that observers reported 14,849 sets with discards during 2001-2005, and that only 7% of the sets with discards have been properly documented by the captains since the resolution was implemented. Of the 14,849 sets, only 2,175 were recorded on the required *Tuna Discard Record*. Further, in 52% of those 2,175 sets, the captain recorded discards that are prohibited by the resolution.

Regarding at sea-reporting, the staff reported that the reporting rate of 89% in 2005 was an improvement from the 73% rate from 2004. The range of reporting rates varied from 68% to 100%.

Regarding compliance with the purse-seine closures, there were no reported violations.

Regarding the bigeye catch limits, none of the reported catches, except for the United States, exceeded the established limits.

Regarding the resolution on northern albacore tuna, the staff reported that four Parties and one cooperating fishing entity have submitted the reports called for in the resolution, and that one report from Japan was outstanding.

Regarding the resolution on fleet capacity, the staff reported that the Colombian vessel *Martha Lucía R* continued to fish in the EPO in 2005 without being on the Regional Vessel Register. The staff also reported that two other vessels, the *Atlantis IV* and the *Athena F*, fished in the EPO in 2006 while not on the Regional Vessel Register, and that one vessel, the *Daniela F*, has a well/hold capacity that is not reflected in its capacity recorded in the Regional Vessel Register.

The staff also presented information on compliance with the resolution on data provision, noting that although the provision is seeing good compliance from the purse-seine fleet, there is room for improvement for the catches of longline vessels.

The discussion of the compliance report touched on the lack of any information on the provisions of the IUU resolution, and although the Secretariat explained that it had not received any information on non-compliance, some could come forward in national reports. Several delegations highlighted the significance of compliance with these provisions, and that national reporting not only include information on compliance matters and responses to reports of illegal fishing, but also on what steps each CPC was taking to implement the various IATTC measures.

Compliance with the sea turtle measures was discussed, and Mexico noted that entanglement of sea turtles in FAD webbing remained a problem. The Chairman suggested that the topic of release of turtles from webbing could be raised during the Bycatch Working Group.

The discussion of the section on sharks included questions about information on the circumstances of retention of sharks. The staff noted that most sharks came on board vessels already dead. It was noted that this provision was not legally binding but advisory, citing the phrase "if practicable."

Discussion of the full-retention requirements centered first on the new presentation of retention compliance by flag states, and many CPCs stated that the staff presentation was the first time that they had received this compliance information, and that it was surprising. Some Parties requested additional information on these cases.

The discussion also addressed on the effectiveness of the full retention measure, and whether it should be

renewed. The United States stated it was not effective, as compliance with the measure was poor, and suggested that it should not be renewed. Other delegations expressed the view that the measure could have some value both for the conservation of bigeye and also for scientific purposes, noting the value of data from sampling of fish that are retained. Other delegates noted that this information was available for scientific purposes regardless of the compliance rule. The discussion included contemplation of the extension of the measure with no exemptions, but in the end there was no consensus to recommend extension. Japan indicated that it would propose extension of the measure to the Commission.

The Working Group agreed that the cases of the *Atlantis IV* and the *Athena F* would be reviewed by the Commission.

El Salvador clarified the status of the resolution on trade measures, noting that it was not yet in effect.

Japan stated its interpretation of the provision of trade data required by paragraph 1 of the resolution, namely that the provision of such data would only be made in association with the identification process.

#### **5. Definition of fishing**

The working group next examined Document COM-7-05, prepared by the staff, regarding a definition of fishing, exploring the benefits of adopting the definition from the Antigua Convention. The adoption of the definition received considerable support. However, Spain and the EU stated that they would prefer bringing a more comprehensive set of concepts from the Antigua Convention into the Commission, and that; if possible, the Antigua Convention should be applied provisionally by all Parties. As a result of this discussion, the proposed definition of fishing was not adopted.

#### **6. Recommendations to the Commission**

No recommendations were agreed by the Working Group.

#### **7. Other business**

The EU presented a proposed resolution on transshipment that it explained would be presented to the Commission. Japan indicated that it would also bring forward a transshipment proposal to the Commission, and the two delegations agreed to discuss their proposals, with a view to bringing forward a consolidated proposal.

#### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

## Appendix 1.

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