

JOINT WORKING GROUP ON FISHING BY NON-PARTIES

6TH MEETING

CANCUN, MEXICO
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COOPERATING NON-PARTIES OR FISHING ENTITIES

In 2004 the IATTC and the AIDCP Parties adopted parallel resolutions, [C-04-02](#) and [A-04-08](#), which establish the criteria for attaining the status of cooperating non-Party or cooperating fishing entity in the respective organizations. These criteria include requirements relating to the provision of information, compliance with conservation and management measures, and participation in meetings.

The resolutions establish that each year, the Director (Secretariat) shall contact all non-parties and fishing entities with vessels known to be fishing for covered species to urge them to become a Party to the IATTC (AIDCP) or to attain the status of a Cooperating Non-Party or Cooperating Fishing Entity (Cooperating Status).

The resolutions further establish that any non-party or fishing entity that seeks to be accorded Cooperating Status shall apply to the Director (Secretariat) requesting such status. Such requests must be received by the Director (Secretariat) no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an annual meeting of the Commission (Parties) in order to be considered at that meeting.

The resolutions also state that the Joint Working Group on Fishing by Non-Parties shall be responsible for reviewing requests for Cooperating Status and for recommending to the Commission (Parties) whether an applicant should receive Cooperating Status.

At its 74th meeting, in June 2006, the IATTC determined that the cooperating non-Parties to the IATTC would be Belize, Canada, China, Cook Islands, the European Union, and Honduras; Chinese Taipei was determined to be a cooperating fishing entity.

Applications requesting Cooperating Status in IATTC for this year have been sent by six governments: Belize, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Cook Islands, and the European Union. No applications were sent with respect to the AIDCP. Thus, the following analysis only applies to the IATTC.

The specific requirements in Resolution C-04-02 relevant to the governments mentioned above are:

1. INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS:

- i. Communicate full data on its historical fisheries in the IATTC area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas.*

This requirement has been essentially met by Belize, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Cook Islands, and the European Union.

- ii. Communicate annually catch and effort data and size-frequency distribution of the catches (when possible) in due time and appropriate format for scientific evaluation of the stocks*

This requirement has essentially been met, pursuant to [Resolution C-03-05](#) on data provision, which requires that annual data be reported by June 30 of the following year, by Belize, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Cook Islands, the European Union. Length-frequency data from EPO longline catches have been made available by Chinese Taipei, and by the European Union for swordfish.

- iii. *Communicate details on current fishing presence in the area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics.*

This requirement has been met by all applicants.

- iv. *Communicate research programs it has conducted in the IATTC area and share the information and the results with the IATTC.*

China has provided information collected by observers during two trips on a longline vessels. Chinese Taipei has reported on data collected on sea birds and sharks during 13 observer trips. The EU has provided scientific publications concerning activities of its swordfish vessels in the southeastern Pacific.

2. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- i. *Respect all conservation measures in force in IATTC.*

The flag vessels of all of the applicant governments respected the IATTC conservation measures during 2006.

- ii. *Respect the capacity limits already in force in IATTC for tuna vessels.*

All of the applicant governments respected the IATTC capacity limits during 2006.

- iii. *Inform IATTC of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels, including inter alia and as appropriate, observer programs, inspection at sea and in port, and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS).*

Of the applicants, only Belize has provided detailed information.

Chinese Taipei provided a report of its implementation of IATTC [Resolution C-05-03](#) on the conservation of sharks.

Regarding VMS, Belize, Canada, Chinese Taipei and the European Union have advised the Director, in accordance with [Resolution C-04-06](#), of their progress in implementing the resolution on the establishment of a vessel monitoring system.

- iv. *Respond to alleged violations of IATTC measures by its vessels, as determined by the appropriate bodies, and communicate to IATTC the actions taken against the vessels*

This requirement is not relevant, in that none of the applicants nor their flag vessels are alleged to have violated any of the principal IATTC conservation and management measures during 2006.

3. PARTICIPATION:

Participation at plenary and scientific meetings, as an observer.

During 2006, China, Canada, Chinese Taipei, and the European Union participated in plenary and scientific meetings, and Belize participated in plenary meetings. Belize, China, Canada, Chinese Taipei, and the European Union participated in the 2007 scientific meeting.