

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

3RD MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
20-21 June 2012

DOCUMENT COR-03-06

COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS

In 2004 the IATTC adopted Resolution [C-04-02](#), which established the criteria for attaining the status of cooperating non-Party or cooperating fishing entity. These criteria include requirements relating to the provision of information, compliance with conservation and management measures, and participation in meetings. In 2007 the IATTC adopted Resolution [C-07-02](#), which replaced C-04-02.

The Resolution establishes that, each year, the Director shall contact all non-Members with vessels fishing for species covered by the IATTC Convention to urge them to become a Member of the IATTC or to attain the status of a Cooperating non-Member (Cooperating Status).

The Resolution further establishes that any non-Member that seeks to be accorded Cooperating Status shall apply to the Director requesting such status. Such requests must be received by the Director no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an annual meeting of the Commission in order to be considered at that meeting.

The Resolution also states that the Joint IATTC-AIDCP Working Group on Fishing by non-Parties shall be responsible for reviewing requests for Cooperating Status and for recommending to the Commission whether an applicant should receive Cooperating Status. In view of the dissolution of that Working Group, this function has now been assumed by the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (“Review Committee”) in matters related to the IATTC.

At its 82nd meeting in June 2011, the IATTC approved the recommendation made by the Review Committee that Cook Islands be granted the status of cooperating non-Member of the IATTC.

Article XXVI of the Antigua Convention also states that “... *The Commission and its members shall encourage all States and regional economic integration organizations ... and, as appropriate, fishing entities ... that are not members of the Commission to become members or to adopt laws and regulations consistent with the Convention*” Accordingly, the Secretariat sent letters to Bolivia, Chile, Cook Islands, Honduras, and Indonesia.

The Director received applications from Bolivia to obtain the Cooperating non-Member Status to the IATTC in and from Cook Islands to renew it. There does not seem to be any reason why this status should not be granted; Bolivia and Cook Islands meet the requirements established in Resolution C-07-02.

In the case of Bolivia, the Director received several letters expressing the interest of that country in obtaining the status of Cooperating non-Member, which were distributed to members of the IATTC. Colombia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Ecuador expressed their support in writing to the Director (Appendices 1-4)

It should be noted that Bolivia has taken concrete steps to address the case of non-compliance by the vessel *Mar Cantábrico*, which was sanctioned and has not been operating since its inclusion in the IATTC IUU vessel list.

If Bolivia is granted the status of Cooperating non-Member, it should automatically be considered a "*Participant*"¹, in accordance with Resolution C-02-03. Furthermore, the Bolivian vessels that were removed from the Regional Vessel Register because Bolivia did not have the status of Cooperating non-Member, should be returned to the Register.

¹ According to Resolution C-02-03 "*participant*" means Parties to the IATTC, and States and regional economic integration organizations (REIOs), and fishing entities that have applied for membership of the Commission or that cooperate with the management and conservation measures adopted by the Commission. The Commission shall determine which States, REIOs and fishing entities are considered to be cooperating with such management and conservation measures.

Appendix 1.

INFORMAL TRANSLATION

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Colombia

DVAM / DIESA / GAE No.61351

Bogotá, D.C, 5 October 2011

Mr. Guillermo Compeán
Director
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
Re. Status of Bolivia in the IATTC

Mr. Director

I write to you attentively to follow up on note DGIMFLMM – UBPM No. 102/11, by which the Director General of Maritime, Fluvial, Lacustral and Merchant Marine Interests of the Bolivian Ministry of Defense, by which the Bolivian request to be a Cooperating Non Party to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission – IATTC - is reiterated.

The Government of Colombia considers that the Bolivian Government has shown its interest and commitment to comply with IATTC requirements regarding the conservation and sustainable management of the tuna resources under the purview of the Convention. In that sense, I allow myself to state that Colombia considers this request beneficial for ultimate compliance with the Organization, for which reason we support the request by Bolivia to become a Cooperating Non-Party State.

Cordially,

(signed)

Patti Londoño Jaramillo
Vice- Minister of Multilateral Affairs

Copia: Carlos Robles, Director de Pesca y Acuicultura, MADR
Xiomara Sanclemente, Directora de Ecosistemas, MAVDT
Juan Carlos Cadena, Director de Relaciones Comerciales, MCIT
Juan Manuel Ospina, Gerente General, INCODER

Appendix 2.

INFORMAL TRANSLATION

INSTITUTO NICARAGUENSE DE LA PESCA

Managua, Nicaragua, 10 October 2011

Dr. Guillermo Compeán
Director
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
(IATTC)

Dear Doctor:

I write to you most attentively to follow up on note DGIMFLMM – UBPM No. 102/11, by which the Director General of Maritime, Fluvial, Lacustral and Merchant Marine Interests of Bolivia of the Bolivian Ministry of Defense, by which the Bolivian Request to be a Cooperating Non Party to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission – IATTC - is reiterated.

The Government of Nicaragua considers that the Bolivian Government has shown its interest and commitment to comply with IATTC requirements regarding conservation. In that sense, I allow myself to state that Nicaragua considers this request beneficial for ultimate compliance with the organization, for which reason we support the request by Bolivia to become a Cooperating Non-party state.

With nothing else to make reference to, I am

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Ing. Danilo Rosales P.
Executive Vice- President
INPESCA

C.c. V. Alnte. Juan Carlos Rivero Castedo. Director General of Maritime, Fluvial, Lacustral and Merchant Marine Interests of Bolivia .

Appendix 3.

INFORMAL TRANSLATION

Bolivarian Government of Venezuela
Ministry of People's Power for Agriculture and Lands
Socialist Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture

Caracas, 18 October 2011

Dr. Guillermo Compeán
Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
(IATTC)
La Jolla, California
UNITED STATES

I am writing to you to make reference to the request made by the Bolivian government to be granted the status of Cooperating Non-Party to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

In this respect, we express our agreement with that approach since we consider that the Bolivia State is able to comply with the commitments deriving from that status as it has shown so far.

We therefore support the petition made by the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

I take the opportunity to reiterate to you my special consideration.

Sincerely,

(signed)
Pedro Emilio Guerra Castellano
President

Appendix 4.

INFORMAL TRANSLATION

UNDERSECRETARIAT OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF ECUADOR

Letter No 2012-321

Friday, 20 April, 2012

Señor. Doctor.

Guillermo Compeán

Director DE LA COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL.

8604 La Jolla Shores Drive La Jolla CA

Dear Dr. Compeán:

I am writing to you to inform you that the fishing vessel Mar Cantábrico has complied with the sanctions imposed by the Ecuadorean fisheries authority, and has also demonstrated that it complied with the conditions imposed by the Commission in order to be restored to the Register; which they should, accordingly, demonstrate to the Commission.

For these reasons Ecuador is ready to support Bolivia, when before the corresponding process, it requests the restoration of the F/V Mar Cantábrico to the register under its flag.

Additionally, Ecuador already supports the sister Republic of Bolivia so that it may be incorporated into the Commission as a Member or Party, as appropriate and as Bolivia wishes.

Yours,

Attentively

(signed)

Econ. Iván Prieto Bowen

Vice-Minister of Aquaculture and Fisheries of Ecuador