

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

81ST MEETING

ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)
27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2010

PROPOSAL B-1

SUBMITTED BY JAPAN

RESOLUTION ON OBSERVERS FOR LONGLINE VESSELS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Noting the need to ensure uniform and equitable treatment of all tuna-fishing vessels operating in the IATTC Convention Area;

Recognizing the need to collect comprehensive data on interactions with non-target species, in particular, sea turtles, sharks, and seabirds;

Noting that large purse-seine vessels operating in the Convention Area are required to carry scientific on-board observers, in accordance with the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program; and

Taking into account that 5% observer coverage of high-seas fishing operations was noted as the initial level at the Kobe II workshop on Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance, held in Barcelona, Spain, in June 2010;

Resolves as follows:

1. Each Member and co-operating non-Member of the Commission (hereafter referred to as “CMCs”) shall ensure that, as of 30 June 2012, at least 5% of the fishing trips carried out by its longline tuna fishing vessels greater than 24 meters overall length carry an observer.
2. Each CMC shall provide the Director by 1 February 2012 with the names of its vessels that will carry observers. Each CMC shall endeavor to ensure that observer coverage will be representative of the activities of its fleet.
3. The main task of the observer shall be to record catch levels of tuna species, species composition, as well as any interactions with non-target species, such as sea turtles, seabirds and sharks, and other data as required by the Commission.
4. The Director shall draw up a draft common reporting format detailing the required data to be collected by observers, which shall be considered by the Scientific Advisory Committee and agreed by the Commission.
5. CMCs shall submit to the Director, by 31 March of each year, the observers’ information and data collected by observers on the previous year’s fishery.
6. CMCs shall submit to the Director, by 31 March of each year, a report, in an agreed format, on the observers’ activities during the previous year.
7. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall conduct a scientific review of the effectiveness of the level of coverage established in paragraph 1 above, with a view to making recommendations on any change that may be necessary to accomplish the objectives of this Resolution.