

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

**81<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**

ANTIGUA (GUATEMALA)  
27 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2010

**PROPOSAL C-2**

**SUBMITTED BY JAPAN**

**RESOLUTION ON IATTC CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME**

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):*

*Concerned* that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries are still one of the factors hampering sustainable use of fishery resources;

*Recognizing* that the ICCAT Catch Documentation Scheme for Atlantic bluefin tuna is working effectively to prevent IUU products from entering the market;

*Recalling* that one of the reasons why some countries proposed to list several shark species in CITES Appendix II at the COP 15 of CITES in Doha was lack of information on sharks;

*Further recalling* that participants in the Joint Tuna RFMO workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance held in Barcelona from 3 to 5 June 2010 supported the expansion of the catch documentation scheme to species other than Atlantic bluefin tuna and southern bluefin tuna;

*Recognizing* that special consideration should be given to implementation of the catch documentation scheme for sharks;

*Determined* to take further measures to combat IUU fisheries and collect information on catch and trade;

*Resolves as follows:*

**PART I**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Each Member and Cooperating non-Member of the Commission (hereafter “CMC”) shall take the necessary steps to implement an IATTC Catch Documentation Scheme for the purpose of identifying the origin of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area to which conservation and management measures apply. Initially, the species subject to the Scheme (hereafter “the Species”) shall : **Tunas:** Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*); bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*); skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*); albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*); Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*); **Swordfish** (*Xiphias gladius*); **Sharks:** silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*); oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*); blue shark (*Prionace glauca*); porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*); mako sharks (*Isurus spp.*); thresher sharks (*Alopias spp.*); hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna spp.*); and other sharks.
2. For the purposes of this Program:
  - a) "Export" means:

Any movement of the Species caught in the Convention Area by a fishing vessel flying the flag of a CMC to the territory of another CMC or non-Member of the IATTC, or from the fishing grounds to the territory of a CMC which is not the flag CMC of the fishing vessel or to the territory of a non-Member of the IATTC.

b) "Import" means:

Any introduction of the Species in their caught or processed forms into the territory of a CMC, which is not the CMC where the fishing vessel is flagged (flag CMC).

c) "Re-export" means:

Any movement of the Species in their caught or processed forms from the territory of a CMC to which it had been previously imported.

d) "Transshipment" means:

Any transfer of fish from vessels that have caught the fish to carrier vessels, either at sea or in port.

## **PART II CATCH DOCUMENTS**

3. Each consignment of the Species imported into or exported or re-exported from the territory of a CMC shall be accompanied by a validated IATTC catch document (IACD) and, as applicable, a validated IATTC re-export certificate (IARC). Any such import, export or re-export of the Species without a completed and validated IACD or IARC shall be prohibited.
4. Each CMC shall provide IACD forms only to fishing vessels authorized to catch the Species in the Convention Area. Such forms are not transferable to another fishing vessel. Each IACD form shall have a unique document identification number. Document numbers shall be specific to the flag CMC and assigned to the fishing vessel.
5. Copies of IACD shall follow each part of split consignments or processed product, using the unique document number of the original IACD in order to track them.
6. CMCs shall keep copies of IACDs issued or received for at least two years.
7. Export, import and re-export of fish parts other than the meat and shark fins (i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts, bones and tails) shall be exempted from the requirements of this Resolution. Products for hand carrying by travelers shall also be exempted from the requirements of this Resolution.
8. The fishing vessel masters, or their authorized representative, or the authorized representative of the flag CMC shall complete the IACD, by providing the required information in appropriate sections and request its validation for catch information and transshipment information in accordance with paragraph 10. The exporter shall complete the IACD for the trade information and request its validation in accordance with paragraph 10.
9. The form of the IACD shall be Annex 1. Each space may be expanded as necessary. All the annexes shall be filled in in accordance with the attached instruction sheets. CMCs are strongly encouraged to introduce electronic forms.
10. a) The Catch Information section, the Transshipment Information section, and the Trade information section with respect to the exported products of the IACD shall be validated respectively by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the flag CMC of the fishing vessel. Each section shall not be validated until the previous section is validated.  
b) Notwithstanding paragraph a), if a fishing vessel operates in waters under the jurisdiction of another CMC (hereafter "coastal CMC"), the Catch Information section of the IACD may be validated by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the coastal CMC. If the catch is landed at a port within the territory of a coastal CMC, it may be treated as domestic landing of the coastal CMC, which therefore does not require completion of the Trade Information section as long as the fish stays within the coastal CMC. If the fish is exported from the coastal CMC, the Trade Information section may be validated by the coastal CMC.

- c) Notwithstanding paragraph a), if a fishing vessel operates under a charter arrangement with another CMC (hereafter “chartering CMC”), the Catch Information section of the IACD shall be validated by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the chartering CMC.
  - d) Each section of the IACD shall be validated only when all the information contained in the section has been established to be accurate as a result of the verification of the consignment, and only when those products comply with all relevant provisions of the IATTC conservation and management measures.
  - e) Validation shall not be required in the event that each fish available for sale is tagged, in accordance with paragraph 25, by the flag CMC of the fishing vessel that caught the Species. However, the IACD shall be completed and accompany the products. In the case that the Species is traded in a fresh or chilled form, a tag shall be attached to it. By the end of 2012, the IATTC shall develop an electronic tagging system in which the information can be retrieved instantly from the tag by any person with a designated scanner.
  - f) The IATTC shall develop an electronic validation scheme by the end of 2012 where electronic forms are electronically validated and communicated to other CMCs and the Secretariat.
11. When the Species quantities caught and landed are less than one metric ton, the vessel logbook or the sales note may be used as a temporary IACD, pending the validation of the IACD within seven days and prior to export.
12. When the Species are caught by artisanal fishing vessels and exported, Annex 2 may be used as the IACD to aggregate landings by multiple vessels. Each space may be expanded as necessary.

### **PART III SPECIES DESTINED TO PROCESSING PLANTS**

13. In the case that the Species is caught by purse seiners and brought to processing plants, the catch information may be validated at processing plants. Such processing plants shall be within the territory of a CMC and registered with the Commission.
14. Notwithstanding paragraph 10 a), validation at processing plants may be done by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution of the CMC where the processing plant is situated.
15. Annex 3 may be used as the IACD for the Species destined to processing plants.
16. CMCs where the processing plants are situated shall submit an annual report to the Secretariat that describes information by plant and catching vessel including the reported weight, the validated weight and the product weight for the preceding year by June 30 of the following year. The format of the annual report is Annex 4.

### **PART IV SHARKS**

17. When shark catch is recorded in the Catch Information section of the IACD form, both the weight and the number of the shark shall be specified, by species or species group.
18. When the shark bodies and fins are separated and transshipped or traded, bodies and fins shall be recorded in the Transshipment or Trade Information section of the IACD form separately.
19. Annex 1 shall also be used for sharks. Nevertheless, if sharks or shark fins caught and landed by different fishing vessels are aggregated, and the whole or part of the aggregated products is transacted and traded, Annex 5 may be used to record such transaction and trade. In this case, Annex 5 shall be accompanied by the copy or original of all the relevant IACDs (Annex 1).

## **PART V RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATES**

20. Each CMC shall ensure that the Species consignment which is re-exported from its territory be accompanied by a validated IARC.
21. The operator who is responsible for the re-export shall complete the IARC by providing the required information in its appropriate sections and request its validation for the Species consignment to be re-exported. The completed IARC shall be accompanied by a copy of the validated IACD relating to the Species products previously imported.
22. The IARC shall be validated by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution.
23. The CMC shall validate the IARC for the Species product only when:
  - a) all the information contained in the IARC has been established to be accurate,
  - b) the validated IACD(s) submitted in support to the IARC had been accepted for the importation of the products declared on the IARC,
  - c) the products to be re-exported are wholly or partly the same products on the validated IACD(s) and
  - d) a copy of the IACD(s) shall be attached to the validated IARC.
24. The form of the IARC shall be Annex 6. Each space may be expanded as necessary.

## **PART VI TAGGING**

25. In the case that each fish available for sale is tagged, the flag CMCs shall require their fishing vessels to affix a tag to each fish no later than the time of landing or transshipping. Tags shall have unique country-specific numbers and be tamper-proof. The fishing vessel masters, or their authorized representative, or the authorized representative of the flag CMC shall complete Annex 7 to be attached to Annex 1 and indicate the total by species in the Catch Information Section of Annex 1. A summary of the implementation of the tagging program shall be submitted to the Secretariat by the CMC.
26. When sharks are separated into bodies and fins on board the catching vessels and tagged, bodies and fins shall be tagged, respectively. CMCs that implement tagging for sharks shall develop special tags which shall allow matching of bodies and fins from the same individuals.

## **PART VII COMMUNICATION AND VERIFICATION**

27. Each CMC shall communicate electronically to the Secretariat a copy of all validated IACDs or IARCs within five working days following the date of validation, or without delay where the expected duration of the transportation should not be more than five working days. In the case of tagging, each CMC shall communicate electronically a copy of all IACDs including **Annex 7** as soon as possible to the Secretariat.
28. The Secretariat shall extract from the IACDs or IARCs communicated under paragraph 27 above the information marked with an asterisk in **Annex 1** through **7** and enter this information in a database on a password protected section of its website, as soon as practicable. At its request, the Scientific Advisory Committee shall have access to the catch information contained in the database, except the vessel names.
29. Each CMC shall ensure that its competent authorities, or other authorized individual or institution,

take steps to identify each consignment of the Species imported into or exported or re-exported from its territory and request and examine the validated IACD(s) and related documentation of each consignment of the Species. These competent authorities, or authorized individuals or institutions, may also examine the content of the consignment to verify the information contained in the IACD and in related documents and, where necessary, shall carry out verifications with the operators concerned.

30. If, as a result of examinations or verifications carried out pursuant to paragraph 29, a doubt arises regarding the information contained in a IACD, the importing CMC and the CMC whose competent authorities validated the IACD(s) or IARC(s) shall cooperate to resolve such doubts.
31. If a CMC involved in trade of the Species identifies a consignment with no IACD or no valid IACD, it shall notify the findings to the exporting CMC and, where known, the flag CMC.
32. Pending the examinations or verifications under paragraph 29 to confirm compliance of the Species consignment with the requirements in the present Resolution and any other relevant measures adopted by IATTC, the CMC shall not grant its release for import or export.
33. When a CMC, as a result of examination or verifications under paragraph 29 and in cooperation with the validating authorities concerned, determines that an IACD or IARC is invalid, the import, export or re-export of the Species products concerned shall be prohibited.
34. The Commission shall request the non-CMCs that are involved in import, export or re-export of the Species to cooperate with the implementation of the Scheme to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.

#### **PART VIII COMMUNICATION OF DATA**

35. CMCs that validate IACDs in respect of their flag fishing vessels and/or IARCs, shall notify to the Secretariat:
  - a) the name and full address of their authorities responsible for validating and verifying IACDs or IARCs, and
  - b) the name, title, and signature of the validating officials who are individually empowered. This notification shall indicate the date at which this title comes into force. A copy of the provisions adopted in national law for the purpose of implementing the catch documentation program shall be communicated with the initial notification. Updated details on validating authorities, officials and national provisions shall be communicated to the Secretariat in a timely fashion.
36. The information on validating authorities and officials transmitted by notifications to the Secretariat shall be placed on a password protected section of its website held by the Secretariat. The list of the CMCs having notified their validating authorities and officials, and the dates of entry into force of the title, shall be placed on a publicly accessible website held by the Secretariat. CMCs are encouraged to access this information to help verify the validation of IACDs and IARCs.
37. Each CMC shall notify to the Secretariat the points of contact (name and e-mail address) that should be informed when there are questions related to IACDs or IARCs.
38. Notification pursuant to paragraphs 35, 36 and 37 shall be sent by CMCs to the Secretariat, by electronic means.
39. CMCs shall provide to the Secretariat a report each year by April 1 for the preceding year to provide the information described in **Annex 8**. The Secretariat shall post these reports on a password protected section of the website, as soon as practicable. At its request, the Scientific Advisory Committee shall have access to the reports received by the Secretariat.

**PART IX  
OTHERS**

40. This Resolution shall enter into force on January 1, 2012. The Commission will hold a preparatory workshop in 2011.
41. This Resolution will be reviewed and revised if necessary in 2013 with the view to expanding the scope of application of the Catch Documentation Scheme to species other than the Species as well as any other elements deemed to be revised. Such expansion of the scope shall take into account scientific advice from the Scientific Advisory Committee.
42. Resolution C-03-01 (Resolution on IATTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme) is superseded by this Resolution.