

JOINT WORKING GROUP ON FISHING BY NON-PARTIES

4TH MEETING

LANZAROTE (SPAIN)
16 JUNE 2005

DOCUMENT JWG-4-05a

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 meeting in June 2004, the IATTC determined that the cooperating non-Parties to the IATTC were Canada, China, the European Union, Honduras, and Korea, and Chinese Taipei as a cooperating fishing entity.

Applications requesting Cooperating Status in IATTC for this year have been sent by seven governments: Belize, Bolivia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, the European Union, and Korea. 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 seven 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, the European Union and Korea, although the full range of the data mentioned in this provision has not been made available.

Bolivia and Colombia have provided all required data on their historical purse-seine fisheries.

- 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, the European Union, and Korea. Bolivia has numerous longline vessels which have not reported catch information, and Colombia has one longline vessel which has not reported catch information.

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

This requirement has been met by all applicants, although information on the number of vessels actually fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) has not been made available by Chinese Taipei and Korea.

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

The Commission staff has no information regarding research programs conducted in the EPO by any applicants, although length-frequency data from EPO longline catches have been made available by Chinese Taipei, and by the European Union for swordfish.

2. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:

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

The principal conservation measure for purse-seine vessels, the closures established under [Resolution C-04-09](#), was not respected by Bolivian or Colombian vessels during 2004.

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

Colombia has not respected the agreed capacity limits established in [Resolution C-02-03](#) with respect to one vessel, as elaborated in [Document JWG-4-04](#) and Document COM-6-04.

- 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).*

None of the applicants have provided much detail on this requirement.

Regarding compliance with the conservation program, Bolivia did not advise the Commission of measures taken with respect to the closure required by Resolution C-04-09. Colombia did advise the Commission of the measures it took during 2004 with respect to its purse-seine fleet and fishing closures; however, these measures are different than those required by Resolution C-04-09.

Regarding VMS, only Chinese Taipei, the European Union and Korea, among the applicants, 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 ([Document IATTC-73-13](#)).

- 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.*

Colombia did not follow this requirement. Bolivia responded that “All the cases will be dealt with in accordance with the Law, in particular when four of them are probable offenders against this management measure.”

3. PARTICIPATION:

Participation at plenary and scientific meetings, as an observer.

China, Canada, Chinese Taipei, the European Union, and Korea have participated in plenary and scientific meetings, and Bolivia and Colombia have participated in plenary meetings.