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SYNOPSIS OF LONGLINE OBSERVER DATA REPORTING PURSUANT TO
RESOLUTION [C-19-08](#)

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This document and accompanying tables summarize current reporting by IATTC CPCs¹ pursuant to Resolution [C-19-08](#). Resolution C-19-08 amended and replaced Resolution C-11-08, updating the requirements and formats for CPCs’ reporting of observer data to the Commission. Through C-19-08, CPCs adopted a new standardized template for annual summary reporting for fishing effort and bycatch interactions (Annex A of the Resolution) and formalization of two options for minimum data standards to be collected by longline observers and reported to the Commission (Annex B of the Resolution), which were previously approved and adopted by SAC08 under C-11-08.

1. LIST OF LONGLINE VESSELS THAT FISHERD IN THE EPO IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

In the past, some CPCs have indicated that they are incorrectly listed as not submitting required reporting in documents such as this one (e.g. [SAC-09 INF-A](#)), because their longline vessels >20 m length overall (LOA) listed on the IATTC [Regional Vessel Register](#) (RVR) were not active in the EPO during the previous year. That is, if a CPC does not have qualifying longline vessel active in a given year, the observer requirements and corresponding reporting requirements do not apply to them for the relevant year. IATTC staff explained that without a clear indication of which CPCs had qualifying vessels active in the previous year, they were left to assume that the longline observer requirements applied to any CPC that had longline vessels >20m LOA on the RVR. Taking note of this situation and also noting that knowledge of fleet activity is necessary to assess the implementation of C-11-08 and other data reporting requirements, the SAC recommended that CPCs submit annually to the Secretariat a list of their longline vessels that fished in the EPO in the previous year ([Recommendation 9](#)). This recommendation was then expanded to include all vessel types and adopted by the Commission in paragraph 5 of Resolution C-18-06, which states that “CPCs shall notify the Director by 30 June each year of their vessels on the Regional Vessel Register flying their flag that were actively fishing in the IATTC Convention Area for species covered by the Convention from 1 January to 31 December of the previous year.” However, because the deadline for this submission is not until June 30, this means that in most cases, the lists of active vessels are not submitted in time to

¹ Members and Cooperating non-Members

inform the reporting assessments in this paper. As of April 16, 2021, no CPCs had reported against paragraph 5 of C-18-06 for 2020. In fact, overall compliance with this requirement is deficient, as only 10 IATTC CPCs submitted [lists of active vessels for 2019](#). Therefore, unless we have been informed otherwise, for the purposes of this report the IATTC staff assumed that the provisions of C-19-08 applied to all CPCs with longline vessels >20 m LOA on the RVR in 2019. In some cases, this assumption was based on the listing of a CPC's longline vessels on the RVR having no reported vessel length measurement. Accordingly, compliance with reporting requirements is assessed in this paper based on these assumptions.

2. ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORTS

Each CPC with a longline observer program is required to submit an annual summary report to the SAC using the template provided in Annex A of C-19-08. To facilitate reporting, IATTC staff developed fillable electronic versions of Annex A—in English and Spanish—for ease of [download](#) and submission. The primary purpose of summary reporting is for each CPC to demonstrate compliance with two specific requirements under the Resolution, those being at least 5% observer coverage of their total longline fishing effort, and that this coverage is representative of the activities of their entire fleet, particularly with regards to 'shallow' and 'deep' sets. C-19-08 defines longline fishing effort as either “as the number of effective days of fishing² or hooks deployed.” The summary reports received for 2020 are posted on the [SAC 12 meeting page](#) under “INF Longliners scientific observer program annual reports 2020.”

Table 1 summarizes compliance by each CPC with the requirement to submit a summary report using Annex A and to report the percent observer coverage. Black cells indicate the CPC had at least one qualifying longline vessel on the RVR in 2019 but subsequently informed the Director that the vessel(s) did not fish in the EPO or did not fish for IATTC species. Nearly all reporting CPCs indicated they met the 5% observer coverage requirement, or project that they will have done so once all of their 2020 longline observer data are processed.

² As defined by SAC-03 in 2012

Table 1. Summary of Annex A reporting by CPC showing whether Annex A was submitted, the percent observer coverage reported in 2020, and the fishing effort metric used to calculate observer coverage. Cell color denotes whether a CPC correctly completed and submitted Annex A (green). Red cells denote that a CPC had longline vessels >20 LOA on the IATTC RVR (or longline vessels without registered LOAs) but did not report. Black cells indicate that although the CPC had qualifying vessels on the RVR, C-19-08 did not apply in 2020 because the relevant vessels were not active or did not fish for IATTC species. Orange cells denote incomplete, preliminary data or other issues.

Tabla 1. Resumen de la presentación de informes del Anexo A por CPC que muestra si se remitió el Anexo A, el porcentaje notificado en 2020 de cobertura por observadores y la medida del esfuerzo pesquero utilizada para calcular la cobertura por observadores. El color de la celda indica si un CPC llenó y remitió correctamente el Anexo A (verde). Las celdas rojas indican que un CPC tuvo buques de palangre >20 m de eslora total en el RVR de la CIAT (o buques de palangre sin esloras registradas) pero no presentó informes. Las celdas negras indican que, aunque el CPC tuvo buques calificados en el RVR, no se aplicó la Resolución C-19-08 en 2020 porque los buques pertinentes no estuvieron activos o no pescaron especies de la CIAT. Las celdas naranjas indican datos incompletos o preliminares u otros problemas.

CPC	Annex A Summary submitted?	% Observer coverage reported 2020
BLZ		
CHL	NA	
CHN	Y	4.86% preliminary(# hooks)
CRI		
ECU	Y	5.66% (effective days fishing)
EU	Y	3.80% (effective days fishing)
FRA		
GTM		
JPN	Y	5.97% (effective days fishing)
KOR	Y	2.87% preliminary (effective days fishing)
MEX	Y	6.17% (effective days fishing)
NIC		
PAN		
PER		
SLV		
TWN	Y	0.6% preliminary, 10.6% projected
USA	Y	16.31% (# hooks)
VEN	NA	
VUT		

3. OPERATIONAL OBSERVER DATA

In 2017, SAC-08 established minimum data standards for the reporting of operational longline observer data to the Commission, allowing CPCs to choose between reporting (a) data recorded on the IATTC longline observer forms, or (b) data representing a subset of the WCPFC list of minimum standard data fields. These minimum standards were reaffirmed by the Commission with the adoption of C-19-08 and are found in Annex B of that Resolution. Under C-19-08, submissions of longline observer data for the previous year are due by June 30 of the following year.

Since the 5% observer requirement has been in force since 2013, CPCs should possess the operational observer data for 2013–2017 that is required to be reported to the Commission. However, some CPCs have not submitted longline observer data for these all relevant years, or in some cases have never submitted operational longline observer data. In some instances, it is possible that CPCs are reflected as not reporting when, in fact, the requirement did not apply to them in a given year but updating this table to increase its accuracy requires the input of the relevant CPCs. To gain clarity on these situations, the Director circulated letters to all relevant CPCs in February 2020, seeking further clarification. Specifically, for each year between 2013 and 2017, the Director asked for CPCs to choose from one of the following responses:

1. CPC did not have a qualifying longline vessel operating in this fishing year and thus the requirement does not apply (e.g., there were longline vessels over 20 meters length overall on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register, but they were not active or were not fishing for IATTC species).
2. CPC had qualifying longline vessel operating in this fishing year, but the CPC did not have a longline observer program; and so there are no longline observer data to provide.
3. CPC had qualifying longline vessel operating in this fishing year and some portion of that effort was observed, but the data have not yet been submitted to the Commission. *Where this response is relevant, please also indicate when you plan to submit this data and identify any challenges that must first be overcome.*
4. Other. *Please explain.*

Where Director has not received any clarifying information from a CPC for a given year, the cells in **Table 2** remain red, indicating that the longline observer requirements are presumed to have applied and that no operational observer data for that year has been received.

Table 2. Status of reporting of operational observer data by CPCs, by year. Cell color denotes whether a CPC reported operational observer data (green), intends to submit data in the near future (orange), nominated not to report, or were exempt from reporting (black), or have not reported (red).

Tabla 2. Estado de la presentación de los datos operacionales de observadores por los CPC, por año. El color de la celda indica si un CPC notificó los datos operacionales de observadores (verde), si tiene la intención de remitir los datos en un futuro próximo (naranja), si ha sido identificado para su no presentación o exención de presentación (negro), o si no los ha presentado (rojo).

CPC	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
BLZ	NR ²	NR ²	P	P	P	P	NR ³	
CHL							NA ¹	NA ¹
CHN								
CRI							NR ²	
ECU								
EU (Portugal)	NR	NR	NR		NR	NR		
EU (Spain)	NR	NR	NR	NR				
FRA								
GTM	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NR ²	NA	NA	NA	
JPN	NR ¹	NR ¹						
KOR								
MEX								
NIC					NA ¹			
PAN								
PER	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹		
SLV	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	
TWN								
USA								
VEN					NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹	NA ¹
VUT								

NR- Not reporting

NR¹ - CPC stated they will not be reporting data because they cannot report against the IATTC standards for these years

NR² - CPC reports that they had qualifying vessels, but did not have a longline observer program in this fishing year

NR³ - CPC reports that relevant vessel was only active during the last quarter of the fishing year and an observer could not be assigned

NA- CPC reports that the observer requirements were not applicable

NA¹ - CPC reports that the observer requirements were not applicable because relevant vessels listed on the RVR were not active or did not fish for IATTC species in this year

P- CPC has indicated that data will be submitted soon