

# 中华人民共和国农业农村部渔业渔政管理局

BUREAU OF FISHERIES, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
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June 21, 2025

Dr. Arnulfo Franco  
Director  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission  
La Jolla, California

## Subject: Annual report on implementation for 2024 by China on C-19-04

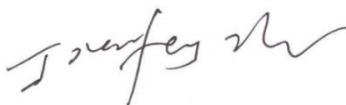
Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

According to the request by Notification by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Strengthening International Compliance with Tuna Fisheries [Nongbanyu (2024) No. 3], all longline vessels shall equip de-hooks, and use circle hooks whenever possible, to minimum the harm to possible bycaught sea turtles. All Chinese fishing vessels operating in the EPO fish in deep-set manner.

Based on the observer data from Chinese longline fisheries in 2024, one Leatherback turtle and three Olive Ridley turtles were accidentally captured and released in accordance with the guideline cautiously. The detailed interaction information is as follows.

| Number | Date               | Location          | Species             | Curved length (cm) | Capture and release condition | Hook location |
|--------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 1      | 9 February, 2024   | 19°03'S, 125°13'W | Leatherback turtle  | 150                | live/live                     | entangled     |
| 2      | 3 April, 2024      | 08°13'S, 149°40'W | Olive Ridley turtle | -                  | live/live                     | entangled     |
| 3      | 22 December, 2024  | 16°01'S, 109°20'W | Olive Ridley turtle | 52                 | live/unknown                  | flipper       |
| 4      | 23 September, 2024 | 15°11'S, 103°42'W | Olive Ridley turtle | 60                 | live/ unknown                 | flipper       |

Regards,



**Jiangfeng ZHU**

Consultant/Commissioner to IATTC&IOTC  
Division of Distant-water Fisheries  
Bureau of Fisheries

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
P. R. China

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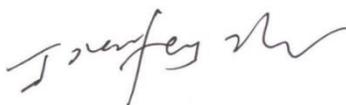
## **Subject: Annual report on implementation for 2023 by China on C-19-04**

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

According to the request by Notification by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Completely Comply with International Tuna Measures [Nongbanyu (2022) No.1], all longline vessels shall equip de-hooks, and use circle hooks whenever possible, to minimum the harm to possible bycaught sea turtles. Longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner (the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters) shall use circle hooks and shall not use squid as bait.

Based on the observer data from Chinese longline fisheries in 2023, one Leatherback turtle was accidentally hooked on its front right flipper and released in accordance with the guideline cautiously. The curved length of this turtle is about 100 cm. The observed interaction occurred on October 4, 2023 at 12°54'S, 115°13'W.

Regards,



**Jiangfeng ZHU**

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June 27, 2023

Dr. Arnulfo Franco  
Director  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission  
La Jolla, California

## Subject: Annual report on implementation for 2022 by China on C-19-04

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

According to the request by Notification by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Completely Comply with International Tuna Measures [Nongbanyu (2022) No.1], all longline vessels shall equip de-hooks, and use circle hooks whenever possible, to minimum the harm to possible bycaught sea turtles. Longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner (the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters) shall use circle hooks and shall not use squid as bait.

Based on the observer data from Chinese longline fisheries in 2022, twenty-seven sea turtles were accidentally captured and released in accordance with the guideline cautiously. The detailed interaction information is as follows.

| Number | Date              | Location          | Species             | Curved length (cm) | Capture and release condition | Hook location |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 1      | 11 November, 2022 | 17°33'S, 98°02'W  | Leatherback turtle  | 120                | live/live                     | entangled     |
| 2      | 12 January, 2023  | 20°19'S, 113°04'W | Olive Ridley turtle | 60                 | live/live                     | -             |
| 3      | 20 February, 2022 | 10°31'N, 115°W    | Olive Ridley turtle | 70                 | live/live                     | swallowed     |
| 4      | 21 February, 2022 | 10°28'N, 115°W    | Olive Ridley turtle | 50                 | live/live                     | flipper       |
| 5      | 1 March, 2022     | 9°42'N, 113°W     | Olive Ridley turtle | 70                 | live/live                     | flipper       |
| 6      | 2 March, 2022     | 9°6'N, 114°W      | Leatherback turtle  | 110                | live/live                     | entangled     |
| 7      | 29 March, 2022    | 11°20'N, 113°W    | Olive Ridley turtle | 50                 | live/live                     | swallowed     |
| 8      | 30 March, 2022    | 11°37'N, 113°W    | Olive Ridley turtle | 70                 | live/live                     | entangled     |
| 9      | 30 March, 2022    | 11°37'N, 113°W    | Olive Ridley turtle | 63                 | live/live                     | swallowed     |
| 10     | 4 April, 2022     | 10°39'N, 114°W    | Olive Ridley turtle | 70                 | live/live                     | swallowed     |
| 11     | 5 April, 2022     | 10°37'N, 114°W    | Olive Ridley turtle | 65                 | live/live                     | swallowed     |
| 12     | 6 April, 2022     | 10°35'N, 115°W    | Olive Ridley turtle | 50                 | live/live                     | entangled     |
| 13     | 8 April, 2022     | 10°14'N, 115°W    | Olive Ridley turtle | 60                 | live/live                     | flipper       |
| 14     | 15 April, 2022    | 11°6'N, 113°W     | Olive Ridley turtle | 60                 | live/live                     | swallowed     |

|    |                |                |                     |    |           |           |
|----|----------------|----------------|---------------------|----|-----------|-----------|
| 15 | 15 April, 2022 | 11°6'N, 113°W  | Olive Ridley turtle | 50 | live/live | flipper   |
| 16 | 20 April, 2022 | 9°53'N, 114°W  | Olive Ridley turtle | 50 | live/live | flipper   |
| 17 | 4 May, 2022    | 10°18'N, 116°W | Olive Ridley turtle | 30 | live/live | entangled |
| 18 | 14 May, 2022   | 10°33'N, 117°W | Green turtle        | 53 | live/live | entangled |
| 19 | 10 July, 2022  | 6°19'N, 114°W  | Olive Ridley turtle | 68 | live/live | flipper   |
| 20 | 10 July, 2022  | 6°19'N, 114°W  | Olive Ridley turtle | 60 | live/live | swallowed |
| 21 | 12 July, 2022  | 7°27'N, 115°W  | Olive Ridley turtle | 70 | live/live | swallowed |
| 22 | 12 July, 2022  | 7°27'N, 115°W  | Green turtle        | 50 | live/live | flipper   |
| 23 | 13 July, 2022  | 6°25'N, 115°W  | Green turtle        | 66 | live/live | flipper   |
| 24 | 13 July, 2022  | 6°25'N, 115°W  | Olive Ridley turtle | 60 | live/live | swallowed |
| 25 | 20 July, 2022  | 9°43'N, 118°W  | Olive Ridley turtle | 50 | live/live | entangled |
| 26 | 31 July, 2022  | 8°3'N, 121°W   | Olive Ridley turtle | 54 | live/live | flipper   |
| 27 | 31 July, 2022  | 8°3'N, 121°W   | Green turtle        | 70 | live/live | flipper   |

Regards,



**Jiangfeng ZHU**

Consultant/Commissioner to IATTC&IOTC  
 Division of Distant-water Fisheries  
 Bureau of Fisheries  
 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
 P. R. China

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June 27th, 2022

Mr. Jean-Francois Pulvenis  
Director ad interim  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission  
La Jolla, California

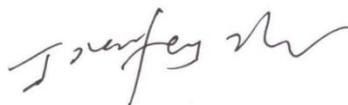
## **Subject: Annual report on implementation for 2021 by Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO on C-19-04 para 4**

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

According to the request by Notification by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Completely Comply with International Tuna Measures [Nongbanyu (2022) No.1], all longline vessels shall equip de-hooks, and use circle hooks whenever possible, to minimum the harm to possible bycaught sea turtles. Longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner (the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters) shall use circle hooks and shall not use squid as bait.

Based on the logbook and observer data, only 1 sea turtle was accidentally captured by Chinese longline vessels in 2021. The species was Leatherback turtle which accidentally captured with its fore-flippers entangled by the branchline of longline. The estimated straight carapace length of the Leatherback turtle was 115cm. The turtle was alive and released in accordance with the guideline cautiously. The observed interaction occurred on October 16, 2021 at 14° 46' S, 100° 12' W.

Regards,



**Jiangfeng ZHU**

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Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
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June 21th, 2021

Mr. Jean-Francois Pulvenis  
Director ad interim  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission  
La Jolla, California

## **Subject: Progress on implementation for 2020 by Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO on FAO turtle guidelines as required by Para 2, C-07-03**

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

### **-Management**

#### **• Notification from Authority**

In 2018, China Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs issued *the Plan of Action for the conservation of Sea Turtle (2019-2033)* to coastal authorities, in order to enhance the management of conservation of the species, and to effectively tackle with the new challenges this species is facing. The Plan of Action has indicated the principle and the target of the conservation of sea turtle, and has laid down the main task in the next 15 years for related authorities.

In 2019, China Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs issued a notification on further strictly complying with international tuna management measures, which included all sea turtle measures from t-RFMOs that China participated. The notification has been communicated to all tuna industries in China, and has made instructions for Chinese fisherman to deal with different scenarios of sea turtles when conducting fishing activities overseas.

### **-Data Collection**

#### **• Logbook**

For Chinese longline fisheries, sea turtle is one of the major bycatches required to be accurately recorded in the logbook. The fisheries authority of China officially issued logbook for Tuna Fisheries in 2008 and renew it in a timely manner in accordance with the RFMO's requirements. Each tuna longline vessel, no matter of its fishing ground, is required to record the sea turtle bycatch or interaction, including the species and entangling state. Company does not fulfill the requirements, once discovered, will be punished by government in accordance with certain domestic fisheries management measures, as China implements performance review for each

fishing company annually.

- **Observer program**

Longline observer program is one of the ways that bycatch information is collected in Chinese tuna fisheries. In 2020, China conducted 18 longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (including overlapping areas) and 3 sea turtles (two green turtles and one Hawksbill turtle) were accidentally captured during the trips. All the sea turtles are retrieved on board with proper treatment and are safely released alive (with dehooker equipment based on Sea Turtle Handle Guideline).

**-Training**

- **lectures on bycatch mitigation**

We conducted training programme, which invited experts to give lectures about bycatch mitigations. Each tuna fishing company was required to dispatch at least one fishing manager at the base(or captain) to attend the course.

- **Tuna fisheries conference**

In addition, national-wide conference on tuna fisheries, where major conservation measures (including measures for sea turtle and others) are introduced and explained repeatedly to the meeting participants from industries, are opened annually. Cases regarding infringement of domestic laws and RFMO's CMMs will be shown to all participants during the meeting as an alarm for each company. The outcome of annual performance review on compliance is also circulated to fishing companies.

- **Propaganda**

Booklets/posters on sea turtle species identification and mitigation method in line with FAO guidelines are published and distributed to each longline vessel, which can guide the crew members to save and safely release captured or entangled turtles. Mitigation devices, such as de-hookers and cutters, are provided to each longline vessel since September 2009 free of charge by China Overseas Fisheries Association. We are hoping that by taking comprehensive actions, our fleet can strictly follow the measures and take good care of this species when caught or entangled.

- **Cultural consideration**

In Chinese culture, both sea turtles and tortoises are symbols of longevity, and no one would intentionally harm a sea turtle or a tortoise because they believe that such bad behaviour would bring them bad luck. Especially for fishermen, sea turtles are regarded as the sign of fortune and as such they respect and like sea turtles very much. Therefore sailors of fishing vessels would do whatever they can do to safely release a sea turtle incidentally caught rather than injure/harm them intentionally.

Regards,

**Jiangfeng ZHU**

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June 28th, 2019

Dr. Guillermo A. Compeán  
Director  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission  
La Jolla, California

**Subject: Progress on implementation for 2018  
by Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO  
on FAO turtle guidelines as required by Para 2, C-07-03**

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

## **Domestic Regulations**

In 2003, Ministry of Agriculture, P.R.China has issued the regulation concerning strictly abide by tuna international management measures in accordance with relevant RFMO's tuna conservation and management measures. The regulation stipulates the management measures of bycatch including sea turtle, requiring all longline vessels be equipped with de-hookers to mitigate hurt sea turtle captured incidentally and encouraging fishing vessels using round hooks.

### **-Data Collection**

#### **• Logbook**

Chinese longline fishing vessels are required to accurately record sea turtles caught incidentally as bycatch in the logbook. China Fishery Authority has officially issued logbook for Tuna Fisheries in 2008 and renew it in a timely manner in accordance with the RFMO's requirements. Each tuna longline vessel, no matter of its fishing ground, is required to record the sea turtle bycatch or interaction, including the species and entangling state. A company does not fulfill the requirements, once discovered, will be punished by Chinese government in accordance with certain domestic fisheries management measures, as China implements performance review for each fishing company annually.

#### **• Observer program**

Longline observer program is the main source of collecting bycatch information in Chinese tuna fisheries. In 2018, China conducted 9 longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (including overlapping areas) and 24 sea turtles were accidentally captured during the trips. All the sea turtles were alive and set free in accordance with the guideline cautiously.

## **-Training**

### **• Tuna fisheries conference**

In addition, national-wide conference on tuna fisheries, where major conservation measures including measures for sea turtle and others are introduced and explained repeatedly to the meeting participants from industries, are opened annually. Cases regarding infringement of domestic laws and RFMO's CMMs will be shown to all participants during the meeting as an alarm for each company. The outcome of annual performance review on compliance is also circulated to fishing companies. During the conference we also invite domestic experts to give lectures regarding bycatch mitigations and correct ways to deal with sea turtle when caught.

### **• Propaganda**

Booklets/posters on sea turtle species identification and mitigation method in line with FAO guidelines are published and distributed to each longline vessel, which can guide the crew members to save and safely release captured or entangled turtles. Mitigation devices, such as de-hookers and cutters, are provided to each longline vessel since September 2009 free of charge by China Overseas Fisheries Association ( 28 sets are provided in 2018 each vessel). We are hoping that by taking comprehensive actions, our fleet can strictly follow the measures and take good care of this species when caught or entangled.

Regards,

Liu Liming

Division Consultant  
Division of Distant Water Fishing  
Bureau of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
People's republic of China

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June 20th, 2018

Dr. Guillermo A. Compeán  
Director  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission  
La Jolla, California

## **Subject: Progress on implementation for 2017 by Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO on FAO turtle guidelines as required by Para 2, C-07-03**

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

### **-Data Collection**

#### **• Logbook**

For Chinese longline fisheries, sea turtle is one of the major bycatches required to be accurately recorded in the logbook. The fisheries authority of China officially issued logbook for Tuna Fisheries in 2008 and renew it in a timely manner in accordance with the RFMO's requirements. Each tuna longline vessel, no matter of its fishing ground, is required to record the sea turtle bycatch or interaction, including the species and entangling state. Company does not fulfill the requirements, once discovered, will be punished by government in accordance with certain domestic fisheries management measures, as China implements performance review for each fishing company annually.

#### **• Observer program**

Longline observer program is the main source that bycatch information is collected in Chinese tuna fisheries. In 2017, China conducted 9 longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (including overlapping areas) and 27 sea turtles were accidentally captured during the trips. All the sea turtles were alive and set free in accordance with the guideline cautiously.

### **-Training**

#### **• lectures on bycatch mitigation**

In August, 2017, we conducted a training course, which invited experts from ISSF to give lectures about bycatch mitigations. Each tuna fishing company was required to dispatch at least one fishing manager at the base(or captain) to attend the course.

#### **• Tuna fisheries conference**

In addition, national-wide conference on tuna fisheries, where major conservation measures (including measures for sea turtle and others) are introduced and explained repeatedly to the meeting participants from industries, are opened annually. Cases regarding infringement of domestic laws and RFMO's CMMs will be shown to all participants during the meeting as an alarm for each company. The outcome of annual performance review on compliance is also circulated to fishing companies.

• **Propaganda**

Booklets/posters on sea turtle species identification and mitigation method in line with FAO guidelines are published and distributed to each longline vessel, which can guide the crew members to save and safely release captured or entangled turtles. Mitigation devices, such as de-hookers and cutters, are provided to each longline vessel since September 2009 free of charge by China Overseas Fisheries Association (This year, 32 sets are provided). We are hoping that by taking comprehensive actions, our fleet can strictly follow the measures and take good care of this species when caught or entangled.

Regards,

Wan Chen

Deputy Director  
Division of deepsea fishing  
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People's republic of China

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June 29th, 2017

Dr. Guillermo A. Compeán  
Director  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission  
La Jolla, California

**Subject: Progress on implementation for 2016  
by Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO  
on FAO turtle guidelines as required by Para 2, C-07-03**

Reducing bycatch and enhancing data collection for sea turtle are important conservation and management measures that have been implemented by Chinese tuna fleets in all fishing ground for many years.

## **-Data Collection**

### **• Logbook**

For Chinese longline fisheries, sea turtle is one of the major bycatches required to be accurately recorded in the logbook. The fisheries authority of China officially issued logbook for Tuna Fisheries in 2008 and renew it in a timely manner in accordance with the RFMO's requirements. Each tuna longline vessel, no matter of its fishing ground, is required to record the sea turtle bycatch or interaction, including the species and entangling state. Company does not fulfill the requirements, once discovered, will be punished by government in accordance with certain domestic fisheries management measures, as China implements performance review for each fishing company annually. According to last year's logbooks, most of our vessels did not accidentally catch sea turtles.

### **• Observer program**

Longline observer program is the main source that bycatch information is collected in the Chinese tuna fisheries. In 2016, China conducted 4 longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (including overlapping areas) and no sea turtle was accidentally captured during the trip.

## **-Training**

### **• Training course**

In December, 2016, after the meetings of WCPFC in Fiji, we conducted a training course, which invited experts from ABNJ of FAO and Bird International to give lectures about bycatch mitigations. Each tuna fishing company was required to dispatch at least one fishing manager at the base(or captain) to attend the course.

### **• Tuna fisheries conference**

In addition, national-wide conference on tuna fisheries, where major conservation

measures (including measures for sea turtle and others) are introduced and explained to the meeting participants from industries, are opened annually. Cases regarding violation of Domestic management measures and RFMO's CMM will be delivered to all participants including the punishment during the meeting, to call the attention of each company on compliance. The outcome of the performance review on compliance is circulated to fishing companies.

• **Propaganda**

Booklets/posters on sea turtle species identification and mitigation method in line with FAO guidelines are published and distributed to each longline vessel, which can guide the crew members to save and safely release captured or entangled turtles. Mitigation devices, such as de-hookers and cutters, are provided to each longline vessel since September 2009 free of charge by China Overseas Fisheries Association (This year, 22 sets are provided). We are hoping that by taking comprehensive actions, our fleet can strictly follow the measures and take good care of this species when caught or entangled.

Regards,

Liling Zhao

Director  
Division of deepsea fishing  
Bureau of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture  
China