

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION  
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

**PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON COMPLIANCE**

**6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

LANZAROTE (SPAIN)  
17 JUNE 2004

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Review of relevant [Commission Resolutions](#)
4. Compliance with IATTC measures in 2004:
  - a) [Resolution on bycatch](#) (C-04-05):
    - i. release of live bycatch
    - ii. full retention
  - b) [Resolution on fish-aggregating devices](#) (C-99-07)
  - c) [Resolution on the conservation of yellowfin and bigeye tuna](#) (C-04-09):
    - i. Purse-seine closures
    - ii. limitation on longline catch
  - d) [Resolution on at-sea reporting](#) (C-03-04)
  - e) [Resolution on fleet capacity](#) (C-02-03)
  - f) [Resolution on data provision](#) (C-03-05)
  - g) National reports
5. Recommendations to the Commission
6. Other business
7. Adjournment

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, David Hogan of the United States.

The provisional agenda was adopted as presented.

The staff presented its report on compliance in 2004 (Document COM-6-04), beginning with the review of relevant Commission Resolutions under agenda item 3 and continuing with the review of possible violations under agenda item 4.

Regarding sea turtles, it was noted that in 2004 there were 1,078 sets involving 1,299 sea turtles, compared to 1,510 sets involving 1,554 turtles in 2003. Of the 1,299 turtles involved in 2004, 89% were released unharmed and 4% escaped, so 93% of the turtles involved suffered no adverse effects from the fishery, and only two turtle mortalities were recorded by observers. In 2004 a total of 12 violations were recorded by IATTC observers and reported to governments.

Regarding sharks, observers reported 755 sets made in 138 trips that involved 6,466 sharks. Of these, 206 were released alive.

Regarding the requirement for purse-seine vessels to retain on board all tuna caught, the staff reported that observers reported 12,205 sets with discards during 2001-2004, and that in 2004 an average of 9.4 tons of tunas was discarded per set, an increase of 35-40% over previous years. Of the 12,205 sets, only 1,762 were recorded on the required Tuna Discard Record. Further, in 52% of those 1,762 sets, the captain recorded discards that are prohibited by the resolution

Regarding at sea-reporting, the staff reported that the reporting rate of 73% in 2004 was essentially the same as that of the second half of 2003, after the new resolution of June 2003 on this matter entered into force. The range of reporting rates varied from 6% to 100%.

Regarding compliance with the purse-seine closures, four Bolivian vessels were identified as fishing during the first closure period in violation of the resolution. Colombia did not choose either of the two closure periods, but implemented its own unilateral measures. During the first closure period six Colombian vessels fished in the EPO, and during the second closure period, five Colombian vessels fished in the EPO.

Regarding the bigeye catch limits, none of the reported catches exceeded the established limits.

Regarding the resolution on fleet capacity, the staff reported that the Colombian vessel *Martha Lucía R* continued to fish in the EPO in 2004 without being on the Regional Vessel Register.

The staff also presented information on compliance with the resolution on data provision, noting that several countries had not complied with the requirements of the resolution.

The Working Group directed the staff that in future data should not be broken down by observer program.

Venezuela commented that the government had provided seminars for fishing crews on bycatch and other operational factors that had, among other things, resulted in a reduction in the number of night sets.

The European Union commented that its vessels do not target bigeye tuna, and that it believes that there should be a separate description for flags that target bigeye and those that do not.

The United States noted that its 2004 catch was not listed even though it had provided an annual report. It was agreed that the United States and the Secretariat would consult on that issue.

It was suggested that purse-seine bycatches in the report should be broken down by set type, but this was not supported by the Working Group.

Costa Rica noted the usefulness of a prohibition on shark finning. Two delegations reminded the Working Group of their proposals from 2004 on that topic.

Japan stated that the 2001 longline catch levels on which Resolution C-04-09 is based may have been based in part on IUU catches and should be reviewed. Japan also noted that some reported 2004 catches were higher than import records showed.

A discussion of the reporting requirements for longline catches of bigeye resulted in an understanding that the compliance report should show monthly reporting only for CPCs with annual catches above 200 tons.

Ecuador proposed another meeting of the Working Group on Bycatch, which, if scheduled, Japan offered to host.

The Working Group will meet in conjunction with the annual meeting of the IATTC in 2005.