



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries
Washington, D.C. 20230

November 12, 2020

Mr. Jean-Francois Pulvenis, Acting Director
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037-1508

Dear Mr. Jean-Francois Pulvenis,

The United States would like to bring attention to a rise in potential violations of Resolution C-11-03 (*Resolution Prohibiting Fishing on Data Buoys*). The United States maintains Tropical Atmosphere Ocean (TAO) and Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) data buoys throughout the eastern Pacific Ocean and reports the locations in accordance with Resolution C-11-03. This year to date, buoy sensor data indicate that vessels likely interacted with data buoys on 34 different occasions. When sufficient evidence is available that vessels flagged to IATTC members may have been responsible for this activity, we report it to the IATTC Secretariat for the consideration of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission and contact the relevant flag States.

Under Resolution C-11-03, all Member nations are unified in the goal of ending this irresponsible activity that can damage equipment and interfere with safety warning systems, as these buoys can detect tsunamis. In addition, this activity can impair the collection of data critical to the study of tuna habitat use and the relationship between climate and tuna recruitment.

Please find attached additional information on the type of information collected by these systems and the benefit they provide to Pacific Ocean coastal communities. We include this [video](#) and other materials that demonstrate the importance of preventing vandalism on these data buoys.

Please circulate this to all members and cooperating non-members of the IATTC. We also request that the IATTC Secretariat post this letter and attached materials on the 95th Meeting of the IATTC webpage for inclusion in meeting documents. Thank you in advance for reviewing this letter and attachments. If you have any questions, contact Lyle Enriquez at Lyle.Enriquez@noaa.gov or 562-980-4025

Sincerely,

Andrew Lawler
U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC



Attachments

cc w/ attachments:

David Hogan, U.S. Department of State

Mike Thompson, U.S. Commissioner

Bill Fox, U.S. Commissioner

John Zuanich, Alternate U.S. Commissioner

Paul Ortiz, NOAA Office of the General Counsel SW-Enforcement Section

Greg Busch, NMFS Office of Law Enforcement

Kathryn Kempton, NOAA Office of the General Counsel, SW Section

Administrative File: 150401WCR2014SF00141:CB