

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

69^a REUNION - 69TH MEETING

MANZANILLO (MEXICO)
26-28 JUN 2002

RESOLUTION ON COMPLIANCE

The Parties to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) have agreed as follows:

1. That the IATTC staff, and the national authorities managing the national observer programs, ensure that observers include sufficient information to allow the staff to better assess the implementation of the Resolution on Bycatch adopted at the 66th Meeting of the Commission in June 2000.
2. To request that each flag State send a letter to the owners and captains of its vessels reminding them of the requirement and reiterating the importance of complying with it.
3. To make two modifications to the Resolution concerning the release of sea turtles. First, to change the first sentence of paragraph 5 of the resolution to read as follows: "Whenever a sea turtle is sighted in the net, all reasonable efforts should be made to rescue the turtle before it becomes entangled in the net, including, if necessary, the deployment of a speedboat". Second, to change the third requirement of paragraph 5 of the resolution to read as follows: "If a turtle is brought on board a vessel, all appropriate efforts to assist in the recovery of the turtle should be made before returning it to the water".
4. In considering whether to extend the full retention requirement established by that Resolution on Bycatch of June 2000, consider the logistical complexity of the program and the additional effort that would be required by crews, IATTC and national observer programs, and the Commission staff in order to implement the program and monitor and assess compliance, particularly in light of the uncertain benefits of the requirement.
5. To request each flag state that has not yet provided to the Secretariat a copy of its legal instrument implementing the 2001 yellowfin closure to do so as soon as possible.
6. To request that each flag state send a letter to the owners and captains of its vessels reiterating the importance of timely at-sea reporting and urging them to provide such reports on a weekly basis as provided in the Resolution on At-Sea Reporting adopted by the Commission at its 68th Meeting.
7. To request that each flag state investigate reports of alleged violations of the resolutions-in-force and report back to the Working Group at its next meeting on the results of those investigations and the actions taken by the flag state.
8. To direct the IATTC staff to establish a process for tracking notifications to flag states of possible violations of the resolutions-in-force and the responses received.