

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

74TH MEETING

BUSAN (KOREA)
26-30 JUNE 2006

RESOLUTION C-06-06¹

RESOLUTION ON EXPERIMENTAL FISHING

Notwithstanding the requirements for closure of the purse-seine fishery stipulated in paragraph 7.1 of Resolution C-04-09 for a multi-annual program on the conservation of tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean for 2004, 2005, and 2006, one purse-seine vessel shall be allowed to fish for purposes of a scientific experiment during the period of closure established by its flag state.

The scientific experiment shall be for the purpose of testing gear modifications designed to reduce the catches of small tunas, and shall be elaborated in a proposal submitted to the Director at least two weeks before the expected date of the beginning of the first fishing trip of the vessel, and approved by the Director in consultation with the Commission prior to the trip.

The Director shall notify the Commissioners of the proposal upon his approval of it, and the flag state of the vessel involved, in cooperation with the Director, shall report on the results of the experiment as soon as possible following the conclusion of the vessel's fishing activities.

Any economic benefits of fishing during the closure shall be shared with the Commission.

APPENDIX

EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT FOR THE PURSE-SEINE TUNA FISHERY IN WHICH A FLEXIBLE DEVICE (GRID) TO ALLOW JUVENILE TUNAS TO ESCAPE

1. INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the Resolution which establishes the need to seek alternative methods for reducing the catch of juvenile tunas, ECUADOR has designed and built a flexible grid which when installed in purse-seine nets, will allow the small tunas to escape, a device that needs to be tested.

With the aim of avoiding operative losses to the vessel company that has borne all the costs of building the device and that will also cover 100% of the costs of the test cruise(s), it is requested that: during the 2006 closure for the purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO, a single vessel be allowed to test the device.

2. BEGINNING AND DURATION:

The experiment will take place from about 05 August and will finish its first phase in about 90 days, making as many trips as conditions permit in the usual fishing areas on FADs and schoolfish.

Depending on the initial results, the use of the grid will be continued during 90 more days in order to monitor its real effectiveness and/or make adjustments to the design, allowing at the same time operation in the months in which the oceanographic conditions vary due to seasonal changes, mainly temperature and currents,

¹ Approved *ad referendum* by Ecuador and Mexico

3. IMPLEMENTATION:

The experiment will be coordinated by the Undersecretariat of Fisheries Resources of Ecuador in coordination with the fleet manager of the company that owns the tuna vessel selected.

The following will participate:

1. The usual crew of the vessel including the IATTC or National Program observer, as appropriate;
2. An Ecuadorean technical expert selected by the Undersecretariat of Fisheries Resources;
3. An expert from the Commission staff;
4. An expert from(of a Party interested in the case).

In addition to the forms that the observers use, a special form will be used that shall be presented to the Commission for consideration for any suggestions.

The results shall be sorted and processed by the group of experts under the coordination of the delegate of the Undersecretariat of Fisheries Resources and will be submitted to the Commission Secretariat.

4. COSTS:

Shall be covered by the national vessel company as regards the installation of the device in the net and those corresponding to the trips including board for the experts, fuel and supplies

Each participating expert and/or institution shall bear the costs of transportation, expenses, insurance, etc.,

The Undersecretariat shall provide assistance and will provide a vehicle for transporting the experts from Guayaquil to the port of departure.

The experts may, if they wish, remain for one or two trips during this first experimental phase.