

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

78TH MEETING

PANAMA CITY (PANAMA)
24-27 JUNE 2008

RESOLUTION C-08-03

**IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES FOR THE OBSERVER PROGRAM
FOR AT-SEA TRANSSHIPMENTS BY LARGE-SCALE TUNA LONGLINE
FISHING VESSELS**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Expressing the need to implement a Program for at-sea transshipments by large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLFVs), in accordance with Resolution C-06-04;

Resolves as follows;

1. An informal Ad Hoc Working Group shall be established, composed primarily of those CPCs that have experience in observer programs for at-sea transshipments by LSTLFVs.
2. The first meeting of the Working Group shall be held on the occasion of the Northern Committee of the WCPFC in Tokyo from 11 to 13 September 2008.
3. The Director shall evaluate the approximate costs of implementing the observer program for carrier vessels established in paragraph 16 of Resolution C-06-04, which is similar to that implemented in ICCAT, by means of a service contract with an external agency, and shall report the results to the first meeting of the Working Group.
4. The Working Group shall decide how the costs of the program shall be shared among the participating CPCs for the implementation of the program from 1 January 2009.
5. Each CPC that participates in the at-sea transshipment program shall submit to the Director, by 30 September of each year, the plans of transshipment, including the number of LSTFLVs that will participate in at-sea transshipment for the following year and the number of carrier vessel cruises, for the Director to calculate the accurate cost of the program and to arrange for observers and other associated matters.
6. The Director shall evaluate the costs of implementing the observer program for carrier vessels by expanding the IATTC observer program under the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), *i.e.*, the Director shall be in charge of the implementation of the observer program, including the hiring, training, dispatch, and management of the observers aboard carrier vessels. The Director shall submit the results of this evaluation to the members of the Working Group one month prior to the IATTC Annual Meeting in 2009. The Working Group shall examine the results of the evaluation and decide whether to recommend to the IATTC Annual Meeting in 2009 that the observer program be changed from the service contract with an external agency to the expanded IATTC observer program.
7. The IATTC Annual Meeting in 2009 shall consider a decision on that change.