

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

82ND MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
4-8 JULY 2011

RESOLUTION C-11-08

RESOLUTION ON SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS FOR LONGLINE VESSELS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA) on the occasion of its 82nd Meeting:

Recognising the need to collect scientific information on target species as well as comprehensive data on interactions with non-target species, in particular, sea turtles, sharks and seabirds;

Noting the need to ensure uniform and equitable treatment of all tuna-fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area;

Noting that large purse-seine vessels operating in the Antigua Convention Area are required to carry scientific observers aboard, in accordance with the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program;

Taking into account that 5% observer coverage of high-seas fishing operations was noted as the initial level at the Kobe II workshop on Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance, held in Barcelona, Spain, in June 2010;

Agrees that:

1. Each Member and cooperating non-Member (CPCs) shall ensure that, from 1 January 2013, at least 5% of the fishing effort made by its longline fishing vessels greater than 20 metres length overall carry a scientific observer. In 2014, based on the results of the observer programs, the Secretariat, after consulting the Scientific Advisory Committee, will recommend to the Commission on the efficiency level needed to accomplish the objectives of this Resolution, and particularly on the potential increase of the required coverage rate. This coverage rate shall be then subject to the approval of the Commission at the corresponding ordinary meeting.
2. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall indicate, at its 2012 session, how fishing effort should be determined (sets, fishing days, number of vessels or other alternative options).
3. Each CPC shall endeavor to ensure that observer coverage will be representative of the activities of its fleet.
4. The main task of the scientific observers shall be to record any available biological information, the catches of targeted fish species, species composition and any available biological information as well as any interactions with non-target species such as sea turtles, seabirds and sharks.
5. The Director, in cooperation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall draw up a common reporting format detailing the required data to be collected by scientific observers.
6. Scientific observers shall submit to their flag CPC authorities a report on these observations at the latest 30 days after the end of each fishing trip.
7. Every year, CPCs shall submit to the Scientific Advisory Committee, through the Director, by 31 March, the scientific observers' information on the previous year's fishery in a format established by the Scientific Advisory Committee.