

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

83RD MEETING

**La Jolla, California (USA)
25-29 June 2012**

RESOLUTION C-12-08

**PROTOCOL FOR SEALING FISH WELLS ON PURSE-SEINE
VESSELS**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 83rd Meeting:

Recalling the conclusions and recommendations of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity;

Agrees:

To adopt the following protocol governing the sealing of wells on purse-seine vessels:

If vessel wells are sealed, with the aim of reducing the vessel's overall capacity, this protocol shall be followed. This protocol, by regulating the sealing of wells as exceptional cases, shall be applied in a way that does not contravene the provisions of Resolution C-02-03, in particular its articles 6 and 7, regarding the system for verifying capacity measurements and the introduction of new vessels. In order for the reduced well volume of the vessel to be recorded on the Regional Vessel Register for purposes of the implementation of Resolution C-02-03 on fleet capacity, the following procedure must be followed by all vessels with wells sealed after the adoption of Resolution C-02-03:

1. A sealed well is defined as any space on board a vessel, intended for the freezing, maintenance, or storage of fish, access to which has been blocked to prevent its use for these purposes.
2. The well must be physically sealed in a tamper-proof manner, and in such a way that it does not communicate with any other space on the vessel and that its use for any other storage is prevented. The inspection and verification of the vessel's sealed wells for the first time shall be carried out by vessel's flag government.
3. It shall be possible to open a sealed well only in case an emergency. If a sealed well is opened at sea, the observer must be present both when the well is opened and when it is resealed.
4. All refrigeration equipment in the well must be rendered inoperative.
5. Any vessel with one or more of its wells sealed to reduce its well volume recorded on the Regional Vessel Register shall be required to carry an observer from the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) on board.
6. Observers shall be notified as to which vessels are operating with sealed wells, and shall report any instances of sealed wells being used for storing fish, to verify compliance with this protocol, and the results reported to the Director.
7. All the information regarding compliance with this protocol shall be sent by the Director to the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission, in accordance with Article X, paragraph 8a, of the Antigua Convention, regarding the collection of information necessary for the work of the Committee.