

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM
FOR THE VOLUNTARY EXCHANGE OF INSPECTION PERSONNEL IN FISHERIES MANAGED BY ICCAT**

RECALLING Ref. 75-02 for a Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Annex 7 of Recommendation 18-02 establishing a joint international inspection scheme for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery, both relating to areas beyond national jurisdiction;

FURTHER RECALLING paragraph 3 of Article IX of the ICCAT Convention and the General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures adopted at the 13th Special Meeting of the Commission (Ref. 02-31);

NOTING the joint inspection activities that have been carried out by CPCs in the Atlantic and other oceans; and,

RECOGNIZING that exchanges of inspectors and observers through a voluntary pilot program will contribute to the capacity of CPCs, particularly developing CPCs, to conduct at sea inspections in ICCAT fisheries;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

Program Objectives

1. A pilot program is established for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel to participate in boarding and inspection activities as inspectors or as observing members of the inspection party (hereinafter referred to as “observers” for purposes of this Resolution), conducted by Contracting Parties in fisheries managed by ICCAT pursuant to their existing authorities. Such exchanges are intended to facilitate the sharing of information and expertise needed to strengthen at-sea inspection capabilities and capacities, enhance cooperation and collaboration among Contracting Parties on this important area of fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance, and inform future discussions on this issue within ICCAT.

Participation and Points of Contact

2. All Contracting Parties are encouraged to participate in the pilot program and may join or leave it at any time.
3. Contracting Parties interested in participating in the pilot program should submit to the Executive Secretary the following information:
 - a) National authority responsible for at-sea inspection and other supporting maritime agencies as may be appropriate, and
 - b) Designated point(s) of contact (POC) within that authority with responsibility for program implementation, including name, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail address.
4. The Executive Secretary will make the information provided under paragraph 3 available on the public portion of the ICCAT website.

Pilot Program Process and Procedures

5. Contracting Parties that have elected to participate in the pilot program should communicate with one another to identify opportunities for exchanges of inspectors or observers pursuant to this program.
6. Contracting Parties deploying patrol vessels in fisheries managed by ICCAT should:

- a) Consider their participation in the pilot program in developing patrol plans and strive, where possible, to arrange patrols that can accommodate one or more personnel from other Contracting Parties; and
 - b) Provide relevant information to other participating Contracting Parties, as appropriate, in order to determine their interest in an exchange of inspectors or observers, either on a particular patrol or on a patrol that may be planned in the future.
7. Contracting Parties wishing to place inspectors or observers on another Contracting Party's inspection vessel should contact the POC of the Contracting Party that has provided information under paragraph 6, to indicate its interest.
 8. When a Contracting Party has provided notice of its interest in an exchange of inspectors or observers under paragraph 7, the concerned Contracting Parties should consult to determine whether such an exchange could be accommodated, taking into consideration operational limitations as well as training, operational and information security, and medical and physical requirements. Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessel(s) should make special efforts to accommodate requests from developing Contracting Parties, in particular.
 9. Contracting Parties that have chosen to establish an exchange of personnel under the pilot program should enter into a standing or *ad hoc* bilateral agreement or arrangement to address relevant details of the deployment, including whether the scope of the agreement should be limited to inspections in areas beyond national jurisdiction or include national EEZs, the role of personnel deployed under the arrangement or agreement, as well as further provisions for the cooperative deployment of inspectors or observers and the use of vessels, aircraft or other resources for fisheries surveillance and control purposes, and the protection of law enforcement sensitive or otherwise confidential or protected information from inappropriate disclosure.

Reporting and Review

10. Contracting Parties who engage in such exchanges should coordinate reporting to the Commission annually on any activities carried out under the pilot program for consideration by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of Statistics and Conservation (PWG). Contracting Parties are also encouraged to provide information related to joint inspection activities undertaken outside the context of this pilot program, as appropriate.
11. This pilot program should be reviewed no more than 3 years after adoption.