

**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER (CHINESE TAIPEI)  
ON THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

1. The 2015 annual meeting (the 89<sup>th</sup> meeting) of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador on 29 June to 3 July 2015.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of 20 Members of the Commission: Belize, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union, France, Guatemala, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Chinese Taipei, United States, Vanuatu, and Venezuela. Bolivia, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia attended as observers. Several international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations were also represented.

**Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing**

3. There was no new additional vessel proposed to be included in the IATTC IUU vessel list in the meeting. Therefore, the Commission decided to maintain the current IUU vessel list as it was.

**Adopted Resolutions**

4. Seven resolutions were approved:
  - (a) *Amendment to Resolution C-05-07 on IUU fishing*: The Commission agreed to amend the existing Resolution on the establishment of IATTC IUU List. Several new elements have been introduced to the new Resolution, such as more detailed definition on IUU fishing, procedures applying to the vessels under control of the owner or operator of any vessel listed on IUU List, vessel inter-sessional removal procedures, as well as the vessel size subject to this Resolution (greater than 23 meters overall length).
  - (b) *Interpretation to paragraph 6 of Resolution C-02-03 on fleet capacity*: IATTC adopted Resolution C-02-03 in 2003 to set limit on the fishing capacity of tuna purse seine fishing vessel. However, ambiguity still exists as flag state can amend the registered fish well volume at any time. To clarify this issue, the Commission agreed to set the deadline for confirming capacity as of 1 January 2017.
  - (c) *Amendment to Resolution C-13-04 on the collection and analyses of data on fish aggregating devices (FADs)*: IATTC adopted Resolution C-13-04 on the FADs data collection and analyses in 2013. However, little progress was made due to practical reason in the past two years. Thus, the Commission agreed to postpone the schedule for the implementation of some provisions and establish a ad-hoc working group to find a way moving forward.
  - (d) *Conservation of Mobuild rays caught in association with fisheries in the IATTC Convention Area*: In consideration that Mobuild rays( the family Mobulidae, which includes manta rays and Mobula rays) are extremely vulnerable to

overfishing, the Commission agreed to prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling or offering for sale any these species caught in the IATTC Convention Area, with the exception of small-scale and artisanal fisheries in developing countries exclusively for domestic consumption.

- (e) *Amendment to Resolution C-12-04 on the formula for calculating contributions to the IATTC budget*: The Commission agreed to revise financial formula for the contribution of IATTC budget by adjusting range of Gross National Income(GNI), allowing developing members to pay less financial contribution.
- (f) *Financing for fiscal year 2016*: The Commission agreed its budget of US\$6,774,232 for fiscal year 2015, with additional budget of 200 thousand US dollars compared with the 2014 budget, exclusively for the use of performance review, appointment of new Director and the convention of annual meeting.
- (g) *Amendment to Resolution C-13-05 on confidentiality*: The existing data confidentiality policy and procedures stipulates that public domain data cannot reveal the identification of individual vessel catch. To further ensure the protection of commercial privacy, the Commission agreed to amend to rules, requesting that no individual vessel, company or person can be identified.

#### **Other Issues Discussed**

- 5. Several other proposals were also discussed, including shark conservation measures, conservation of silky shark and hammerhead shark, process for improved compliance of resolutions adopted by the Commission, use of compliance information, minimum standard for inspection in port, management of fishing capacity, conservation of Pacific bluefin tuna, seabird mitigation measures, and longline observer coverage, etc. However, no consensus was reached on these issues.

#### **Place and date of next meeting**

- 6. It was agreed that the next meeting of the IATTC Commission will be held in La Jolla, California (USA), in July 2016.