

Dear Sir,

Reference is made to the letter of feedback regarding compliance issues issued to China on May 26 2017, IOTC reference: 6620. And I'd like to respond to the issues noted by the Compliance Committee as follows:

1. **Regarding the size frequency for longline fisheries:** According to Res 15/02 paragraph 5, "Alternatively, size data for longline fleets may be provided as part of the Regional Observer Scheme where such fleets have at least 5% observer coverage of all fishing operations". For the year 2016, China's longline observer coverage has reached to 5.01%, and the observer trip reports and detailed catch data by species and size has been submitted to the Secretariat (on 19 October 2017). Therefore, we believe that China has fully fulfilled the reporting requirement of size frequency for the year 2016.
2. **Regarding the size frequency on sharks:** Refer to Paragraph 1 above, as shark size data were submitted as part of the observer data sets, we believe that China has fully fulfilled the reporting requirement of size frequency on sharks for the year 2016.
3. **Regarding not fully implemented observer scheme (coverage less than 5% for vessels more than 24 meters):** In order to further promote the normalization, institutionalization and reutilization of the national distant water fisheries observers, China reformed the mechanisms related to recruiting, training, and dispatching and management of the observers and arranged more budget to support the implementation of national observers program. The recruitment of the observer candidates is now open for the general public to guarantee the numbers required to meet the coverage. Thus, for the year 2016, four longline observers were sent to work onboard and the coverage rate reached to 5.01% in the IOTC area.
4. **Regarding not providing report for BET statistical document program as required by Resolution 01/06,** kindly be advised that the report was submitted to the Secretariat as attachment on April 5 2017, when China submitted implementation report for 2016. In the email of April 5, 2017 the report on in port transshipment and information under Resolution 10/10 were submitted to the Secretariat as well. Kindly refer to the attachment for easy reference.

Hope the information could assist.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

WAN Chen
Deputy Director
Division of Deep Sea Fishing
Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
China