



FISHERIES AGENCY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

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3 April, 2018

Dr. Christopher O'Brien,
IOTC Executive Secretary

Dear Dr. O'Brien:

I would like to respond to the **FEEDBACK REGARDING COMPLIANCE ISSUES** dated 26 May 2017.

FEEDBACK 1:

Japan has not reported Size frequency on sharks to IOTC Standard, as required by Resolution 05/05.

RESPONSE:

Japan submitted size data on sharks and has made continuous efforts to improve its coverage. Specifically, the 2016 coverage for Blue sharks and Porbeagle sharks fulfilled the requirement. The collection of the size data for Shortfin mako did not reach the required level, but its compliance ratio was 94%.

FEEDBACK 2:

Japan has not reported Size frequency for the longline fishery to IOTC Standard (less than one fish measured per metric ton), as required by Resolution 15/02.

RESPONSE:

Japan submitted size data on the longline fishery and has made continuous efforts to improve its coverage. Specifically, the 2016 coverage for Bigeye tuna, Albacore and Swordfish fulfilled the requirement. The collection of the size data for Yellowfin tuna did not reach the required level, but its compliance ratio was 71%.

FEEDBACK 3:

Japan has not attained the required level of observer coverage for vessels > 24m, as required by Resolution 11/04.

RESPONSE:

Observer coverages in 2016 were 5.7% in longliners and 48.4% in purse seiners respectively. They exceeded 5% as required by Resolution 11/04.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shingo Ota', written in a cursive style.

Shingo Ota

Japanese Commissioner to IOTC