

**Notification by General Office of Ministry of
Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Completely Comply with
International Tuna Measures¹**

Nongbanyu² (2022) No.1

Related Provincial (Autonomous Regional and Municipal) Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Fisheries Departments (Bureaux, Commissions), Fisheries Departments of Cities Specifically Designated in the State Plan, China Agricultural Development Group Co., Ltd., Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute and East China Sea Fisheries Research Institute of China Academy of Fisheries Sciences, Shanghai Ocean University, China Oversea Fisheries Association, relevant distant water fishery enterprises:

Tuna fisheries are important parts of China's distant water fisheries. China is a full member of the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Indian Tuna Commission (IOTC), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) (hereinafter as the Commissions), effectively implementation of conservation and management measures established by the above-mentioned Commissions is an international obligation of all members. For the purpose of further enhancing

¹ http://www.moa.gov.cn/govpublic/Yyj/202203/t20220310_6391428.htm. In Chinese.

² Translator note: Means document related to fisheries issued by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

capability of compliance by China's tuna industry and promoting standardized and orderly development of China's distant water fisheries, and upholding China's image as a responsible major country, it is hereby to notify the followings:

I. Strictly Complying with Measures and Continue to Strengthen the Work of International Compliance in Tuna Fisheries

The Commissions established conservation and management measures related to fishing vessels registration, fishing log books, fishing quota, limitation of fishing area and fishing gear, minimum catch size, fishing vessel position monitor, transshipment and accepting observers, high seas boarding and inspection, catch documentation scheme (CDS), bycatch species protection, marine environment protection, temporary access and fishing vessel chartering, fishing vessel marking, and continue to revise and update these measures. This Ministry has formulated relevant provisions to implement these measures (see the annex for relevant essential points). All tuna production enterprises and their fishing vessels are required to abide by the above regulatory measures, strictly regulate fishing activities, and timely and accurately submit relevant data. Any violations may constitute non-compliance, and serious violations may be added to the list of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing vessels. This Ministry will seriously investigate and deal with all violations in accordance with the law.

In addition, China is not yet a member of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, and does not obtain the fishing quota of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT). To this end, this Ministry reiterates: it prohibits the fishing vessel of China to fish for SBT and no retention on board, transshipping and landing SBT, the incident caught SBT shall be released immediately and recorded in the fishing log books.

II. Strengthening Support for the International Compliance and Enhancing the Ability to Comply with International Measures of Tuna Fisheries

The fisheries authorities at various levels shall actively support to construct scientific research and management support system for tuna fisheries, support resources survey and monitoring, cooperate with Bureau of Fisheries and Fishery Law Enforcement of this Ministry to establish and improve scientific research management and compliance support system with combination of fisheries authorities, distant water fisheries association, and scientific research and education institutions, to strive to improve the level and ability of international compliance of tuna fisheries.

China Overseas Fisheries Association (COFA) shall cooperate with the fisheries authority, to complete publicity, implementation of various regulatory measures, and make organizational and coordinating work, assist to complete the compliance and implementation work and the

compliance report for each ocean, give full play to the self-discipline of the guild coordinating role, to strengthen the guiding, organizing and reminding of distant water fishery enterprise, constantly to raise the level of organizational degree and self-discipline of the industry. Shanghai Ocean University and other scientific research and education institutions shall strengthen data collection and analysis according to the division of responsibilities, achieve scientific and technological support work in terms of tuna fishery resources assessment, and constantly improve tuna resources survey, assessment and scientific research level of China. The International Compliance Research Center for Distant Water Fisheries shall constantly strengthen the research on compliance, timely summarize, translate and distribute the conservation and management measures of Commissions to relevant distant water fisheries enterprises, and work together with COFA to accomplish the work to support relevant international compliance and negotiations.

III. Comprehensively Carrying on Supervision and Management, Strictly Combating Illegal Fishing

Illegal fishing damages fishery resources and order of fishery operation, harms the legitimate rights and interests of China's distant water fishing enterprises and fishing vessels, and damages the image of China as a responsible country. China firmly supports and actively cooperates with the international community in combating various kinds

of illegal fishing, and will severely punish verified illegal distant water fishing enterprises and fishing vessels through investigation, including imposing fines, suspending operations, suspending or revoking their business qualifications.

Fisheries authorities at all levels shall strengthen the potential risks identification, supervision and inspection in the weak links of fishing vessel registration, fishing log books, fishing vessel position monitoring and high-seas transshipment, and strictly prevent violations of regulations and foreign-related incidents. In case of violation of regulations and foreign-related incidents, relevant investigations and reports shall be conducted in a timely manner. All distant water fishery enterprises shall earnestly assume the entity responsibility, enhance institutional improvement, strengthen regulation on production and fishing vessel monitoring and control, step up training and education, especially strengthen the management of the captain and official crew of their fishing vessels, urge distant water fishing vessels to strictly implement relevant management measures, and constantly improve the ability of international compliance. This Ministry has included the performance of distant water fishing enterprises and fishing vessels into the main contents of the performance evaluation of distant water fishing enterprises, and has taken them as the main basis for fishery development support policies and administrative supervision and management. All enterprises and all

departments/institutions/associations shall strengthen the summary and analysis of routine compliance work, so as to provide basic support for the performance evaluation.

This notification shall come into force as of the date of its issuance, and *Notification by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Further Strictly Comply with International Tuna Measures* (Nongbanyu [2019] No.1) shall be repealed simultaneously.

Annex: Essential Points for International Compliance in Tuna Fisheries (2022)

General Office of Ministry of
Agriculture and Rural Affairs

(With official stamp)

1 March 2022

Annex

Essential Points for International Compliance in Tuna Fisheries

(2022)

I. Fishing Vessels Registration

The Commissions request that fishing vessels (including fishing support vessels) operating in the respected conversion areas shall register in the secretariats of Commissions through the flag state's authority or its authorized agency, fishing vessels not registered in the secretariats of Commissions shall not fish in the conversion areas, and any change of vessels' data and information shall also be registered in the secretariats of Commissions in a timely manner. Based on above measures, the enterprises have fishing vessels fish for tunas and obtained High Seas Fishing Permit from this Ministry shall register its fishing vessels through China Overseas Fisheries Association (COFA) in accordance with the request of the Commissions, and fishing operation can only commence after the completion of the registration. Any change of registered information shall be timely notified for the change. COFA shall register the relevant vessels in the Commissions without delay, in strict accordance with the operation condition described in High Seas Fishing Permit and request by the Commissions.

II. Fishing Log Books

The Commissions require fishing vessels operating in the convention areas to complete fishing log books. All enterprises engaged in tuna fisheries shall ensure its fishing vessels to seriously fill out Tuna Fishing Log Book (including faithfully record incident catch of shark species, sea birds, sea turtles, marine mammal that forbidden to retain on board as well as situation of no harm release and other information), according to the request of *Notification by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture on Regulation of Tuna Fishing Log Books* [Nongbanyu (2008) No. 44], and submit each vessel's log book for last year to China Distant Water Fisheries Data Center (Shanghai Ocean University) before 31 March of each year. Meanwhile, The tuna enterprises shall monthly report catch by species in a truthful manner to COFA (weekly report for Atlantic bluefin tuna catch). COFA shall, in accordance with the requirements of the fisheries authority and the regulations of the Commissions, compile, issue and update the information of fishing log books and monthly reports in a unified manner, and gradually improve the information system of fishing log books and monthly reports.

III. Fishing Quota

The Commissions implement quota management for major species of tunas and tuna-like species by oceanic areas and species. This Ministry allocates tuna fishing quota obtained in different oceans and by species (or stocks) to tuna enterprises and fishing vessels each year, based on

situation of tuna fishing operation, tuna resources status in different oceans and relevant measures of the Commissions as well as principle of openness, equity and fairness.

All tuna enterprises and fishing vessels shall operate within the quota in strict accordance with the regulations of this Ministry and shall not fish without or beyond the quota. All enterprises shall strengthen the statistics of fishing production, and timely remind fishing vessels to control the catch when the fishing quota reaches 80%. As soon as its fishing quota be exhausted, the fishing operation shall be immediately ceased. Any catch exceeding the quota shall be discarded or harmlessly released and truthfully recorded. COFA shall timely collect catch from all tuna enterprises and fishing vessels, and shall strictly observe regulations of the Commissions and the quota allocated by this Ministry while dealing with certificating products to be imported and exported. In addition, according to the relevant measures, China's albacore fishing capacity is restricted in the waters south of 20 degrees south latitude (including overlapping areas between WCPFC and IATTC) of the western and central Pacific Ocean and north of the equator of the Pacific, and fishing for albacore in these areas shall be separately approved by this Ministry.

IV. Time and Area of Fishing Operation and Fishing Gear (Including Supporting Equipment)

1. All tuna fishery enterprises and fishing vessels shall strictly follow fishing area and condition specified in the High Seas Fishing Permit while conducting fishing operation. It is prohibited from conducting fishing activities in the jurisdiction of other countries without authorization from the country that has the resources. Fishing vessels conducted fishing operation on the high seas shall keep at least one nautical mile of safe and buffer distance from outer limit of nearby jurisdiction of other countries. It is prohibited from using large scale drift net on the high seas. All vessels must not enter into the Mediterranean Sea for fishing operation.

2. According to regulations of relevant international tuna organization, China's fishing days for purse seiner vessels on the high seas shall be limited no more than 26 days at the present. In eastern Atlantic Ocean, fishing for bluefin tuna shall limit its fishing period from 1 January to 31 May; and in the area west of 10°W and north of 42°N, the fishing period shall be limited from 1 August to 31 January of next year.

3. In western and central Pacific, the purse seiner vessels shall prohibit from using Fish Aggressive Devises (FADs) in the area between 20°N and 20°S from 1 July to 30 September (except otherwise stipulated for the situation of Chinese vessels be chartered by the Pacific small islands states). If the purse seiner vessels conducting fishing operation on the high seas, the period from 1 April to 31 May or from 1 November to

31 December shall be additional FADs prohibition period. The selection of the additional FADs prohibition period shall be reported to COFA, this Ministry will report to international tuna organization the additional FADs prohibition period before 1 March of each year. Each purse seine vessel shall have deployed at sea, at any one time, no more than 350 drifting FADs with activated instrumented buoys.

Purse seine fishing vessels are encouraged to retrieve lost drifting FADs. The enterprises having a purse seine fishing vessel shall report to COFA the loss of FADs at the end of each year. If the loss occurred in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of an island country, the lost numbers of FADs shall be counted according to each EEZ.

Tuna purse seine vessels are encouraged to use as soon as possible non-entangling FADs and biodegradable materials made FADs. All enterprises that having a tuna purse seiner are required to report to COFA at the end of each year on the use of non-entangling and biodegradable materials made FADs.

4. It is prohibited from using aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles in Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery and Indian tuna fishery for the purpose of fish finding and other fishing aids.

5. It is prohibited from using, installing or operating surface or submerged artificial lights for the purpose of aggregating tuna and tuna-like species in Indian Ocean tuna fisheries.

V. Minimum Catch Size

1. Fishing vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean fish for tunas shall comply with the following minimum catch size:

a. Eastern bluefin tuna: 30 kg (115 cm fork length); each individual vessel shall not be over 5% of number of fish that lower than the minimum catch size (between 8 kg and 30 kg or between 75cm and 115 cm).

b. Swordfish: 25 kg (125cm low jaw fork length); each individual vessel shall not be over 15% of number of fish that lower than the minimum catch size.

2. Fishing vessels operating in the Indian Ocean fish for tunas shall comply with the following minimum size, and shall report to COFA, through its enterprises, the specific measures taken by its own fishing vessels to comply with the minimum catch size:

60 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL) of Indian Ocean striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo Pacific sailfish.

VI. Fishing Vessel Position Monitoring

The Commissions carry out fishing vessels position monitoring in their respective convention areas. Fishing vessels fish for tunas operating in all ocean areas shall report their position information in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry's *Measures for Monitoring and*

Management of Distant Water Fishing Vessels Position (Nongyufa³ (2019) No. 22), i.e., one hour interval, and the valid position shall not be less than 18 times a day. The position information includes: the name of the vessel, the geographical location (latitude and longitude) of the vessel, the date and time, course and speed of the vessel at the above location. The following position information shall be reported according to the regulations of the Commissions:

1. In Atlantic

The fishing vessels target eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna shall report its position to secretariat of ICCAT directly with interval of two hours.

2. In western and central Pacific Ocean

a. The fishing vessels operating in the area shall report its position to COFA and WCPFC secretariat with interval of one hour.

b. During the period of prohibition of using FADs, the purse seiner vessels shall report its position to COFA and WCPFC secretariat with interval of thirty minutes. In the case of vessel monitoring equipment has problem, the purse seiner vessel shall immediately return to port for repair, and no manual reporting be allowed.

c. Some vessel position monitoring equipment formerly approved by WCPFC are no longer in meeting the requirement decided by this commission (Argos: FVT, MAR GE, MAR GE V2 and MAR GE V3),

³ Translator note: Means document related to fisheries issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

the fishing vessels currently using such equipment shall replace it by vessel position motoring equipment of other type before the end of December, 2022.

d. Except the regulation for purse seiner vessels during the period of prohibition of use FADs, if vessel monitor equipment has problem, the related enterprise shall immediately report the situation to COFA, and shall conduct manual report of vessel position to COFA and WCPFC secretariat based on unified form with interval of six hours before trouble of equipment be cleared, and shall repair the equipment or replace the position monitoring equipment within 30 days. If the vessel in question cannot recover automatic position reporting within 30 days, the fishing vessel shall stop fishing, retrieve all of its fishing gear and return to port. However, if the vessel cannot return to port due to malfunction of satellite network or mechanical fault of the vessel, the enterprise concerned may apply for a period of additional 15 days of manual report to WCPFC secretariat via COFA, interval of manual report shall be four hours during the additional 15 days

e. Tuna fishing vessels registered with both the WCPFC and the IATTC shall comply with the position monitoring requirements of the WCPFC when operating in the overlapping areas (south of 4°S, 130°W-150°W) managed by the two international tuna organizations.

COFA shall follow up and implement the changes of the vessel

position monitoring management measures of the Commissions, ensure the coordination between China's management measures and the management regulations of the international organizations, and improve the functions of the monitoring system related to it.

VII. Transshipment and Accepting Observers

1. Products caught by a tuna purse seiner vessel and Atlantic bluefin tuna harvested by a long line vessel shall not be transshipped at sea. Tuna purse seine vessels are required to enter ports for landing or transshipping its products. Atlantic bluefin tuna products can only be landed or transshipped in a designated port reported by relevant state and recorded by an international tuna organization (unless otherwise specified due to epidemic control, etc.).

2. All tuna fishing vessels shall be prohibited from transshipping its products in east high seas pocket (high seas area surrounding by exclusive economic zones of Cook Inlands, French Polynesia and Kiribati) of western and central Pacific Ocean.

3. Except the above regulations, other fishing vessels fish for tunas may transship its products at sea, but shall only transship to the carry vessels that registered in the Commissions of respective ocean and has a regional observer on board (unless otherwise stipulated by the international tuna organization during the pandemic). The fishing vessel or the carrier shall submit the application for transshipment to COFA at

least 3 days before each transshipment, and shall send the transshipment report issued by the observer to COFA within 10 days after receiving the report from the observer, and confirm with COFA after sending the email. In the western and central Pacific, the time limit of “36 hours in advance for transshipment application and submitting transshipment report within 15 days after completion of transshipment ” shall be the time limit for COFA in communication with the secretariat of WCPFC. In the Eastern Pacific, a carrier shall send a transshipment report to the IATTC secretariat and flag state authority of the fishing vessel within 24 hours of completion of the transshipment.

4. Tuna fishing vessels shall have obligation to accept a regional observer deployed by the Commissions under relevant measures and a national scientific observer dispatched by this Ministry based on request of the Commissions, and shall strictly follow the request by *Implementation Regulation on National Observer Management in Distant Water Fisheries* [Nongbanyu (2016) No. 72], provide living and working convenience to observers as to official crew. The observer is not obstructed, intimidated, interfered with, influenced, bribed or is attempted to be bribed in the performance of his/her duties. In the event that an observer presumed fallen overboard and other accidents, the relevant fishing vessels shall immediately cease all fishing operations and commence search and rescue, and report the situation to this Ministry and

COFA. If conditions permit, relevant image data shall be retained.

VIII. High Seas Boarding and Inspection

The WCPFC is a commission that has measures to board and inspect fishing vessels fish for tunas on the high seas, enforcement vessels shall be registered in the Commission and fly the flag of the Commission's unified enforcement flag. The fishing vessels fish for tunas in the area shall cooperate with duly authorized enforcement officials to board and inspect the fishing vessel under the situations to ensure the safety of fishing vessel and crew and after verification of identity of enforcement vessel and officials. If any problem occurred during the boarding and inspection, the fishing vessel shall immediately, through its enterprise, report the problem to this Ministry and COFA.

IX. Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)

The international tuna organizations carry out catch documentation scheme (CDS) for priority tuna species. Enterprises conducting tuna fisheries shall go through the procedure for certificating its Statistic Documents or CDS in this Ministry and General Administration for Customs via COFA when carrying back or importing, exporting or re-exporting frozen bigeye tuna, swordfish and Atlantic bluefin tuna. Enterprises importing and exporting Atlantic bluefin tuna are required to register and pay fees by rule and implement the regulation of electronic bluefin tuna certificate (E-BCD).

COFA shall complete the work related to CDS strictly according to the relevant regulation issued by this Ministry and General Administration for Customs. With respect to online verification of customs clearance certification for the legal catch of frozen bigeye tuna, swordfish and Atlantic bluefin tuna, COFA shall conduct the verification strictly in accordance with the request stipulated in the No. 2157 Announcement by this Ministry and General Administration for Customs, so that to deter the IUU caught above products entering into customs area of China.

X. Bycatch Species

1. Sharks

(1) This Ministry does not approve any distant water fisheries project that targeting sharks. All distant water fishery enterprises and fishing vessels shall, to the greatest possible, avoid or reduce catching sharks. Except the no retention shark species, by-caught sharks shall be fully utilized (i.e. keeping shark carcass and fin, excepting head, guts, and skins). Shark finning (keeping fin and discarding carcass) is prohibited. The weight of shark fin on board shall not be over 5% of the weight of sharks on board up to the first point of landing.

To facilitate port inspection or relevant high seas boarding and inspection, tuna longline vessels, for the shark species allowed to retain on board, shall store each individual shark carcass and its corresponding

fins in the same bag made of biodegradable materials; or bind each individual shark carcass to the corresponding fins using rope or wire; or use identical and uniquely numbered tags to attach to each shark carcass and its corresponding fins and both the carcasses and fins shall be stored on board in the same hold so as to be easily identified the matching of the carcass and fins at any time.

(2) It shall prohibit retaining on board, transshipping and landing the following shark species:

a. Atlantic Ocean: bigeye thresher sharks, whitetip sharks, hammerhead sharks (including *Sphyrna lewini*, *Sphyrna mokarran* and *Sphyrna zygaena*), silky sharks and North Atlantic shortfin mako (north of 5°N).

b. Indian Ocean: bigeye thresher sharks, whitetip sharks and mobulid rays.

c. Western and central Pacific Ocean: whitetip sharks, silky sharks and mobulid rays. In the case of mobulid rays that are unintentionally caught as part of a purse seine vessel's operation, the purse seine vessel must, at the point of landing, surrender the whole mobulid ray to the responsible governmental authorities.

d. Eastern Pacific Ocean: whitetip sharks and mobulid rays (includes Manta rays and Mobula rays) . Longline vessels shall limit its bycatch of silky sharks to a maximum of 20% of the total catch by one

fishing trip in weight.

If fishing vessels caught the above shark species incidentally, the sharks shall be immediately released without further harm under the precondition of ensuring the safety of crew, and the fishing vessel shall record the details in the fishing log books accurately (with indication of status when releasing: dead/alive), and shall timely collect incidentally catch in accordance with the regulations and report to China Distant Water Fisheries Data Center.

(3) Prohibition of using “shark lines” and wire material: Longline vessels shall be prohibited using “shark lines” (individual lines attached to the float line or to the floats directly, and used to target sharks), and using wire trace (made of steel wire) as branch lines of longline are prohibited, so as to reduce the chance of shark bycatch.

(4) Atlantic blue shark: Tuna fishing vessels operating in the Atlantic are required to limit the by-catch of north Atlantic blue shark to 106.8 metric tons and south Atlantic blue shark to 85.8 metric tons respectively. This Ministry will allocate the above by-catch to the tuna enterprises and fishing vessels concerned depending on the by-catch situation.

2. Seabirds

Longline vessels operating in the area south of 25°S in the Atlantic Ocean, in the area south of 25°S in the Indian Ocean and in the area north

of 23°N and south of 30° S in the Pacific Ocean shall use two mitigation measures from equipping tori lines, night setting and weighted branch lines.

Longline vessels operating in the area south of 30°S in the western and central Pacific Ocean may use hook-shielding devices to replace the above three measures. Among mitigation measures of tori lines, weighted branch lines and hook-shielding devices, longline vessels fishing in the area 25°S-30°S in the western and central Pacific Ocean shall use one of three measures.

3. Sea Turtles

All longline vessels shall equip de-hooks, and use circle hooks whenever possible, to minimum the harm to possible bycaught sea turtles. As far as possible, longline vessels shall use circle hooks to reduce damage of possible incident caught sea turtles. The longline vessels operating in Indian Ocean are encouraged to use finfish as bait, using squid as bait is not encouraged.

Longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner (the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters) shall use circle hooks and shall not use squid as bait.

Tuna purse seine vessels operating in the western and central Pacific Ocean shall avoid encirclement of sea turtles. if a sea turtle is encircled or entangled, take practicable measures to safely release the

turtle in accordance with relevant requirements. The enterprise shall record all incidents involving sea turtles during fishing operations and report such incidents to China Distant Water Fisheries Data Center according to regulations.

4. Cetaceans or Whale Sharks

If a cetacean or a whale shark is sighted prior to commencement of the set, a tuna purse seiner vessel is prohibited from setting a purse seine net on a school of tuna associated with a cetacean or a whale shark. In the event that a cetacean or a whale shark is unintentionally encircled in the purse seine net, the purse seiner vessel shall stop the net roll, release the cetacean or the whale shark, and report the incident to WCPFC secretariat and China Distant Water Fisheries Data Center via enterprise it belongs to.

5. Atlantic Sailfish and Marlin

Longline vessels operating in Atlantic Ocean are encouraged to use circle hooks, to reduce damage of incident caught sailfish and marlin. Fishing vessels are encouraged to take appropriate steps in conducting no harm release the incident caught sailfish and marlin, and to reduce the mortality rate to the greatest possible.

6. Indian Ocean Sailfish and Marlin

Fishing vessels are encouraged to take appropriate measures to conduct no harm release the by-caught Indian Ocean striped marlin, black

marlin, blue marlin and Indo Pacific sailfish, so as to promote resource recovery.

COFA shall coordinate and urge enterprises to implement measures related to by-catch and submit statistics of by-catch species data, including organizing and coordinating relevant equipment production and unified distribution.

XI. Marine Environment Protection

1. Fishing vessels operating on the high seas in the Indian Ocean and in the Pacific Ocean shall be prohibited from fishing within one nautical mile of a data buoy that collects data used to conduct oceanographic research, and shall be prohibited from cutting a data buoy anchor line and taking a data buoy on board of a fishing vessel.

2. Fishing vessels operating in the Pacific Ocean shall be prohibited from discharging any plastics (including plastic packaging, items containing plastic and polystyrene).

3. If fishing vessels caught a tuna with label from tag programme, it should record species, length (such as fork length), weight, position of harvest (longitude and latitude) and other information of the caught tuna as far as possible, and should report to COFA as soon as possible.

XII. Temporary Access and Fishing Vessel Chartering

Fishing vessels that temporarily access to the jurisdiction of other countries or use fishing opportunity of other countries through chartering

arrangements shall strictly implement the relevant measures of the Commissions and the relevant regulations of this Ministry. COFA shall strengthen the organization and coordination of tuna fishing vessels chartered and temporarily access to the jurisdiction of other countries, and timely report the situation of temporary access and chartering arrangement to this Ministry, which will make notification in accordance with the provisions of relevant international tuna organizations. Fishing vessels of China that conduct access or under chartering arrangements shall be registered in the corresponding international tuna organization, and all China's fishing vessels chartered by other countries shall not be allocated the fishing quotas of China.

Except to the access cooperation uniformly organized by COFA, when tuna fishing vessels access to the waters of other countries through access agreement or chartering agreements, the enterprise that own the fishing vessels shall report relevant plans to COFA in advance. China's fishing vessels chartered by a costal state in Indian Ocean shall submit its chartering cooperation plan to this Ministry for approval through COFA in advance. Fishing vessels shall report the number of vessels operating during the cooperation period, the actual fishing days, the catch, observers on board of the fishing vessels and the installation of VMS and other information within 5 working days before the actual fishing operation and after the fishing operation completed to COFA.

XIII. Prohibition of Fishing for South Bluefin Tuna (SBT)

Fishing vessels of China are banned from fishing for SBT. To avoid illegal or accidental fishing of SBT, fishing vessels of China are required to observe the following measures:

1. No retention on board, transshipping and landing SBT, the incident caught SBT shall be released immediately and recorded in the fishing log book.

2. In the Indian Ocean: It shall prohibit from fishing in the areas of 30°S to 45°S, 20°E to 45°E and 30°S to 45°S, 70°E to 140°E from 1 September to 31 October. It shall prohibit from fishing in SBT spawning ground of 10°S to 20°S, 100°E to 130°E all year round.

3. In the western and central Pacific Ocean: It shall prohibit from fishing in the areas of 37°S to 45°S, 170°E to 180°E and 45°S to 50°S, 150°E to 170°E all year round.

4. In the Atlantic Ocean: It shall prohibit from fishing in the area of 40°S to 45°S and 10°W to 20°E all year round.

COFA shall complete its work on vessel monitor and early warning, once detecting a fishing vessel is in violation of above regulation, it shall immediately ask the vessel to leave the prohibited area, and report the case to this Ministry.

XIV. Fishing Vessel Marking

The distant water fishing vessels shall paint name of the vessel, call

sign and port of registry and other marking on the hull according to relevant regulation of this Ministry, and shall ensure the marking always keeping clearness, and no identification, wrong identification, incomplete identification, altered identification and ambiguous identification of fishing vessels shall be prevented.

For detailed conservation and management measures of above Commissions, please refer to the following websites of the Commissions as well as COFA:

1. the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

<https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp>

2. Indian Tuna Commission (IOTC)

<http://www.iotc.org/cmms>

3. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

<https://www.wcpfc.int/conservation-and-management-measures>

4. Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

<http://www.iattc.org/ResolutionsActiveENG.htm>

5. China Distant Water Fisheries Information Network

www.cndwf.org