

Report of Implementation for the year 2012

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 7 MARCH 2013

Reporting CPC: CHINA

Date: 26 April

Please NOTE: this document is composed of 3 sections to report on the implementation of IOTC resolutions

Part A. *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission at its sixteenth Session.*

1. Resolution 12-01 On The Implementation Of The Precautionary Approach

This measure introduces the general principle for applying the precautionary approach and China supports the Commission adopting approaches such as stock-specific reference points and harvest control rules.

2. Resolution 12-02 Data Confidentiality Policy And Procedures

This Resolution introduced policy of sharing catch-and-effort, length-frequency and observer data. China supports and complies with this procedures.

3. Resolution 12-03 On The Recording Of Catch And Effort By Fishing Vessels In The IOTC Area Of Competence

China has been implementing logsheet system and requires operators to provide catch record monthly. All scientific data regarding the catch and effort of 2011 had been submitted to the secretariate by 30 June 2012.

4. Resolution 12-04 On The Conservation Of Marine Turtles (Including in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, their progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution)

In order to comply with the requirement adopted by IOTC, China Overseas Fisheries Association is assigned by Bureau of Fisheries to provide free of charge each tuna longliner line cutters and de-hookers in accordance with the Resolution in order to facilitate the appropriate handling and prompt release of marine turtles caught or entangled. Vessel masters are obliged to record in the logbook the incidental catch of marine turtles, if any. Failure to record or make false record will lead severe punishment by the Government.

5. Resolution 12-05 On Establishing A Programme For Transshipment By Large-Scale Fishing Vessels

China has been implementing this program and complying with related notification and report normally.

6. Resolution 12-06 On Reducing The Incidental Bycatch Of Seabirds In Longline Fisheries
In force in July 2014

7. Resolution 12-07 Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information

This measure is not applicable to China. Because China does not have bilateral agreement that allows vessel to fish for IOTC Species in the IOTC Area.

8. Resolution 12-08 Procedures On A Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) Management Plan
China currently doesn't have Purse Seiners operating in High Seas of IOTC.
9. Resolution 12-09 On The Conservation Of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) Caught In Association With Fisheries In The IOTC Area Of Competence
Thresher Sharks measue had been translated to circulate to our domestic operators in 2010. The renewed measure has also been implementing by China..
10. Resolution 12-10 To Promote Implementation Of Conservation And Management Measures Already Adopted By IOTC
China supports the IOTC promoting implementing CMMs already adopted and complies with this resolution.
11. Resolution 12-11 On The Implementation Of A Limitation Of Fishing Capacity Of Contracting Parties And Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties
China has been complying with this resolution and reported the active vessel list of 2012 by 15 Feb.2013.
12. Resolution 12-12 To Prohibit The Use Of Large-Scale Driftnets On The High Seas In The IOTC Area (Including a summary of monitoring, control, and surveillance actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas in the IOTC Area of Competence)
Using large-scale driftnets by Chinese vessels is strictly prohibited by Bureau of Fisheries, and Resolution 12/12 of IOTC has been transferred into national legislation. The requirements in Resolution 12/12 have also been communicated with vessels' owners and masters for promoting compliance. No vessel was found using large-scale drift nets in IOTC area in 2012.
13. Resolution 12-13 For The Conservation And Management Of Tropical Tuna Stocks In The IOTC Area Of Competence (Including a summary of VMS records related to their fleet operation in the previous year for the consideration of the Compliance Committee)
Vessel Monitoring System has been implemented by the Bureau of Fisheries since Oct 2006. Each tuna fishing vessel is obliged to be equipped with a tracking terminal and is polled automatically at different intervals designated by different RFMOs. Vessels that failure to be automatically polled and made no manual report as well are punished by domestic regulation, i.e. no statistical document would be issued for such vessels before the position is available and verified.

Regarding the implementation on this measure, the Bureau of Fisheries, by the end of November 2011, made official notice to each fishing company with vessels operating in IOTC Waters of the closure, and the tracking terminal on each vessel is checked to ensure normal operation during the closure.

VMS data is collected during the closure by:

1. *automatic polling by the VMS system; and*
2. *position data reporting by each fishing company to Bureau of Fisheries.*

The data sourced above are verified from one another to ensure that the vessel was in compliance with the closure.



VMS data obtained from 0000 hours on 1 February to 2400 hours on 1 March shows that no Chinese flagged fishing vessels breached the closure requirement as set out in Resolution 2012/13

The VMS report had been submitted to the secretariat by 9 April 2013.

14. Recommendation 12/15 On The Best Available Science

China has been implementing this recommendation and improving the data quality.



Part B. *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission in previous Sessions, and which have not been reported previously.*

N/A

Part C. Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the *section March 2013 of the Guide on data and information reporting requirements for Members and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties*).

- Resolution 01/06 *Concerning the IOTC bigeye tuna statistical document programme*

CPCs which export bigeye tuna shall examine export data upon receiving the import data from the Secretary, and report the results to the Commission annually.

The import data from the Secretary of IOTC in 2012 was not received, thus China is not able to examine such data and report back to the Commission.

- Recommendation 05/07 *Concerning a management standard for the tuna fishing vessels*

The CPC flag states which issues licenses to their AFVs should report annually to the Commission all measures taken to meet the minimum management standards when they issue fishing licenses to their “authorised fishing vessels”.

According to the Regulation on Distant Water Fisheries issued by the Ministry of Agriculture of China in 2003, fishing vessels must obtain official approval/authorization by the Bureau of Fisheries of China before operating in waters beyond jurisdiction of China. After such approval/authorization is obtained, the Bureau of Fisheries issues fishing license to each vessel operating on High Seas.

Fishing vessels engaged in tuna fishing must comply with the measure adopted by the Chinese Government, including but not limited to vessel monitoring system (VMS, since Oct 2006), data reporting, logbook, national observer program, tuna statistical document, catch control and annual review on the performance of the fishing company in the previous year, etc..

Annual review on the performance of deep sea fishing companies, including tuna fishing companies, in the previous year is made by Bureau of Fisheries at the beginning of each year. Such review is to evaluate the compliance by the fishing company, inter alia, data reporting, VMS, acceptance of national observer, logbook submission and data quality, compliance of other requirement as stipulated in conservation measures. Fishing license would be renewed if the performance meet relevant requirement of the Government.

Failure to pass the evaluation may lead to penalty by the government, such as suspension of tuna fisheries, reduction on catch limit allocated to that company.

The detailed annual reporting of implementation of the IOTC management standard for AFVs is stated in Attachment 1.

- Resolution 10/06 *On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries*

CPCs shall provide to the Commission, as part of their annual reports, information on how they are implementing this measure and all available information on interactions with seabirds, including bycatch by fishing vessels carrying their flag or authorised to fish by

them. This is to include details of species where available to enable the Scientific Committee to annually estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries within the IOTC Area of Competence.

Most of China tuna longline vessels are operating in the tropical areas of IOTC waters and there are no interactions with seabirds. No seabird mortality was observed by China tuna longline fleet, which was confirmed by national observer programme. For a few number of vessels operating in area south to 25S, mitigation measures are implemented according to the management measures.

- Resolution 10/10 Concerning market related measures

For CPCs that import tuna and tuna-like fish products, or in whose ports those products are landed or transhipped, should report, a range of information (e.g. information on vessels / owners, product data (species, weight), point of export) annually.

China has been to implement custom verification since July 2010 in accordance with Joint Announcement of the Ministry of Agriculture and the General Administration of Customs of P.R. China on Applying the "Catch Clearance Certificate" to Some Imported Aquatic Products. Any of bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna, swordfish and toothfish enter a customs boundary within China, shall apply to the Ministry of Agriculture for a "Catch Clearance Certificate". Upon declaring to the customs, the related product can enter into China.

China communicated to the Secretariat the import data of tuna and tuna-like species before deadline in 2012.

- Resolution 11/04 On a Regional observer scheme

CPCs shall provide to the Executive Secretary and the Scientific Committee annually a report of the number of vessels monitored and the coverage achieved by gear type in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution.

National observer program has been running since 2002. Shanghai Ocean University is authorized by Bureau of Fisheries work on training and dispatching observers to Chinese flagged fishing vessels. Graduate students majoring in marine fisheries science & technology, marine fisheries resources from Shanghai Ocean University are chosen to take the task as scientific observers, after training programs are completed. In 2012, one observer was dispatched to longline vessel namely Lin Xiang No.1 to fulfil the task.

Attachment 1

a. Management in the fishing grounds

	Scientific Observer boarding	Satellite-based vessel monitoring system	Daily or periodic report or required catch	Entry/Exit report
Yes, No	YES	YES	YES	YES
Note	One observer was dispatched to a longliner, Lin Xiang No.1 in 2012	100%	Monthly Report is required	

b. Management of transshipment (from the fishing grounds to the landing ports)

	Transshipment report	Port inspection	Statistical document program
Yes, No	YES	N/A	YES
Note	Comply with 12/05	Tuna product enters Chinese Customs in commercial ports, which disenable the fishery authority to made such inspection.	For SWO, BET caught by deep frozen vessels

c. Management at landing ports

	Landing inspection	Landing reporting	Cooperation with other Parties
Yes, No	YES	YES	NO
Note	Customs inspection	Customs inspection	