



FISHERIES AGENCY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

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19 April, 2019

Dr. Christopher O'Brien,
IOTC Executive Secretary

Dear Dr. O'Brien:

I would like to respond to the **FEEDBACK REGARDING COMPLIANCE ISSUES** dated 25 May 2018.

FEEDBACK 1:

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:

As in the letter sent to the IOTC Secretariat on March 27, because of the concern about lack and/or modification of the observer data, Japan requested the Secretariat to suspend the use of the three observer trips. After excluding the data from these trips, the 2017 size frequency fulfilled the requirement for Bigeye tuna, Yellowfin tuna and Swordfish. The collection of the size data for Albacore did not reach the required level (its compliance ratio was 71%).

FEEDBACK 2:

Japan has not reported Size frequency on sharks to IOTC Standard, as required by Resolution 17/05.

RESPONSE:

As in the letter sent to the IOTC Secretariat on March 27, because of concern about lack and/or modification of the observer data, Japan requested the Secretariat to suspend the use of the three observer trips. After excluding the data from these trips, the 2017 size frequency for Blue sharks fulfilled the requirement. The collection of the size data for Porbeagle sharks and Shortfin mako did not reach the required level (its compliance ratios were 0% and 48%, respectively).

Sincerely yours,

Shingo Ota

Japanese Commissioner to IOTC