



FISHERIES AGENCY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907, Japan

TEL: *81-3-3502-8460 FAX: *81-3-3504-2649

1 September 2020

Dr. Christopher O'Brien,
IOTC Executive Secretary

Dear Dr. O'Brien:

I would like to respond to the **FEEDBACK REGARDING COMPLIANCE ISSUES** dated 21 June 2019.

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:

In 2017, the numbers of fish whose length were measured per metric ton were 3.4, 1.3, 1.9 and 2.4 for Bigeye tuna, Yellowfin tuna, Albacore and Swordfish respectively. Therefore, Japan has achieved the IOTC standard for these species.

FEEDBACK 2:

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

RESPONSE:

In 2017, the numbers of shark individuals whose length was measured per metric ton were 3.4, 0.7 and 43.5 for Blue shark, Shortfin mako and Porbeagle, respectively. The number of measured Shortfin mako individuals did not reach the IOTC standard, but the sampling rate has been improved and achieved the IOTC standard in 2018.

FEEDBACK 3:

Japan has not reported data on interactions with marine turtles, as required by Resolution 12/04.

RESPONSE:

Japan has submitted information on marine turtles in the national report. However, Japan has not submitted the data on interactions with marine turtles in the required form (Form1DI) yet due to a restructuring and subsequent personnel changes in the scientific organization responsible for the task. It will be submitted when Japan completes filling in the required data format.

FEEDBACK 4:

Japan has not reported seabirds report, as required by Resolution 12/06.

RESPONSE:

Japan has submitted information on seabirds in the national report. However, Japan has not submitted the data on seabirds in the required form (Form1DI) yet due to a restructuring and subsequent personnel changes in the scientific organization responsible for the task. It will be submitted when Japan complete filling in the required data format.

FEEDBACK 5:

Japan has not reported data on interactions with cetaceans, as required by Resolution 13/04.

RESPONSE:

Japan has submitted information on bycatch in the national report. However, Japan has not submitted the data on interactions with cetaceans in the required form (Form1DI) yet due to a restructuring and subsequent personnel changes in the scientific organization responsible for the task. It will be submitted when Japan complete filling in the required data format.

FEEDBACK 6:

Japan has not reported data on interactions with whale sharks, as required by Resolution 13/05.

RESPONSE:

Japan has submitted information on bycatch in the national report. However, Japan has not submitted the data on interactions with whale sharks in the required form (Form1DI) yet due to a restructuring and subsequent personnel changes in the scientific organization responsible for the task. It will be submitted when Japan complete filling in the required data format.

FEEDBACK 7:

Japan has not fully implemented the Regional Observer Scheme, no coverage for the PS fleet, as required by Resolution 11/04.

RESPONSE:

The relevant paragraph 9 of the Resolution requests CPCs to submit the information on the number of vessels monitored by observers and the coverage achieved by gear type. Japan has provided such information including those of PS fleet in the implementation report submitted on 19 March 2019.

FEEDBACK 8:

Japan has not fully implemented the 5% Mandatory, at sea (All vessels), no coverage for the PS fleet, as required by Resolution 11/04.

RESPONSE:

The rate of observer coverage for PS fleet based on the number of sets was 0 % in 2017. A PS vessel "SHOYU MARU No.18" originally intended to depart for the IOTC area with an observer in early December, but the departure delayed, and fishing operation started from 3 January 2018. The rate has been improved and reached to 58% in 2018.

FEEDBACK 9:

Japan has not provided Observer reports, as required by Resolution 11/04.

RESPONSE:

For 2017 operations, Japan has submitted all the observer reports for LL, but it did not submit the observer report for PS because the observer coverage was 0% as noted above.

Sincerely yours,



Shingo Ota

Japanese Commissioner to the IOTC