



FISHERIES AGENCY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

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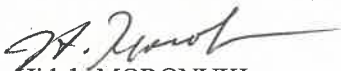
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5 April 2021

Dear Dr. O'Brien:

Please find below Japan's response to the FEEDBACK REGARDING COMPLIANCE ISSUES dated 4 December 2020.

Sincerely yours,



Hideki MORONUKI

Japanese Commissioner to the IOTC

FEEDBACK 1:

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:

For 2018 operations, the numbers of fish whose length were measured per metric ton were 1.0, 2.2, 5.6 and 1.4 for Bigeye tuna, Yellowfin tuna, Albacore and Swordfish respectively.

FEEDBACK 2:

Has not reported Size frequency on sharks to IOTC Standard (less than one fish measured per metric ton), as required by Resolution 17/05.

RESPONSE:

For 2018 operations, the numbers of shark individuals whose length were measured per metric ton were 6.5, 1.3 and 133 for Blue shark, Shortfin mako and Porbeagle.

FEEDBACK 3:

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

RESPONSE:

On 28 September 2020, Japan submitted the data on interactions with marine turtles for 2018.

FEEDBACK 4:

Has not provided the Seabirds report as required by resolution 12/06.

RESPONSE:

On 28 September 2020, Japan submitted the data on interactions with seabirds for 2018.

FEEDBACK 5:

Has not reported data on interactions with Cetaceans, as required by Resolution 13/04.

RESPONSE:

On 28 September 2020, Japan submitted the data on interactions with Cetaceans for 2018.

FEEDBACK 6:

Has not reported data on interactions with Whale Sharks, as required by Resolution 13/05.

RESPONSE:

On 28 September 2020, Japan submitted the data on interactions with Whale Sharks for 2018.

FEEDBACK 7:

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

RESPONSE:

For 2018 operations, the observer coverage based on the sets were 58% for PS.

FEEDBACK 8:

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

RESPONSE:

For 2018 operations, Japan has submitted all the LL and PS observer reports by 1 April 2021.

FEEDBACK 9:

Has not fully implemented the requirement for Marking of gears, as required by Resolution 15/04.

RESPONSE:

The obligation has been implemented through the National legislation (the Notice of Director General of Resources Management Department of Fisheries Agency).

FEEDBACK 10:

Has not transposed the prohibition of aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles into national legislation, as required by Resolution 16/08.

RESPONSE:

It has been prohibited by the National legislation (the Notice of Director General of Resources Management Department of Fisheries Agency).

FEEDBACK 11:

Has not transposed the prohibition from intentionally fishing within 1 nautical mile of or interacting with data buoy into national legislation, as required by Resolution 11/02.

RESPONSE:

It has been prohibited by the National legislation (the Notice of Director General of Resources Management Department of Fisheries Agency).

FEEDBACK 12:

Has not transposed the prohibition from taking on board a data buoy into national legislation, as required by Resolution 11/02.

RESPONSE:

It has been prohibited by the National legislation (the Notice of Director General of Resources Management Department of Fisheries Agency).

FEEDBACK 13:

Has not provided the Annual VMS report on implementation and technical failures as required by Resolution 15/03.

RESPONSE:

On 5 August 2020, Japan submitted the Annual VMS report for 2019 operations.

FEEDBACK 14:

Has not provided the report on zero catches matrix, as required by Resolution 18/07.

RESPONSE:

On 28 January 2021, Japan submitted the reports on zero catches matrix for 2018.

FEEDBACK 15:

Has not implemented the prohibition to gaff, lift by the gill slits/spiracles, punch holes through the bodies. Obligation to release alive, implementation of live release handling procedures of mobulid rays, as required by Resolution 19/03.

RESPONSE:

It has been prohibited by the National legislation (the Notice of Director General of Resources Management Department of Fisheries Agency).

FEEDBACK 16:

Has not provided information on actions taken domestically to monitor catches of Blue Shark as required by Resolution 18/02.

RESPONSE:

Japan provided the information in Japan's National Report submitted to SC23(IOTC-2020-SC23-NR08).

FEEDBACK 17:

Has not provided information on actions taken domestically to monitor catches & manage fisheries of Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish as required by Resolution 18/05.

RESPONSE:

Japan provided the information in Japan's National Report submitted to SC23(IOTC-2020-SC23-NR08).

FEEDBACK 18:

Has not implemented the prohibition to retain on board, tranship, land, any Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Indo-pacific Sailfish smaller than 60 cm Lower Jaw Fork Length, as required by Resolution 18/05.

RESPONSE:

Japan is proceeding to modify the Ministerial Ordinance of Fisheries Act in order to meet this requirement. The revised Ministerial Ordinance is planned to enter into force from 1 May 2021.

FEEDBACK 19:

Has not provided the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Annual Report, as required by Resolution 01/06.

RESPONSE:

On 2 February 2021, Japan submitted the IOTC BET SD annual report for 2018 trade.