



FISHERIES AGENCY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

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

16 March 2022

Dr. Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary
IOTC

Dear Dr. O'Brien:

Please find as attached hereto Japan's response to the FEEDBACK REGARDING COMPLIANCE ISSUES dated 17 June 2021.

Sincerely,



Hideki Moronuki
Japan's Commissioner to IOTC

FEEDBACK1:

Has not reported Size frequency to the IOTC Standard for some species (less than one fish measured per metric ton), as required by Resolution 15/02.

RESPONSE:

Sampling ratios for target species and most of by-catch species (BET, YFT, ALB, SWO, SBT) satisfied the IOTC standard (1fish per MT), while those for two by-catch species (BLM, BUM) did not. When observer embarkation plan is considered, the observed vessels are chosen to be a representative sample of our fleet. Since these billfish species mainly distribute outside of main fishing area of our fishing vessels, sampling ratios for these species tend to be smaller.

FEEDBACK2:

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

RESPONSE:

There is an intrinsic difficulty in applying the mandatory observer coverage to those fleet with a limited number of vessels/trips. Only one or two Japanese PS vessels operate in the IOTC area of competence in recent years. For such fishery, the 5% requirement virtually means almost all of fishing operations of this fishery have to be observed. Notwithstanding this somewhat unreasonable requirement, observer coverage for 2020 was 90%, which is far larger than the 5% Mandatory.

FEEDBACK3:

Has not provided Observer reports for the PS fleet, as required by Resolution 11/04.

RESPONSE:

Although observers got on relevant fishing vessels at the end of 2019, there was no fishing operation to be observed before 2020. As there was no observer coverage on PS fleet in 2019, no observer report was submitted.