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Organization of the  
United Nations



Indian Ocean Tuna Commission  
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien

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IOTC-2022-CoC19-07d Add2 [E]

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM CHINA CONCERNING THREE VESSELS  
MENTIONED IN DOCUMENT IOTC-2022-CoC19-07d**

Prepared by IOTC Secretariat, 03 May 2022

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**PURPOSE**

To provide additional information, which has been received from China by the IOTC Secretariat, to the Compliance Committee to assist it in its deliberations on three vessels mentioned in document IOTC-2022-CoC19-07d, Attachment 9.

**INFORMATION REPORTED TO THE IOTC SECRETARIAT**

China has provided the additional information, which is reproduced in Appendix 1.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the CoC19 **NOTE** the additional information provided in document IOTC-2022-CoC19-07 Add2, which provide the results of the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Fisheries of China, into the activities of three vessels in the IOTC Area.

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May 3, 2022

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## **Investigation Report on the Suspected IUU Fishing by Three Chinese Fishing Vessels, including FU YUAN YU 7617, Passing through the French La Réunion EEZ without Accepting Fisheries Enforcement Inspections**

IOTC Secretariat:

On 7 March 2022, China received a notification from the Secretariat stating that it had received a report from the EU that three Chinese vessels (FU YUAN YU 7617, 7618 and 7619) had failed to undergo French fisheries enforcement inspection as required when passing through the waters of the French La Réunion EEZ on 13 December 2021 and were suspected of illegal fishing. Upon receipt of the notification, we attached great importance to the matter and carried out investigation and verification in accordance with the procedures. It was found that the above three fishing vessels, belonging to Pingtan County Ocean Fishing Group Co., Ltd. of Fujian Province, were squid fishing vessels approved by our Ministry to travel through the Indian Ocean to the high seas of the Southwest Atlantic Ocean for squid fishing operations.

It has been verified that on 13 December 2021, the locations of the above three fishing vessels were not in the waters of French La Réunion EEZ. At that time, our fishing vessels did not see the French law enforcement vessels, let alone receive calls from the French law enforcement officers. Therefore, there was no case of refusing the French side's request to stop the vessels for inspection.

However, at 8:00 a.m. (local time) on 8 December 2021, the above-mentioned three fishing vessels were passing harmlessly through the French La Réunion EEZ when they heard a call from an unknown vessel via the international maritime channel (VHF), and the personnel of our fishing vessels were unable to identify the other party as a French law enforcement vessel due to the language barrier. In addition, our

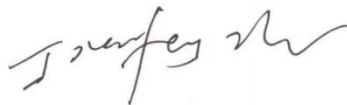
fishing vessels were sailing at full speed and not carrying out any fishing-related activities (if necessary we can provide detailed VMS track information), so for safety they neither responded and nor stopped the vessel.

Therefore, the above-mentioned three fishing vessels passed through the French La Réunion EEZ harmlessly and failed to respond to the call of the French inspection vessel and accept the inspection due to language problem and safety concern, and did not intentionally refuse the inspection. After this incident, the Fisheries Authority of Fujian Province has instructed the company to which the three fishing vessels belong to seriously carry out internal rectification and improve the relevant management system to avoid the recurrence of such incidents.

Gratefully if you can transmit our investigation result to the EU colleagues.

Sincerely Yours,

Jiangfeng ZHU



Commissioner to IOTC  
Division of Distant-water Fisheries  
Bureau of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
P. R. China