

Please find the bellow statement of China on the subject for record.

China's Statement on Proposal of High Seas Boarding and Inspection

17 May, 2022

High seas boarding and inspection is one of the effective means of fishery management. In some regions, China agrees with the establishment of high seas boarding and inspection measure mainly because the conventions or agreements establishing these regional fisheries management organizations explicitly require the relevant RFMOs to establish high seas boarding and inspection measure, For example, the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement explicitly requires to establish "rules concerning the boarding and Inspection of vessels operating in the region" in paragraph 1(h), Article VI (Functions of the Conference of the Parties). However, paragraph 3, Article 10 of the IOTC Agreement only refers in general terms to the establishment of effective methods for monitoring fishing activities, and does not mention the establishment of a regime of high-seas boarding and inspection.

The boarding and inspection of third-party vessels on the high seas is an assignment of high seas rights under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and must be clearly stipulated in regional agreements.

Therefore, this delegation believes that under the existing IOTC Agreement, the IOTC, the commission has no authority to establish a high seas and inspection regime. This delegation does not agree with this EU proposal.

Regards

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