

RESOLUTION ON FISHING CAPACITY TRANSFER

Submitted by Japan

THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION (IOTC),

RECALLING the Resolution 01/04 on Limitation of Fishing Effort of non-Members of IOTC whose Vessels Fish Bigeye Tuna adopted at the 2001 meeting,

FURTHER RECALLING that the Resolution 03/01 on the limitation of Fishing Capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties was adopted at the 2003 Commission meeting,

RECALLING that the 2005 Rome Declaration adopted by the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries in March 2005 calls for the new actions, inter alia, "to ensure that measures to address fleet overcapacity in one fishery or area do not result in the creation of fleet overcapacity in another fishery or area or otherwise undermine the sustainability of fish stocks in another fishery or area",

RECOGNISING that the Scientific Committee recommends that "a reduction in catches of bigeye tuna from all gears, eventually to the level of MSY, be started as soon as possible and that fishing effort should be reduced or, at least, it should not increase further", and that "management measures focused on controlling and/or reducing effort in the fishery targeting swordfish in the south west Indian Ocean be implemented", and on albacore that "the Commission be very cautious in allowing increase in catch or fishing effort until the problems with assessments have been resolved", and also on yellowfin tuna stock condition, Scientific Committee considered that the total catches were possibly above MSY and any further increase of fishing effort and catch should be avoided,

ADOPTS, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, paragraph 1 of the IOTC Agreement, that:

1. The CPCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that:
 - a) any large-scale tuna fishing vessels that are for capacity transfer between CPCs shall be on the IOTC Record established in accordance with the *Resolution 02/05 Concerning the Establishment of an IOTC Record of Vessels Over 24 Meters Authorised to Operate in the IOTC Area* or records of authorised tuna vessels established by other tuna RFMOs;
 - b) CPCs that transfer their fishing capacity to another CPC shall not construct a new vessel as a replacement unless equivalent fishing capacity is removed from latter CPC.
 - c) any tuna fishing vessels that are being transferred from other flag shall not have a history of business relations with flags that are identified as diminishing the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures by tuna RFMOs.
2. The CPCs shall report annually to the Commission the following information on the imported tuna vessels.
 - Current and previous names of vessel(s), registration numbers
 - Previous flag(s)
 - Previous details of deletion from other registries
 - Current and previous international radio call signs
 - Type of vessel(s), length and gross registered tonnage (GRT)
 - Current and previous names and addresses of owners and operators
 - Gear(s) used
 - Date of import
3. The Commission shall review the information provided by paragraph 2 and, when necessary, take appropriate measures so as not to internalize IUU fishing vessels.
4. The CPCs shall take into account the provisions of this Resolution in implementing the Resolution 03/01.