
**PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN
AND CENTRAL PACIFIC**

Fourth session
Nadi, Fiji Islands
5 – 9 May, 2003

WCPFC/PrepCon/DP.11
9 May 2003

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS IN THE MEASURES TO ELIMINATE IUU LARGE SCALE
TUNA LONGLINE FISHING VESSELS

Submitted by the delegation of Japan

1. Pursuant to the resolution adopted at the third Preparatory Conference of WCPFC in November 2002 (WCPFC/PrepCon/22), the Government of Japan has taken the following steps toward elimination of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fisheries.

1. Measures for the Positive Listing

2. With respect to the measures of positive listing for fishing vessels adopted at the meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) in October-November 2002, Japan has acted on international organizations concerned to apply this measure on a global scale because, once this measure is enforced in certain area, it is inevitable that IUU fishing vessels will shift their operation to other areas. Japan intends to implement the measure domestically at the earliest possible timing after July this year when the list of duly authorized large scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs) in each area is finalized, and will take necessary measures so that only catches of LSTLVs on the positive lists can come into the Japanese market.

(a) Annual meeting of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) (the Seychelles; December 2002)

It was decided in the legally binding Resolution that the measure same as positive listing adopted at ICCAT shall be taken because many participating countries expressed concern that IUU fishing vessels might shift their operations to the Indian Ocean.

(b) The Committee on Fisheries of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (Rome; February 2003)

Many participating countries recognized the usefulness of the positive listing measure, and it was agreed that it should be also adopted by regional fisheries management organizations other than ICCAT and the IOTC, and there is need to implement it on a global basis in order to ensure effectiveness of this measure.

(c) At the annual meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) to be held in June this year as well, it is expected that support will be given to the Positive Listing measure.

3. With respect to duly authorized LSTLVs operating in the WCPFC area, Japan has been confirming them bilaterally with all the related countries on the basis of Japan's import data. China Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vanuatu have already provided the lists of duly authorized LSTLVs. Chinese Taipei also provided the list. Further, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand are expected to provide the lists shortly. Japan considers that duly authorized LSTLVs operating in the WCPFC area will be sufficiently covered through this confirmation process, but it is advised to notify Japan expeditiously in case there exist other duly authorized LSTLVs.

2. Substantial disposal for eliminating the remaining IUU fishing vessels

4. Given the fact that, in reality, most of IUU LSTLVs are owned and/or operated by fishers of Chinese Taipei, consultations have been made between Japan and Chinese Taipei to promote scrapping and re-registration of the fishing vessels to Chinese Taipei's registration. (A total of 42 IUU LSTLVs have been scrapped and 38 re-registered in Chinese Taipei's registration.)

5. However, as there still exist about 100 IUU LSTLVs, Japan and Chinese Taipei made agreement on April 23, 2003 to take following new measures in order to eliminate those remaining fishing vessels expeditiously. By the implementation of those measures, it is expected that legalization of about 70 IUU LSTLVs that correspond to all the relatively new IUU LSTLVs will be ensured. As for the remaining 30 vessels, efforts will be made to scrap them.

6. A cooperative management scheme will be developed between the fisheries authorities of the Flag States (the Seychelles and Vanuatu) and Japan, and the vessels participating in the legalization scheme will be placed under proper management.

7. Measures to have the fishing vessels in question obtain Japan's licenses for LSTLVs and freeze those licenses, will be taken for the purpose of reinforcing and complementing the cooperative management scheme mentioned above in (6) as well as preventing the increase of fishing capacity.

-- -- --