

INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION

June 7, 2011 Meeting, McLean, VA, USA

RESOLUTION 11-03

Resolution by ISSF to Establish Multi-Annual Commitments to Strengthen Purse Seine Vessel Conservation and Management Measures for Tuna Resources

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) meeting in McLean, Virginia, USA;

Recalling that the Tuna Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) are responsible for ensuring, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the world's oceans;

Noting that the objective of the ISSF is to facilitate, in support of the RFMO's mandates, the effective conservation and management of tuna resources and the ecosystem to which they belong;

Noting that effective monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities within the area of each RFMO is necessary for effective management;

Noting further that a scientific committee or staff supports each RFMO, comprised of some of the world's finest scientists who study and understand the health of the world's tuna populations and the ecosystem to which they belong;

Recognizing that the scientific study of the RFMO scientific bodies is only as good as the completeness and accuracy of the supporting data;

Recalling that the Committee of the Fisheries of FAO adopted on 2 March 2001 the International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fisheries, and that the Council of FAO adopted it on 23 June 2001;

Noting that this plan of action stipulates that the identification of vessels carrying out IUU activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non discriminatory way;

Recognizing that IUU fishing diminishes the effectiveness of conservation and management measures and the long-term sustainability of the resources being managed;

Further recognizing that IUU fishing denies the RFMOs important and valuable data and thereby undermines the effectiveness of their scientific programs;

Being aware that member government and flag state enforcement of and compliance with existing and future conservation measures and the successful elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing requires transparent, timely information about the compliance with existing and future conservation measures;

Recognizing that ISSF is working to improve the performance of RFMOs in adopting and member governments in complying with and enforcing conservation and management measures;

Further recognizing that levels of compliance are varied, and in some instances, non-compliance with adopted measures has become the norm;

Conscious that, at the present time, ISSF Resolutions can be most effective and transformative in the purse seine tuna fishing sector;

Determined to continue working, using its tools of advocacy and market action, to improve effective conservation and management of tuna resources and the ecosystem to which they belong and monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities;

Expecting that this multi-annual plan will accelerate reform in the conservation and management of tuna resources and the ecosystem to which they belong and monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities;

Desiring that other NGOs, fishing industry participants, RFMO members and cooperating non-member governments will support these efforts;

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation **Resolves** to adopt the conservation measure that processors, traders, importers, transporters and others involved in the seafood industry, beginning on the Commitment Completion Dates given below, for purse seine caught tuna conduct transactions only with those vessels that comply with the specific Commitment Objectives below.

A. Data Collection and Reporting

DATA REPORTING BY PURSE SEINE VESSELS

FAD logbooks

Commitment Objective: Purse seine vessels report their Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) use to RFMO scientific bodies through submission of a FAD logbook.

Commitment Completion Date: 1/1/2013

Multi-Annual Plan:

2011

Working with ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), ISSF Vessel Committee, RFMOs, and other experts, develop format and content of FAD data to be recorded and develop reporting, training and dissemination vehicle. Advocate to main purse seine fishing nations to require through their national legislation the use of FAD logbooks on purse seine vessels

2012

Train fleet owners, skippers, and observers on data to be collected and reporting.

B. Bycatch Mitigation

1 FULL RETENTION OF SHARKS AND OTHER FISH

Purse seine vessels

Commitment Objective: Total catch retained on board except those individuals that are released alive or those whose retention is prohibited by an RFMO Resolution or vessel's flag state's national law. Training on proper handling and release of bycatch will occur.

Commitment Completion Date: 1/1/14

Multi-Annual Plan:

2011-2013

RFMO advocacy for adoption of requirement. Fleet advocacy and education relating to this requirement and to ensure proper handling of bycatch. Develop market for retained fish to be landed.

2 BYCATCH MITIGATION

Skippers Training -- purse seine vessels

Commitment Objective: All purse seine vessel skippers participate in annual training (which will be facilitated with internet based tools) on best practices for purse seine school and FAD fishing, bycatch reduction and shark / turtle handling.

Commitment completion Date: 1/1/2013

Multi-Annual Plan:

2011

Working with ISSF SAC, Bycatch Steering Committee, Vessel Committee, and other experts develop training and dissemination method. Begin to train skippers.

2012

Conduct skippers workshops and training.

2013 and ongoing

Require skippers to complete annual training / refresher programs.

C. Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance:

1 UNIQUE VESSEL IDENTIFIER (UVI) NUMBERS FOR PURSE SEINE VESSELS

Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI) for purse seine vessels that are NOT required to be on an RFMO list.

Commitment Objective: All purse seine vessels must have a UVI number regardless of RFMO vessel registry listing requirements such as size and fishing area.

Commitment Completion Date: 1/1/2013

Multi-Annual Plan:

2011

Conduct a study on mechanisms that can be used to assign UVIs to vessels that are too small to receive IMO numbers, including special arrangements with Lloyds-Fairplay, RFMO Secretariats or other means. Develop implementation plan

2012

Implement the plan to assign UVIs, including capacity-building assistance where needed.

2 VESSEL FLAG - RFMO MEMBERSHIP / COMPLIANCE

Purse seine vessels flag and compliance

Commitment Objective: Purse seine vessels must be flagged to a member of the relevant RFMO (or cooperating non-member, if membership is not available under the RFMO Convention) and in substantial compliance with RFMO obligations.

Commitment Completion Date: 1/1/2014

Multi-Annual Plan:

2011

Conduct review across all RFMOs on levels of members' compliance with RFMO obligations in purse seine fisheries.

2012

Complete review and begin RFMO advocacy, with assistance from the Vessel Committee and Environmental Stakeholder Committee, for increased transparency and detail in RFMO compliance process.

2013

RFMO advocacy for increased transparency and detail in RFMO compliance process.

3 OBSERVER COVERAGE / TRAINING

3.1 Observer coverage – purse seine vessels

Commitment Objective: 100% observer coverage (human or electronic if proven to be effective) of purse seine vessels.

Commitment Completion Date: 1/1/2013 unless prevented by force majeure conditions in a particular region.

Multi-Annual Plan:

2011-2012

Conduct advocacy to critical fishing nations and fleet owners.

3.2 Observer training -- purse seine vessels

Commitment Objective: Observers on board purse seine vessels satisfactorily complete annual observer training, with course content to be regularly updated (which will be facilitated with internet based tools and in-person training).

Commitment Completion Date: 1/1/2014

Multi-Annual Plan:

2011

Working with ISSF SAC, RFMO's, Vessel Committee, and other experts, develop standards for observer programs and observer training material.

2012-2013

Conduct training and testing of observers.

2014 and ongoing

Require skippers to complete annual training / refresher programs.

4 TRANSHIPMENT

Purse seine vessels

Commitment Objective: No transshipments at sea, whether high seas, EEZ, territorial seas or archipelagic waters.

Commitment Completion Deadline: 1/1/2012

D. Tuna Stock Health

FULL RETENTION OF TUNAS

Purse seine vessels

Commitment Objective: All purse seine caught tuna, except those unfit for human consumption, retained onboard ("unfit for human consumption" will follow the definition adopted by WCPFC CMM 2009-02).

Commitment Completion Date: 1/1/2013

Multi-Annual Plan:

2011-12

RFMO advocacy efforts for adoption of permanent requirement.