A Snapshot of Compliance

Each of the five international tuna regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOS) has an annual mechanism to monitor and assess the compliance of its members, and in some cases cooperating non-members (CNMs), with RFMO obligations under the RFMO convention and its conservation and management measures.

WCPO (55%) EPO (14%) IO (20%) AO (11%) Global Tuna Catch

How the RFMO Compliance Process Works

The compliance mechanisms of all five tuna RFMOs share core due-process components and their processes are broadly composed of three basic steps:



Information gathering

Review & assesment

feedback and/or

application of corrective remedies

Coming Up Short

in general, there are a considerable number of States that are not, either at all, or on time:

providing required catch and effort data or reporting on bycatch interactions or shark catches

submitting annual implementation reports or other compliance info, such as reports of investigations

paying assessed contributions to the budget

Best Practices

A set of desirable best practices with regard to monitoring, assessing and addressing non-compliance in RFMOs, include:



- Utilize diverse sources
- Verify self-reporting

Assessment Process

- State-by-State review
- Clear & fair due process
- Transparency

Follow-up & Outcomes

- Require reporting on actions
- Availability and use of tools to respond to identified types of non-compliance

Compliance in the WCPFC

In contrast to all other tuna RFMOs, the WCPFC has a closed compliance process.

- Observers are not allowed in the working group
- No details on member compliance with individual CMMs or responses received by members to identified non-compliance is released publicly.
- Member reports on implementation of WCPFC measures are also confidential



Percentage of Members Reporting On-time

Source: WCPFC TCC9-2013-IP01, 5 September 2013; www.wcpfc.int