



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Twentieth Regular Session

25 September to 1 October 2024

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)

DNA Sampling, Weight Estimation during HSB&I, and Updating the Standardized Multi-language Questionnaire of HSB&I

WCPFC-TCC20-2024-DP02

21 August 2024

Submitted by China

Background

1. We realize the efforts made by several CCMs conducted high seas boarding and inspection in WCPO in recent years. However, we also find the following aspects need to be discussed during the TCC 20 under the item of high seas boarding and inspection of the agenda:
 1. [DNA Testing](#)
2. One case related to China's flagged tuna vessel, the inspection team using DNA testing concluded the tuna vessel may misreport of tuna species and underreport the catch (but the master of the tuna vessel reported that the samples taken were bloody ice ballast, not from the fish). However, the CMM 2006-08 on Boarding and Inspection Procedures does not require the other CCM to rely on evidence obtained from DNA testing by another CCM while conducting high seas boarding and inspection. This delegation believes that TCC needs to discuss the following issues and makes a recommendation to the Commission:
 - the circumstances under which DNA testing may be used;
 - the sampling procedures for testing;
 - the methods by which samples are recognized by the master of the fishing vessel;
 - the non-contamination or switching of samples during transfer; and
 - the procedures and standards for DNA testing center(s) of CCMs to be accredited by the Commission.
3. In addition, in our view, if high seas inspection teams cannot distinguish different tuna species with the naked eye, how can fishermen be asked to distinguish the species, therefore, the use of DNA testing during the high seas boarding and inspection should be avoided as much as possible.

2. The Weight Estimation Method Used by Inspection Team on Board of Inspected Fishing Vessels

4. One case related to China's flagged tuna vessel, the inspection team used the weight estimation method that led to a much larger discrepancy between the estimation and the actual unloaded weight. This delegation would like to suggest that the CCMs that its high seas boarding team using the weight estimation method (s) should report to TCC for information and discussion. It is preferable to have a WCPFC recognized the weight estimation method used by high seas boarding team(s).

3. Use of the Relevant Part of the Standardized Multi-language Questionnaire to be Prepared by the Secretariat

5. The current Standardized Multi-language Questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat was adopted by WCPFC in 2007. After that, many CMMs were adopted, that should be reflected in the Standardized Multi-language Questionnaire.

Possible Way out

6. We suggest the following contents as TCC recommendation to WCPFC 21:
 - **TCC20 noted the efforts made by several CCMs conducted high seas boarding and inspection in WCPO and DNA testing as well as the certain weight estimation method(s) used by relevant inspection team(s). TCC 20 recommended that WCPFC 21 to task TCC to conduct work on the necessity and protocol for DNA testing, and WCPFC 21 to request CCMs that its high seas boarding team using the weight estimation method (s) should report to TCC 21 the details of the weight estimation method(s) used during high seas boarding and inspection operation for information and discussion.**
 - **TCC20 recommended that WCPFC 21 to task the Secretariat to update the Standardized Multi-language Questionnaire and report to TCC 21 for discussion and possible adoption at WCPFC 22.**
7. The above outlines China's concerns and positions regarding the sampling for DNA testing, updating Standardized Multi-language Questionnaire and the estimation of onboard fish catch weight during high seas boarding and inspection. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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