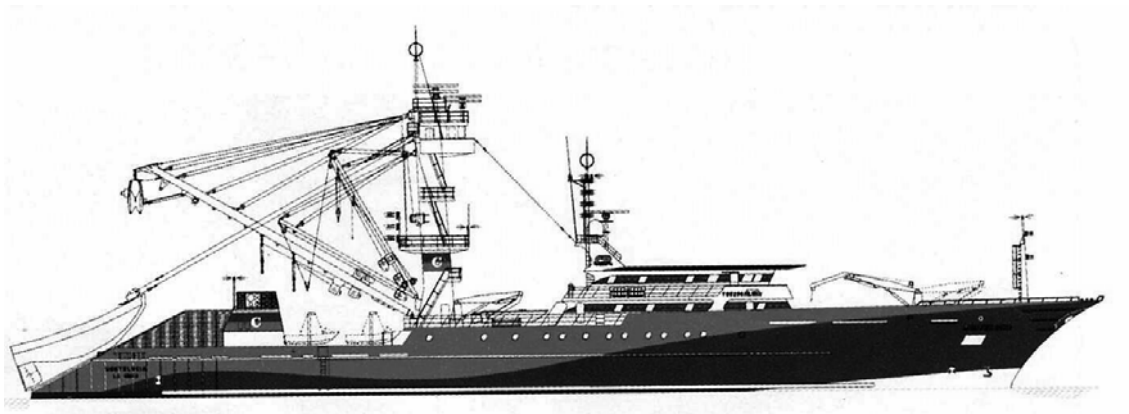


FTWG-8



Review of the activities of the World Tuna Purse-Seine Organization (June 2002- June 2003)



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July 2003

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This summary paper should be considered as continuation of the paper presented last year at SCTB 15 (FTWG-6) as informal report of the activities of the WTPO during the period June 2002 / June 2003.

Membership Update

The list provided in the mentioned paper has been modified by the exclusion of some of the founder members from USA, Colombia and Venezuela and the inclusion of a new member from Iran.

- Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing Association (Japan)
- Korea Deep Sea Fisheries Association (South Korea)
- ORTHONGEL (France).
- ATUNEC (Ecuador).
- Cámara Nacional de Pesquerías (Ecuador).
- Philippine Tuna Industry Association (Philippines).
- Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Boat Owners & Exporters Association (Taiwan).
- Mar Pacífico Fishing (Panamá).
- Zardbaleh Industrial Tuna Fishing (ZITCO) (Iran).
- Organización de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores (OPAGAC) (Spain).

The members from Venezuela and Colombia have been deleted very early from the WTPO list because they were not willing to cooperate with the objectives of the organization, being their principal activities related to tuna fishing associated with dolphins. The USA members, although willing to fully cooperate with the activities of WTPO, were not attending the different meetings, and subsequently unregistered from the membership list.

There have been attempts to find the collaboration with other ship owners from Taiwan, that operate boats under flags of FFA countries, and China. Some positive responses from the companies were recorded for collaboration in WTPO effort reductions, but no definitive inclusion in WTPO yet registered.

The implementation of the effort reduction measures adopted by WTPO, by all the fleets operating in the Western Central Pacific, is of key importance for the effective compliance of all the captains operating from the same harbours. WTPO still works to persuade these ship owners about the need to regulate the purse seine tuna fisheries on a world wide basis.

The incorporation of other ship owners from New Zealand and USA are also important for the success of the activities of WTPO, although some legal problems from the US are still pending for the inclusion of the US ship owners in the WTPO.

Manila meeting – 18/19 November 2002

Improving the 3rd Preparatory Conference of the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Convention, held in Manila, an informal meeting of the WTPO took place for two days. Members from Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Japan, Ecuador and Spain.

After long discussions a Joint Statement was produced calling for:

A fleet capacity limit of the purse seine and longline industrial fleets currently operating in the WCPO, through the urgent adoption of a Regional Vessel Registry in Prep Con 3.

Effective actions to prevent the expansion of IUU fleets in the WCPO, through the appropriate definition of Flag of Convenience practices and Locally Based fleets.

Seoul meeting – 19-20 March 2003-07-02

Concerned about the market trend at the beginning of the year 2003, the Asian block of the WTPO called for a meeting in Seoul (South Korea) to try to apply measures that would stop the decreasing trend in the tuna market.

After long discussions and negotiations the meeting was concluded with a Resolution that included effort reduction measures (see Annex 1). The Taiwanese delegation asked for consultations with their members before approval. During the following weeks there were many contacts among different members, to try to implement the Resolution. But it was not until 15th April when the agreement was reached and the Resolution started to be applied until 15th June. Its application has been very good by the fleets participating, namely Korea, Taiwan, Philippines and Japan.

Just after the announcement of the implementation of the Resolution, the Bangkok market experienced and improvement on skipjack prices by 10%, almost reaching the 500\$/metric ton.

Tuna fleet capacity limitation World Wide

One of the main objectives of the WTPO is *the creation of a World Wide tuna boat registry in order to achieve a non growing status of the tuna fleet in the World.*

For that WTPO has been active, through his national members, in promoting the limitation of fleet capacity in the existing Regional Fisheries Organizations.

In the Atlantic Ocean, there have been proposals for a purse seine capacity limit since 1998, without success for a lack of compromise of the coastal countries in that exercise. The WTPO members from Spain and France, maintain their hopes for the next ICCAT annual meeting. Imaginative formulas to accommodate coastal countries request for fleet development should be found to attain a fleet capacity limit in the Atlantic.

In the Eastern Pacific Ocean, since 2002, a Resolution of IATTC is limiting the increase of purse seine fleet capacity. IATTC has a Regional Plan to Manage Fleet Capacity, that will try to find the equilibrium among tuna resources and tuna fleets, including long line, by the year 2006.

In the Indian Ocean, the fleet capacity limit is facing the same problem that in the Atlantic, because some emerging countries still want to develop their fisheries. During the last Commission meeting of IOTC, a proposal for limiting the fleet capacity was not agreed between the parties.

In the Western and Central Pacific, as there is not yet a Tuna Commission, we have to rely on the Regional Vessel Register of FFA and the limit established by the Palau Arrangement. On that respect, during the 4th Preparatory Conference, a joint meeting between the FFA and the WTPO, addressed this problem and the concerns of the industry about overcapacity in the WCPO. Through these meetings both organizations had agreed in exchanging information and cooperate in finding the equilibrium between tuna resources and tuna fleet.

WTPO is also active in the FAO Project on Tuna Fishing Capacity, through its participation in the Technical Advisory Committee of that Project.

2003 World Tuna Purse-Seine Organization Asian Group Meeting
Seoul, Korea, 19-20 FEB 2003

Resolution of the 2003 WTPO Asian Group Meeting

he participants in the 2003 WTPO Asian Group Meeting:

Recalling and reaffirming that the objective of WTPO is to foster the general application of the principles of responsible and sustainable fishing to enable a balance between the conditions of the tuna resources in the world and a rational, economic and efficient utilization of the resources ;

Noting the importance of ensuring that all vessels fishing in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) comply with the effective measures agreed by WTPO for the sustainable fisheries;

Have agreed as follows :

To reduce its fishing effort for two months immediately from March 1st up to 30th April 2003 as follows:

All vessels should stay at port upon their entry until departure for days calculated on basis of each carrying capacity.

- a. below 1,300m³ : 8 days
- b. 1,300m³ - 1,700m³ : 9 days
- c. over 1,701m³ : 10 days

For a vessel returning to Guam or home, its non-fishing days shall be counted in from 3 days after finishing its fishing activities till 3 days before its resuming fishing.

3. For a vessel visiting another port, without fishing activities, immediately after finishing unloading the duration of travel from one port to another shall be counted in the non-fishing days.
4. Non-fishing days shall be calculated on basis of each vessel and its weekly reports of operation status from Sunday to Saturday shall be submitted and shared with Asian Group Countries every following Wednesday.

Any vessel in port upon the effective date of this resolution must comply, with its actual arrival date as the start of the required days-stay in port.

6. A vessel not fulfilling its required non-fishing days shall be subject to a penalty according to every country association rules to be paid before the secretariat of WTPO Asian Group and full payment shall be ensured by the organization the violating vessel belongs to. All money accrued from penalties shall be used for the common interests of the WTPO Asian Group

Japanese fleet has agreed not to tranship outside Japanese ports and keep their own system of effort reduction.

8. The French and Spanish WTPO members agreed to avoid supplying fish to Bangkok market below current market levels, likewise the Asian Block made a compromise not to supply other major markets below current market level.
9. WTPO member recognizing the need to encourage non-members, identified hereto, to join WTPO effort in applying the principles of responsible fishery, shall seek the intercession of traders and packers to ensure their cooperation.

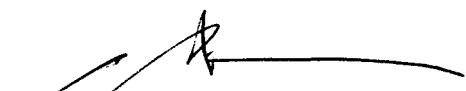
Adopted this 20th day of February 2003
during the World Tuna Purse-Seine Organization Asian Group Meeting in Seoul, Korea




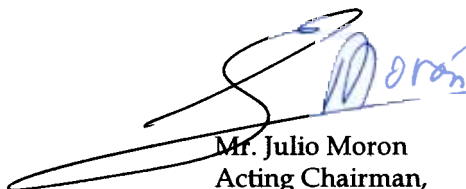
Mr. Seong Taek Shin
Chairman,
Tuna Purse-Seine Fisheries Committee
Korea Deep Sea Fisheries Association



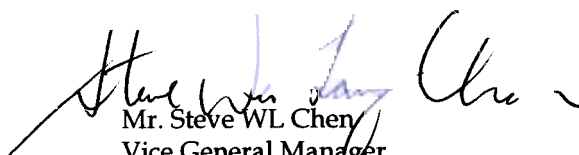

Mr. Kazuo Shima
President,
Japan Far Seas Purse-seine
Fishing Association


Mr. Francisco Tiu -Laurel, Jr.
Chairman,
Philippines Tuna Industry Association

Mr. James T. P. Tsai
Chairman,
Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Boat-
owners and Exporters Association


Mr. Michel Dion
Director,
ORTHONGEL

Mr. Julio Moron
Acting Chairman,
WTPO Secretariat/OPAGAC


Mr. Steve WL Chen
Vice General Manager
Fong Hong Fishery Co. Ltd.
Fong Ki Fishery Co. Ltd.
Mr. James T. P. Tsai
President,
Eastern Marine Fishery Co. Ltd.
Oriental Marine Fishery Co. Ltd.

Appendix


Mr. P H Han
President,
Hsiang Fa Fishery Co. Ltd.

Mr. K M Koo
President,
Koo's Fishing Co. Ltd.

Mr. I. Mao Huang
Fair Champion Fishery Co. Ltd.
Fair Victory Fishery Co. Ltd.

Shanghai Deep Sea Fishery Co. Ltd.

Mr. C H Wu
President,
Hung Fu Fishery Co. LTD.


Mr. James P. Tsai
President,
Tuna Catcher Fishery Co. Ltd.

Shandong Dong Lu Fishery Co. Ltd.

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