

Original: English

REPORTS ON TIME/AREA CLOSURE IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

Four Contracting Parties included in their Annual Reports specific information on their Internal Procedures for Compliance with Closed Area/Season in the Gulf of Guinea. The extracts from the reports are included below. Panama indicated that the information was sent on 9 April 2015, but the information received by the Secretariat on that date related only to FADs deployed.

CURAÇAO

Rec. 11-01 regarding management measures for the conservation of tropical bigeye and yellowfin tunas, was established in November 2011 in Istanbul (Turkey) and it entered in force on 7 June 2012. In order to comply with the closure area, an agreement was signed with the Spanish *Instituto Español de Oceanografía*, and observers supplied by this scientific institution. The observers were on board the purse seiners during the FAD closure of January and February 2014. The activity report monitored by the observers, confirmed that the vessels complied with the FAD closure and there were no infractions reported.

EUROPEAN UNION

Area and time closure as foreseen by Rec. 11-01, concern some vessels flagged to EU-Spain and EU-France. The concerned recommendation was notified by the European Commission to all the EU Member States in early 2012 (before the entry into force). Member States concerned communicated the provisions of the Recommendation to the relevant vessels through issuance of Ministerial circulars or similar legally binding instruments. Furthermore, tracking through VMS of vessels was insured in order to make sure that if a vessel entered the area during the closure, it carried on board an observer in order to check that no fishing on FADs took place. In 2014 no EU vessel carried out any fishing activity in the area/time closure for bigeye/yellowfin.

GHANA

Ghana is willing to abide by the recommendation and would place observers on all vessels to monitor their activities. This action was carried out also in 2014 and 2015 during the months of January and February using national observers for the 2015 moratorium. Preliminary data show all vessels which participated in the moratorium did not fish off FADs. Most of them were outside the delimited zone. Reports for the 2014 closed area have been submitted to the Secretariat of ICCAT as part of the database incorporated in the AVDTH format showing their log positions.

GUATEMALA

As part of its obligations to the Commission, as well as complying with domestic fishery legislation, Guatemala implemented the closure based on the information provided by the Commission.