



ADDITIONAL RESPONSES BY TÜRKİYE TO THE INSPECTION REPORTS WITH SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS (Inspection Report Ref. No.9975, 10074 and 10089)

Date: 13th of November, 2024

Additional information on three (3) Turkish BFT Towing Vessels inspected at sea by the EU inspection assets during the 2024 fishing season

The results of the investigation conducted on three (3) Turkish BFT Towing Vessels inspected at sea by the EU inspection assets have been provided to the EU on 10th of July, 2024 by the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Additional information prepared by our side regarding some of the inspection findings on three (3) Turkish BFT towing vessels namely, ATASOY AHMET, DURSUN ÇINAROĞULLARI-2 and HİCAZ-3 published in COC-303-APP-4/2024 is provided below.

1) ICCAT Inspection Report 9975 (BFT Towing Vessel “ATASOY AHMET”):

Upon review of the previously analyzed video footage pertinent to TUR-2024/077/ITD, the following has been reported by the ministerial inspectors involved in the analysis;

- VLC video player tool has been used in the monitoring of the footage.
- Duration of the footage has been reported as 23.5 minutes.
- When brightness and contrast settings are adjusted and the footage monitored in large screen by arranging the speed of streaming, the entire footage could be analyzed properly.
- It has been reported that even the darkest parts of the footage (in the beginning) could be watched without interruption when the visual settings were made.



2) ICCAT Inspection report 10074 (BFT Towing Vessel “DURSUN CINAROGLU-2 (AT000TUR00169)”

DURSUN CINAROGLU-2 has been authorized by the Ministry to carry out towing operations and transport cages in the Mediterranean. During the fishing season, the vessel in question has operated under a private contract with an EU-Croatian farming company. DURSUN CINAROGLU-2 has not delivered any cages with bluefin tuna content into the Turkish BFT farms this season.

It has been reported that the vessel towed cages that contain BFT transferred from a Libyan flagged BFT Catching Vessel.

Movements of the vessel have been regularly monitored by our fisheries monitoring center, and our ministry was informed by the representative of the vessel about the activities carried out by the vessel during the season.

As the flag CPC of the catching vessel and flag CPC of the farming facility are different CPCs and not Türkiye, most up-to-date and proper answers regarding transfer video footage and caging should be followed-up by the relevant CPCs (i.e. Libya and Croatia).

As to the reported PNC about the logbook, it has been reported by the operator that the documents requested by the inspectors could not be presented by the skipper due to a miscommunication occurred at the time of inspection.

Regarding the issues reported with respect to e ITD LBY-2024-602 and ITD LBY-2024-603, the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has not involved in the validation processes for these documents.

CPC Observer onboard of DURSUN CINAROGLU-2 has not analyzed the first transfer footage as this task was undertaken by the ROP-BFT observer on the donor BFT catching vessel. It has been confirmed that no BFT resulting from the above-mentioned transfer operations has been placed in farm cages in Türkiye.



3) ICCAT Inspection report 10089 (BFT Towing Vessel “HİCAZ-3 (AT000TUR00217)”

Upon review of the previously analyzed video footage pertinent to TUR-2024/066/ITD, the following has been reported by the ministerial inspectors involved in the analysis;

- VLC video player tool has been used in the monitoring of the footage. It is reported that the quality of the footage was moderate due to the transfer being made at night time. Notwithstanding, light source utilized (blue light provided from below) has made it possible to determine BFT individuals for counting.
- No apparent irregularities reported. Passing of the first individual was recorded at 05:18:59 and the last fish passing has been detected at 05:22:56 of the footage.
- The average of the counts has been determined as 367. In the relevant ITD document, 350 pieces of individuals, corresponding to 11.200 Kgs were declared by the operator.

Please contact Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture should further information/clarification needed.