

Report on the implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for transshipment 2023/2024

(ICCAT Secretariat)

Introduction

According to the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment* (Rec. 21-15), all at-sea transshipments are prohibited, except for those from large-scale tuna longline vessels (LSPLVs), which may only tranship subject to a series of provisions, including the requirement to have an observer on board the carrier vessels receiving transshipment, to be placed on board by the ICCAT Secretariat.

The ROP-transshipment is thus currently implemented by a consortium comprising Marine Resources Assessment Group Ltd (MRAG) and Capricorn Fisheries Monitoring (CapFish), under a contract signed on 23 April 2007. This contract has been renewed annually on 23 April each year since then. The Programme is funded by the participating Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs). China (P.R.), Japan, Korea, Namibia and Chinese Taipei currently participate in the ROP-transshipment,

Implementation and operation

Details on the operational aspects of the programme are presented in the report submitted by the implementing Consortium, contained in **Appendix 1**.

Potential issues of non-compliance are sent by the consortium directly to the CPCs (with copy to the ICCAT Secretariat). These, together with CPC responses, are contained in Appendix 1 of "ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for at-sea transshipments (ROP-Trans)" [COC_305/2024]. Observer reports received by 1 October 2024 are available by year at the [ICCAT web site](#).

Cooperation with other tuna RFMOs

The ICCAT Secretariat continues to implement the part of the observer programme corresponding to the Atlantic Ocean southern bluefin tuna on behalf of the CCSBT, given that southern bluefin tuna is also an ICCAT species and is already covered by the ICCAT Programme. A revised MoU was signed in 2015 with the CCSBT to reflect updates to the recommendation. This year, a newly revised version of the MOU, designed to enable ICCAT to share Transshipment Supply Declarations with the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and to remove outdated text, will be presented to the Commission at its annual meeting for endorsement ("Memorandum of Understanding between the CCSBT and ICCAT Secretariats for Transshipment at sea by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels" [PLE_115/2024]).

The Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) to set up a joint pool of observers which could remain on the carrier vessels which operated in both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans on the same voyage remains in force.

Results to date

Since the inception of the programme, 300 requests for observer deployments have been received, (although eight of these were cancelled). As required by the *Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipment* (Rec. 21-15), observer reports are now published on the ICCAT website with the relevant sections hidden for confidentiality purposes.

As of 3 October 2024, according to the data available, a total of 489,652 t of fish and fish products had been reported as transhipped at sea under the programme since its inception, but this figure includes some transshipment of non-ICCAT species. A breakdown of the data available by CPC is included in the "2024 ICCAT Secretariat Report on Research and Statistics" [PLE_105/2024].

The comprehensive reports received from ROP participants assessing the content and conclusions of observer reports have been published this year on the [password protected web](#), together with the reports received from CPCs on at-sea and in-port transshipment.

A summary of the deployments since October 2023 is shown in **Table 1** below.

Information sharing and Identification guides

The ICCAT Regional Observer Programme Manual (Transshipment) has been published on the [ICCAT web site](#). The identification guides for frozen tuna and tuna-like species developed by the Consortium were reviewed by the SCRS. The guides will, as always, be made available to observers before deployment.

Since June 2022, following the entry into force of [Rec. 21-15](#), the ICCAT Transshipment declarations have been published on the password protected website, as have the supply declarations. In addition, a considerable number of documents which are not required by the ICCAT Secretariat according to [Rec. 21-15](#) continue to be sent in volumes which seriously disrupt the work of the ICCAT Secretariat. CPCs are once again requested to refrain from sending unnecessary documents (AREPS, in port pre-transshipment declarations etc to the ICCAT Secretariat, and to use the correct formats and clearly label any declarations submitted in accordance with requirements.

Financing

Information on the budget, contributions and expenditure of this programme can be found in the 2024 Financial Report [STF_202/2024].

The level of financing required for 2025/2026 will depend on the number of deployments foreseen by the participating CPCs, the number of CPCs participating in the programme, and on whether current prices charged by the consortium are maintained or increased. The final budget for the forthcoming period will be circulated to participants as far in advance of the renewal of the contract as possible.

Table 1. Summary of deployments (from October 2023-October 2024).

<i>ICCAT Request No.</i>	<i>Carrier Vessel</i>	<i>Boarded</i>	<i>Disembarked</i>	<i>Report / Data received</i>	<i>Tranship-ment declara-tions received from vessel</i>	<i>Base departure date of observer</i>	<i>Base arrival date of observer</i>	<i>Total days (travel + at sea + debriefing)</i>	<i>Total tonnes transhipped</i>	<i>Total cost (Travel + deployment) in €</i>	<i>Average cost per tonne transhipped (€)*</i>
283/23	Chikuma	Cape Town	Port Cristobal	20/10/2023	22	06/08/2023	03/10/2023	60	1707.418	18919.27	11.08
	AT000PAN00320	South Africa	Panama								
284/23	Taisei Maru No.15	Cape Town	Singapore	03/11/2023	18	22/07/2023	20/09/2023	62	1755.863	19093.92	10.87
	AT000JPN00651	South Africa	Singapore								
285/23	Meita Maru	Cape Town	Singapore	08/10/2023	9	14/08/2023	24/09/2023	43	741.65	13129.31	17.70
	AT000PAN00316	South Africa	Singapore								
286/23	Genta Maru	Cape Town	Malta	07/11/2023	9	08/09/2023	12/10/2023	35	361.484	11824.66	32.71
	AT000PAN00246	South Africa	Singapore								
287/23	Chitose	Singapore	Panama	19/03/2024	38	28/11/2023	05/03/2024	99	2071.68	28795.36	13.90
	AT000SGP00001	Singapore	Panama								
288/23	Yachiyo	Malta	Singapore	15/02/2024	26	07/12/2023	14/02/2024	70	1352.868	21837.01	16.14
	AT000PAN00240	Malta	Singapore								
289/23	Taisei Maru No.24	Cape Town	Singapore	14/06/2024	47	11/01/2024	31/03/2024	82.5	2071.68	24446.69	11.80
	AT000JPN00571	South Africa	Singapore								
290/23	Yachiyo	Cape Town	Cape Town	Cancelled							
	AT000PAN00240	South Africa	South Africa								
291/24	Tasei Maru No.15	Cape Town	Singapore	01/05/2024	24	07/02/2024	16/04/2024	70	2555.497	23178.08	9.07
	AT000JPN00651	South Africa	Singapore								
292/24	Tuna Princess	Mindelo	Singapore	27/03/2024	15	25/01/2024	19/02/2024	26	759.969	8811.75	11.59
	AT000PAN00337	Cabo Verde	Singapore								
293/24	Ocean Star	Cesme	China	13/03/2024	17	22/01/2024	09/03/2024	48	1976.108	14919.84	7.55
	AT000PAN00332	Türkiye	China								
294/24	Harima	Cape Town	Singapore	14/05/2024	37	28/01/2024	23/04/2024	88	3147.614	25656.1	8.15

<i>ICCAT Request No.</i>	<i>Carrier Vessel</i>	<i>Boarded</i>	<i>Disembarked</i>	<i>Report / Data received</i>	<i>Tranship-ment declara-tions received from vessel</i>	<i>Base departure date of observer</i>	<i>Base arrival date of observer</i>	<i>Total days (travel + at sea + debriefing)</i>	<i>Total tonnes transhipped</i>	<i>Total cost (Travel + deployment) in €</i>	<i>Average cost per tonne transhipped (€)*</i>
	AT000PAN00235	South Africa	Singapore								
295/24	Tuna Queen	Mindelo	Singapore	10/04/2024	8	18/02/2024	04/04/2024	47	502.744	14774.84	29.39
	AT000PAN00336	Cabo Verde	Singapore								
296/24	Ibuki	Cape Town	Singapore	11/06/2024	55	27/02/2024	04/05/2024	67.5	3497.113	19087.65	5.46
	AT000PAN00163	South Africa	Singapore								
297/24	Genta Maru	Cape Town	Singapore	28/04/2024	5	12/03/2024	22/03/2024	10.5	617.512	2969.19	4.81
	AT000PAN00246	South Africa	Singapore								
298/24	Yachiyo	Port Louis	Singapore	18/09/2024	41	26/05/2024	23/07/2024	65	3602.115	23701.71	6.58
	AT000PAN00240	Mauritian	Singapore								
299/24**	Chikuma	Port Louis	Singapore								
	AT000PAN00320	Mauritian	Singapore								
300/24**	Harima	Singapore	Mindelo								
	AT000SGP00007	Singapore	Cabo Verde								

* Exclusive of training, equipment and ICCAT Secretariat overheads.

** No "Final Report" received at the time of writing.

In-port transshipment

Reports on in-port transshipment are published on the password protected website. **Table 2** below shows a summary of information received.

Table 2. Reports on in-port transshipment received (information available as of **11 October 2024**).

No information – No report received, and the ICCAT Secretariat does not know whether or not the requirement is applicable.

N/A – CPC informed the ICCAT Secretariat that this reporting requirement was N/A, or that no such transshipments had taken place in 2023.

<i>In-port Transshipment</i>			
Albania	N/A	Mauritania	N/A
Algeria	N/A	Mexico	N/A
Angola	No information	Namibia	N/A
Barbados	N/A	Nicaragua	N/A *
Belize	Received	Nigeria	No information
Brazil	N/A	Norway	N/A
Cabo Verde	No details received*	Panama	Received
Canada	N/A	Philippines	N/A
China	Received N/A	Russia	N/A
Costa Rica	N/A	Sao Tome + P	No information
Cote d'Ivoire	Received	Senegal	N/A
Curaçao	N/A	Sierra Leone	N/A
Egypt	N/A	South Africa	N/A
Equatorial Guinea	No information	St. Vincent + Gren.	N/A
El Salvador	Received	Syria	No information
EU	Received (Malta)	Trinidad & Tobago	N/A
France (SPM)	N/A	Tunisia	N/A
Gabon	N/A	Türkiye	N/A
Gambia	No information	Uruguay	N/A
Ghana	Received	UK	N/A
Grenada	No information	USA	N/A
Guinea Bissau	No information	Venezuela	N/A
Guinea Rep.	N/A	Bolivia	N/A
Guatemala	No information	Chinese Taipei	N/A
Honduras	N/A	Guyana	No information
Iceland	N/A	Suriname	N/A
Japan	Received		N/A
Korea	Received		N/A
Liberia	Received		
Libya	N/A		
Maroc	N/A		

*Response in Annual Report, but no CP37 or details submitted.