

BACKGROUND FOR AGENDA ITEM V.d.ii.¹

Topic: Global Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV)

Since the late 1990s, the five tuna regional fisheries management organizations (T-RFMOs) have adopted measures that call for their members to authorize large-scale fishing vessels, carrier vessels and other types of vessels, as appropriate, to operate in their areas of competence or catch species under their purview. T-RFMO Secretariats are responsible for maintaining and publishing Records of Authorized Vessels in a timely manner. During the first joint T-RFMO meeting in 2007 (Kobe I), the participants “underlined the need for a stronger cooperation and coordination among tuna RFMOs particularly, unification of lists of authorized as well as IUU² vessels. T-RFMOs agreed to work towards the creation of a harmonized list of tuna-fishing vessels that is as comprehensive as possible (positive list) including use of a permanent unique identifier for each vessel such as an International Maritime Organisation (IMO number”. Such a list would consolidate the information contained in the Records of Authorized Vessels of each T-RFMO, identifying duplicates to the extent possible and assigning unique vessel identifiers (UVIs) for vessels that have not yet been assigned IMO identification numbers.

The IATTC and the IOTC Secretariats built the first versions of the CLAV in 2007 and 2009, respectively. The T-RFMOs noted that these lists, albeit useful at the time they were created, represented only snapshots in time of the T-RFMO Lists of Authorized Vessels, agreeing on the need for the T-RFMOs to establish a mechanism to allow for a more frequent consolidation of their lists of authorized vessels. This was achieved through the organization of the “Workshop on exchange of information and maintenance of the consolidated list of authorized vessels of Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations”, held in February 2011 with the support of FAO and the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF). The Workshop, which was attended by database and compliance managers from the T-RFMO Secretariats and participants from FAO, agreed on the procedures and time frames to be used in the consolidation of vessel records.

The IOTC Secretariat, in collaboration with the other Secretariats, undertook a new update of the CLAV in February 2011, and has updated this information several times since then. Authorized fishing vessels are identified through a T-RFMO Unique Vessel Identifier (TUVI) that corresponds to the IMO number if the vessel has been assigned one; if not, the vessel is assigned a temporary unique identifier. This information and the vessel list are shared among T-RFMOs. The latest update, carried out in April 2011, identified a total of 19,587 vessels authorized by the five T-RFMOs, with 17,035 vessels authorized by only one T-RFMO and 2,052 authorized by two or more T-RFMOs. 157 fishing vessels were identified as authorized by all five T-RFMOs.

The T-RFMOs, through the IOTC, are currently cooperating with the FAO with a view to streamlining the procedures for the consolidation of lists of authorized vessels, including modification of the duplicate-finding algorithm used by the FAO Vessel Record Management Framework to be used by the CLAV, and increase the frequency of updates to reach close to real-time updates in the future.

In addition, the T-RFMOs have identified the following areas for future development of the CLAV:

- Incorporation and maintenance of historical records in the CLAV.

¹ This background paper was developed to provide information and help frame the discussion on this agenda item. It does not necessarily reflect the position of any delegations participating in Kobe III, and is not meant to limit the discussions on this or any other topic.

² Illegal, unreported, and unregulated

- Incorporation of non-fishing vessels in the CLAV (*e.g.* carrier vessels), if authorized by T-RFMOs.

The use of the CLAV can be helpful in the following areas:

- Portal to access authorized fishing vessels from all T-RFMOs in one go: only one website to consult.
- Improved data quality through the identification of inconsistent data: for instance conflicting vessel attributes reported by two or more T-RFMO for the same vessel.
- Provide a first building block for the future Global Vessel Record free of charge.
- Studies of total capacity of major tuna fleets: the identification of individual vessels done at the CLAV will reduce double-counting to a minimum.