

**Statement from FAO to the Joint Tuna RFMOs, International Workshop on RFMO management of tuna fisheries**

**Brisbane, Australia, 28 June – 1 July**

**FAO's development of a  
Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels**

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The Second Joint Tuna RFMO's International Workshop held in San Sebastian in June 2009, discussed proposals for the development of a Global Record of Tuna Vessels and to that end its Secretariat was working with Lloyd's Register-Fairplay (now IHS-Fairplay) to develop a unique vessel identifier (UVI) numbering system. The Joint Tuna RFMOs recognised the significance and necessity of incorporating a UVI system into their Global Record and IHS-Fairplay provided important concessions in order to facilitate the collection of the necessary data over time. The recorded meeting outcome on this discussion topic reads as follows:

*The tuna RFMO Secretariats continue their collaboration to advance implementation of a combined vessel register that incorporates a unique vessel identifier (UVI). The Secretariats will advance this through meeting of their members and on-going collaboration with Lloyds Register-Fairplay and FAO, as appropriate, to include all tuna fleets, and avoid unnecessary duplication.*

In parallel to this initiative, FAO has been developing proposals for a Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels. This work has traversed a number of key subject areas, including the utility of UVI and a comprehensive report on this subject has previously been shared with the individual Tuna RFMOs. A Technical Consultation to identify a structure and strategy for the development and implementation of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels is to be held in Rome, Italy from 8 – 12 November 2010. All FAO member States will be invited to attend and participate. The key subject areas that will be traversed include:

- Scope of the Global Record;
- Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI) as an essential element of the Global Record;
- Hosting, management and funding options for the Global Record;
- Implementation options for the Global Record;
- Information access protocols;
- Developing country needs and opportunities; and
- Legal Issues and whether a future binding instrument is appropriate.

During the Workshop informal discussions were held between the FAO Global Record Project Team and the Joint Tuna RFMO's Secretariat on the merits of collaboration in our individual efforts to develop global records of fishing vessels. It was decided in principle that the Joint Tuna RFMOs could partner with FAO in a trial of potential technical solutions for the Global Record concept but it was acknowledged that individual RFMO vessel data sets would have to be upgraded first. Ultimately the Tuna RFMOs were unable to progress the data collection requirements quickly enough and so any trial has had to be postponed. Nevertheless, FAO is keen to maintain an ongoing collaboration with the Joint Tuna RFMOs in order to advance this very important initiative. There may well be opportunity for future collaboration and trialling once the outcomes of the Technical Consultation are known and endorsed by the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in January 2011. We at FAO look forward to continuing a productive working relationship with the Joint Tuna RFMOs on this very important issue and will keep you informed of progress with the Technical Consultation.