

ENFO Summary from the 2008 Annual Meeting

The Committee on Enforcement (ENFO) convened on November 17, 2008, in Seattle, WA, U.S.A. For the first time one non-government observer was present.

Participants reviewed the 2008 enforcement activities and planned enforcement activities for 2009. In 2008 the Parties conducted a total of 118 ship patrol days and 371 aerial patrol hours in the Convention Area. Eleven high-seas drift net (HSDN) vessels were sighted of which, two were apprehended. One of the vessels arrested was fined approximately \$7,000US. The catch was also seized and sold, and the vessels were seized and auctioned off with the nets and other gear being destroyed.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) conducted an international right of approach on another two vessels which were believed to be Indonesian registered. Parties continue to improve and increase combined operations involving aircraft, vessels and personnel from all member countries.

Canada employed Radarsat II (a recently launched earth surveillance satellite) on an experimental basis within the NPAFC Convention Area to assist with locating vessel concentrations and monitoring areas which were not being flown by the CP 140 aircraft.

Taiwanese observers reported that they conducted 168 patrol days in the Convention Area and observed two HSDN rigid vessels. This information was passed to NPAFC at the time of the sightings.

For 2009 ENFO members plan on similar effort as was expended in 2008. ENFO members will be coordinating 2009 patrols between surface and air assets in an attempt to maximize efforts and to ensure the capability of apprehending HSDN vessels sighted by the aircraft. This coordination will take place at the 2009 EECM.



NOAA satellite buoy used for tracking marine debris such as ghost drift nets



2008 NPAFC Annual Meeting, 1st Plenary

The ENFO Chairman briefly described the discussions at the EECM and North Pacific IUU Tripartite Meeting held in Vancouver, Canada, February 27-29, 2008.

Russia presented an updated detailed report on the Integrated Information System (IIS) website and identified a need for more frequent input from administrators to keep IIS moving forward.

The United States briefed ENFO on NOAA funded satellite tracking buoys which are intended to be deployed on any significant debris for tracking purposes (see picture on the left). This is part of the US ghost fishing initiative to clean up the North Pacific Ocean. A sample of the satellite tracking buoy was presented to the committee. During the 2008 enforcement season, the USCG cutter *MUNRO* had taken multiple buoys on board but was unable to locate any unattended nets in the Convention Area, and therefore, did not have an opportunity to deploy any of the buoys. NOAA currently has five buoys available for use and the US requested Parties to deploy them using their patrol vessels or even their research vessels. The Chairman encouraged the Parties to participate as ghost nets continue to entangle fish and sea birds in the ocean.

The next EECM will be held in Fukuoka, Japan on February 23-25, 2009 with an enforcement workshop. The main objectives of the EECM will be to finalize the detailed patrol schedule for 2009, to explore cooperative patrol opportunities, to discuss the threat assessment for illegal fishing for salmon by HSDN and to share and learn from previous years' experiences.

For the enforcement workshop, each Party was invited to bring hands-on officers to give presentations on how the patrols are conducted, problems encountered and lessons learned in an attempt to improve our abilities to detect, deter and detain vessels participating in IUU fishing.

In 2008, the Secretariat attended the North Pacific Coast Guard meeting in Seattle, U.S.A. on behalf of NPAFC, and although not a formal representative of NPAFC, the ENFO chair attended both the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF) and the Western Central Pacific Fish Commission (WCPFC) on behalf of the Government of Canada and kept the interests of NPAFC in mind.

The ENFO chair noted that the WCPFC had expressed an interest in NPAFC activities; WCPFC has approved boarding and inspection guidelines and is currently reviewing a conservation management measure which supports NPAFC activities in the North Pacific. The combination of WCPFC boarding and inspection guidelines and the conservation and management measure may provide another tool to detect and deter IUU fishing. NPAFC approved participation of a representative of NPAFC ENFO or the Secretariat at the WCPFC and NPCGF meetings on a regular basis upon formal invitations received from these organizations.



Robert Martinolich
ENFO Chairperson