

Report of Implementation for the year 2012

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 7 MARCH 2013

Reporting CPC: THAILAND

Date: 20/03/13

Please NOTE: this document is composed of 3 sections to report on the implementation of IOTC resolutions

Part A. *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission at its sixteenth Session.*

1. Resolution 12-01 On The Implementation Of The Precautionary Approach

This Resolution addresses mainly to the Commission and the Scientific Committee. Thailand is interesting to consider the complete MSE in the very near future. Regarding tuna fisheries in the Thai waters, Thailand is in the process to prepare the fisheries management plan for its tonggol fisheries (Thunnus tonggol) to ensure the sustainability of this resource. Precautionary approach and risk-based management are being incorporated in the plan.

2. Resolution 12-02 Data Confidentiality Policy And Procedures

Thailand noted the policy and procedures with regard to data confidentiality as stipulated in this Resolution and will effectively and strictly implement them.

3. Resolution 12-03 On The Recording Of Catch And Effort By Fishing Vessels In The IOTC Area Of Competence

Thailand has a system to record and analyze data of tuna fisheries operating in the Thai waters and in the high seas. It also submits the data in the required format to the Secretariat in each year. The report in 2012 demonstrated the record of by-catch of shark in its longline fisheries in the high seas. Thailand urges the Commission to develop special program to facilitate implementation of this Resolution for the developing CPCs. In the past, the IOTC-OFCF program provide a good mechanism for Thailand to acquire, collect and analyze data from foreign fishing vessels loading their catch at the Thai ports as well as data from its own fishing operation.

4. Resolution 12-04 On The Conservation Of Marine Turtles (Including in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, their progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution)

The fisheries law strictly prohibits the exploitation of marine turtles. In accordance with section 32(7) of the Fisheries Act B.E. 2490, no person shall absolutely catch, trap, injure or kill all kinds of sea turtles and tortoises. If any turtle or tortoise has been stuck with or caught by any fishing gears of fishing appliance, it must be freed into the sea immediately. Furthermore, no person shall, absolutely at any beach, collect eggs of sea turtles and tortoises.

5. Resolution 12-05 On Establishing A Programme For Transhipment By Large-Scale Fishing Vessels

Thailand has been implementing at-sea transhipment for its large scale tuna longline fishing vessels in correspondence to the procedures stipulated in the Resolution since late 2010. The Fisheries Department is monitoring the performance of the company with regard to the results elaborated by each competent observer in his report.

6. Resolution 12-06 On Reducing The Incidental Bycatch Of Seabirds In Longline Fisheries
In force in July 2014

7. Resolution 12-07 Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information

According to the Act Governing the Right to Fish in Thai Waters of 1939, foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to fish in Thai waters.

8. Resolution 12-08 Procedures On A Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) Management Plan

Not applicable. Thailand has only large scale tuna longliners fishing for tropical tunas in the high seas.

9. Resolution 12-09 On The Conservation Of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) Caught In Association With Fisheries In The IOTC Area Of Competence

The company having longline vessels was officially informed of the Resolution and was requested to strictly implement the Resolution. The report to the Secretariat in 2012 demonstrated the record of by-catch of shark in its longline fisheries in the high seas. Thailand visualizes the progress made with regard to the reporting of by-catch species.

10. Resolution 12-10 To Promote Implementation Of Conservation And Management Measures Already Adopted By IOTC

This Resolution addresses mainly to the Commission. Thailand fully supports the establishment of a special fund for capacity building in particular for the developing CPCs in order that they are capable to comply with the conservation and management measures adopted by the IOTC and to improve their data collection and analysis.

11. Resolution 12-11 On The Implementation Of A Limitation Of Fishing Capacity Of Contracting Parties And Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties

Thailand already submitted its fisheries development plan. Nonetheless, it found out that plan to develop its fishing operation in the high seas didn't reflect the format elaborated in the Resolution in particular the precise calendar for the forthcoming 10 years.



12. Resolution 12-12 To Prohibit The Use Of Large-Scale Driftnets On The High Seas In The IOTC Area (Including a summary of monitoring, control, and surveillance actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas in the IOTC Area of Competence)

Not applicable. Thailand has only large scale tuna longliners fishing for tropical tunas in the high seas.

13. Resolution 12-13 For The Conservation And Management Of Tropical Tuna Stocks In The IOTC Area Of Competence (Including a summary of VMS records related to their fleet operation in the previous year for the consideration of the Compliance Committee)

Fishing operators were contacted and informed of the Resolution in particular the closure area and periods for longliners. Their fishing operation has been closely monitored via VMSs.

14. Recommendation 12/15 On The Best Available Science

This Resolution addresses mainly to the Commission and the Scientific Committee.

Part B. *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission in previous Sessions, and which have not been reported previously.*

1. With regard to the Resolution 10/04 on a regional observer scheme, due to no experienced and qualified Thai observers available, Thailand seeks capacity building for its officers.
2. Regarding the reduction of incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries, Mook Andaman 018 and Mook Andaman 028, two Thai tuna longliners, are using bird scaring lines.
3. With regard to port state measure, Thailand hold inter-agency meetings to consider how to implement this management measure to combat the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing due to the fact that port monitoring and control is vested in the purview of the Marine Department, Customs Department, not the Department of Fisheries. Thailand proposed to the FAO for the supporting both financially and technically of the implementation on pilot port control in Phuket province.
4. Above all, the Fisheries Act of 1947 has been revised and now is subject to the Parliament's scrutinization for approval. A Chapter on Overseas Fisheries of the Thai fishing vessels beyond national jurisdiction and their management is incorporated.

Part C. Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the *section March 2013 of the Guide on data and information reporting requirements for Members and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties*).

- Resolution 01/06 *Concerning the IOTC bigeye tuna statistical document programme*

CPCs which export bigeye tuna shall examine export data upon receiving the import data from the Secretary, and report the results to the Commission annually.

Thailand has not received any import data from the Secretary.

- Recommendation 05/07 *Concerning a management standard for the tuna fishing vessels*

The CPC flag states which issues licenses to their AFVs should report annually to the Commission all measures taken to meet the minimum management standards when they issue fishing licenses to their “authorised fishing vessels”.

Thailand reported the renewal of its authorization to the two tuna longliners with the information attached.

- Resolution 10/06 *On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries*

CPCs shall provide to the Commission, as part of their annual reports, information on how they are implementing this measure and all available information on interactions with seabirds, including bycatch by fishing vessels carrying their flag or authorised to fish by them. This is to include details of species where available to enable the Scientific Committee to annually estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries within the IOTC Area of Competence.

Thailand informed its activity through the official letter clarifying the investigation of possible infraction of regional observer program with regard to at-sea transshipment of tuna longliners.

- Resolution 10/10 *Concerning market related measures*

For CPCs that import tuna and tuna-like fish products, or in whose ports those products are landed or transhipped, should report, a range of information (e.g. information on vessels / owners, product data (species, weight), point of export) annually.

Thailand reports information on import and re-export of bigeye tuna in the IOTC format twice a year.

- Resolution 11/04 *On a Regional observer scheme*

CPCs shall provide to the Executive Secretary and the Scientific Committee annually a report of the number of vessels monitored and the coverage achieved by gear type in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution.

The rationale has already been specified in Part B.