

IOTC Agreement – Article X

Report of Implementation for the year 2015

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 16 MARCH 2016

Reporting CPC: Maldives

Date of submission: 15/03/2016

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 Nineteenth Session.*

- Resolution 15/11 On the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties.^a

Maldives is in the process of compiling the list of vessels fishing "for tropical tunas during the year 2006" and "for swordfish and albacore during the year 2007". This has been a cumbersome process for the Maldives as a fishing vessel licensing regime was not in place in 2006 or 2007 and a lifetime vessel registration scheme was in place. However a lot of effort has been made to compile the list and this will be communicated to the secretariate shortly.

- Resolution 15/10 On target and limit reference points and a decision framework.

There are no specific measures that has to be implemented by the Maldives to comply to this resolution. However, Maldives has undertaken a lot of work through partners and donors on establishing the basis for this resolution and promoting sound management measures for Skipjack and yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean.

- Resolution 15/09 On a fish aggregating devices (FADs) working group.

This resolution does not have any direct implication for a member country. However, Maldives is ready to take part in the ad-hok working party on FADs once it is established.

- Resolution 15/08 Procedures on fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including a limitation on the number of FADs, more detailed specifications of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species.^a

The logbooks used for all tropical tuna differentiate between catch obtained from open school and aFADs. These data are submitted to IOTC and Scientific Committee as well. As stipulated in the article 18 of the fisheries regulation the deployment of FADs are fully governed by the government and the limitation of FADs are regulated internally.

Drifting FADs are not used in the Maldives at all and all FADs deployed in the Maldives are anchored FADs that do not have an active tracking device on them. Furthermore, purse seining is not allowed in the Maldives and as such there are no further requirements to the Maldives due to this resolution.

- Resolution 15/07 On the use of artificial lights to attract fish to drifting fish aggregating devices.

Drifting FADs are not used in the Maldives at all and all FADs deployed in the Maldives are anchored FADs that do not have an active tracking device on them. Furthermore, purse seining is not allowed in the Maldives and as such there are no further requirements to the Maldives due to this resolution.

- Resolution 15/06 On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, and a recommendation for non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC area of competence.

Purse seining is not allowed in the Maldives and as such there are no further requirements to the Maldives due to this resolution.

- Resolution 15/05 On conservation measures for striped marlin, black marlin and blue marlin.

A billfish fishery emerged in Maldives quite recently. As a result the fishery is very dispersed and highly opportunistic. However, work is now underway to establish a Bill Fish Fishery Management Plan in the Maldives and the requirements of this resolutions will be fulfilled once the Management Plan is in place.

- Resolution 15/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence.^a

Authorised fishing vessels record is send to the IOTC regularly as required by the Resolution. The resolution now requires members to submit IMO numbers when transmitting this information to the secretariat. This information has been collected since 2011 and this is also reported to the IOTC. There has been no exceptional situations in reporting IMO numbers thus far.

Furthermore, changes have been brought to the fishing license format and this has been communicated to the IOTC accordingly.

Reporting on IMO number:

To allow the necessary time for CPCs to obtain an IMO number for eligible vessels that do not already have one, paragraph 2.b on IMO number is effective as of 1 January 2016. As of this date, CPCs shall ensure that all their fishing vessels that are registered



on the IOTC Record of fishing vessels have IMO numbers issued to them. Paragraph 2.b on IMO number does not apply to vessels which are not eligible to receive IMO numbers.

In assessing compliance with the paragraph above, the Commission shall take into account exceptional circumstances in which a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO number despite following the appropriate procedures. **Flag CPCs shall report any such exceptional situations** to the IOTC Secretariat.

The report on exceptional situations has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes **Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):** Click here to enter text
No ; if no report exceptional situations below:

Click here to enter text.

- Resolution 15/03 On the vessel monitoring system (VMS) Programme.^a

All fishing vessels with a valid fishing licenses have to be equipped with a VMS. With FAO's aid, Maldives is undergoing an assesement of the current VMS programme and explore mechanisms to further strengthen MCS. Currently around 20% of the vessels are monitored by VMS. All fishing vessels that fish in the high seas and all vessels engage in longline fishing are currently monitored by VMS.

- Resolution 15/02 On mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contractign Parties (CPCs).

Maldives submits data according to the resolution and the changes in the data requirements have been brought to the logbooks on 19th August 2015 and submitted to IOTC

- Resolution 15/01 On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Maldives logbooks are in compliance with Resolution 15/01 and the latest update version was submitted to IOTC on 19th August 2015.

Note: ^a indicate that a template report exists for some of the requirements and can be downloaded at <http://www.iotc.org/compliance/reporting-templates>



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.*

Maldives are in the process of formulating a new fisheries bill. The fisheries bill is a framework fisheries law which gives powers to include resolutions passed in relevant RFMOs into fisheries regulations.

Part C. Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the section “Implementation Report due by 16 March 2016” of the *Guide on data and information reporting requirements for Members and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties*, available for download at <http://www.iotc.org/compliance/reporting-templates>).

- 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 [A template report exists].

Nil report, specify the reason: No large scale longline vessels on the IOTC RAV
 Do not export frozen big eye tuna

The report has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes **Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):** [Click here to enter text.](#)

No

The report is attached to the implementation report:

Yes

No

Additional information:

The report was received on February 11th by the secretariat. Maldives is currently reviewing the document and will submit the report in due course.

- 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”.

a. Management in the fishing grounds (of flag vessels).

	<i>Scientific Observer boarding</i>	<i>Satellite-based vessel monitoring system</i>	<i>Daily or required periodic catch report</i>	<i>Entry/Exit report</i>
Yes, No?	Yes ✓ No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes ✓ No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes ✓ No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes ✓ No <input type="checkbox"/>
Note	% Click here to enter text.	% or number of vessels 100% of fishing vessels authorised to operate in the high seas and 100% vessels license for longline fishing are	Method Logbooks	Method Monitored by VMS

		installed with VMS. 20% of all license fishing vessels are currently equipped with VMS		
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b. Management of transshipment (from the fishing grounds to the landing ports; of flag vessels)

	Transshipment report	Port inspection	Statistical document program
Yes, No?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Note	Method Fisheries Observer	Method Fisheries Observer/Customs	Implemented

c. Management at landing ports (of flag vessels).

	Landing inspection	Landing reporting	Cooperation with other Parties
Yes, No?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Note	Method No request for landing	Method No request for landing	No request for landing

Additional information:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- 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. *[A template report exists].*

Nil report, specify the reason(s): No landing from foreign vessels in national ports
 No transshipment by foreign vessels in national ports
 Do not import tuna and tuna-like fish products

The report on import, landing or transshipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2015 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes **Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):** [Click here to enter text.](#)
 No

The report on import, landing or transshipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2015 is attached to the implementation report:

Yes

No

Additional information:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- Resolution 11/02 Prohibition of fishing on data buoys

CPCs are to notify the IOTC Secretariat of all reports of observations of damaged data buoys.

✓ Nil Report

The report has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes

Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): [Click here to enter text.](#)

No

The report is attached to the implementation report:

Yes ✓

No

Additional information:

Maldives did not receive any information from fishermen on retrieval of any damaged data buoys. It is also illegal to fish around a data buoys.

- 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.

Type of gear	No of vessels monitored in 2014	Coverage in 2014 (%)
Purse seine	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Longline	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Gillnet	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Bait Boat	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Hand line	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Insert other gear type	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.		
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Additional information:
Click here to enter text.

- Resolution 12/04 On marine turtles

CPCs shall report to the Commission, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, their progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution.

Maldives have included the provisions of bycatch mitigation measures in the longline regulation.

- Resolution 12 /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.

Maldives have included the provisions of bycatch mitigation measures in the longline regulation.

- Resolution 12/12 To Prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC Area

CPCs shall include in their Annual Report a summary of monitoring, control, and surveillance actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas in the IOTC area of competence.

Large scale drift nets are banned in the Maldives

- Resolution 13/04 On the conservation of cetaceans

CPCs shall report, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, any instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.

Not applicable (No PS vessels on the IOTC RAV in 2015);

No encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015,

Encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015 (Complete the table below):

Name of the species	Number of instances of encirclement
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

Additional information:

Click here to enter text.

- Resolution 13/05 On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)

CPCs shall report, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.

Not applicable (No PS vessels on the IOTC RAV in 2015);

No encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015,

Encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015 (Complete the table below):

Name of the species	Number of instances of encirclement
Whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>)	Click here to enter text.

Additional information:

Click here to enter text.

- Resolution 14/05 Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information

For Government to Government access agreement in existence prior to the entry into force of this resolution, where coastal CPCs allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in waters in their EEZ in the IOTC Area for species managed by IOTC through a CPC-to-CPC agreement, CPCs involved in the referred agreement:

- Shall submit copy of the access agreement,
- Shall submit information concerning these agreements (paragraphs 3a, b, c, d, e, f, g),

A report template exists and can be requested at secretariat@iotc.org

Additional information:

Maldives has no access agreements

- Resolution 14/06 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (Report of flag vessels transshipping in foreign ports)

Each flag CPC of the LSTV shall include in its annual report each year to IOTC the details on the transhipments in ports by its vessels (Name of LSTV, IOTC Number, name of carrier vessel, species and quantity transhipped, date and location of transhipment). *[A template report exists].*

Nil report, specify the reason(s): No LSTVs on the RAV
 Flag LSTVs do not tranship in foreign ports

The details on transhipment in ports for 2015 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): 15/01/2016
No

The details on transhipment in ports for 2015 are attached to the implementation report:

Yes No

Additional information:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- Resolution 15/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence.

CPCs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 7, including punitive actions and sanctions and, in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report the results of the review to the Commission annually. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag CPCs of AFVs on the IOTC Record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.

The flag CPCs of the vessels on the record shall:

- take measures to ensure that their AFVs comply with all the relevant IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;
Describe the measures:
Information on IOTC CMMs and relevant local regulations is disseminated to fishermen through various means. MOFA also monitors the vessels through VMS, random spot checks, observer program and at the landing ports to see if they are compliant with the IOTC conservation measures.
- take measures to ensure that their AFVs on the IOTC Record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or tranship;
Describe the measures:
It is mandatory for all vessels to present fishing license at the landing points. Maldives Coast Guard and Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture conducts random spot checks to see if the documents are kept on board the vessels.
- ensure that their AFVs on the IOTC Record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such a history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence

demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels; the parties of the IUU incident have officially resolved the matter and sanctions have been completed; or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their AFVs are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;

Describe the measures:

The relevant documents are always checked and the validity of the documents are also verified by the flag states. If a vessel is suspicious, it is further validated by the secretariat as well.

- ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their AFVs on the IOTC Record are not engaged in or associated with tuna fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the IOTC Record in the IOTC area of competence;

Describe the measures:

All fishing vessels commercially fishing in the Maldives have to have a valid fishing license.

There is an efficient mechanism in place to monitor the landing, transshipments, fish purchase and fish export and this helps to monitor any involvement of unauthorised vessel.

Actions are also taken under the licensing regulation for vessels engage in commercial fishing without having valid authorisation.

- take measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the AFVs on the IOTC Record are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them;

Describe the measures:

Foreigners or foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to operate in the Maldives. Any vessel purchased or brought from abroad has to be deregistered from its previous flag and has to under go local registration process. At the local registration process vessels are also varified through IUU list of IOTC other RFMOs and if necessary contacted the flag country for further verification.