

## **IOTC Agreement – Article X**

### **Report of Implementation for the year 2016**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 17 MARCH 2017**

Reporting CPC: Mauritius

Date of submission: 17/03/17

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

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**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 Twentieth Session.*

- Resolution 16/01 On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin tuna Stock in the IOTC area of competence

Catch reduction measures do not apply to Mauritius since the purse seine catches of yellowfin reported for 2014 were below 5000 MT. The purse seine catch data was corrected which brought the yellowfin catch levels to 4843.7 tonnes. Please find attached the letter that was sent to the Interim Executive Secretary with regard to the new catch levels for 2014.

**The report on methods for achieving the YFT catch reductions has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:**

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

Additional information:

Catch reduction measures do not apply to MRU since YFT catch < 5000t

- Resolution 16/02 On harvest control rules for Skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence. Mauritius agrees to the methodology for the Skipjack harvest control rules as stipulated in RES 16/02.
- Resolution 16/03 On the second performance review follow-up  
 Mauritius wishes to bring its contribution to the technical committee for the preparation of a program of work to improve the functioning of the IOTC and address its deficiencies. Moreover Mauritius will participate in the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee whereby the work plan and the recommendations of the Technical Committee will be reviewed.

- Resolution 16/04 On the implementation of a Pilot project in view of promoting the Regional observer scheme of IOTC

Mauritius will participate in the implementation of the Pilot project in view of promoting the ROP scheme of IOTC.

- Resolution 16/05 On vessels without nationality  
According to Article 34 (4) of FMRA, license is denied to foreign fishing vessels that do not comply with requirements and measures of a regional fisheries management organisation to which Mauritius is a party. Thus vessels which do not comply with requirements of Res 16/05 will not be allowed to fish in the EEZ of Mauritius.

Moreover, according to the NPOA IUU, vessels without nationality are denied port facilities.

- Resolution 16/06 On measures applicable in case of non fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC

*“NOTING that incomplete reporting or no data reporting and that, despite the adoption of numerous measures intended to address the matter, lack of compliance with reporting obligations is still a problem for the Scientific Committee and for the Commission;”*

Actions taken to implement their reporting obligations for all IOTC fisheries (in terms of Resolutions 15/01 and 15/02), including shark species caught in association with IOTC fisheries, and in particular the steps taken to improve their data collection for direct and incidental catches.

*Note: where applicable, please report actions separately for artisanal (coastal), and industrial IOTC fisheries:*

- **Action(s) to improve data collection that facilitate improvements in compliance in terms of IOTC mandatory reporting obligations (e.g. development or improvements in the implementation of logbooks, port-based sampling or related fisheries surveys, national observer scheme, vessel registry, electronic data capture, VMS, or on-board electronic monitoring):**

The official logbook template for longliners and purse seiners has already been submitted to the IOTC on the 22/01/16 and no change has been made to the logbook template. According to Article 51 (2) of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, all fishing vessels have to submit information relating to their catch and effort in the official fishing logbook.

The observers deployed on the purse seiners have been trained accordingly on data collection and sampling under the SWIOFC project.

The landing of the fishing vessels are monitored by the Port State Control officers and at the same time sampling procedures are conducted by fisheries officers.

Enumerators have been posted at different landing stations for the collection of catch data on artisanal fishery. A new logbook has been designed to cater for the recording of incidental bycatch of species such as sharks.

All national flagged vessels and foreign vessels undergo specific procedures established by the licensing unit for the issuance of fishing licences and authorisations. The licensing unit has a record of all the specificities of licensed fishing vessels in the vessel registry which is update on a regular basis. Regular reference are made to the vessel registry to ensure that all licensed vessels have submitted their fishing logbooks.

- **Action(s) to improve data processing and reporting systems that facilitate submission of data to the IOTC Secretariat (e.g., development of fisheries databases and data dissemination systems, development of automated routines to process and extract IOTC data submissions, steps to minimise data entry errors):**

A working session was conducted with the IOTC personnel in October 2016 for a better understanding of the reporting requirement of the IOTC with regard to catch and effort data. The mission also provided a better understanding of the reporting template to allow a precise and correct reporting of data. All catch and effort data are compiled and processed using the excel spreadsheet. After each data entry, there is a process of verification to identify data entry errors. A checklist has been designed by the Marine Resource Division that include all relevant IOTC resolutions and their corresponding submission requirements and deadlines. This checklist along with the Guide to IOTC data reporting requirements for members and Cooperating Parties are consulted on a regular basis to improve data reporting.

- **Action(s) to improve the quality and accuracy of data submitted to the IOTC Secretariat (e.g., steps to improve data validation, improvements in sampling coverage, frame surveys, etc.; coherence of data with alternative fisheries datasets, comparability of data from previous years):**

The landing data and sampling data are compiled and processed for submission to the IOTC. The logbook data were raised using a correcting factor. The landing data are verified against logbook data for consistency. The fishing positions reported in the logbook is checked against the VMS position. The catch and effort data on the logbooks are also verified using observer data and landing data. Mauritius makes use of all the reporting templates recommended by the IOTC for the submission of data and information. There is regular communication between Mauritius and the Secretariat to assist queries with regard to data processing, validation and submission. All sampling procedures are made accordingly to meet the sampling coverage specified in the Resolution 15/02 (at least one fish per tonne caught by species).

Additional information:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- Resolution 16/07 On the use of artificial lights to attract fish

The use of artificial lights for fishing is prohibited in the Article 18(1) of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act (FMRA).

- Resolution 16/08 On the prohibition of the use of aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles as fishing aids

The owners and operators of national flagged vessels have been informed about the prohibition on the use of aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles as fishing aids.

- Resolution 16/09 On establishing a Technical Committee on Management Procedures  
Mauritius wishes to bring its contribution to the establishment of a Technical Committee on Management Procedures that will address the following:

- Improvement of the decision making response of the Commission in relation to management measures, including recommendations made by the Scientific Committee;

- Improvement of communication and understanding between the Scientific Committee and the Commission on matters relating to management procedures; and

- Assist the Commission to obtain and promote the effective use of scientific resources and information.

- Resolution 16/10 To promote implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures

Mauritius is agreeable to the requirements of Resolution 16/10. New or revised CMMs are being prepared annually and the titles are submitted to the IOTC Secretariat. Henceforth, the titles of the new or revised CMMs will be accompanied by the Contracting Party sponsorship and a focal point for the proposals submitted.

- Resolution 16/11 On Port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Only vessels that are listed in the positive list of RFMOs are allowed entry in port. All vessels are required to filled the AREP prior to entry in port. After verification of the documents submitted by

the agents, the Port State Control Unit allows entry in port if the vessels are complying to all international and national regulations. Vessels who are suspected to have been used in contravention of international fishery and management measures are denied entry in port. The computerised communication system (ePSM) is being implemented since September 2016. All Port State Control officers are being trained to allow the full utilisation of the e-PSM application thereby facilitating compliance with Resolution 16/11. Moreover, The Port State Control Unit is encouraging all vessels' representatives to utilise the e PSM application.

Mauritius has ratified the FAO Port State Measures and Agreement (FAO-PSMA) on 31 August 2015. Mauritius is also implementing all the measures mentioned in its NPOA IUU.

Two training sessions were conducted on 'Landing and Transhipment in Port' in the course of October and December 2016 with participants from Kenya, South Africa and Mauritius. The training sessions were organised by the IOTC Secretariat.

- Resolution 16/12 Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM)

Mauritius needs to increase its technical capacity to understand and implement conservation and management measures and therefore is willing to participate in the WPICMM.

Note: <sup>a</sup> 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.*

The recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence is being done regularly based on the requirements of Resolution 15/01. The logbooks template submitted in January 2016 is still being used by the masters of licensed vessels.

The present FDP is being reviewed to accommodate vessels in the upcoming years that were not introduced in the past according to the plan.

The Fisheries and Marine Resources Act has been reviewed to integrate the CMMs of the IOTC and is expected to come into force in the near future.

The terms and conditions of the 'Authorisation to Fish' (ATF) and fishing license have been reviewed to integrate resolutions 16/07 and 16/08 adopted by the Commission in 2016.

**Part C.** Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the section “Implementation Report due by 17 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:  
[Click here to enter text.](#)

- 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>
<b>Yes, No?</b>	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"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Note</b>	% 31	% or number of vessels 100%	Method Fishing logbooks	Method Entry and exit reports are received through electronic mails.

b. Management of transhipment (from the fishing grounds to the landing ports; of flag vessels)

	<b><i>Transhipment report</i></b>	<b><i>Port inspection</i></b>	<b><i>Statistical document program</i></b>
<b>Yes, No?</b>	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"/>
<b>Note</b>	Method Catch transhipped is reported by the vessel owner/agent	Method Port Inspection is usually carried out by the Port State.	All exports involving bigeye tuna and swordfish is accompanied by the IOTC bigeye statistical document and the ICCAT swordfish statistical document respectively.

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

	<b><i>Landing inspection</i></b>	<b><i>Landing reporting</i></b>	<b><i>Cooperation with other Parties</i></b>
<b>Yes, No?</b>	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"/>
<b>Note</b>	Method The port state control officers monitor the catch landed using the IOTC Species Identification Guide for Inspectors.	Method The landing catch is recorded in the IOTC Inspection Report Forms by the port state control officers. Furthermore, the catch details are reported in the fishing logbooks submitted by the vessel prior to landing.	Other parties are contacted on an ad-hoc basis as and when required.

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 2016 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 2016 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:  
All licensed vessels are required to comply with this resolution as mentioned in the licence conditions.

- 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 2015	Coverage in 2015 (%)
Purse seine	2	27
Longline	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
Gillnet	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
Bait Boat	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
Hand line	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>

Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
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Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

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.

Resolution 12/04 has been included in the terms and conditions of fishing licences that are issued to national and foreign vessels. Moreover, no person is allowed to fish any marine turtle as per Article 16 Section 1 (c) of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007. Marine Turtle identification guides have been distributed to fishing operators. National purse seine fishing operators are abiding to section 9 of resolution 12/04. Moreover, the agents of foreign fishing vessels have been informed to sensitise masters of foreign vessels to release turtles in case of incidental catch. Observers deployed on the Mauritius-flagged purse seiners confirmed nil encounter with marine turtles

The FAO Guidelines has been completed and is annexed to the Implementation report.

- 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.

Nil encounter with seabirds have been reported in all the fishing logbooks received from the foreign-flagged and Mauritius-flagged licensed vessels for 2016. Furthermore, no Mauritius-flagged vessel operates in the zone of 25 degrees in the South Latitude explaining the nil encounter with seabirds. Nevertheless, the respective agents and masters of national flagged vessels are sensitised on the mitigation measures as stipulated in Resolution 12/06 and they have also been provided with ‘Seabirds Identification cards’.

- 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.

Fishing with driftnet is prohibited according to Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007- Article 12 (d).

- 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 2016);**

**No encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2016,**

**Encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2016 (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:

Sections 16 (c) and 17 (1) (d) of the Fisheries and Marine resources Act 2007 prohibits the fishing, landing and selling of any marine mammal. Moreover, compliance with Resolution 13/04 is mandatory as per the licence conditions and the terms and conditions of the Certificate of Authorisation.

- 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 2016);**

**No encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2016,**

**Encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2016 (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:

Compliance with the requirements of Resolution 13/05 is mandatory in the license conditions issued by Mauritius

- 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](mailto:secretariat@iotc.org)*

Additional information:

There has been no changes in the Government to Government access agreements in the course of the year 2016 . The existing agreements between:

- the Government of Mauritius and Seychelles; and
- The Government of Mauritius and the EU have already been submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in February 2015.

- 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 transshipments 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 2016 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:**

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

**The details on transhipment in ports for 2016 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:

The terms and conditions of the Fishing Authorisation and licences have been amended to make it mandatory for operators to comply with the following resolutions for Mauritius-flagged purse seiners and longliners:

Purse seiners: 05/05, 11/02, 12/04, 12/09, 13/04, 13/05, 13/06, 14/02, 14/06, 15/01, 15/04, 15/06, 15/08, 16/07 and 16/08.

Longliners: 05/05, 11/02, 12/04, 12/06, 12/09, 13/04, 13/05, 13/06, 14/02, 14/06, 15/01, 15/04, 16/07 and 16/08

The terms and conditions are legally binding according to Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Article 37

- 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 stipulated as a licence condition that " licence shall be kept on board at all times".

Furthermore, no vessels licensed by Mauritius are allowed to tranship in the high seas as per the license conditions. As per the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Section 39, a vessel can only tranship if a valid authorisation is obtained from the Ministry.

- 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 Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Section 44 and 45 denies the registration of a vessel if the vessel has been used in contravention of international fishery conservation and management measures inside the EEZ and on the high seas, or of fishery conservation measures in the EEZ of any State. Furthermore, Section 44 provides for the refusal of the registration of any vessel that has not operated in compliance with international fishery conservation and management measures.

- 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:

Section 36 (1) of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007 provides that no Mauritius-flagged fishing vessel is authorised to undertake fishing or any related activity in the maritime zones and on the high seas, except under a licence. Furthermore, Section 36 (6d) highlights that no licence shall be issued to any Mauritius-flagged vessel in case there is suspicion of non-compliance with international fishery conservation and management measures.

- 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:

As per the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Section 43 (a-d) stipulates that "a fishing boat shall qualify for registration as a Mauritian fishing boat where it is wholly owned by :

- a) the State of Mauritius; or
- b) one or more persons who are citizens of Mauritius
- c) a statutory corporate corporation in Mauritius; or
- d) a body corporate, a company or other association incorporated in Mauritius or established under the laws of Mauritius and having a place of business in Mauritius."

- Resolution 15/08 Procedures on a 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

From 2015 on, CPCs shall submit to the Commission, 60 days before the Annual Meeting, a report on the progress of the management plans of FADs, including reviews of the initially submitted Management Plans, and including reviews of the application of the principles set out in Annex III.

**Not applicable (No PS vessels on the IOTC RAV in 2016);**

**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 is attached to the implementation report.