

IOTC-2017-CoC14-11 [E]

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS RELEVANT TO THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 15 APRIL 2017

PURPOSE

To provide the Compliance Committee with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the intersessional period, in relation to the recommendations for actions by the Chair of the Compliance Committee and the Secretariat.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the Commission endorsed eight (8) RECOMMENDATIONS, from the Compliance Committee, for action by the Chair of the Compliance Committee and the Secretariat. These actions and their implementation in the intersessional period are detailed below.

DISCUSSION (*OF PREVIOUS REQUESTS*)

1) Review of reference fishing capacity and fleet development plans (FDP)

CoC13.03 (Para 30) The CoC NOTED the importance of the fleet of Taiwan Province of China operating in the IOTC Area of competence, and **RECOMMENDED** that, in the future, information on that fleet is provided in the document dealing with capacity limitations.

Progress of Implementation: This information is now provided in document *IOTC-2017-CoC14-06*.

2) National reports on the progress of implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (Article X.2 IOTC Agreement)

CoC13.04 (Para 35) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that those CPCs (Belize, Eritrea, Guinea, India, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Yemen, Bangladesh and Djibouti) who have not submitted their national 'Reports of Implementation' for 2015 do so within 30 days after the end of the Commission meeting. The Chair of the CoC, with the assistance of the IOTC Secretariat shall follow-up with each such CPC to ensure a national 'Reports of Implementation' is submitted for publication on the IOTC website and to inform CPCs during the Commission meeting and then also via an IOTC Circular once each report is received.

Progress of Implementation: Letters were sent out on 19th September 2016 to Belize, Eritrea, Guinea, India, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Yemen, Bangladesh and Djibouti. None of the above-mentioned nine CPCs have submitted their outstanding Reports of Implementation.

3) Follow-up on individual compliance status

CoC13.05 (Para 49) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission agree to the development and distribution of letters of feedback by the IOTC Chair, highlighting areas of non-compliance to relevant CPCs, together with the difficulties and challenges being faced. The development of follow-up actions on the issues contained in the letters of feedback, including potential capacity building activities to address these matters, particularly for developing coastal States' needs to be developed and funded appropriately.

Progress of Implementation: Letters were sent out on 16th June 2016 to the CPCs. The Secretariat has conducted several capacity building activities in 2016 to assist CPCs to improve their compliance status to IOTC Resolutions. Information on the compliance support missions conducted in the last intersessional period is available in document *IOTC-2017-CoC14-09*.

4) Review of additional information related to IUU fishing activities in the IOTC area of competence

CoC13.06 (Para 54) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that Thailand should keep CPCs informed of progress of the legal actions being taken against these vessels and report back to the Commission via the IOTC Secretariat when the cases have been concluded. The IOTC Secretariat shall notify the Commission via Circulars following receipt of the reports from Thailand.

Progress of Implementation: A reminder was sent to Thailand on 31st January 2017. Thailand provided a response the 17th February 2017: "Department of Fisheries of Thailand would like to report on the progress of legal actions against of six vessels, "CERIBU, MOOK ANDAMAN 018, MOOK ANDAMAN 028, YULONG 6, YU LONG 125 and HUNG CHI FU 68" were still in the process of the court". This information is further provided in document *IOTC-2017-CoC14-08a*.

CoC13.07 (Para 56) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that Thailand should continue to keep CPCs informed of progress of Thailand's investigation and report back to the Commission via the IOTC Secretariat, the findings of the investigations, within 90 days of the end of the 20th Session of the Commission and every three month. The IOTC Secretariat shall, notify the Commission via a Circular following the receipt of the report from Thailand, of the findings of the investigations.

Progress of Implementation: Thailand provided two responses, which were made available to CPCs via IOTC Circular 2016-070 and IOTC Circular 2017-033 - Communication from Thailand on the litigation of the Thai fishing vessel, JIN SHYANG YIH 668. This information is also provided in document *IOTC-2017-CoC14-08a*.

5) Identification of repeated possible infringements under the Regional observer programme

CoC13.08 (Para 68) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that India, which has not submitted any response to the possible infractions of IOTC regulations, identified under the Programme, investigate and report back to the Commission via the IOTC Secretariat, the findings of their investigations, within three (3) months of the end of the 20th Session of the Commission, by submitting reports on the follow-up on the irregularities identified. In order to assist with the comprehensive evaluation of any alleged infringement, copies of the logbooks, VMS plots, licenses and any other relevant documents should be provided by India, as necessary. The IOTC Secretariat shall, at the end of the three (3) months, notify the Commission via a Circular, of the response provided.

Progress of Implementation: No information has been provided by India and consequently there was no information for the IOTC Secretariat to notify to the Commission.

6) Summary report on the IOTC record of authorised vessels

CoC13.09 (Para 74) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that the issues raised in paper IOTC-2016-CoC13-10 be considered in the context of one of the Recommendation of the first IOTC Performance Review Panel, which called for the development of a harmonised MCS system for the IOTC.

Progress of Implementation: A review of existing IOTC MCS measures will be conducted in 2017/18 with extra-budgetary funds.

7) Review of drifting FAD management plans – Resolution 15/08

CoC13.19 (Para 107) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that those CPCs whose DFAD Management Plans does not meet the standard set out in the guideline in Annex 1 of Resolution 15/08, to submit a revised DFAD Management Plan during the 2016/17 intersessional period.

Progress of Implementation: Three CPCs provided a revised DFAD Management Plans during the last intersessional period: the European Union (France, Italy and Spain), Japan and Korea (Republic of). An assessment of the newly submitted plans are provided in document *IOTC-2017-CoC14-10*.

8) Activities by the IOTC Secretariat in support of capacity building for developing CPCs – Resolution 12/10

CoC13.24 (Para 125) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that the IOTC Secretariat continue with those capacity building activities and strengthen activities that would allow CPCs to address the issue of mandatory statistics and the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme.

Progress of Implementation: The IOTC Secretariat has conducted several capacity building activities in 2016 to assist CPCs to improve their compliance status to IOTC Resolutions. Information on the compliance support missions conducted in the last intersessional period is available in *document IOTC-2017-CoC14-09*.