

IOTC Agreement – Article X

Report of Implementation for the year 2016

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 17 MARCH 2017

Reporting CPC: SYC

Date of submission: 03/04/2017

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 Twentieth Session.*

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

Seychelles submitted a letter to the IOTC secretariat, requesting that the IOTC reconsider the base year that would be applicable to the Seychelles' Purse seine fleet as 2015 rather than 2014 due to an increase in the number of registered purse seine vessels from 11 in 2014 to 13 in 2015. Following near real time monitoring of tuna catches during the first quarter of 2017, the Ministry for Fisheries and Agriculture consulted with relevant stakeholders, and took the decision to reduce by 20% the number of days spent at sea by supply vessels using 2015 and 2016 as the reference year.

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:

Seychelles will communicate to the IOTC Secretariate further details regarding the 20% effort reduction measure for supply vessels.

- Resolution 16/02 On harvest control rules for Skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence.
Seychelles has supported this process for developing alternative approaches to identifying biomass limit reference point for Skipjack Tuna, and will continue to support this process through active participations and contributions in the relevant IOTC forums.
- Resolution 16/03 On the second performance review follow-up
Seychelles has actively participated and contributed to the IOTC performance review process and was represented on the review panel. Seychelles endorses the recommendations of the panel report and will continue to support this process through the various relevant forums.

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

Seychelles has since 2012 been implementing a National Observer Programme on its Tuna Purse seine fleet and have been collaborating with other relevant partners such as IRD, AZTI, SWIOFC, IOC-SMARTFISH. Seychelles has always promote the concept of Regional Observer Scheme and support such initiative. Seychelles therefore fully welcomes this initiative for the implementation of a pilot project to enhance the implementation of resolution 11/04 and to raise the level of Compliance of CPC's.

- Resolution 16/05 On vessels without nationality

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- 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):**

In 2016 Seychelles introduced new logbooks for the purse seine, supply and longline fleets fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence. The new logbook is designed to improve data collection for the purse seine and supply vessels particularly in regards to interaction with DFADs (type of set, type of FADs). In regards to the longline fleet, new fields have been added to the logbook to report sharks catches in disaggregated form and record other interaction with bycatch species particularly seabirds and marine turtles. Those information will be available for the reporting of 2017 data. Seychelles has also reviewed it



sampling protocol (size frequency data collection) for its longline fleets to ensure a greater coverage. Implementation of the new protocol, will be initiated in early 2017.

Since 2012 Seychelles has been implementing a scientific observer programme covering the tuna purse seine fleet. The first phase of implementation (2012-2014) focused on capacity building (observers and observer logistic coordinators as well as acquisition of equipments). Phase 2, which was initiated in quarter 4 of 2014 was the at sea deployment of observers. In 2016 the programmes focussed mainly on data management (collection, compilation, validation analysis and dissemination). All outstanding reports are being compiled and will be submitted to the IOTC secretariat during 2017.

- **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):**

Seychelles is working on new data management systems to improve the processing of:

(i) Longline data - given that the current data management software (FINNS), is becoming obsolete, Seychelles urgently need to develop a new data processing software

(ii) Observer data - Seychelles is working together with IRD to further develop the OBSERVE database to manage observer data. The database will include routines that will automatically extract observer reports in the IOTC specified format. This will allow prompt dissemination of Observer report.

(iii) Catch Assessment Survey - Seychelles is working in collaboration with IFREMER to review the Catch Assessment Survey use for the collection of data for the domestic fishery. Greater emphasis will be placed on monitoring of sport fishing activities which target tuna and tunalike species as well as bycatch of such species taken by the demersal fishery. A new software for data capture and processing will be developed to facilitate data management and dissemination of reports.

- **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 actions mentioned above will also help in improving the quality and accuracy of data submitted to the IOTC Secretariat.

Additional information:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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

All operators of purse seiners and supply vessels have been informed of their obligations in regard to resolution 16/07 which is also referred to on their Certificate of Authorization. Fisheries Act, Part VII Clause 77 . (1), (y), makes provision for the domestication of relevant IOTC resolutions into national legislation.

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

All operators of purse seiners and supply vessels have been informed of their obligations in regard to IOTC resolution 16/07 which is also referred to on their Certificate of Authorization. Fisheries Act, Part VII Clause 77 . (1), (y), makes provision for the domestication of IOTC resolution into national legislation.

- Resolution 16/09 On establishing a Technical Committee on Management Procedures
Not applicable

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

Seychelles will be collaborating with other CPCs with common interests to draft proposals for CMMs to be submitted to the upcoming 21st session of the Commission. This action is being supported by the World Bank SWIOFISH 1 project.

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

Since 2016 Seychelles has been using the e-PSM application to upload information regarding port calls.

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

Seychelles support this initiative and believe that such a working group will greatly assist CPC's to improve their compliance to IOTC CMMs. Seychelles will actively participate in this forum and share our expertise with other CPCs.

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.*

No new actions undertaken for the period under review.

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):** 30/03/2016
 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>
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"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Note	% 50	% or number of vessels 100	Method Electronic	Method Electronic

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

	<i>Transshipment report</i>	<i>Port inspection</i>	<i>Statistical document program</i>
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	Method	Electronic

	Hard copy / Electronic	Hard copy	
--	------------------------	-----------	--

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

	<i>Landing inspection</i>	<i>Landing reporting</i>	<i>Cooperation with other Parties</i>
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 Port Sampling	Method Paper reporting	Click here to enter text.

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 transhipment by foreign vessels in national ports
 Do not import tuna and tuna-like fish products

The report on import, landing or transhipment 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): 26/03/2016
 No

The report on import, landing or transhipment 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.

X 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:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- 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	10	73
Longline	0	0
Gillnet	N/A	N/A
Bait Boat	N/A	N/A
Hand line	0	0
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.

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.

Under the current fisheries legislation (Fisheries Act. 2014), it is illegal to fish, catch or kill green and hawksbill turtle. The Authority has notified vessels owners and operators of this resolution and the proposed mitigation practices as well as the steps to be undertaken in case of incidental capture. Modification of logbook for reporting interactions with marine turtles has been implemented. Reference to this resolution has also been incorporated in licence condition on the Certificate of Authorization.

- 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.

The Authority notified owners and operators of the industrial longline fleet regarding sea birds hotspots zones, and they have been advised to avoid operating in such zones. However, if they do operate south of 25°S they are to use the mitigation measures recommended by the IOTC resolution 12/06, i.e. Night setting with minimum deck lighting, Bird-scaring lines (Tori lines) and Line weighting. In 2016 logbook has been ammended so that interactions with seabirds can be reported. A NPOA sea bird will be developed during 2017.

- 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.

No large sclase driftnets were observed during Monitoring and Surviellance missions.

- 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:

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 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:

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:

Click here to enter text.

- 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 transshipment). *[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 transshipment in ports for 2016 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes X

Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): 28/03/2016

No

The details on transshipment 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:
All relevant measures are listed on the Certificate of Authorization and vessels owners are also informed of their compliance requirements.
- 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:
Upon issuance of the Certificate of Authorisation, vessels owners are notified of this requirement. Our enforcement officers verify adherence to this requirement while conducting at sea inspection. Verifications are also undertaken by observers.
- 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 Authorities carry due diligence prior to the registration of any fishing vessel to ensure that vessels engaged in IUU activities are not registered on IOTC record. Provision is made under the current fisheries legislation (Fisheries Act. 2014), Part III - Licensing Requirements . Sub Part 3 Fishing Vessel Licence or Permit. Clause 17, (f) and (g).



- 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:

The necessary due diligence is undertaken by the relevant Authority (s)

- 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:

Provision is made under the current fisheries legislation (Fisheries Act. 2014), Part VI - Offences Clause 62, (1), (2) and (3).

- 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 for the year 2016 has not been submitted to the Secretariat. The Authority will do the utmost to submit the report the soonest.