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Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien

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OBSERVER PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT and OBSERVER LOGISTICAL COORDINATION WORKSHOP



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IOTC ROS fishing gear-specific observer guidelines

IOTC ROS OLC TR6.02

Category: Preparation of the Observer for
deployment, Briefing and Reporting

[IOTC ROS OLC TR6]



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INTRODUCTION

Fishing gear-specific observer guidelines, inclusive of standard operation procedures (SOPs) have been developed by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission for the Regional Observer Scheme.

These include:

- **Guidelines for Observers on Pelagic Longliners**
- **Guidelines for Observers on Tuna Purse-seiners**
- **Guidelines for Observers on Pelagic drift gill-netters**
- **Guidelines for Observers on Pole and line vessels**



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IOTC ROS observer guidelines

IOTC ROS fishing gear-specific observer guidelines, include information on:

- **Observer conduct on-board**
- **General instructions to observers**
- **SOPs to follow on-board vessels**
- **Sampling priorities**
- **Sampling strategies**
- **Instructions for the filling of IOTC data forms**



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OBSERVER CONDUCT

- **OBSERVER CREW RELATIONS**
- **CONDUCT ON-BOARD**
- **DATA CONFIDENTIALITY**
- **DATA ACCURACY**



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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **FORM EDITION**
- **FORM FILLING**
- **USAGE OF NOTEBOOK / DIARY**
- **TASKS TO ACCOMPLISH AT THE END OF THE DAY**
- **TASKS TO ACCOMPLISH AT THE END OF THE TRIP**
- **COMPLETING DRAFT TRIP REPORT**
- **TIMELY REPORTING**
- **DEBRIEFING**



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SOPs TO FOLLOW

- **PRIOR TO BOARDING**
- **AT BOARDING**
- **UPON EMBARKATION**
- **DURING THE COURSE OF THE TRIP**
- **PRIOR TO DISEMBARKING**
- **UPON DISEMBARKING**



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SAMPLING PRIORITIES

1. **DISCARDS / REJECTIONS OF TARGET SPECIES**
2. **SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST**
3. **BYCATCH SPECIES**
4. **RETAINED TARGET CATCH**



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SAMPLING STRATEGIES

Sampling methods for obtaining total catch estimates by species

1. EXHAUSTIVE SAMPLING
2. RANDOM SAMPLING
3. SYSTEMATIC PROPORTIONAL SAMPLING
4. EXHAUSTIVE WHEN PRESENT



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FORM FILLING INSTRUCTIONS

- **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS** (*headers, UTC time and date, measuring lengths, recording weights*)
- **FORM 1: VESSEL AND TRIP INFORMATION**
- **FORM 2: GEAR**
- **FORM 3: FISHING EVENT (SET)**
- **FORM 4: CATCH DETAILS**
- **FORM 5: BIOMETRIC INFORMATION**
- **FORM 6: BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING**
- **FORM 7: VESSEL OFFLOADING / TRANSHIPMENT**
- **FORM 8: DAILY ACTIVITY LOG** (*PURSE-SEINE & POLE AND LINE*)



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION



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