

Report of Implementation for the year 2012

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 7 MARCH 2013

Reporting CPC: UNION OF COMOROS

Date: 25/02/2013

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 sixteenth Session.*

1. Resolution 12-01 On The Implementation Of The Precautionary Approach

None

2. Resolution 12-02 Data Confidentiality Policy And Procedures

None

3. Resolution 12-03 On The Recording Of Catch And Effort By Fishing Vessels In The IOTC Area Of Competence

As our fisheries are exclusively artisanal, a regulation is being drafted that will make it mandatory for motorised boats to submit a catch declaration to the Statistics Unit of the Directorate General for Fisheries Resources.

With the help of the IOTC and the OFCF, we have implemented a statistical data collection and processing system for artisanal fisheries.

4. Resolution 12-04 On The Conservation Of Marine Turtles (Including in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, their progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution)

The Comorian Law prohibits the poaching of sea turtles and any perpetrator is liable to a sentence of imprisonment and a fine.

5. Resolution 12-05 On Establishing A Programme For Transshipment By Large-Scale Fishing Vessels

N/A

6. Resolution 12-06 On Reducing The Incidental Bycatch Of Seabirds In Longline Fisheries

In force in July 2014

7. Resolution 12-07 Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information

The list of vessels has been submitted to IOTC.

a) Fishing agreement between the Union of Comoros and the European Union

b) From January 2010 to December 2013

c) - 45 tuna fishing vessels

- 25 surface longliners

- the details for these vessels are included in the list sent to IOTC

d) Target species: tuna and tuna-like species

e) Reference tonnage: 4850 metric tons

f) - all the vessels must be monitored, amongst others, by the satellite-based monitoring system in place at the National Fisheries Control and Surveillance Center

- all vessels authorized to fish in Comorian waters according to the agreement have on-board observers designated by the Comorian Fisheries Authorities

g) - All authorized vessels must declare their catch to the Ministry of Fisheries through the use of logbooks, with copies sent to the relevant scientific institutions (IRD, IEO, IPIMAR).

- all vessels must declare their entry in and exit from the Comoros EEZ.

8. Resolution 12-08 Procedures On A Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) Management Plan

N/A

9. Resolution 12-09 On The Conservation Of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) Caught In Association With Fisheries In The IOTC Area Of Competence

The government has prohibited the fishing of Thresher sharks under penalty of a fine.

10. Resolution 12-10 To Promote Implementation Of Conservation And Management Measures Already Adopted By IOTC

With the assistance of IOTC, we have implemented a data collection and processing system.

11. Resolution 12-11 On The Implementation Of A Limitation Of Fishing Capacity Of Contracting Parties And Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties

We are not yet ready to submit a fleet development plan, but we still intend to do so when we will be able to.

12. Resolution 12-12 To Prohibit The Use Of Large-Scale Driftnets On The High Seas In The IOTC Area (Including a summary of monitoring, control, and surveillance actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas in the IOTC Area of Competence)

N/A

13. Resolution 12-13 For The Conservation And Management Of Tropical Tuna Stocks In The IOTC Area Of Competence (Including a summary of VMS records related to their fleet operation in the previous year for the consideration of the Compliance Committee)

N/A

14. Recommendation 12/15 On The Best Available Science

We participate to the meetings of the Scientific Committee and have an ongoing collaboration with the Secretariat to improve the statistical data of the Union of Comoros.

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.*

Prohibition of Thresher shark fishing.

Part C. Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the *section March 2013 of the Guide on data and information reporting requirements for Members and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties*).

- 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.

N/A

- 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”.

N/A

- Resolution 10/06 *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.

No catch recorded.

- 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.

N/A

- 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.

We have trained seven observers, but since there is no industrial fishing at the national level, they are currently inactive.