

## **Report of Implementation for the year 2012**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 7 MARCH 2013**

Reporting CPC: Sri Lanka

Date: 06/03/2013

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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 sixteenth Session.*

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

*To ensure the sustainability of tuna and tuna-like species for food security, livelihoods, economic development, multispecies interactions and environmental impacts Sri Lanka agree to implement the precautionary approaches adopted due consideration of the advised given by the scientific committee and adopted by the Commission.*

*Existing Fisheries Act is being amended and Regulation on high seas fisheries operations has been drafted in a way that all Conservation and management measures to be implemented under the provisions of the amended Fisheries Act for High Seas fishing which is to be enacted shortly. Copy of the documents already provided to IOTC (annex I- No.1,2,9,10) )*

2. Resolution 12-02 Data Confidentiality Policy And Procedures

*The procedures will be followed by Sri Lanka and Such procedures will be regularised whenever necessary under the provisions of amended fisheries Act for High Seas fishing which is to be enacted shortly.*

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

*Log books have been printed in the year 2011 for the use of in year 2012 and 2013. Since Sri Lanka has already invested on printing of Log Books up to year 2013 the new log book template given in this resolution will come in to operate from year 2014. However until such a period species wise data collection of shark and other varieties is being carried out by port sampling and to be reported to IOTC before 31st of March 2013.*

*Sri Lanka initiated catch data reporting on Log books in year 2012. The collected data sheets revealed that the data recording by the fishermen were not up to the standard due to poor understanding and the literacy level. Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources conducted many awareness programs on log book data entry to streamline the system. (AnnexIV)*

*The data collection system has been upgraded with the assistance of IOTC/OFCF project. The 2% coverage of data collection has been increased to 10% by assigning 25 DFAR officials for data collection in addition to the 9 NARA(National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency) data collectors. A new data collection format which was designed under the consultation of IOTC data officer has been introduced to cover the species given in this resolution (annex II-A, II-B )*

*A new log book is being drafted according to the instructions given in this resolution and will be implemented from year 2014. It was cumbersome task to accommodate all the required species in a page of log book. However with the help of the instructions given by the IOTC data officer on statistics we managed to prepare the draft and it is not yet finalized.*

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)

*Out of the six species of turtles reported in the IOTC area five species are found in Sri Lanka .*

*Marine turtles are legally protected under Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance of 1937 and the Fisheries Ordinance of 1940, with severe sanctions. In addition catching of marine turtles is prohibited under the Fishing Operations regulation 1996 of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No.2 1996 . (Annex I- No.07, Annex III). Sri Lanka has signed the CITES agreement which prohibit the member nations preventing the trading of turtles and their parts and products. Further the sanctions have been increased on catching of any prohibited species of fish under the provisions of the amended Act to be implemented. Due to this legal base incidentally caught turtles are released by the fishermen.*

*There is a separate box in the existing log book to report Marine turtle if incidentally caught by a fishing gear. Awareness programmes are being conducted for the fishers on releasing of turtles incidentally caught and the reporting of such releasing. (AnnexV)*

*The species identification guide provided by IOTC is distributed to facilitate the identification of species of turtle. All long line operators are being instructed to use the line cutters and de-hookers on board to release the turtles hooked. Awareness programme on releasing of turtles entangled in nets and hooked in lines is being conducted by DFAR (AnnexIV). Posters were prepared and displayed in Fisheries offices and the harbours on releasing of incidentally caught turtles (Annex VI). Sri Lanka is not issuing operation license for trawling. The usual type of hook used in lining is J shape.*

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

*Sri Lanka do not have Large Scale Tuna Longline Vessels (LSTLV) which is engaged in transshipments at sea.*

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

*Sri lanka do not issue fishing licence to foreign vessels to operate in the IOTC area of competence under Sri Lankan Flag.*

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

*No purse seines and bait boats operating on FADs.*

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

*Catching, retaining onboard, transship, and sale of Thresher shark (Family Alopiidae) has been banned under the Prohibition of Catching Thresher Regulation gazetted on July 2012. This has been informed to IOTC by providing a copy of the regulation. Awareness programs are being conducted on the banning of thresher sharks and recording of the incidental catches and prompt release in an unharmed condition. The summary of the number of programs conducted annexed.(AnnexIV) Further actions have taken to display posters and distribute leaflets among fishermen . News on the prohibition of thresher shark has been published in local news papers.*

*(AnnexVII- A, VII- B) Investigations are being conducted at field level to detect the violations. The sanction on violations has been increased up to Rupees 50,000 under the provisions of the Amended Act for High Seas Fishing which is to be enacted.*

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

*No active Large Scale Tuna Longline vessels are in Sri Lanka for deployment of observer onboard, However if such vessels to be operated in future this will be implemented and therefore training on onboard observer is highly appreciated.*

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

*Sri Lanka submitted FDP in March 2011 for the first time and the origin of the vessels and the target species were missing in that report. The revised plan was submitted on February 2013 with the target species and the origin. The base for the number of vessels in the FDP is the six year Fisheries Development Plan of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Development (2010-2016).*

*Verified capacity for fleet targeting tropical tunas in 2006 reported as 1001 vessels.*

*No separate fleet for sward fish fishery in Sri Lanka. A small percentage of sward fish catches are being reported in the long line. As such small percentage of vessels(4%) is allocated for Sward fish in the revised FDP of 2013. Albacore is not reported in the catches of Sri Lankan fleet.*

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)

*Regulation on high seas fisheries operations has been drafted under the provisions of the amended fisheries Act for High Seas fishing. Until those regulations are gazzeted and implemented Sri Lanka administratively carried out issuance of operations license for High Seas fishing by including the ban of drift net >2.5km as a condition. Conditions for the High Seas fisheries has already submitted to IOTC. Separate regulation for banning of Drift net >2.5km is being drafted and will be noted to IOTC once the regulation is passed.*

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)

*Development of a Vessel Monitoring System for Sri Lankan vessels in the area of IOTC, outside the Sri Lankan Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is in process. Government procurement procedure has been adopted for establishment a state of the art Satellite based Vessel Monitoring system in accordance with IOTC resolution 06/03 started since September 2010. A company has been selected as prospective VMS solution provider to establish the system and expected to finalize the approvals under the procurement procedure. Sri Lanka has reported time to time in the reports submitted to IOTC on the implementation status of the VMS but not in the provided template by the IOTC. As per the awareness made by the IOTC staff of compliance during their assistance mission to Sri Lanka the progress report of the implementation of VMS is already submitted to IOTC and the receipt confirmed.*

*DFAR has already undertaken to meet the pre requirements for the establishment of the VMS system. Improvements have been made to Fisheries Monitoring Stations with required facilities. Required Budgetary allocations have been made in the 2013 Budget in this regard. Multiday boats owners and crew have been made aware of this requirement number of awareness programs have been conducted and the summary report is annexed (annexIV) However the position reporting is*



*being implemented at regular time intervals through the GPS and SSBradio until the VMS is implemented.*

*Installation of a Transponder has been made mandatory in multiday fishing boats going for high sea fishing by Gazette Notification of November 2011. Since it does not cover all legal requirements of VMS a new regulation is being drafted and once the regulation is gazetted this will noted to IOTC.*

*Implementation of area closure for long lines in monthh of February in the given coordinations of this resolution is implemented administratively by informing all the stakeholders, 45 days in advance to the closure and reported to IOTC. Position reporting is being implemented at regular time periods through the GPS and SSBradio until the VMS is implemented. Record of such reporting is annexed (Annex VIII). Sri Lanka do not operate purse seines and therefore the area closure in November is not applicable*

#### 14. Recommendation 12/15 On The Best Available Science

*In accordance with the crieterias given in the resolution Sri Lanka may take actions to facilitate the participation of the Scientific Committee and its Working Parties and other scientific bodies the the scientists with suitable scientific qualifications to improve communication, data collection and submission, support research programe and training of scientific research , to make use of the best available science for conservation and management of tuna and tuna- like species in IOTC area of competence.*

**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.*

#### Authorized Vessels (07/02)

Authorized vessels list to operate in the IOTC area has been submitted. Previously the IRCS is not a legal requirement for fishing operations. The IRCS has been made compulsory under the recently amended Act for High Seas fishing which is to be passed in the Parliament (The Document is provided to IOTC). At present this is being implemented administratively and the IRCS is being issued by Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka with effect from 10/12/2012. Sri Lanka already reported the IRCS of the vessels those obtain them during last two months and will report the remaining vessels on monthly basis in accordance with the issuance of them.

All documents on board, vessels inspected (licence, permit Authorization to fish and fishing log book (01/02) has been made mandatory under the conditions of the High Seas operations licence to be issued under the provisions of the amended Act. (At present this is being implemented administratively) This address the issues of all IUU fishing activities due to the severe sanctions imposed by the amended Act for High seas fishing.

Issue of fishing licenses for high sea fishing under an administrative arrangements till New Legal regime is in force. (Annex I- No.1,2,9,10 )

Inspection of fishing boats going for high sea fishing is done by the Navy officers , Fisheries officers and Fishery harbour managers before departure and after arrival. check points have been established in each fisheries harbours to inspect the departing and arriving fishing vessel engaged in High Seas fishing.

All vessels are marked.This has been in place in the National legislation (1980) and according to FAO standard from 2006.(Copy of the regulation submitted to IOTC)

Installation of a Transponder has been made mandatory in multiday fishing boats going for high sea fishing by Gazette Notification of November 2011. Since it does not cover all legal requirements of VMS a new regulation is being drafted and once the regulation gazette this will be noted to IOTC. ( Annex I-4)

Regulation on high seas fisheries operations has been drafted under the provisions of the amended fisheries Act for High Seas fishing. However Sri Lanka administratively carried out issuance of operations license for High Seas fishing by including the ban of drift net >2.5 km as a condition. Conditions for the High Seas fisheries is already submitted to IOTC.

List of legal documents in the annex (I) has already been submitted to IOTC and the receipt has been confirmed.

**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.

Bigeye tuna statistical document programme(01/06, 03/03)

A system is in place at the customs to monitor import, export and export of BET by allocationg a separate HS code to the item. However there is no proper implementation due to non declaration of BET separately from total tuna. Statistical unit of MFARD is corresponding with the Department of customs to rectify the situation, A copy of the correspondance is annexed (Annex IX)

Bigeye tuna exports

Sri Lanka engaged BET exports. The annual report is prepared and to be submitted before 31st March 2013. The quantity BET exported from Sri Lanka in year 2012 was 83,304 kgs.

Bigeye tuna imports and re-exports

A system to monitor import and export is under consideration

- 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”.

Deployment of scientific observers on-board

All active vessels are small scale fishing vessels around 10- 15m in length. It is practically impossible to deploy onboard observers due to lack of onboard facilities . However the data collection is carried out based on the port sampling to comply resolutions on the mandatory data collection.

Vessel Monitoring System

The current status of Sri Lanka is previously addressed. A separate regulation will be issued meeting all the requirements of the resolution 06/03 once the amended Act for High Seas fishing is enacted. In that regulation VMS will become mandatory for High Seas fishing.

Port Inspection

Sri Lanka has ratified the FAO Port State Measures Resolution and facilitate landing of fish in designated fishing ports of Sri Lanka. The designated ports (02), the 24hrs minimum in advance port call and the competent authority for implementation of PSM is reported to IOTC. Port inspectors are

been appointed and the port inspections are being carried out with effect from 2012. Language barrier was the main constraint in the conduction of the inspection properly. This has been solved by taking the assistance of a translator and the port inspection reports will be submitted to the IOTC from year 2013. However the landing vessel data is submitted to IOTC in the Form 05, before 31st March.

Big eye tuna statistical document program (01/06, 03/03)

This has been addressed on the above under Res.(01/06)

Management at the landing Ports

Sri Lanka submit the data on foreign vessels landing fish in the designated port in the form 5 of IOTC. Catch data is submitted in aggregated form previously and the Species wise data collection is started from year 2013 using the format given by IOTC.

- 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.

Sea bird catches are not reported in Sri Lanka due to the nature of the fishing and the gear used and depending on the distribution of seabirds in the region.

- 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.

Sri Lanka submit the data on foreign vessels landing fish in the designated port in the form 5 of IOTC. Species wise data collection is started from year 2013 using the template provided.

- 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.

Sri Lanka provide this information to the IOTC and the Scientific Committee based on the port sampling. Data collection system and the coverage has been improved by increasing the data collection carder, training of them and facilitating access to the landing sites with the financial and technical assistance of IOTC/OFCF provided in 2012. On board observer programme is impractical due to the small size of the vessels.