

Report of Implementation for the year 2012

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 7 MARCH 2013

Reporting CPC: VANUATU

Date: MARCH 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

No specific actions taken since falling under the competence of the Commission.

2. Resolution 12-02 Data Confidentiality Policy And Procedures

No specific actions required.

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

In 2012, only 2 Vanuatu fishing vessels of less than 24 meters did operate in the IOTC Area as reported in the 2012 Vanuatu Record of Active vessels submitted to the Secretariat on March 7th 2013. All catch and effort data have been supplied. In 2012, the Vanuatu logsheets were not amended to reflect the decision made under Res 12.03. However, Vanuatu did submit all the Vanuatu vessels (2) Logsheets to the Secretariat on 10 March 2013 for information purposes.

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)

Neither the Logbooks nor the periodic reports made by the Vanuatu Fishing vessels indicated any turtle interaction. Vessels Masters were made aware of the need to comply with Res 10.04 and the FAO Guidelines. The 2 Vanuatu fishing vessels active in 2012 were long liners and did comply with Para 8 (a) & (c) of the Resolution. No Research were carried out.

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

The 2 Vanuatu Long liners that did operate in the IOTC Zone in 2012 did not make any at sea or in port transshipments.

All Vanuatu carrier vessels that did operate in the IOTC Zone in 2012 i.e. 8 carriers did comply fully with Res 12.05. Transshipment Annual report was submitted to the IOTC Secretariat on March 11th 2013.

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

Vanuatu does not have Government to Government Access Agreement.

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

Vanuatu does not have vessels fishing on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

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

No Thresher Sharks were targeted by Vanuatu Vesselss. Incidental catches of Thresher sharks were reported to be discarded.

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

Vanuatu does not intend to make contribution to this fund but recognize the need for such fund to be established. Besides, once available, Vanuatu would surely request technical cooperation with the view to improve the implementation of IOTC Resolutions.

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

A Fleet Development Plan was provided by Vanuatu in the past but did not comply fully with Res 09/02 replaced by Res 12/11. A complying Fleet Development Plan is submitted along with this Implementation Report.

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)

Vanuatu Fishing Vessels are only authorized to use longline fishing gear. The use of Driftnets is banned under Part 7 of the Vanuatu Fisheries Act.

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)

The 2 Active Vanuatu fishing Vessels that did operate in the IOTC Zone in 2012 joined Vanuatu Flag on March 26th 2012 only. The 2 vessels did therefore comply with the Closure requirement. A summary of VMS records related to the Vanuatu fleet operation in the previous year cannot be provided and is not required.

14. Recommendation 12/15 On The Best Available Science

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.*

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.

The IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document were dully validated by a government official of the Republic of Vanuatu as the flag State of the vessels that harvested the tuna as required under Res 01/06. However

At the time of completion of this report, Vanuatu has not been able to examine export data since the import data from June to December 2012 have not been published by the Secretariat. Therefore, no results can be provied to the Commission as required under para 6 of Res 01/06.

- 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”.

The annual report of implementation of the IOTC management standard for AFVs has been provided to the Secretariat.

- 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.

The Vanuatu Long Liners active in the IOTC Zone in 2012 did use the following mitigation measures:

Night setting with minimum deck lighting

Bird-scaring lines (Tori Lines)

Offal discharge control

No available information on interactions with seabirds

- 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.

Vanuatu did have 2 active fishing vessels in the IOTC Zone in 2012. However, due to the limited amount of vessels present in the zone and the intention of these 2 vessels to leave the IOTC Area in 2013 (No Vanuatu active vessels currently in the IOTC Zone), Vanuatu Administration decided not to implement Res 11/04.