



**MANDATORY STATISTICAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC MEMBERS AND COOPERATING NON-
CONTRACTING PARTIES (CPC'S)**

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Explanatory Memorandum

Despite the existing IOTC mandatory reporting requirements, bycatch data remain largely unreported by CPCs. The information on retained catches and discards of sharks contained in the IOTC database remains very incomplete for most fleets despite their mandatory reporting status, and that catch-and-effort as well as size data are essential to assess the status of shark stocks. In this context the Scientific Committee recommends that all CPCs collect and report catches of sharks (including historical data), catch-and-effort and biological data on sharks, as per IOTC Resolutions, so that more detailed analysis can be undertaken for the next WPEB meeting.

There is extensive literature available on pelagic shark fisheries and interactions with fisheries targeting tuna and tuna-like species, in countries having fisheries for sharks, and in the databases of governmental or non-governmental organisations, there is a need for a major data mining exercise in order to compile data from as many sources as possible and attempt to rebuild historical catch series of the most commonly caught shark species. In this regard, the Scientific Committee points out that the Resolution 10/02 *mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC's)*, makes provision for data to be reported to the IOTC on —*the most commonly caught shark species and, where possible, to the less common shark species*l, without giving any list defining the most common and less common species, and recognising the general lack of shark data being recorded and reported to the IOTC Secretariat.

The Scientific Committee recommended therefore that Resolution 10/02 is revised in order to include the list of most commonly caught elasmobranch species for which nominal catch data shall be reported as part of the statistical requirement for IOTC CPCs.

Moreover, taking into account the Scientific Committee's concern on the lack of data from CPC on marine turtles and seabirds that undermines the IOTC capacity to assess their status and capacity to respond and manage adverse effects of IOTC fisheries on these animals, it is also recommended to further report data on marine turtles and seabirds.

Furthermore, Resolution 10/02 should be revised to take into account the proposal of the EU, if adopted, to introduce detailed specifications of catch reporting from FAD sets in the suggested Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans set out in Resolution 12/08.

RESOLUTION [13/XX10/02](#)

MANDATORY STATISTICAL [REPORTING](#) REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC MEMBERS AND COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES (CPC'S)

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

GIVEN that the Agreement for the implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) encourages coastal States and fishing States on the high seas to collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, inter alia, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort.

NOTING that the United Nations Food and ~~Agricultural~~ [Agriculture](#) Organisation (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing provides that States should compile fishery-related and other supporting scientific data relating to fish stocks covered by subregional or regional fisheries management organizations and provide them in a timely manner to the organization.

RECALLING the commitment made by members under Article V of the IOTC Agreement to keep under review the conditions and trends of the stocks and to gather, analyse and disseminate scientific information, catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation and management of the stocks and to fisheries based on the stocks covered by the Agreement.

COGNISANT that the above commitment can only be achieved when members meet the requirements of Article XI of the IOTC Agreement i.e. to provide statistical and other data and information to minimum specifications and in a timely manner.

ACKNOWLEDGING that the IOTC Scientific Committee has repeatedly stressed the importance of the timeliness of data submissions.

GIVEN that the activities of supply vessels and the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet.

~~[CONSIDERING the provisions set forth in Resolution 08/01 on mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting parties \(CPCs\), adopted by the Commission in 2008;](#)~~

[CONSIDERING the provisions set forth in Resolution 10/02 on mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting parties \(CPCs\), adopted by the Commission in 2010;](#)

[NOTING the Scientific Committee's concern that the lack of data from CPC fisheries under the mandate of the IOTC on the mortality of marine turtles undermines the ability to estimate levels of turtle by-catch and consequently the IOTC's capacity to respond and manage adverse effects of fishing on marine turtles;](#)

[FURTHER NOTING the Scientific Committee's concern about the impossibility to undertake assessments on the status of seabirds in the Indian Ocean, while acknowledging that some species are currently critically endangered, and concern about the lack of reporting of seabird interactions by CPCs that seriously undermines the ability of IOTC to respond and manage adverse effects of fishing on seabirds;](#)

CONSIDERING the deliberations of the 12th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee held in Victoria, Seychelles from 30 November to 4 December 2009;

[CONSIDERING the recommendations of the 15th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee held in Mahé, Seychelles from 13–15 December 2012;](#)

FURTHER CONSIDERING the call upon States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements included in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/79 on sustainable fisheries to collect the necessary data in order to evaluate and closely monitor the use of large-scale fish aggregating devices and others, as appropriate, and their effects on tuna resources and tuna behaviour and associated and dependent species, to improve management procedures to monitor the number, type and use of such devices and to mitigate possible negative effects on the ecosystem, including on juveniles and the incidental by-catch of non-target species, particularly sharks and turtles;

ADOPTS, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, paragraph 1 of the IOTC Agreement, the following:

1. CPC's shall provide the following information to the IOTC Secretariat according to the timelines specified in paragraph 6 :

2. **Nominal catch data:**

Estimates of the total annual catch by species and gear for all species under the IOTC mandate- as well as the most commonly caught elasmobranch species as defined in Annex I or according to Resolution 12/03¹, and marine turtles and seabirds.

3. **Catch and effort data:**

a) **For surface fisheries:** catch weight by species and fishing effort shall be provided by 1° grid area and month strata. Purse seine fishery data shall be stratified by fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects). The data shall be extrapolated to the total national monthly catches for each gear. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely.

b) **Longline fisheries:** catch by species, in numbers or weight, and effort as the number of hooks deployed shall be provided by 5° grid area and month strata. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely. For the work of relevant working parties under the IOTC Scientific Committee, longline data should be of a resolution of 1° grid area and month or finer. These data would be for the exclusive use of IOTC scientists, subject to the approval of the data owners and IOTC Resolution 98/02 *Data confidentiality policy and procedures*, and should be provided for scientific use in a timely fashion.

c) **For coastal fisheries:** available catch by species, fishing gear and fishing effort shall be submitted frequently and may be provided using an alternative geographical area if it better represents the fishery concerned.

These provisions, applicable to tuna and tuna-like species, shall also be applicable to the most commonly caught shark species as defined in Annex I or according to Resolution 12/03² and, where possible, to the less common shark species. CPC's are also encouraged to record and provide data on species other than sharks and tunas taken as bycatch, notably on marine turtles and seabirds.

4. **Size data:**

Size data shall be provided for all gears and for all species covered by the IOTC mandate according to the guidelines set out by the IOTC Scientific Committee. Size sampling shall be run under strict and well described random sampling schemes which are necessary to provide unbiased figures of the sizes taken. Sampling coverage shall be set to at least one fish measured by ton caught, by species and type of fishery, with samples being representative of all the periods and areas fished. Alternatively, size data for longline fleets may be provided as part of the Regional Observer Scheme where such fleets have at least 5% observer coverage of all fishing operations. Length data by species, including the total number of fish measured, shall be submitted by a 5° grid area by month, by gear and fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects for the purse seiners). Documents covering sampling and raising procedures shall also be provided, by species and type of fishery.

¹ Optional species in the logbooks remain optional in this Resolution

² Optional species in the logbooks remain optional in this Resolution

5. Given that the activities of supply vessels and the use of **Fish Aggregating Devices** (FAD) are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet, the following data shall be provided:
- a) The number and characteristics of supply vessels: (i) operating under their flag, (ii) assisting purse seine vessels operating under their flag, or (iii) licensed to operate in their exclusive economic zones, and that have been present in the IOTC Area.
 - b) Number of days at sea by supply vessels by 1° grid area and month to be reported by the flag state of the supply vessel.
 - c) The total number and type of FADs set by the supply vessel and purse seine fleet per quarter, as well as the positions, dates, FAD identifier, FAD type and FAD design characteristics (consistent with Annex I to Resolution 13/xx) [reference to the Resolution superseding Resolution 12/08]. Types of FADs are defined as 1) drifting log or debris, 2) drifting raft or fad with a net, 3) drifting raft or fad without a net, 4) other (e.g. Payao, dead animal etc). All types monitored by a tracking system.

These data would be for the exclusive use of IOTC scientists, subject to the approval of the data owners and Resolution 9812/02 Data confidentiality policy and procedures, and should be provided in a timely fashion.

6. **Timeliness of data submission to the IOTC Secretariat:**

- a) Longline fleets operating in the high seas shall provide provisional data for the previous year no later than 30 June. Final data shall be submitted no later than 30 December.
- b) All other fleets (including supply vessels) shall submit their final data for the previous year no later than 30 June.
- c) In case where the final statistics cannot be submitted by that date, at least preliminary statistics should be provided. Beyond a delay of two years, all revisions of historical data should be formally reported and duly justified. These reports should be made on forms provided by the Secretariat and reviewed by the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee will advise the Secretariat if revisions are then accepted for scientific use.

7. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 0810/01-02 on *Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting parties (CPCs)*.

ANNEX ILIST OF THE MOST COMMONLY CAUGHT ELASMOBRANCH SPECIES

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Code</u>
<u>Manta and devil rays</u>	<u>Mobulidae</u>	<u>MAN</u>
<u>Whale shark</u>	<u><i>Rhincodon typus</i></u>	<u>RHN</u>
<u>Thresher sharks</u>	<u><i>Alopias spp.</i></u>	<u>THR</u>
<u>Mako sharks</u>	<u><i>Isurus spp.</i></u>	<u>MAK</u>
<u>Silky shark</u>	<u><i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i></u>	<u>FAL</u>
<u>Oceanic whitetip shark</u>	<u><i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i></u>	<u>OCS</u>
<u>Blue shark</u>	<u><i>Prionace glauca</i></u>	<u>BSH</u>
<u>Hammerhead shark</u>	<u>Sphyrnidae</u>	<u>SPY</u>
<u>Other Sharks and rays</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>SKH</u>