

17 May 2013

IOTC CIRCULAR 2013-49

Dear Sir/Madam,

SUBJECT: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE IOTC AT ITS SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

I have the honour to transmit to you the texts of eleven (11) Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission at its 17th regular Session, held in Mauritius from 6–10 May, 2013.

Pursuant to Article IX.4 of the IOTC Agreement, these Conservation and Management Measures shall become binding on Members, 120 days from the date of this notification, i.e. 14 September 2013.

- Resolution 13/01 *On the removal of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures*
- Resolution 13/02 *Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 13/03 *On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 13/04 *On the conservation of cetaceans*
- Resolution 13/05 *On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)*
- Resolution 13/06 *On a scientific and management framework on the Conservation of sharks species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries*
- Resolution 13/07 *Concerning a record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC area of competence and access agreement information*
- Resolution 13/08 *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including more detailed specification of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species*
- Resolution 13/09 *On the conservation of albacore caught in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 13/10 *On interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework*
- Resolution 13/11 *On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna and non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC area of competence*

The texts of the Conservation and Management Measures adopted are attached herewith.

I wish to take this opportunity to advise you that the Report of the Seventeenth Session, including the adopted Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), is currently being reviewed for adoption by Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties in attendance at the meeting, and that the final CMMs adopted will be circulated shortly after the report has been adopted by correspondence.

Yours sincerely



Rondolph Payet
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Conservation and Management Measures adopted in 2013

Distribution

IOTC Members: Australia, Belize, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom (OT), Vanuatu, Yemen.

Cooperating non-Contracting Parties: Senegal, South Africa.

Chairperson IOTC

Copy to: FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs

This message has been transmitted by email only

RESOLUTION 13/01
ON THE REMOVAL OF OBSOLETE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNIZING the desirability of improving the coherence, interpretation and accessibility of its Conservation and Management Measures;

NOTING the concerns raised by some CPCs during the Fifteenth Session of the Commission that many coastal states are not yet able to fully implement many of the Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission;

ALSO NOTING the intent of Resolution 11/01 *Regarding consolidation of IOTC Resolutions and recommendations*;

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

1. The following Recommendations previously adopted by the Commission shall be revoked since they are considered to have been fulfilled or are obsolete, as they have been replaced without being superseded or are no longer relevant to the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean:
 - 1) Recommendation 01/01 *Concerning the national observer programmes for tuna fishing in the Indian Ocean*
 - 2) Recommendation 02/06 *On the implementation of the Resolution concerning the IOTC Record of Vessels*
 - 3) Recommendation 03/04 *Concerning enhancement of effectiveness of IOTC measures to eliminate IUU activities in the IOTC area*
 - 4) Recommendation 03/05 *Concerning trade measures*
 - 5) Recommendation 03/06 *Recommendation to commission a report on management options for tuna and tuna-like species*
 - 6) Recommendation 05/06 *Concerning the terms of references for an IOTC Working Party on Management Options*
2. This Resolution supersedes the Recommendations detailed in paragraph 1.

RESOLUTION 13/02
CONCERNING THE IOTC RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO OPERATE IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECALLING that IOTC has been taking various measures to prevent, deter and eliminate the IUU fisheries conducted by large-scale tuna fishing vessels;

FURTHER RECALLING that IOTC adopted the Resolution 01/06 *Concerning the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme* at its 2001 meeting;

FURTHER RECALLING that IOTC adopted the Resolution 01/02 *Relating to Control of Fishing Activities* at its 2001 meeting;

NOTING that large-scale fishing vessels are highly mobile and easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, and have high potential to operate in the IOTC area of competence without timely registration with the Commission;

RECALLING that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action aiming to prevent, to deter and to eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IPOA), that this plan stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and in particular to establish records of vessels authorized and records of vessels engaged in IUU fishing;

RECALLING that the IOTC Record of Active Vessels was established by the Commission on 1 July 2003, via Resolution 02/05 *Concerning the establishment of an IOTC record of vessels authorized to operate in the IOTC area of competence*;

RECOGNIZING the need to take further measures to effectively eliminate the IUU large scale tuna fishing vessels;

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

1. The Commission shall maintain an IOTC Record of fishing vessels that are:
 - a) larger than 24 metres in length overall, or
 - b) in case of vessels less than 24 meters, those operating in waters outside the economic exclusive zone of the flag state,and that are authorised to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence (hereinafter referred to as 'authorized fishing vessels', or AFVs). For the purpose of this Resolution, AFVs that are not entered into the Record are deemed not to be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land tuna and tuna-like species.
2. Each Contracting Party, and Cooperating non-Contracting Party (hereinafter referred to as "CPCs") shall submit electronically, where possible, to the Executive Secretary for those vessels referred to 1.a) and for those vessels referred to 1.b), the list of its AFVs that are authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence. This list shall include the following information:
 - a) Name of vessel(s), register number(s);

- b) IMO number (if any)¹;
 - c) Previous name(s) (if any);
 - d) Previous flag(s) (if any);
 - e) Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any);
 - f) International radio call sign(s) (if any);
 - g) Port of Registration;
 - h) Type of vessel(s), length and gross tonnage (GT);
 - i) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s);
 - j) Gear(s) used;
 - k) Time period(s) authorised for fishing and/or transshipping.
3. All CPCs which issue authorisations to fish to their flag vessels to fish for species managed by the IOTC shall submit to the Executive Secretary, by 15 February of 2014, an updated template of the official authorisation to fish outside National Jurisdictions, and update this information whenever this information changes. This information includes:
- a) name of the Competent Authority;
 - b) name and contact of personnel of the Competent Authority;
 - c) signature of the personnel of the Competent Authority;
 - d) official stamp of the Competent Authority.
- The Executive Secretary shall publish the above information in a secure part on the IOTC website for MCS purpose.
4. The template in para 3 shall be used exclusively for monitoring, control and surveillance purposes and a difference between the template and the authorization carried onboard the vessel does not constitute an infraction, but will prompt the controlling State to clarify the issue with the identified Competent Authority of the flag State of the vessel in question.
5. Each CPC shall promptly notify, after the establishment of their initial IOTC Record, the Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the IOTC Record at any time such changes occur.
6. The Executive Secretary shall maintain the IOTC Record, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the Record and through electronic means, including placing it on the IOTC website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
7. The flag CPCs of the vessels on the record shall:
- a) authorise their vessels to operate in the IOTC area of competence only if they are able to fulfill in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the IOTC Agreement and its Conservation and Management Measures;
 - b) take necessary measures to ensure that their AFVs comply with all the relevant IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;

¹ If a vessel currently holds an IMO number, it must be reported in its information. Further, it is expected that all vessels greater than 24 m would be able to provide IMO numbers by 2015.

- c) take necessary measures to ensure that their AFVs on the IOTC Record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or transship;
 - d) ensure that their AFVs on the IOTC Record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, the parties of the IUU incident have officially resolved the matter and sanctions have been completed; or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their AFVs are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;
 - e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their AFVs on the IOTC Record are not engaged in or associated with tuna fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the IOTC Record in the IOTC area of competence;
 - f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the AFVs on the IOTC Record are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.
8. CPCs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 7, including punitive and sanction actions and in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report the results of the review to the Commission annually. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag CPCs of AFVs on the IOTC Record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels to IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.
9. a) CPCs shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing for, the retaining on board, the transshipment and landing of tuna and tuna-like species by the vessels which are not entered into the IOTC Record.
- b) To ensure the effectiveness of the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:
- i. Flag CPCs shall validate statistical documents only for the vessels on the IOTC Record;
 - ii. CPCs shall require that the species covered by Statistical Document Programs caught by AFVs in the IOTC area of competence, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party be accompanied by statistical documents validated for the vessels on the IOTC Record; and
 - iii. CPCs importing species covered by Statistical Document Programs and the flag States of vessels shall co-operate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.
10. Each CPC shall notify the Executive Secretary of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not on the IOTC Record to be engaged in fishing for and/or transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence.
11. a) If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 10 flying the flag of a CPC, the Executive Secretary shall request that Party to take measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence;
- b) If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 10 cannot be determined or is of a non-Contracting Party without cooperating status, the Executive Secretary shall compile and circulate such information to all CPCs, without delay.
12. The Commission and the CPCs concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature in a timely manner so as to avoid adverse effects upon tuna resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU fishing vessels from the Indian Ocean to other oceans.

13. Each Contracting Party and non-Contracting Party Cooperating with the IOTC shall:
- a) Ensure that each of its fishing vessels carry on board documents issued and certified by the competent authority of that Contracting Party or of that non-Contracting Party Cooperating with IOTC, including, at a minimum, the following:
 - i. License, permit or authorisation to fish and terms and conditions attached to the licence, permit of authorisation;
 - ii. Vessel name;
 - iii. Port in which registered and the number(s) under which registered;
 - iv. International call sign;
 - v. Names and addresses of owner(s) and where relevant, the charter;
 - vi. Overall length;
 - vii. Engine power, in KW/horsepower, where appropriate.
 - b) Verify above documents on a regular basis and at least every year;
 - c) Ensure that any modification to the documents and to the information referred to in 1.a) is certified by the competent authority of that Contracting Party or of that non-Contracting Party Co-operating with the IOTC.
14. Each Contracting Party and non-Contracting Party Cooperating with the IOTC shall ensure that its fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC area of competence are marked in such a way that they can be really identified with generally accepted standards such as the FAO Standard Specification for the Marking and Identification of Fishing vessels.
- 15.
- a) Each Contracting Party and non-Contracting Party Cooperating with the IOTC shall ensure that gear used by its fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC area of competence is marked appropriately, such as, the ends of nets, lines and gear in the sea, shall be fitted with flag or radar reflector buoys by day and light buoys by night sufficient to indicate their position and extent.
 - b) Marker buoys and similar objects floating and on the surface, and intended to indicate the location of fixed fishing gear, shall be clearly marked at all time with the letter(s) and/or number(s) of the vessel to which they belong.
 - c) Fish aggregating devices shall be clearly marked at all time with the letter(s) and / or number(s) of the vessel to which they belong.
16. Each Contracting Party and non-Contracting Party Cooperating with the IOTC shall ensure that all their respective fishing vessels greater than 24 m LOA, and authorized to fish in the IOTC area of competence keep a bound fishing national logbook with consecutively numbered pages. The original recordings contained in the fishing logbooks shall be kept on board the fishing for a period of at least 12 months.
17. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 07/02 *Concerning the establishment of an IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area* and Resolution 01/02 *Relating to Control of Fishing Activities*.

RESOLUTION 13/03

ON THE RECORDING OF CATCH AND EFFORT DATA BY FISHING VESSELS IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

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;

CONSIDERING the provisions set forth in Resolution 10/02 *Mandatory Statistical Requirements for IOTC Members and Co-operating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*, and in particular paragraph 3, which sets out the catch and effort reporting requirements for surface fisheries, longline and coastal fisheries;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the IOTC Science Committee has repeatedly stressed the importance of the timeliness and accuracy of data submissions for members;

ALSO RECALLING the outcomes of the 9th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee held in Victoria, Seychelles from 6 to 10 November 2006 where it was agreed that a standardised logbook would be advantageous and agreed on the minimum requirements for all purse seine and bait boat fleets operating in the IOTC area of competence in order to harmonize data gathering and provide a common basis for scientific analysis for all IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs);

FURTHER RECALLING the recommendations adopted by the KOBE II Workshop on Bycatch, held in Brisbane, Australia, 23–25 June 2010; in particular that RFMOs should consider adopting standards for bycatch data collection which, at a minimum, allows the data to contribute to the assessment of bycatch species population status and evaluation of the effectiveness of bycatch measures, and that the data should allow the RFMOs to assess the level of interaction of the fisheries with bycatch species;

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

FURTHER CONSIDERING the deliberations of the 13th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee held in Victoria, Seychelles from 6 to 10 December 2010, that recommended three options, one of which is mandatory reporting of a revised list of shark species in logbooks to improve the data collection and statistics on sharks in the IOTC area of competence;

FURTHER CONSIDERING the deliberations of the 14th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee held in Mahé, Seychelles from 12 to 17 December 2011, that proposed a list of shark species for all gears and recommended minimum recording requirements for handline and trolling gears in the IOTC area of competence;

FURTHER CONSIDERING the works of the small task force created by the IOTC Scientific Committee during its 10th Session held in Seychelles in November 2007, to harmonise the various forms currently used by the fleets and the IOTC Scientific Committee agreement on the minimum standard requirements for all purse seine, longline and gillnet fleets as well as the produced logbook template;

FURTHER 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 bycatch 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. Each flag CPC shall ensure that all purse seine, longline, gillnet, pole and line, handline and trolling fishing vessels flying its flag and authorized to fish species managed by IOTC be subject to a data recording system.
2. The measure shall apply to all purse seine, longline, gillnet, pole and line, handline and trolling fishing vessels over 24 metres length overall and those under 24 metres if they fish outside the EEZs of their flag States within the IOTC area of competence. The data recording systems for developing CPCs vessels less than 24 metres operating within the EEZ of coastal States are subject to Paragraph 11. The vessels of less than 24 metres operating within the EEZ of developed CPCs shall apply this measure.
3. All vessels shall keep a bound paper or electronic logbook to record data that includes, as a minimum requirement, the information and data in the logbook set forth in Annex I, II and III.
4. Each flag CPC shall submit to the Executive Secretary by 15 February 2014 a template of its official logbooks to record data in accordance with Annex I, II and III, for publishing on the IOTC website to facilitate MCS activities. For CPCs that use electronic logbook systems, a copy of the applicable regulations implementing the electronic logbook system in that CPC, a set of screen prints and the name of the certified software may be provided. If changes are made to the template after 15 February 2014, an updated template shall be submitted.
5. Where the logbook is not in one of the two languages of the IOTC, CPCs shall provide a complete field description of the logbook in one of the two languages of the IOTC together with the submission of the sample of the logbook. The Executive Secretary shall publish the sample of the logbook and the field description on the IOTC website.
6. Annex I includes information on vessel, trip and gear configuration for purse seine, longline, gillnet and pole and line, and shall only be completed once for each trip, unless the gear configuration changes during the trip.
7. Annex II contains information for purse seine, longline, gillnet and pole and line operations and catch, which shall be completed for each set/shot/operation of the fishing gear.
8. Annex III contains specifications for handline and trolling gears.
9. The logbook shall be completed by the Master of the fishing vessel and submitted to the flag State administration, as well as to the coastal State administration where the vessel has fished in that coastal State's EEZ. Only the part of the logbook corresponding to the activity deployed in the coastal State EEZ shall be provided to the coastal State administration where the vessel has fished in that coastal State's EEZ.
10. The flag State and the States which receive this information shall provide all the data for any given year to the IOTC Secretariat by June 30th of the following year on an aggregated basis. The confidentiality rules set out in Resolution 12/02 *Data Confidentiality Policy and Procedures* for fine-scale data shall apply.
11. Noting the difficulty in implementing a data recording system on fishing vessels from developing CPCs, the data recording systems for vessels less than 24 metres of developing CPCs operating inside the EEZ shall be implemented progressively by 1 July 2014.
12. The Commission shall consider development of special program to facilitate implementation of this Resolution by developing CPCs. Furthermore, developed and developing CPCs are encouraged to work together to identify opportunities for capacity building to assist the long-term implementation of this Resolution.
13. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 12/03 *On The Recording Of Catch And Effort By Fishing Vessels In The IOTC Area Of Competence*.

ANNEX I
Record once per trip (unless gear configuration changes)

1.1 REPORT INFORMATION

1. Date of the submission of logbook
2. Name of reporting person

1.2 VESSEL INFORMATION

1. Vessel name and/or registration number
2. IMO number, where available
3. IOTC number
4. Call sign: if call sign is not available, other unique identifying code such as fishing licence number should be used
5. Vessel size: gross tonnage and overall length (meters)

1.3 CRUISE INFORMATION

For multiday fishing operations record the:

1. Departure date (at your location) and port
2. Arrival date (at your location) and port

1.4 OTHER REQUIRED INFORMATION

Longline (Gear Configuration):

1. Average branch line length (meters): straight length in meters between snap and hook (**Figure 1**)
2. Average float line length (meters): straight length in meters from the float to the snap
3. Average length between branch (meters): straight length of main line in meters between successive branch lines
4. Main line material classified into four categories:
 - a) Thick rope (Cremona rope)
 - b) Thin rope (Polyethylene or other materials)
 - c) Nylon braided
 - d) Nylon monofilament
5. Branch line material classified into two categories:
 - a) Nylon
 - b) Other (such as wire)

Purse Seine:

(Gear configuration):

1. Length of the purse seine net

2. Height of the purse seine net
3. Total number of FADs deployed per trip: refer to the Resolution 13/08 *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including more detailed specification of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species*

(Search information):

1. Days searched
2. Spotter plane used (Yes/No)
3. Supply vessel used (Yes/No), if yes what is the name and registration number of the supply vessel

Gillnet (Gear Configuration):

1. Overall length of net (metres): record the total overall length of the net onboard
2. Mesh size of net (millimetres): record the size of the mesh size used during the trip
3. Depth of assembled net (meters): height on assembled net in meters
4. Netting material: e.g. nylon braid, nylon monofilament, etc

Pole and line (Gear Configuration):

1. Number of fishermen

ANNEX II
Record once per set/shot/operation

Note: for all gears in this annex use the follow format for date and time

For date: when recording date of the set/shot/operation: record the YYYY/MM/DD

For time: record 24hr time as either the local time, GMT or national time and clearly specify which time has been used.

2.1 OPERATION

For longline:

1. Date of set
2. Position in latitude and longitude: either position at noon or position of start of gear or area code of operation (e.g. Seychelles EEZ, High seas, etc) may be optionally used
3. Time of starting setting the gear
4. Number of hooks between floats: if there are different hooks counts between floats in a single set then record the most representative (average) number
5. Total number of hooks used in the set
6. Number of light-sticks used in the set
7. Type of bait used in the set: e.g. fish, squid, etc
8. Optionally, sea surface temperature at noon with one decimal point (XX.X°C)

For purse seine:

1. Date of set
2. Type of event: **fishing set** or **deployment of a new FAD**
3. Position in latitude and longitude and time of event, or if no event during the day, at noon
4. If fishing set: specify if the set was successful, nil, well; type of school (free swimming school or FAD associated. If FAD associated, specify the type (e.g. log or other natural object, drifting FAD, anchored FAD, etc.). Refer to the Resolution 13/08 *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including more detailed specification of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species*
5. Optionally, sea surface temperature at noon with one decimal point (XX.X°C)

For gillnet:

1. Date of set: record the date for each set of day at sea (for days without sets)
2. Total length of net (meters): length floatline used for each set in meters
3. Start fishing time: record the time when starting each set
4. Start and end position in latitude and longitude: record start and end latitude and longitude that represent the area that your gear is set between or, if no set, record the latitude and longitude at noon for days without sets
5. Depth at which net is set (meters): approximate depth at which the gillnet is set

For Pole and Line:

1. Date of operation: record the day
2. Position in latitude and longitude at noon
3. Number of fishing poles used during that day
4. Start fishing time (record the time immediately after bait fishing is complete and the vessel heads to the ocean for fishing. For multiple days, the time at which search starts should be recorded) and end fishing time (record the time immediately after fishing is complete from the last school). On multiple days this is the time fishing stopped from the last school
5. Type of school: FAD associated and/or free school

2.2 CATCH

1. Catch weight (kg) or number by species per set/shot/fishing event for each of the species and form of processing in section 2.3:
 - a) For longline by number and weight
 - b) For purse seine by weight
 - c) For gillnet by weight
 - d) For pole and line by weight or number

2.3 SPECIES**For Longline:**

Primary Species	FAO code	Other Species	FAO code
Southern bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>)	SBF	Shortbill spearfish (<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>)	SSP
Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	ALB	Blue shark (<i>Prionace glauca</i>)	BSH
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	BET	Mako sharks (<i>Isurus</i> spp.)	MAK
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	YFT	Porbeagle shark (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	POR
Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	SKJ	Hammerhead sharks (<i>Sphyrna</i> spp.)	SPN
Swordfish (<i>Xiphius gladius</i>)	SWO	Other bony fishes	
Striped marlin (<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>)	MLS	Other sharks	SKH
Blue marlin (<i>Makaira nigricans</i>)	BUM	Seabirds (in number) ¹	
Black marlin (<i>Makaira indica</i>)	BLM	Marine Mammals (in number)	
Indo-Pacific sailfish (<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>)	SFA	Marine turtles (in number)	
		Optional species to be recorded	
		Thresher sharks (<i>Alopias</i> spp.)	THR
		Oceanic whitetip shark (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>)	OCS
		Tiger shark (<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>)	TIG

¹ When a CPC is fully implementing the observer program the provision of seabird data is optional

		Crocodile shark (<i>Pseudocarcharias kamoharai</i>)	PSK
		Great white shark (<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>)	WSH
		Mantas and devil rays (<i>Mobulidae</i>)	MAN
		Pelagic stingray (<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>)	PSL
		Other rays	

For Purse Seine:

Primary Species	FAO code	Other species	FAO code
Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	ALB	Marine turtles (in number)	
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	BET	Marine mammals (in number)	
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	YFT	Whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>) (in number)	RHN
Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	SKJ	Optional species to be recorded	FAO code
Other IOTC species		Oceanic whitetip shark (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>)	OCS
		Silky sharks (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>)	FAL
		Thresher sharks (<i>Alopias</i> spp.)	THR
		Mantas and devil rays (<i>Mobulidae</i>)	MAN
		Other sharks	SKH
		Other rays	
		Other bony fish	

For Gillnet:

Primary Species	FAO code	Other Species	FAO code
Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	ALB	Shortbill spearfish (<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>)	SSP
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	BET	Blue shark (<i>Prionace glauca</i>)	BSH
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	YFT	Mako sharks (<i>Isurus</i> spp.)	MAK
Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	SKJ	Porbeagle shark (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	POR
Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>)	LOT	Hammerhead sharks (<i>Sphyrna</i> spp.)	SPN
Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>)	FRI	Other sharks	
Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>)	BLT	Other bony fish	
Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>)	KAW	Marine turtles (in number)	
Narrow barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>)	COM	Marine mammals (in number)	
Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>)	GUT	Whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>) (in number)	RHN

Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	SWO	Seabirds (in number) ²	
Indo-Pacific sailfish (<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>)	SFA	Optional species to be recorded	
Marlins (<i>Tetrapturus</i> spp, <i>Makaira</i> spp.)	BIL	Thresher sharks (<i>Alopias</i> spp.)	THR
Southern bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>)	SBF	Oceanic whitetip shark (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>)	OCS
		Tiger shark (<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>)	TIG
		Crocodile shark (<i>Pseudocarcharias kamoharai</i>)	PSK
		Mantas and devil rays (Mobulidae)	MAN
		Pelagic stingray (<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>)	PSL
		Other rays	

For Pole and Line:

Primary Species	FAO code	Other Species	FAO code
Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	ALB	Other bony fish	
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	BET	Sharks	
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	YFT	Rays	
Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	SKJ	Marine turtles (in number)	
Frigate and bullet tuna (<i>Auxis</i> spp.)	FRZ		
Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>)	KAW		
Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>)	LOT		
Narrow barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>)	COM		
Other IOTC species			

2.4 REMARKS

1. Discard of tuna, tuna-like fish and sharks to be recorded by species in weight (kg) or number for all gears should be recorded in the remarks³
2. Any interactions with whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*), marine mammals, and seabirds should be recorded in the remarks
3. Other information is also written in the remarks

Note: The species included in the logbooks are regarded as minimum requirement. Optionally other frequently caught shark and/or fish species should be added as required across different areas and fisheries.

² When a CPC is fully implementing the observer program the provision of seabird data is optional

³ Recall the Recommendation 10/13 *On the implementation of a ban on discards of skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and non-target species caught by purse seiners*

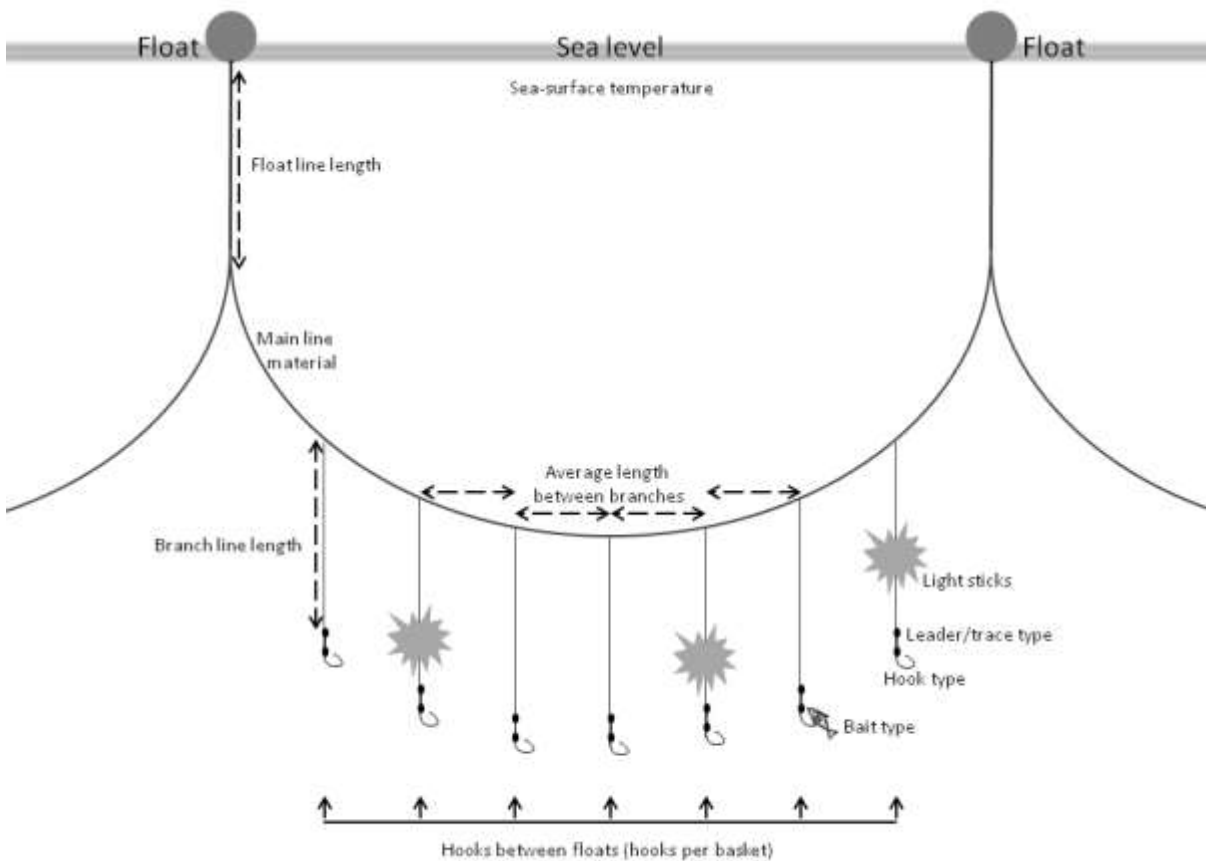


Figure 1. Longline (Gear Configuration): Average branch line length (meters): straight length in meters between snap and hook.

ANNEX III
Specifications for handline and trolling

Note: for all gears in this annex use the follow format for date and time

For date: when recording date of the set/shot/operation: record the YYYY/MM/DD

For time: record 24hr time as either the local time, GMT or national time and clearly specify which time has been used.

I - HANDLINE

All logbook information shall be recorded by day; where more than one fishing event is recorded for the same day, it is advisable to record each fishing event separately

Record once in one cruise, or month where daily operation

1.1 REPORT INFORMATION

1. Fishing day (or Date of submission of the logbook, where multiple fishing days)
2. Name of reporting person

1.2 VESSEL INFORMATION

1. Vessel name and registration number and IMO number, where available
2. IOTC number, where available
3. Fishing License number
4. Vessel size: Gross tonnage and/or length overall (in metres)

1.3 CRUISE INFORMATION

1. Departure date and port
2. Arrival date and port

2.1 OPERATION

1. Date of fishing
Record the date of fishing. Each fishing day should be recorded separately
2. Number of fishermen
Record the number of fishermen on the boat by fishing day
3. Number of Fishing Gear
Record the number of fishing lines used during the fishing day. If the exact number is not available a range may be used i) 5 or less lines, ii) 6–10 lines; iii) 11 or more lines
4. Number and type of school (Anchored or drifting FAD, marine mammal, free, other) fished
Record the number and type of school fished (i.e. anchored FAD, drifting FAD, marine mammal associated or free) fished during the day
5. Position of the catch

Position in latitude and longitude: either position at noon or position of start of gear or area code of operation (e.g. Seychelles EEZ, High seas, etc) may be optionally used. Record the latitude and longitude at noon for non-fishing days, where not in port

Where information is recorded by day, record the 1° x 1° area(s) where fishing took place

6. Bait

Record the type of bait used (e.g. fish, squid), where applicable

2.2 CATCH

Catch in number and/or weight (kg) by species

1. Catch number and/or Weight

For each species shown in section 2.3 caught and retained, record the number and estimated live weight (kg), per fishing day

2. Discard number and/or Weight

For each species shown in section 2.3 caught and not retained record the number and estimated live weight (kg) discarded, per fishing day

2.3 SPECIES

Primary Species	FAO code
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	YFT
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	BET
Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	SKJ
Indo-Pacific sailfish (<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>)	SFA
Black marlin (<i>Makaira indica</i>)	BLM
Other billfish	
Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>)	LOT
Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>)	KAW
Frigate tuna/Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis</i> spp.)	FRZ
Narrow barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>)	COM
Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>)	GUT
Sharks	
Other fishes	
Rays	
Marine turtles (by number)	

2.4 REMARKS

1. Other relevant information is also written in the remarks

Note: These species included in the logbook are regarded as minimum requirement. Optionally other species should be added as species may differ depending on the area fished and type of fishery

II - TROLLING VESSELS

All logbook information shall be recorded by day; where more than one fishing event is recorded for the same day, it is advisable to record each fishing event separately

Record once in one cruise

1.1 REPORT INFORMATION

1. Fishing day (or Date of submission of the logbook, where multiple fishing days)
2. Name of reporting person

1.2 VESSEL INFORMATION

1. Vessel name and registration number and IMO number, where available
2. IOTC number, where available
3. Fishing License number
4. Vessel size: Gross tonnage and/or length overall (in metres)

1.3 CRUISE INFORMATION

1. Departure date and port
2. Arrival date and port

2.1 OPERATION

1. Date of fishing
Record the date of fishing. Each fishing day should be recorded separately
2. Number of fishermen
Record the number of fishermen on the vessel by fishing day
3. Number of Fishing Gear
Record the number of lines used during the fishing day. If the exact number is not available a range may be used i) 3 or less lines, ii) more than 3 lines
4. Number and type of school (Anchored or drifting FAD, marine mammal, free, other) fished
Record the number and type of school fished (i.e. anchored FAD, drifting FAD, marine mammal associated or free) fished during the day
5. Position of the catch
Position in latitude and longitude: either position at noon or position of start of gear or area code of operation (e.g. Seychelles EEZ, High seas, etc) may be optionally used. Record the latitude and longitude at noon for non-fishing days, where not in port
Where information is recorded by day, record the 1° x 1° area(s) where fishing took place
6. Bait
Record the type of bait or indicate if lures are used

2.2 CATCH

Catch in number and/or weight (kg) by species

1. Number and/or Weight of fish retained

For each species shown in section 2–3 caught and retained, record the number or estimated live weight (kg), per fishing day

2. Discard number and/or Weight

For each species shown in section 2–3 caught and not retained record the number and estimated live weight (kg) discarded, per fishing day

2.3 SPECIES

Primary Species	FAO code
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	YFT
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	BET
Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	SKJ
Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	ALB
Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	SWO
Blue marlin (<i>Makaira nigricans</i>)	BUM
Black marlin (<i>Makaira indica</i>)	BLM
Striped marlin (<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>)	MLS
Indo-Pacific sailfish (<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>)	SFA
Other billfish	
Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>)	LOT
Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>)	KAW
Frigate tuna/Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis</i> spp.)	FRZ
Narrow barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>)	COM
Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>)	GUT
Sharks	
Other fishes	
Rays	
Marine turtles	

2.4 REMARKS

1. Other relevant information is also written in the remarks

Note: These species included in the logbook are regarded as minimum requirement. Optionally other species should be added as species may differ depending on the area fished and type of fishery.

RESOLUTION 13/04 ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNISING Resolution 12/01 *On the Implementation of the Precautionary Approach* calls on IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach when managing tuna and tuna-like species in accordance with Article V of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement;

RECOGNISING the ecological and cultural significance of cetaceans in the Indian Ocean;

MINDFUL that cetaceans are particularly vulnerable to exploitation including from fishing;

CONCERNED about the potential impacts of purse seine fishing operations on the sustainability of cetaceans;

NOTING that under Resolution 10/02 *Mandatory Statistical Requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC's)*, paragraph 3: 'CPCs are also encouraged to record and provide data on species other than sharks and tunas taken as bycatch';

CONCERNED by the lack of accurate and complete data collection and reporting to the IOTC Secretariat concerning interactions and mortalities of non-target species with fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence;

FURTHER NOTING that the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB) noted paper IOTC-2011-WPEB07-08 which reviewed the status of the information available on non-target species associated with IOTC fisheries; recommended that data on marine mammal interactions with IOTC fisheries are collected and reported by CPCs to the IOTC Secretariat;

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

1. This measure shall apply to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a CPC and on the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels or authorised to fish tuna and tuna-like species managed by the IOTC on the high seas. The provisions of this measure do not apply to artisanal fisheries operating exclusively in their respective EEZ.
2. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (collectively, CPCs) shall prohibit their flagged vessels from intentionally setting a purse seine net around a cetacean in the IOTC area of competence, if the animal is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.
3. CPCs shall require that, in the event that a cetacean is unintentionally encircled in a purse seine net, the master of the vessels shall:
 - a) take all reasonable steps to ensure the safe release of the cetacean(s), while taking into consideration the safety of the crew. These steps shall include following the best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of cetaceans developed by the IOTC Scientific Committee;
 - b) report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag State, with the following information:
 - i. the species (if known);
 - ii. the number of individuals;
 - iii. a short description of the interaction, including details of how and why the interaction occurred, if possible;
 - iv. the location of the encirclement;
 - v. the steps taken to ensure safe release;

- vi. an assessment of the life status of the animal on release, including whether the cetacean was released alive but subsequently died.
- 4. CPCs using other gear types fishing for tuna and tuna-like species associated with cetaceans shall report all interactions with cetaceans to the relevant authority of the flag State and include all the information outlined in paragraph 3b(i–vi).
- 5. CPCs shall adopt Fish Aggregating Device designs that reduce the incidence of entanglement, according to Annex III of Resolution 13/08 (or any subsequent revision).
- 6. The Commission requests that the Scientific Committee develop best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of encircled cetaceans, taking into account those developed in other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and that these guidelines be submitted to the 2014 Commission meeting for endorsement.
- 7. CPCs shall report the information and data collected under paragraph 3(b) and paragraph 4, through logbooks, or when an observer is onboard through observer programs, and provide to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the following year and according to the timelines specified in Resolution 10/02 (or any subsequent revision).
- 8. CPCs shall report, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, any instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.
- 9. For CPCs having national and state legislation for protecting these species shall be exempt from reporting to IOTC, but are encouraged to provide data for the IOTC Scientific Committee consideration. The Scientific Committee will analyse the situation concerning the availability of data and will advise the Commission to undertake support measures to developing CPCs to overcome this situation.

RESOLUTION 13/05
ON THE CONSERVATION OF WHALE SHARKS (*RHINCODON TYPUS*)

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNISING Resolution 12/01 *On the Implementation of the Precautionary Approach* calls on IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach when managing tuna and tuna-like species in accordance with Article V of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement;

RECOGNISING the ecological and cultural significance of whale sharks in the Indian Ocean;

MINDFUL that whale sharks are particularly vulnerable to exploitation including from fishing;

CONCERNED about the possible impacts of purse seine fishing operations on the sustainability of whale sharks;

ACKNOWLEDGING that under Resolution 10/02 *Mandatory Statistical Requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC's)*, paragraph 3: 'the provisions, applicable to tuna and tuna-like species, shall also be applicable to the most commonly caught shark species and, where possible, to the less common shark species';

CONCERNED by the lack of complete and accurate data reporting concerning fishing activities on non-target species;

NOTING that the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB) noted paper IOTC–2011–WPEB07–08 that reviewed the status of the information available on non-target species associated with IOTC fisheries; recommended that Resolution 10/02 be revised to include whale sharks in a list of the most commonly caught elasmobranch species for which nominal catch data shall be reported as part of the statistical requirements for IOTC CPCs;

FURTHER NOTING that the WPEB noted paper IOTC–2011–WPEB07–08, paragraph 163: 'recommended that the recommendations from the KOBE bycatch technical working group are considered to encourage research and development of best practice with regard to setting nets on whale sharks to determine the impacts of the practice' and that the WPEB also recommended developing best practice methods for extraction of whale sharks from purse seine nets through direct collaboration with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission;

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

1. This measure shall apply to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a CPC and on the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels or authorised to fish for tuna and tuna-like species managed by the IOTC on the high seas. The provisions of this measure do not apply to artisanal fisheries operating exclusively in their respective EEZ.
2. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (collectively, CPCs) shall prohibit their flagged vessels from intentionally setting a purse seine net around a whale shark in the IOTC area of competence, if it is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.
3. CPCs shall require that, in the event that a whale shark is unintentionally encircled in the purse seine net, the master of the vessel shall:
 - a) take all reasonable steps to ensure its safe release, while taking into consideration the safety of the crew. These steps shall follow the best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of whale sharks developed by the IOTC Scientific Committee;
 - b) report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag State, with the following information:
 - i. the number of individuals;

- ii. a short description of the interaction, including details of how and why the interaction occurred, if possible;
 - iii. the location of the encirclement;
 - iv. the steps taken to ensure safe release;
 - v. an assessment of the life status of the animal on release, including whether the whale shark was released alive but subsequently died.
- 4. CPCs using other gear types fishing for tuna and tuna-like species associated with a whale shark shall report all interactions with whale sharks to the relevant authority of the flag State and include all the information outlined in paragraph 3b(i–v).
- 5. CPCs shall adopt Fish Aggregating Device designs that reduce the incidence of entanglement, according to Annex III of Resolution 13/08 (or any subsequent revision).
- 6. The Commission requests that the Scientific Committee develop best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of encircled whale sharks, taking into account those developed in other regional fisheries management organisations including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and that these guidelines be submitted to the 2014 Commission meeting for endorsement.
- 7. CPCs shall report the information and data collected under paragraph 3(b) and paragraph 4 through logbooks, or when an observer is onboard through observer programs, and provide to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the following year and according to the timelines specified in Resolution 10/02 (or any subsequent revision).
- 8. CPCs shall report, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.
- 9. For CPCs having national and state legislation for protecting the species shall be exempt from reporting to IOTC, but are encouraged to provide data for the IOTC Scientific Committee consideration. The Scientific Committee will analyse the situation concerning the availability of data and will advise the Commission to undertake support measures to developing CPCs to overcome this situation.

RESOLUTION 13/06

ON A SCIENTIFIC AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK ON THE CONSERVATION OF SHARK SPECIES CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH IOTC MANAGED FISHERIES

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECALLING IOTC Resolution 05/05 *concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC*;

NOTING that the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB) recognized that full stock assessments on sharks may not be possible because of data limitations and that it is essential that some stock assessment evaluation should be carried out;

Noting that the Scientific Committee advises that maintaining or increasing fishing efforts for certain shark species will probably result in further declines in biomass, productivity and CPUE;

NOTING that the ecological risk assessment (ERA) by fishing gears made by the IOTC Scientific Committee recognises the oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) as vulnerable species in IOTC fisheries;

CONSIDERING that, sharks are caught as either main target or bycatch in the IOTC area of competence and valuable fishery resources for local communities in IOTC area;

CONSIDERING that the number of fishing vessels such as longliners and purse seiners and their fishing efforts are gradually getting to reduce in the IOTC area of competence recently;

RECOGNIZING the need for further improvement of level for sharks data/information submitted by Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (hereafter referred to as CPCs) to IOTC;

RECOGNIZING the significant impact of Conservation and Management Measures of sharks on fishing operations and sharks data/information collected and reported by CPCs;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the need to establish a scientific framework of conservation and management of shark species in IOTC;

BEARING IN MIND that oceanic whitetip sharks can be easily distinguished from other shark species and can therefore be released before they are taken on board of the vessel;

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

1. The Commission shall determine the shark species that are subjected to Conservation and Management Measures, including prohibition to retain on board, tranship, land or store any part or whole carcass according with the Scientific Committees (SC) recommendation or advice.
2. The SC recommendation or advice shall be conducted taking account of:
 - a) full stock assessments on sharks, stock assessment and Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) by fishing gears, using available best scientific data/information;
 - b) trend of fishing effort by fishing gear on each shark species;
 - c) effective Conservation and Management Measures for certain fishing gears with high risk by shark species;

- d) priority in shark species with high risk;
 - e) review of practical implementation of prohibition to retain on board of shark species;
 - f) feasibility of implementation of prohibition to retain on board including identification of shark species;
 - g) impact and bias of Conservation and Management Measures of sharks on fishing operations and sharks data/information collected and reported by CPCs;
 - h) further improvement of level for sharks data/information submitted by CPCs, particularly developing CPCs.
3. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, CPCs shall prohibit, as an interim pilot measure, all fishing vessels flying their flag and on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels, or authorised to fish for tuna or tuna-like species managed by the IOTC on the high seas to retain onboard, tranship, land or store any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks with the exception of paragraph 7. The provisions of this measure do not apply to artisanal fisheries operating exclusively in their respective EEZ for the purpose of local consumption.
 4. CPCs shall require fishing vessels flying their flag and on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels or authorised to fish for tuna and tuna-like species managed by the IOTC on the high seas to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, of oceanic whitetip sharks when brought alongside for taking onboard the vessel. However, CPCs should encourage their fishers to release this species if recognized on the line before bringing them onboard the vessels.
 5. CPCs shall encourage their fishers to record incidental catches as well as live releases of oceanic whitetip sharks. These data shall be kept at the IOTC Secretariat.
 6. CPCs shall, where possible, implement research on oceanic whitetip sharks taken in the IOTC area of competence, in order to identify potential nursery areas. Based on this research, CPCs shall consider other measures, as appropriate.
 7. Scientific observers shall be allowed to collect biological samples (vertebrae, tissues, reproductive tracts, stomachs, skin samples, spiral valves, jaws, whole and skeletonised specimens for taxonomic works and museum collections) from oceanic whitetip sharks taken in the IOTC area of competence that are dead at haulback, provided that the samples are a part of a research project approved by the Scientific Committee (SC)/the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB). In order to obtain the approval, a detailed document outlining the purpose of the work, number of samples intended to be collected and the spatio-temporal distribution of the sampling effect must be included in the proposal. Annual progress of the work and a final report on completion shall be presented to the SC/WPEB.
 8. The CPCs, especially those targeting sharks, shall submit data for sharks, as required by IOTC data reporting procedures.
 9. The provisional measures stipulated in this Resolution shall be evaluated in 2016 by the Scientific Committee to deliver more appropriate advice on the conservation and management of the stocks for the consideration of the Commission.

RESOLUTION 13/07
CONCERNING A RECORD OF LICENSED FOREIGN VESSELS FISHING FOR IOTC SPECIES IN THE IOTC
AREA OF COMPETENCE AND ACCESS AGREEMENT INFORMATION

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNISING that coastal States have sovereign rights in a 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) with respect to their natural resources;

CONCIOUS of the provisions of Article 62 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

NOTING that the information on vessels licensed to fish in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (collectively, CPCs), constitutes a means to identify potential unreported fishing activities;

MINDFUL of the recommendation 17 of the Performance Review Panel, as listed in Resolution 09/01 *on the performance review follow-up*, that the obligation incumbent to a flag State to report data for its vessels be included in a separate Resolution from the obligation incumbent on Members to report data on the vessels of third countries they licence to fish in their EEZs;

AWARE of the data reporting requirements for all CPCs and the importance of complete statistical reporting to the work of the Scientific Community, its Working Parties and the Commission;

MINDFUL of the need to ensure transparency among CPCs, in particular to facilitate joint efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

RECALLING the duties of CPCs concerning IUU fisheries as stated in the Resolution 11/03 *establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the IOTC area of competence*; which requires CPCs to ensure that their vessels do not conduct fishing activities within areas under the national jurisdiction of other States without authorisation and/or infringe the coastal State's laws and resolutions;

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

PRIVATE ACCESS AGREEMENTS:

1. All CPCs which issue licenses to foreign flag vessels to fish in their EEZ for species managed by the IOTC in the IOTC area of competence (hereinafter referred to as “the Area”), shall submit to the Executive Secretary, by 15 February every year, a list of all foreign flag vessels to which such licences have been issued during the previous year.
2. This list shall contain the following information for each vessel:
 - a) IOTC Number;
 - b) Name and registration number;
 - c) IMO number, if any¹;
 - d) The flag at the time of issuing the licence;

¹ If a vessel currently holds an IMO number, it must be reported in its information. Further, it is expected that all vessels greater than 24 m would be able to provide IMO numbers by 2015.

- e) International radio call sign (if any);
- f) Vessel type, length, and gross tonnage (GT);
- g) Name and address of owner, and/or charterer and/or operator;
- h) Main target species; and
- i) Period of licence.

GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT ACCESS AGREEMENTS:

3. In cases where coastal CPCs allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in waters in their EEZ in the IOTC Area for species managed by IOTC through a Government to Government access agreement, CPCs involved in the referred agreement shall submit jointly to the Executive Secretary the information concerning these agreements, including:
 - a) The CPCs involved in the agreement;
 - b) The time period or periods covered by the agreement;
 - c) The number of vessels and gear types authorized;
 - d) The stock or species authorized for harvest, including any applicable catch limits;
 - e) The CPC's quota or catch limit to which the catch will be applied, where applicable;
 - f) Monitoring, control, and surveillance measures required by the flag CPC and coastal CPC involved;
 - g) Data reporting obligations stipulated in the agreement, including those between the parties involved, as well as those regarding information that must be provided to the Commission;
 - h) A copy of the written agreement.
4. For agreements in existence prior to the entry into force of this Resolution, the information specified in paragraph 3 shall be provided, at the least, 60 days in advance of the 2013 Commission meeting.
5. When an access agreement is modified in a manner that changes any of the information specified in paragraph 3, these changes shall be promptly notified to the Executive Secretary.

COMMON PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS AGREEMENTS:

6. The CPCs shall notify the ship owner and flag State concerning foreign flagged fishing vessels that requested a license under a private access agreement or under a government to government access agreement and for which the request of license was denied. If the reason for denial is related to an infringement of IOTC legislation, the Compliance Committee shall address the issue at the next session accordingly.
7. All CPCs which issue licenses to foreign flag vessels to fish in their EEZs for species managed by the IOTC in the IOTC Area, under a private access agreement or under a government to government access agreement, *shall submit to the Executive Secretary within two (2) months of the entry into force of this Resolution a template of the official coastal State fishing License and translated version in one of the official Languages of the IOTC, with:*
 - a) The terms and conditions of coastal State fishing license;
 - b) The name of the Competent Authority;
 - c) The name and contact of personnel of the Competent Authority;
 - d) The signature of the personnel of the Competent Authority;
 - e) The official stamp(s) of the Competent Authority.

The Executive Secretary shall publish the template of the coastal State fishing license and the above information in a secure part of the IOTC website for MCS purposes. The information mentioned in sub-paragraph b) to e) must be provided in the form of the Annex A.

8. When a coastal State fishing license is modified in a manner that changes the template, any of the information provided in it or the information provided in a) to e) of paragraph 7, these changes shall be promptly notified to the Executive Secretary.
9. The Secretariat shall report the information specified in this Resolution annually to the Commission at its annual meeting.
10. This Resolution shall be consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements of the coastal CPC and the flag CPC concerned.
11. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 12/07 *Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information*.

ANNEX A

COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Coastal State Fishing licence

Country:	
Name of the Competent Authority as stated in the Authorisation To Fish (ATF):	
Address of the Competent Authority:	
Name and contact of personnel of the Competent Authority (email, telephone, fax):	
Signature of the personnel of the Competent Authority:	
Government seal used on the fishing licence:	

RESOLUTION 13/08

PROCEDURES ON A FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADS) MANAGEMENT PLAN, INCLUDING MORE DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS OF CATCH REPORTING FROM FAD SETS, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED FAD DESIGNS TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF ENTANGLEMENT OF NON-TARGET SPECIES

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

BEARING IN MIND 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;

MINDFUL of the call upon States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements 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 bycatch of non-target species, particularly sharks and marine turtles;

NOTING that the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (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 organisations and provide them in a timely manner to the organisation;

RECOGNIZING that all gears deployed to target resources under IOTC competence should be managed to ensure sustainability of fishing operations;

AWARE that the Commission is committed to adopt conservation measures to reduce juvenile bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna mortalities from fishing effort on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs);

AWARE that the availability of adequate information is fundamental to carrying out the objectives of the IOTC Agreement laid down in its Article V;

NOTING that the Scientific Committee advised the Commission to conduct an investigation of the feasibility and impacts of a temporary FAD closure as well as other measures in the context of Indian Ocean fisheries and stocks;

RECALLING that Resolution 12/04 established that the Commission at its annual session in 2013 should consider the recommendations of the Scientific Committee as regards the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of marine turtles, including the use of biodegradable materials, together with socio-economic considerations, with a view to adopting further measures to mitigate interactions with marine turtles in fisheries covered by the IOTC Agreement;

NOTING that the Scientific Committee advised the Commission that only non-entangling FADs, both drifting and anchored, should be designed and deployed to prevent the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles and other species;

RECALLING that the objective of the IOTC Agreement is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by the mentioned Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks and minimizing the level of bycatches;

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

1. This Resolution shall apply to CPCs having purse seine vessels and bait boats fishing on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), for the purpose of aggregating tuna target species, in the IOTC area of competence.

2. CPCs having vessels fishing on FADs shall submit, to the Commission, by the end of 2013, Management Plans for the use of FADs by their purse seiners and bait boat vessels. Due to their specificity in terms of users, number deployed, type of boat/vessel involved, fishing method and gear used and materials used in their construction, the Management Plans and Reporting Requirements for Drifting FADs (DFAD) and Anchored FADs (AFAD) shall be addressed separately for the purposes of this Resolution. The Plans shall at a minimum meet the Suggested Guidelines for Preparation for FAD Management Plans by each CPC as provided for DFADs in Annex I and AFADs in Annex II. For the purpose of this Resolution, the term Fish Aggregation Device means drifting (DFAD) or anchored floating or submerged objects (AFAD) deployed for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species.
3. The Management Plans shall be analysed by the Compliance Committee at its 2014 session.
4. Starting in 2015, CPCs shall submit the data elements prescribed in Annex I and II to the Commission, consistent with the IOTC standards for the provision of catch and effort data, and these data shall be made available for analysis to the Scientific Committee on the aggregation level set by Resolution 10/02 (or any subsequent superseding Resolution), and under the confidentiality rules set by Resolution 12/02 (or any subsequent superseding Resolution).
5. All CPCs shall ensure that all fishing vessels as referred to in paragraph 1 shall record fishing activities in association with FADs using the specific data elements found in Annex I (DFAD) and II (AFAD) in the section of the “FAD-logbook”.
6. The Management Plans shall include initiatives or surveys to investigate, and to the extent possible minimize the capture of small bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna and non-target species associated with fishing on FADs. Management Plans shall also include guidelines to prevent, to the extent possible, the loss or abandonment of FADs. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, the design and deployment of FADs shall be based on the principles set out in Annex III, which will be applied gradually from 2014. From 2015 on, CPCs shall submit to the Commission, 60 days before the Annual Meeting, a report on the progress of the management plans of FADs, including reviews of the initially submitted Management Plans, and including reviews of the application of the principles set out in Annex III.
7. The Scientific Committee will analyse the information, when available, and provide scientific advice on additional FAD management options for consideration by the Commission in 2016, including recommendations on the use of biodegradable materials in new and improved FADs and the phasing out of FAD designs that do not prevent the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles and other species. When assessing the impact of FADs on the dynamic and distribution of targeted fish stocks and associated species and on the ecosystem, the Scientific Committee will where relevant use all available data on abandoned FADs (i.e. FADs without a beacon).
8. From January 2015, CPCs shall require all artificial FADs deployed or modified by their flagged fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence to be marked in accordance with a detailed marking scheme, e.g. including FAD marking or beacon ID. The marking scheme shall be developed and considered for adoption by the Commission at the Commission’s regular annual session in 2014, based on recommendations from the Scientific Committee as requested by the Commission. The marking scheme should take into account, as a minimum, the following:
 - a) All artificial FADs shall be marked with a unique identification number, based on a specific numbering system and format to be adopted by the Commission;
 - b) The marking should be easy to read before the vessel operator engages in any artificial FAD related activity (e.g. setting on the artificial FAD, retrieving the artificial FAD, servicing the artificial FAD, fishing on the artificial FAD), but if not visible for any reason, (time of day, weather, etc.), the vessel operator shall ensure to obtain the unique artificial FAD identifier as soon as feasible;
 - c) The marking should be easy to apply to the artificial FAD, but should be applied in such a manner that it will not become unreadable or disassociated with the artificial FAD.
9. Resolution 12/08 *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan* is superseded by this Resolution.

Annex I

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF DRIFTING FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD) MANAGEMENT PLANS

To support obligations in respect of the DFAD Management Plan (DFAD–MP) to be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat by CPCs with fleets fishing in the IOTC area of competence, associated to DFADs, DFAD–MP should include:

1. An objective
2. Scope:
Description of its application with respect to:
 - vessel-types and support and tender vessels
 - DFAD numbers and/or DFADs beacon numbers to be deployed
 - reporting procedures for DFAD deployment
 - incidental bycatch reduction and utilization policy
 - consideration of interaction with other gear types
 - plans for monitoring and retrieval of lost DFADs
 - statement or policy on “DFAD ownership”
3. Institutional arrangements for management of the DFAD Management Plans:
 - Institutional responsibilities
 - application processes for DFAD and /or DFAD beacons deployment approval
 - Obligations of vessel owners and masters in respect of DFAD and /or DFAD beacons deployment and use
 - DFAD and/or DFADs beacons replacement policy
 - reporting obligations
4. DFAD construction specifications and requirements
 - DFAD design characteristics (a description)
 - DFAD markings and identifiers, including DFADs beacons
 - Lighting requirements
 - radar reflectors
 - visible distance
 - radio buoys (requirement for serial numbers)
 - satellite transceivers (requirement for serial numbers)
5. Applicable areas
 - Details of any closed areas or periods e.g. territorial waters, shipping lanes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc
6. Applicable period for the DFAD–MP
7. Means for monitoring and reviewing implementation of the DFAD–MP

8. DFAD logbook

- catch reporting from DFAD sets (consistent with the Standards for the provision of Catch and Effort Data) set out in Resolution 13/03), including:
 - a) Any visit on a DFAD.
 - b) For each visit on a DFAD, whether followed or not by a set,
 - i. position,
 - ii. date,
 - iii. DFAD identifier (i.e., DFAD Marking or beacon ID or any information allowing to identify the owner),
 - iv. DFAD type (drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD),
 - v. DFAD design characteristics (dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure),
 - vi. type of the visit (deployment, hauling, retrieving, loss, intervention on electronic equipment).
 - c) If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and bycatch.

Annex II

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF ANCHORED FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (AFAD) MANAGEMENT PLANS

To support obligations in respect of the AFAD Management Plan (AFAD-MP) to be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat by CPCs with fleets fishing in the IOTC area of competence, associated to AFADs, AFAD-MP should include:

1. An objective
2. Scope:
 - Description of its application with respect to:
 - a) Vessel types
 - b) AFAD numbers and/or AFADs beacons numbers to be deployed (per AFAD type)
 - c) reporting procedures for AFAD deployment
 - d) distances between AFADs
 - e) incidental bycatch reduction and utilization policy
 - f) consideration of interaction with other gear types
 - g) the establishment of inventories of the AFADs deployed, detailing AFAD identifiers, characteristics and equipments of each AFAD as laid down in point 4 of the present Annex, coordinates of the AFAD's mooring sites, date of set, lost and reset
 - h) plans for monitoring and retrieval of lost AFADs
 - i) statement or policy on “AFAD owner ship”
3. Institutional arrangements for management of the AFAD Management Plans:

- a) Institutional responsibilities
 - b) Regulations applicable to the setting and use of AFADs
 - c) AFAD repairs, maintenance rules and replacement policy
 - d) Data collection system
 - e) reporting obligations
4. AFAD construction specifications and requirements:
- a) AFAD design characteristics (a description of both the floating structure and the underwater structure, with special emphasis on any netting materials used)
 - b) Anchorage used for mooring
 - c) AFAD markings and identifiers, including AFAD beacons if any
 - d) Lighting requirements if any
 - e) radar reflectors
 - f) visible distance
 - g) radio buoys if any (requirement for serial numbers)
 - h) satellite transceivers (requirement for serial numbers)
 - i) echo sounder
5. Applicable areas
- a) Coordinates of mooring sites, if applicable
 - b) Details of any closed areas e.g., shipping lanes, Marine Protected Areas, reserves etc.
6. Means for monitoring and reviewing implementation of the AFAD–MP
- AFAD logbook
- Catch reporting from AFAD sets (consistent with the Standards for the provision of Catch and Effort Data) set out in Resolution 13/03), including:
 - a) Any visit in a AFAD.
 - b) For each visit on a AFAD, whether followed or not by a set, the,
 - i. position;
 - ii. date;
 - iii. AFAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking or beacon ID or any information allowing to identify the owner).
 - c) If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and bycatch.

Annex III

PRINCIPLES FOR DESIGN AND DEPLOYMENT OF FADS

1. The surface structure of the FAD should not be covered, or only covered with non-meshed material.
2. If a sub-surface component is used, it should not be made from netting but from non-meshed materials such as ropes or canvas sheets.
3. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, the use of natural or biodegradable materials (such as hessian canvas, hemp ropes, etc.) for drifting FADs should be promoted.

RESOLUTION 13/09

ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBACORE CAUGHT IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

CONSIDERING that albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) is one of the most important species regulated by IOTC;

NOTING that the Working Party on Temperate Tunas and the Scientific Committee recognized that the current level of catches is likely to result in further declines in albacore biomass, productivity and catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE);

FURTHER NOTING that the impacts of the piracy in western Indian Ocean has resulted in the displacement of a substantial portion of longline fishing effort into the traditional albacore fishing grounds in the southern and eastern Indian Ocean and therefore it is likely that catch and effort on albacore will decline in the future unless management action is taken;

BEARING IN MIND that the albacore stock in the Indian Ocean is currently subject to overfishing (current fishing mortality > fishing mortality allowing the stock to deliver MSY) and that the fishing mortality rate needs to be reduced below the 2010 level to ensure that fishing mortality in 2020 does not exceed fishing mortality allowing the stock to deliver MSY;

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

ADOPTS in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, that the Commission shall request the Scientific Committee:

1. To compile, review, discuss and assess, during the year 2014 and with the support of all the concerned CPCs, the coverage and the quality of all available data on catches and fishing effort related to albacore fisheries in the IOTC area of competence;
2. Through its Working Party on Temperate Tunas (WPTmT), to examine in relevant 2014 sessions the state of albacore stock, by considering even common working sessions with the ICCAT scientific community to improve the knowledge on the interrelation between the Indian Ocean and Atlantic albacore populations; and
3. To advise the Commission, by end of 2014 at the latest:
 - a) On Target Reference Points (TRPs) and Limit Reference Points (LRPs) used when assessing the albacore stock status and when establishing the Kobe plot and Kobe matrices.
 - b) On potential management measures having been examined through the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process. These management measures will therefore have to ensure the achievement of the conservation and optimal utilization of stocks as laid down in article V of the Agreement for the establishment of the IOTC and more particularly to ensure that, in as short a period as possible and no later than 2020, (i) the fishing mortality rate does not exceed the fishing mortality rate allowing the stock to deliver MSY and (ii) the spawning biomass is maintained at or above its MSY level.

RESOLUTION 13/10

ON INTERIM TARGET AND LIMIT REFERENCE POINTS AND A DECISION FRAMEWORK

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

BEING MINDFUL for Article XVI of the IOTC Agreement regarding the rights of Coastal States and of Article 87 and 116 of the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea regarding the right to fish on the high seas;

RECALLING that Article 6, paragraph 3, of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA), establishes the application of precautionary reference points as a general principle for sound fisheries management;

FURTHER RECALLING that Annex II, of UNFSA provides guidelines for the application of precautionary reference points in the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, including the adoption of provisional reference points when information for establishing reference points is absent or poor;

NOTING that Article 7.5.3 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries also recommends the implementation of stock specific target and limit reference points, *inter alia*, on the basis of the precautionary approach;

NOTING that recommendations 37 and 38 of the Performance Review Panel, adopted by the Commission as Resolution 09/01, indicate that pending the amendment or replacement of the IOTC Agreement to incorporate modern fisheries management principles, the Commission should implement the precautionary approach including, *inter alia*, precautionary reference points, as set forth in the UNFSA;

NOTING Resolution 12/01 *On the implementation of the precautionary approach* that recommends adoption of provisional reference points, and that the Scientific Committee proposed provisional values at its 14th Session;

RECALLING ALSO that the IOTC Scientific Committee has initiated a process leading to a management strategy evaluation (MSE) process to improve upon the provision of scientific advice on Harvest Control Rules (HCRs);

ACKNOWLEDGING that continuing dialog between scientists and managers is necessary to define appropriate HCRs for the IOTC tuna and tuna-like stocks;

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

- When assessing stock status and providing recommendations to the Commission, the Scientific Committee should apply the following interim target and limit reference points for the species of tuna and tuna-like species listed in Table 1. B_{MSY} refers to the biomass level for the stock that would produce the Maximum Sustainable Yield; F_{MSY} refers to the level of fishing mortality that produces the Maximum Sustainable Yield.

Table 1. Interim target and limit reference points.

Stock	Target Reference Point	Limit Reference Point
Albacore	$B_{MSY}; F_{MSY}$	$B_{LIM} = 0.40 B_{MSY}; F_{LIM} = 1.40 F_{MSY}$
Bigeye tuna	$B_{MSY}; F_{MSY}$	$B_{LIM} = 0.50 B_{MSY}; F_{LIM} = 1.30 F_{MSY}$
Skipjack tuna	$B_{MSY}; F_{MSY}$	$B_{LIM} = 0.40 B_{MSY}; F_{LIM} = 1.50 F_{MSY}$
Yellowfin tuna	$B_{MSY}; F_{MSY}$	$B_{LIM} = 0.40 B_{MSY}; F_{LIM} = 1.40 F_{MSY}$
Swordfish	$B_{MSY}; F_{MSY}$	$B_{LIM} = 0.40 B_{MSY}; F_{LIM} = 1.40 F_{MSY}$

- These interim target and limit reference points shall be assessed and further reviewed by the Scientific Committee and the results presented to the Commission for adoption of species-specific limit reference points. If applicable, the Scientific Committee should endeavor to apply the interim reference points in the provision of advice on the status of stocks and on recommendations for management measures.

3. The Scientific Committee shall assess, as soon as possible and more particularly through the management strategy evaluation process (MSE) process, the robustness and the performance of the interim reference points, specified under paragraph 1 and other reference points based on the guidelines of International agreements taking into account: i) nature of these reference points – target or limits, ii) the best scientific knowledge on population dynamics and on life-history parameters, iii) the fisheries exploiting them, and iv) the various sources uncertainty.
4. In addition the Scientific Committee shall develop and assess potential harvest control rules (HCRs) to be applied, considering the status of the stocks against the reference points assessed in paragraph 3 for albacore, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna and swordfish. Based on the results of the MSE and considering the guidelines set forth in the UNFSA, and Article V of the IOTC Agreement, the Scientific Committee will recommend to the Commission HCRs for these tuna and tuna-like species, which among other factors shall be based on the following objectives:
 - a) For stocks which assessed status will match with the lower right (green) quadrant of Kobe Plot, aim at maintaining the stocks in a high probability within this quadrant;
 - b) For stocks which assessed status will match with the upper right (orange) quadrant of the Kobe Plot, aim at ending overfishing in a high probability in a short a period as possible;
 - c) For stocks which assessed status will match with the lower left (yellow) quadrant of the Kobe plot, aim at rebuilding these stocks in as short a period as possible;
 - d) For stocks which assessed status will match with the upper left quadrant (red), aim at ending overfishing in a high probability and at rebuilding the biomass of these stocks in as short a period as possible.
5. Bearing in mind Article 64 of UNCLOS and Article 8 of UNFSA, the entirety of this Resolution is subject to Article XVI (Coastal States' Rights) of the IOTC Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, and Article 116 of the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea regarding the right to fish on the high seas;
6. This Resolution supersedes Recommendation 12/14 *On interim target and limit reference points*.

RESOLUTION 13/11

ON A BAN ON DISCARDS OF BIGEYE TUNA, SKIPJACK TUNA, YELLOWFIN TUNA, AND NON-TARGETED SPECIES CAUGHT BY PURSE SEINE VESSELS IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNIZING the need for action to ensure the achievement of IOTC objectives to conserve and manage bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna and yellowfin tuna in the IOTC area of competence;

RECOGNIZING that the international community has recognized both ethical concerns and policy regarding discards of species in several international instruments and statements, including United Nations General Assembly resolutions (A/RES/49/118 (1994); A/RES/50/25 (1996); A/RES/51/36 (1996); A/RES/52/29 (1997); A/RES/53/33 (1998); A/RES/55/8 (2000); and A/RES/57/142 (2002)), United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement); The Rome Consensus on World Fisheries adopted by the FAO Ministerial Conference on Fisheries, Rome, 14–15 March 1995; the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the FAO International Plan of Action (IPOA) on sharks; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);

RECALLING that the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement has underlined the importance of ensuring the conservation and optimum utilization of highly migratory species through the action of regional fishery bodies such as the IOTC, and provides that “*States should minimize ... discards, ..., catch of non target species, both fish and non-fish species, and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species ...*”;

RECALLING that The Rome Consensus on World Fisheries adopted by the FAO Ministerial Conference on Fisheries, Rome, 14–15 March 1995, provides that “*States should...reduce bycatches, fish discards...*”;

RECALLING that the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries provides that “*States should take appropriate measures to minimize waste, discards...collect information on discards ...; ... take account of discards (in the precautionary approach) ...; develop technologies that minimize discards ...; use of selective gear to minimize discards*”;

RECALLING that the Commission adopted Resolution 12/01 *on the implementation of the precautionary approach*;

CONCERNED about the morally unacceptable waste and the impact of unsustainable fishing practices upon the oceanic environment, represented by the discarding of tunas and non-target species in the purse seine fishery for tunas in the Indian Ocean;

CONSIDERING the important volume of tuna and non-targeted species discarded in the purse seine fishery for tunas in the Indian Ocean;

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

RETENTION OF TUNA SPECIES

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties shall require all purse seine vessels to retain on board and then land all bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, and yellowfin tuna caught, except fish considered unfit for human consumption.
2. Procedures for the implementation of full retention requirements include:
 - a) No bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, and/or yellowfin tuna caught by purse seine vessels may be discarded after the point in the set when the net is fully pursed and more than one half of the net has been retrieved. If

equipment malfunctions affect the process of pursing and retrieving the net in such a way that this rule cannot be complied with, the crew must make efforts to release the tuna as soon as possible.

- b) The following two exceptions to the above rule shall apply:
- i. Where it is determined by the captain of the vessel that tuna (bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna or yellowfin tuna) caught are unfit for human consumption, the following definitions shall be applied:
 - "unfit for human consumption" are fish that:
 - is meshed or crushed in the purse seine; or
 - is damaged due to depredation; or
 - has died and spoiled in the net where a gear failure has prevented both the normal retrieval of the net and catch, and efforts to release the fish alive;
 - "unfit for human consumption" does not include fish that:
 - is considered undesirable in terms of size, marketability, or species composition; or
 - is spoiled or contaminated as the result of an act or omission of the crew of the fishing vessel.
 - ii. Where the captain of a vessel determines that tuna (bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna or yellowfin tuna) was caught during the final set of a trip and there is insufficient well space to accommodate all tuna (bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna or yellowfin tuna) caught in that set. This fish may only be discarded if:
 - the captain and crew attempt to release the tuna (bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna or yellowfin tuna) alive as soon as possible; and
 - no further fishing is undertaken after the discard until the tuna (bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna or yellowfin tuna) on board the vessel has been landed or transshipped.

RETENTION OF SPECIES OTHER THAN THOSE SPECIFIED UNDER PARA 2, A)

3. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties should encourage all purse seine vessels to retain on board and then land all non-targeted species as far as the vessel can ensure appropriate fishing operation (including but not limited to other tunas, rainbow runner, dolphinfish, triggerfish, billfish, wahoo, and barracuda) except fish considered unfit for human consumption (as defined in paragraph 2 b) i). A single exception shall be the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the non-targeted fish caught in that set.

IMPLEMENTATION

4. The Scientific Committee, Working Party on Tropical Tunas, and Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch shall annually:
- a) review the information available on bycatch (retained and discarded) by purse seine vessels; and
 - b) provide advice to the Commission on options to sustainably manage discards in purse seine fisheries.
5. This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2014 and will be revised, according to the advice of the Scientific Committee resulting from the review of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas (for bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna and yellowfin tuna) and the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (for non-target species).
6. This Resolution supersedes Recommendation 10/13 *on the implementation of a ban on discards of skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and non targeted species caught by purse seiners.*