

## **Report of Implementation for the year 2013**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 2 APRIL 2014**

Reporting CPC: Australia

Date: 21/03/2014

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*Please NOTE: this document is composed of 3 sections to report on the implementation of IOTC resolutions*

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**Part A.** *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission at its sixteenth Session.*

1. Resolution 13/01 On the removal of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures

Australia noted Resolution 13/01.

2. Resolution 13/02 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence<sup>a</sup>

Submit a list of authorised fishing vessels:

Australia maintains an up-to-date register of all Australian flagged vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence. As required under paragraph 2 of Resolution 13/02, Australia submitted a list of all Australian flagged fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence to the IOTC Executive Secretary electronically on 26 February 2013.

Prompt notification of any changes:

As required under paragraph 5 of Resolution 13/02, Australia notifies the IOTC Executive Secretary of any amendments to the list of Australian flagged fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence, as they occur. Australia provided four dates throughout 2013.

Templates of official authorisations:

As required under paragraph 3 of Resolution 13/02, Australia has provided samples of the official authorisations that are carried on board Australian flagged fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence, and associated information, on 31 January 2013. The Australia Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), the Competent Authority, does not use an official stamp on the official authorisation.

Measures to ensure Australian flagged fishing vessels comply with relevant IOTC conservation and management measures (CMMs) and are not associated with IUU fishing:

AFMA conducts a biennial risk assessment process to determine those priority areas that require compliance and enforcement action. This risk assessment process is conducted across all major Commonwealth fisheries, including in the IOTC Area of Competence. Importantly AFMA adopts a

structured approach to monitor existing and emerging risks that may require mitigation strategies during this two year period.

Carriage of authorisations on board Australian flagged fishing vessels:

As required under paragraphs 7(c) and 13 of Resolution 13/02, in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery a copy of the extract from the boat statutory fishing right (SFR) that states the name of the boat must be carried on board the nominated boat. In the Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery the original or true copy of the fishing permit must be carried on board the nominated boat at all times. Samples of these documents have been provided to IOTC Executive Secretary on 12 February 2014.

Statistical Document Programs:

The Australian Fish Export Statistical Document Program covers the international requirement for the export of tuna and tuna like species from Australia. It is primarily used by Commonwealth fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competency.

Suspected IUU fishing:

Australia will notify the IOTC Executive Secretary of any factual information regarding suspected IUU fishing in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Marking of vessels and gear:

Requirements for the marking of vessels and gear are implemented through conditions on boat SFRs in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (Attachment A) and permit conditions in the Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery (Attachment B). Marking requirements align with the FAO Standard Specification for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels.

3. Resolution 13/03 On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence<sup>a</sup>

As outlined in Australia's National Report (submitted to the IOTC Executive Secretary on 8 November 2013), it is a condition of fishing concessions that all Australian flagged fishing vessels authorised to fish for IOTC managed species use and submit logbooks. An aggregated data set based on the logbook data requirements detailed in Resolution 13/03 is submitted to the IOTC Executive Secretary annually.

Australia requires operators to provide accurate and timely catch and effort information on a "shot-by-shot" basis from purse-seine and longline tuna fisheries. Australian flagged fishing vessels fishing for IOTC managed species do not generally use handline, trolling, gillnets or pole and line fishing methods. Logbooks record information on fishing operations such as location, time, method of fishing, gear and vessel details and the catch and bycatch for each fishing operation. Operators are required to provide information on any changes to vessel details and gear configuration. The logbook program is managed by AFMA, with all data maintained in a central database. Samples of

the relevant logbooks were provided to IOTC Executive Secretary on 31 January 2014. Electronic submission of logbooks is available in some Commonwealth fisheries.

All relevant scientific data was provided to the IOTC Executive Secretary by 30 June 2013.

4. Resolution 13/04 On the conservation of cetaceans

Resolution 13/04 has been implemented through conditions on boat SFRs in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (Attachment A) and permit conditions in the Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery (Attachment B). In accordance with paragraph 2, the setting of purse seines around cetaceans is prohibited in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery and Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery. Fishing concession holders are also required to report all interactions with cetaceans through their daily catch and effort logbooks. This information is also collected by observers if on board. All cetacean species are protected by Australian law.

5. Resolution 13/05 On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)

Resolution 13/05 has been implemented through conditions on boat SFRs in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (Attachment A) and permit conditions in the Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery (Attachment B). In accordance with paragraph 2, the setting of purse seines around whale sharks is prohibited in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery and Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery. Fishing concession holders are also required to report all interactions with cetaceans through their daily catch and effort logbooks. This information is also collected by observers if on board. Whale sharks are protected by Australian law.

6. Resolution 13/06 On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed Fisheries

Resolution 13/06 has been implemented through conditions on boat SFRs in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (Attachment A). In accordance with paragraph 3, the retention, transshipment, landing or storage of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks, whole or parts of, is prohibited. Australia continues to collect data, including on Ocean Whitetip Sharks, through Australia's scientific observer program.

7. Resolution 13/07 Concerning a record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC Area of Competence and access agreement information <sup>a</sup>

Australia has not issued any authorisations to any foreign fishing vessels to fish for IOTC managed species in 2013.

8. 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

Australia has developed the Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) Management Plan in Australia's Tropical Tuna Fisheries for Commonwealth fisheries that use the purse seine method. The FAD Management Plan covers FAD: registration; deployment; retrieval; loss; replacement; marking; design;

construction; operation and maintenance; permitted locations; bycatch mitigation and reduction; catch and effort reporting; monitoring of use; and, implementation and review of the plan.

Australia's FAD Management Plan meets the Guidelines set out in Annexes 1 and 2 of Resolution 13/08 and includes initiatives or surveys to investigate, and to the extent possible minimise, the capture of small bigeye and yellow fin tuna and non-target species associated with fishing on FADs.

9. Resolution 13/09 On the conservation of albacore caught in the IOTC Area of Competence  
N/A

10. Resolution 13/10 On interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework  
N/A

11. Resolution 13/11 On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, and a recommendation for non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence

Australia has two purse seine fisheries operating in the IOTC Area of Competence: the Western Skipjack Fishery and the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery. The Western Skipjack Fishery has not been active since 2003. All data pertaining to the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery is reported to CCSBT and this fleet does not discard any component of its catch.

Note: <sup>a</sup> indicate that a template report exists for some of the requirements and can be requested at [secretariat@iotc.org](mailto:secretariat@iotc.org)

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**Part B.** *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission in previous Sessions, and which have not been reported previously.*

Australia has provided detailed report against all previous Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the IOTC.

**Part C.** Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the *section April 2014 of the Guide on data and information reporting requirements for Members and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties*).

- Resolution 01/06 Concerning the IOTC bigeye tuna statistical document programme

CPCs which export bigeye tuna shall examine export data upon receiving the import data from the Secretary, and report the results to the Commission annually [A template report exists]).

**The report has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:**

Yes       **Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):** 11/09/2013 & 12/03/2014  
No

**The report is attached to the implementation report:**

Yes       No

Additional information:

Australia has previously reported on Resolution 01/06, concerning the IOTC bigeye tuna statistical document programme. The Australian Government has implemented a uniform Statistical Document Programme to meet statistical document requirements adopted by the IOTC under Resolution 03/03 as well as by other RFMOs and import markets.

- Recommendation 05/07 Concerning a management standard for the tuna fishing vessels

The CPC flag states which issues licenses to their AFVs should report annually to the Commission all measures taken to meet the minimum management standards when they issue fishing licenses to their “authorised fishing vessels”.

Australia has previously reported on Recommendation 05/07, concerning a management standard for tuna fishing vessels. Australia takes measures to meet the minimum management standard for all authorised fishing vessels. The Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery is managed under a management plan, determined under Australia's Fisheries Management Act 1991. The plan manages the fishery under a quota regime. Fishing in the Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery is authorised through fishing permits, issued under section 32 of Australia's Fisheries Management Act 1991. Fishing under these permits is subject to conditions. Australia monitors vessel activity through VMS, catch and effort logbooks and in-port and at-sea inspections.

Australian vessels are required to complete a daily report of all catches in an AFMA logbook and aims to maintain a minimum target of five percent scientific observer coverage. All catch data is required to be verified by a licensed fish receiver by completing an AFMA Catch Disposal Record. Paper based audits may be used to verify compliance with requirements.

Australian flagged fishing vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species are not permitted to tranship at sea within the IOTC Area of Competence.

- Resolution 10/06 On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries

CPCs shall provide to the Commission, as part of their annual reports, information on how they are implementing this measure and all available information on interactions with seabirds, including bycatch by fishing vessels carrying their flag or authorised to fish by them. This is to include details of species where available to enable the Scientific Committee to annually estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries within the IOTC Area of Competence.

Australia has previously reported on Resolution 10/06 concerning the reduction of the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries. Australia has implemented fishing concession conditions aimed at reducing seabird mortality, consistent with and exceeding the minimum requirements detailed in Resolution 10/06.

It is mandatory for Australian longline fishing concession holders to carry and use tori lines. The design specifications for tori lines are consistent with world's best practice. All longline operators fishing south of 25 South are required to deploy tori lines, use non-frozen bait and, use a line weighting system. In addition, all longline operators are banned from discharging offal while setting longlines and, discharging offal during hauling of longlines, unless impractical.

In its annual report, Australia provides the required information on species specific interaction levels with seabirds for the consideration of the Scientific Committee.

- Resolution 10/10 Concerning market related measures

For CPCs that import tuna and tuna-like fish products, or in whose ports those products are landed or transhipped, should report, a range of information (e.g. information on vessels / owners, product data (species, weight), point of export) annually. *[A template report exists].*

**The report on import, landing or transhipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2013 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:**

Yes  Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): 12/03/2014

No

**The report on import, landing or transhipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2013 is attached to the implementation report:**

Yes

No

Additional information:

Australia has previously reported on Resolution 10/10 concerning market related measures.

Landings of fisheries products into Australia by foreign flagged vessels are prohibited, except where ministerial approval has been granted. No such approvals were granted in 2013. No transshipments were performed by Australian flagged fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence in 2013.

Australia has reported its tuna imports to the IOTC Executive Secretary. Australia's fresh tuna import is small with only 129 tonnes imported in 2013, brought into Australia using container ships and chilled air freight. As required under section 1 of Resolution 10/10, Australia currently provides as

much information as possible on the imported products and associated vessels. There are a number of data sets that Australia does not currently collect.

- Resolution 11/04 On a Regional observer scheme

CPCs shall provide to the Executive Secretary and the Scientific Committee annually a report of the number of vessels monitored and the coverage achieved by gear type in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution.

Australia has previously reported on Resolution 11/04 concerning a regional observer scheme. Australia provides information on observer coverage achieved including the coverage rates by gear type. Australia has placed observers on Australian flagged vessels operating in the IOTC Area of Competence since 2003 and aims to achieve five per cent observer coverage each year, based on the number of hooks set.

AFMA's Observer Program plans the deployment of its observers on the Australian financial year basis, that is 1 July–30 June.

In the 2012/13 financial year, 844,814 hooks were set by Australian flagged fishing vessels in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery. Of these, 96,617 were observed, or 11.43 per cent. Observer reports are provided as they become available; to date there has been no observer coverage in the 2013-14 financial year reported to the IOTC.

There has been no activity in the Eastern and Western Skipjack Tuna Fisheries in either 2012/13 or 2013/14 (to date).

Observer coverage for the Australian Southern Bluefin Fishery is reported to the Commission for the Conservation for Southern Bluefin Tuna. The ongoing target observer coverage for the Australian SBT purse seine fleet is 10 per cent of the total catch and effort for the fishery.

Observer coverage figures for the 2013/14 financial year are not currently available. Australia will provide updates on observer coverage in subsequent reports to the IOTC Executive Secretary.

- Resolution 12/04 On marine turtles

CPCs shall report to the Commission, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, their progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution.

Resolution 12/04 concerning the conservation of marine turtles supersedes 09/06, which Australia has previously reported on. As amendments to this Resolution only removed the ambiguity regarding the status of the leatherback turtle, Australia's previous submission remains current as Australia's turtle bycatch management and mitigation measures have always included leatherback turtles.



Australia's current turtle bycatch management and mitigation measures fulfil Australia's obligations under the FAO-Sea turtles Guidelines. All marine turtles found in Australian waters are protected under Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, with a recovery plan implemented in 2003. AFMA requires the operators of all longline vessels to carry at least one line cutter and one de-hooker on board at all times to facilitate the handling and prompt release of turtles caught or entangled, consistent with paragraph 8 of Resolution 12/04. Further, a video entitled 'Crossing the line: sea turtle handling guidelines for the longline fishing industry' has been produced to educate the Australian longline fishing industry on methods to minimise fishing impacts on turtle populations. Consistent with the IOTC Marine Turtle Identification Cards, it shows how to safely bring turtles aboard and handle them on the deck of a fishing vessel, how to use de-hooking devices on turtles in the water and on deck, and how to help comatose turtles recover and how to release them back into the water.

- Resolution 12/05 On establishing a programme for transhipment by large-scale fishing vessels

Each flag CPC of the LSTV shall include in its annual report each year to IOTC the details on the transhipments in ports by its vessels (Name of LSTV, IOTC Number, name of carrier vessel, species and quantity transhipped, date and location of transhipment). *[A template report exists].*

**The details on transhipment in ports for 2013 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:**

Yes

Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): 12/09/2013

No

**The details on transhipment in ports for 2013 are attached to the implementation report:**

Yes

No

Additional information:

Australia has prohibited at-sea transhipment in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery and the Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery by Australian-flagged fishing vessels within the IOTC Area of Competence since 2011. There were no at-sea transhipments in the IOTC Area of Competence in 2013. There were no transhipments in Australian ports in 2013.

- Resolution 12/12 To Prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC Area

CPCs shall include in their Annual Reports a summary of monitoring, control, and surveillance actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas in the IOTC area of competence.

Resolution 12/12 prohibiting the use of largescale drift nets in the IOTC Area of Competence supersedes Resolution 09/05. Australia has previously reported on Resolution 09/05 concerning the prohibition on the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC Area of Competence. Australia's previous submission remains current.

Australia prohibits the use of large-scale driftnets within Australia's exclusive economic zone and on the high seas in the areas of competence of all regional fisheries management organisations to which Australia is a Member, including the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

- Resolution 12/13 For the Conservation and Management of Tropical Tunas Stocks in the IOTC Area of Competence

CPCs flag states shall monitor the compliance of their vessels with this Resolution through VMS, and will provide a summary of VMS records related to their fleet operation in the previous year for the consideration of the Compliance Committee. *[A template report exists].*

**The summary of VMS records has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat for:**

**Longline vessels**

**Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):** 28/03/2014

**Purse seine vessels**

**Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):**28/03/2014

**The summary of VMS records is attached to the implementation report:**

**Yes**

**No**

Additional information:

Resolution 12/13 supersedes 10/01. Australia has previously reported on Resolution 10/01 concerning the conservation and management of tropical tuna stocks in the IOTC Area of Competence. Australia implemented fishing concession conditions prohibiting the fishing by Australia flagged fishing vessels according to this Resolution in 2011.

An operational VMS is mandatory for all Australia flagged fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence. AFMA monitors VMS data to ensure compliance with Resolution 12/13. No Australian flagged fishing vessels entered the IOTC closure area in 2013, or the surrounding area. For further information on Australia's VMS please refer to the response for IOTC Resolution 06/03, Attachment 1.

- Resolution 13/04 On the conservation of cetaceans

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.

There have been no encirclements of cetaceans by purse seine nets of Australian flagged fishing vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence in 2013. All cetacean species are protect by Australian law.

- Resolution 13/05 On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)

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.

There have been no encirclements of whale sharks by purse seine nets of Australian flagged fishing vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence in 2013. Whale sharks are protect by Australian law.

- Resolution 13/07 Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information

For Government to Government access agreement in existence prior to the entry into force of this resolution, 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 CPC-to-CPC agreement, CPCs involved in the referred agreement:

- Shall submit copy of the access agreement,
- Shall submit information concerning these agreements (paragraphs 3a, b, c, d, e, f, g),

*A report template exists and can be requested at [secretariat@iotc.org](mailto:secretariat@iotc.org)*

Australia did not authorise any foreign flagged fishing vessel to fish in Australia exclusive economic zone in 2013.