

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

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

Reporting CPC: Maldives, Republic of

Date: 27/03/2014

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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  
Resolution does not specify any action to be taken.
2. Resolution 13/02 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence<sup>a</sup>

Maldives maintain a registry of licensed fishing vessels as required under the the Licensing regulation. This information is regularly sent to the IOTC to notify any new entries or deletions from the registry.

Maldives do not license fishing vessels to fish outside the Exclusive Economic Zone. This has already been notified to the secretariat.

The licensing regulation specifies penalties for offences against the regulation. A pole and line fishing vessel was found to have breached the provisions of the licensing regulation in 2013 and was fined accordingly.

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

Maldives has reviewed and updated the catch and effort log books of pole and line, hand line and longline fishery as required by Resolution 13/03. The second revision of the logbooks came into effect on 01 January 2013.

The translated log book templates have been sent to the secretariat earlier this year.

All licensed fishing vessels are required to carry a paper bound log book on board the vessel at all times. It is a requirement for all licensed fishing vessels to submit completed log sheets to the Ministry in a timely manner. An aggregated data set based on the log book data requirements outlined (where possible) in this resolution is submitted to the secretariat annually.

Maldives is making efforts to report data in grid-based approach rather than the atoll-based approach. The new logbook also addresses to record catches from aFADs and from free schools.

4. Resolution 13/04 On the conservation of cetaceans

Cetaceans are protected by Fisheries Act of the Maldives (No. 5/87). The logbooks have been redesigned to record the information on any interactions with cetacians and other EPT spcies.

The AFAD Management Plan submitted to the secretariat by Maldives, specifies the changes to the design of FADs to minimise the incidence of entanglements of cetaceans and other protected spcies.

Maldives have not implemented a full fledged observer scheme, hence observer reports of any interactions have not been submitted to the secretariat. However, any interactions recorded by fishermen in the log sheets have been reported accordingly.

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

Whale Sharks are protected by Fisheries Act of the Maldives (No. 5/87). The logbooks have been redesigned to record the information on any interactions with Whale Sharks and other protected species.

The AFAD Management Plan submitted to the secretariat by Maldives, specifies the changes to the design of FADs to minimise the incidence of entanglements of whale sharks and other protected species.

Maldives have not implemented a full fledged observer scheme, hence observer reports of any interactions have not been submitted to the secretariat. However, any interactions recorded by fishermen in the log sheets have been reported accordingly.

A whale shark aggregation site in the Maldives is protected in the Maldives under the environmental regulation. The area is popular for whale shark watching by tourists. The South Ari Atoll Management Protected Area is being managed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The Maldives Whale Shark Research Programme (MWSRP), and NGO, is working towards conservation and management of whale sharks and supporting the government for regulating whale watching activities.

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

All species of sharks are protected in the Maldives under the Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act no. 5/87). Due to the nature of pole and line and handline fishing practices in Maldives sharks are not caught in these fisheries.

However, sharks are caught as a bycatch in the longline fishery and as per the longline fisheries regulation any sharks that are caught has to be discarded at sea. This is not in line with the International Plan of Action for Sharks and IOTC resolution 13/06. Maldives is revising earlier draft of a National Plan of Action for Sharks and this matter will be addressed through the Plan.

Even though Maldives not have a fishery actively targeting sharks, sharks caught as bycatch in the longline fishery are reported to the secretariat as per the IOTC resolution 13/06.

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>

Not applicable as Maldives do not license any foreign flag vessels to operate in Maldivian EEZ.

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

Maldives have submitted an Anchored Fish Aggregating Device Management Plan as per the guidelines stated in resolution 13/08.

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

Not applicable as there is no targetted fishery for Albacore in Maldivian waters.

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

Maldives is taking lead in the SKJ MSE work leading towards reviewing and recommending scientifically based reference points for skipjack stock (targets, triggers and limits). The project is part of Maldives's commitment on complying with MSC Client Action Plan as part of the SKJ MSC certification. The Project is being coordinated with the Secretariat and more directly with the WPM Group undertaking the IOTC MSE Work Programme endorsed by the Commission. Development of operating models, simulation testing and selection of various harvest strategies (subjected wider endorsement of the IO scientific community and endorsement from the Commission) is expected to be completed and reported in the interim- session of WPM to be held just before the WPTT in November 2014

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

Not applicable as purse seining is banned in Maldivian waters under Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act no. 5/87). 0



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Indian Ocean Tuna Commission  
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien



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)

**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.*

Changes were brought to the Licenseing Regulation to implement a fully fledged Vessel Monitoring System for licensed fishing vessels. As of 1st June 2014 all fishing vessels applying for a new fishing license or renewal should have a functioning Vessel Locating Device installed on the vessel. This will improve monitoring, infringement detection and enforcement of fisheries related activities in the Maldivian waters. All Longline fishing vessels are currently monitored through a Vessel Monitoring System.

A Protected Species Regulation has also been drafted and will be gazzetted later this year. This regulation specifies a list of protected species and also species the penalties for any offences against the regulation.

Maldives has embarked on developing a Fisheries Master Plan, supported by JICA that will articulate fishery management policies and programmes. The master plan will take into considertaion of the IOTC CMMs to ensure national legislation on tuna mangement will be consistent with that of 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): NA; Maldives do not import BET  
No  NO

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

Yes       No  NO

Additional information:

Not applicable, Maldives doe NOT import BET.

- 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”.

This has already been reported to the IOTC

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

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

Yellowfin tuna fishery and export regulation specifies bird mitigation measures specified in the Resolution. The incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fishery are reported to the IOTC.

- 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): [Click here to enter text.](#)

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:

Not applicable to the Maldives.

- 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.

The Regional Observer Scheme has not been implemented due to financial constraints.

- 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.

Marine turtles are protected in the Maldives under the Fisheries Act of Maldives (Act no. 5/87). Incidental bycatch of marine turtles in longline fishery are reported to IOTC.

- 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): [Click here to enter text.](#)

No

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

Yes

No

Additional information:

Not applicable to the Maldives, as transhipment is banned in Maldives.

- 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.

Large scale net fishing is banned in the Maldives under the Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act no. 5/87)

- 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): [Click here to enter text.](#)

Purse seine vessels

Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): [Click here to enter text.](#)

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

Yes

No

Additional information:

Maldives do not license to fish in the high seas. Hence, VMS records were not submitted to IOTC.

- 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.

Not applicable. Purse seining is banned in Maldivian waters by the Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act no. 5/87)

- 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.

Not applicable. Purse seining is banned in Maldivian waters by the Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act no. 5/87)

- 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)*

Maldives to not license foreign flagged vessels to operate in Maldivian waters.