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

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT: 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2014**

Reporting CPC: France

Date: 15/04/2014

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*Please NOTE: this document is made up of 3 sections to report on the implementation of the IOTC Resolutions*

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**Section A.** *Describe the actions taken under national legislation in the previous year to implement the Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission at its fifteenth Session.*

1. *Resolution 13/01 on the Removal of Obsolete Conservation and Management Measures*

The French authorities disclosed the revocations from the Recommendations to the relevant governments and operators.

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

For 2013, the list of vessels was provided under Resolution 07/02. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014, all vessels flagged in French territories have been flying the French flag (EU).

Where Article 9 applies, pursuant to Decree No. 2009-1039 dated 26 August 2009 regarding the conditions governing fishing operations in the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF), fishing is subject to the issuance of a license by the Senior Manager of the TAAF. Verification of entry in the IOTC record is part of the license application under Decree No. 2012-48 dated 12 June 2012 which sets out the conditions for applying for a license to fish in the TAAF.

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

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014, no French-flagged vessel (territories) has been listed in the record of vessels authorized to fish species under IOTC mandate.

Annex II of Decree No. 2013-14 dated 8 March 2013 (TAAF), which lays down the rules governing tuna fisheries and other pelagic fisheries in the Indian Ocean (EEZ around the Scattered Islands), lays down the provisions applicable to the recording of catches for vessels holding a license issued by the Senior Manager of the TAAF and which are compatible with the requirements of Resolution 13/03.

4. *Resolution 13/04 On the conservation of cetaceans*

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014, no French-flagged vessel (territories) has been listed in the record of vessels authorized to fish under IOTC mandate.

Annex II of the TAAF Decree establishing the rules governing tuna fisheries and other pelagic fisheries in the Indian Ocean as from 2014 provides for specific requirements for purse seiners holding a license issued by the Senior Manager of the TAAF. In this context, all encirclement operations of cetaceans are prohibited. In case of unintentional encirclement, the provisions contained in Resolution 13/04 paragraph 3 shall apply.

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

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014, no French-flagged vessel (territories) has been listed in the record of vessels authorized to fish species under IOTC mandate.

Annex II of the TAAF Decree establishing the rules governing tuna fisheries and other pelagic fisheries in the Indian Ocean as from 2014 provides for specific requirements for purse seiners holding a license issued by the Senior Manager of the TAAF. In this context, all encirclement operations of whale sharks are prohibited. In case of unintentional encirclement, the provisions contained in Resolution 13/04 paragraph 3 shall apply.

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

Annex II of the TAAF Decree establishing the rules governing tuna fisheries and other pelagic fisheries in the Indian Ocean as from 2014 provides for requirements for incidental and by-catches by vessels holding a license issued by the Senior Manager of the TAAF, and in particular sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by the IOTC. In this context, fishing and collecting part or all whitetip shark carcasses are prohibited.

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>*

The territory of Mayotte has changed status on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014 and now belongs to the European Union. Hence, since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014, the waters surrounding Mayotte are now under the jurisdiction of France in the context of its involvement in the European Union. The waters surrounding the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF, Scattered Islands) remain under French jurisdiction (Overseas Territories).

The list of foreign-flagged vessels to which a license was delivered to fish in the waters under French jurisdiction (Overseas Territories) in 2013, namely the waters surrounding Mayotte and the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, was provided.

The fishing license template, the terms and conditions of the fishing license of the coastal State, the name of the competent authority and all additional information were provided in 2014 to the access regime to waters belonging to France under the French Overseas Territories (TAAF).

8. *Resolution 13/08: Procedures on a fish aggregating device (FAD) 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*

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014, no French-flagged vessel (territories) has been listed in the record of vessels authorized to fish under IOTC mandate.

Annex II of the TAAF Decree establishing the rules governing fishing of tuna species and other pelagic species in the Indian Ocean as from 2014 provides for specific requirements for purse seiners holding a license issued by the Senior Manager of the TAAF. In this context, the captain has the obligation to report the number of FAD buoys on board when entering and exiting the EEZ, to number all FADs made or held on board, and to keep records showing the numbers, dates, time and positions of all launchings and recoveries. FADs must be primarily designed with biodegradable materials and in a way which would not involve any risk of entangling non-target species and marine turtles. FADs containing nets which may constitute a threat to marine wildlife and drift in the French TAAF waters must be collected and treated as non-organic waste.

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

The French authorities provided these provisions to all relevant administrations, operators and scientific institutes.

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

The French authorities provided these provisions to all relevant administrations, operators and scientific institutes.

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*

Annex II of the TAAF Decree establishing the rules governing fishing of tuna species and other pelagic species in the Indian Ocean as from 2014 provides for specific requirements for purse seiners. In this context, discharging tuna species is strictly prohibited and the landing of any other

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marketable species is also encouraged. Both exceptions set out in paragraph 2 of the Resolution have been transposed in the Decree.

Note: <sup>a</sup> indicates 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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**Section B.** *Describe the actions taken this past year, under national legislation, to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission in previous sessions, and which have not been reported previously.*

The territory of Mayotte has changed status on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014 and now belongs to the European Union. Hence, since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014, the waters surrounding Mayotte are now under the jurisdiction of France in the context of its involvement in the European Union. The waters surrounding the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF, Scattered Islands) remain under the French jurisdiction (Overseas Territories). Vessels registered in Mayotte are now placed under French flag (UE).

All reports and notifications provided under the Resolutions and Recommendations and forwarded since the beginning of 2014 by the European Union or France through its Overseas Territories, reflect these changes.

**Section C.** Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the *March 2013 section 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):** [Click here to enter text.](#)

No X

**The report is attached to the Implementation Report:**

Yes X

No

Additional information:

No export operation is currently made from a port of landing under French territory. No vessel authorized to fish in the French waters of the Mozambique Channel has landed in a port of France (Territories) in the South Indian Ocean. Therefore, there is no export of bigeye tuna originating from the French Overseas Territories.

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

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

The delivery of fishing licences has previously led to an in-depth study of the technical, legal and financial capacity of the vessel owner. This included in particular the study of all systems required on board to meet the technical requirements governing fisheries in the waters of the Scattered Islands, which are consistent with the IOTC Management Measures.

- Resolution 10/06 on reducing the incidental by-catch 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 by-catch 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.

Annex II of Decree No. 2013-14 dated 8 March 2013 (TAAF), which lays down the rules governing tuna fisheries and other pelagic fisheries in the Indian Ocean (EEZs around the Scattered Islands), lays down the provisions applicable to ships using longline and pole and line to mitigate accidental interaction with seabirds. These provisions include the mandatory use of round hooks and at least one additional device to avoid interaction, as well as measures in terms of waste management and reporting requirements.

- 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 X

**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 X

No

Additional information:

No landing or transhipment took place in the French overseas territories.

- Resolution 11/04 On a Regional Observer Scheme

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

Seven observers were deployed in the course of 2013 on tuna seiners licensed to operate in the waters of the Scattered Islands and Mayotte. These observers thus carried out observer missions for a total of 254 days, including 63 days in the French EEZs (250 days in 2012). Tide reports were forwarded to the French authorities and coastal States regarding their EEZs. Data collected as part of these observer boardings were sent to the IOTC by the Institute of Research for the Development (IRD).

- 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.

Annex II of Decree No. 2013-14 dated 8 March 2013 (TAAF), which lays down the rules governing tuna fisheries and other pelagic fisheries in the EEZs around the Scattered Islands, lays down the provisions applicable to recording data on interactions with marine turtles and to the requirements regarding the various gear types (purse seines, nets, longline, pole and line), mandatory release of marine turtles to increase their chances of survival, and FAD design in a way which would not involve any risk of entangling the turtles.

- 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].

**Details on transhipments carried out 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 X

**The details on transhipment in ports for 2013 are attached to the Implementation Report:**

Yes X

No

Additional information:

Transhipments at sea are prohibited in French waters and no transhipment in port is carried out in the French Overseas Territories.

- 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.

France domesticated the ban on the use of large driftnets on the high seas.

- Resolution 12/13 for the conservation and management of tropical tuna 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:**

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

**Purse seiners**  **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:

France has taken the necessary actions (shipping data, VMS monitoring, etc.) to ensure compliance, by its fishing fleet, of spatial and temporal closures provided under Resolution No. 12-13. An operational VMS is mandatory for all French fishing vessels that are larger than 15 metres, including those authorized to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence. The CROSS (Regional Operational Centres for Monitoring and Rescue) from Reunion Island and FMC France (National Fisheries Monitoring Centre) follow the VMS data to ensure compliance with Resolution 10/01. No French-flagged vessel (Territories) entered the IOTC closed area in 2013.

- 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.

No cases were observed up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

- 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.

No cases were observed up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

- Resolution 13/07 concerning a record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC Area of Competence and Access Agreement information

Under an existing government-to-government Access Agreement, where coastal CPCs allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in their EEZ waters within the IOTC Area of Competence for species

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managed by IOTC, CPCs involved in the referred agreement shall submit to the Executive Secretary of the IOTC:

- a copy of the Access Agreement.
- information regarding 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)*

No agreement has been reached between governments regarding the exploitation of species under IOTC mandate in the waters under the jurisdiction of France through its Overseas Territories.