

10 June 2014

IOTC CIRCULAR 2014-60

Dear Sir/Madam,

SUBJECT: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE IOTC AT ITS 18TH SESSION

I have the honour to transmit to you the texts of seven (7) Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission at its 18th Session, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 1–5 June 2014.

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. 8 October 2014.

- Resolution 14/01 *On the removal of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures*
- Resolution 14/02 *For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 14/03 *On enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers*
- Resolution 14/04 *Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 14/05 *Concerning a record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC area of competence and access agreement information*
- Resolution 14/06 *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels*
- Recommendation 14/07 *To standardise the presentation of scientific information in the annual Scientific Committee report and in Working Party reports*

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

Yours sincerely



Rondolph Payet
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Conservation and Management Measures adopted in 2014

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, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom (OT), Vanuatu, Yemen.

Cooperating non-Contracting Parties: Djibouti, Senegal, South Africa.

Chairperson IOTC

Copy to: FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs

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RESOLUTION 14/01 ON THE REMOVAL OF OBSOLETE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNISING 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 Conservation and Management Measures 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:

Recommendations:

- a) Recommendation 01/01 *Concerning the national observer programmes for tuna fishing in the Indian Ocean*
- b) Recommendation 02/06 *On the implementation of the Resolution concerning the IOTC Record of Vessels*
- c) Recommendation 03/04 *Concerning enhancement of effectiveness of IOTC measures to eliminate IUU activities in the IOTC area*
- d) Recommendation 03/05 *Concerning trade measures*
- e) Recommendation 03/06 *Recommendation to commission a report on management options for tuna and tuna-like species*
- f) Recommendation 05/06 *Concerning the terms of references for an IOTC Working Party on Management Options*
- g) Recommendation 02/07 *Concerning measures to prevent the laundering of catches by IUU large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels*

Resolutions:

- a) Resolution 98/03 *On southern bluefin tuna*
- b) Resolution 99/01 *On the management of fishing capacity and on the reduction of the catch of juvenile bigeye tuna by vessels, including flag of convenience vessels, fishing for tropical tunas in the IOTC area of competence*
- c) Resolution 99/03 *On the elaboration of a control and inspection scheme for IOTC*
- d) Resolution 00/01 *On compliance with mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and requesting Cooperation with Non-Contracting Parties*

- e) Resolution 00/02 *On a survey of predation of longline caught fish*
 - f) Resolution 01/04 *On limitation of fishing effort of non members of IOTC whose vessels fish bigeye tuna*
 - g) Resolution 01/07 *Concerning the support for the IPOA-IUU plan*
 - h) Resolution 02/08 *On the conservation of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean*
 - i) Resolution 03/07 *Recognising the contributions of David Ardill*
 - j) Resolution 11/01 *Regarding consolidation of IOTC Resolutions and Recommendations*
2. The following Conservation and Management Measures previously adopted by the Commission are considered to be of a procedural or administrative nature and shall be incorporated into the IOTC Rules of Procedure:
- a) Resolution 98/05 *On Cooperation With Non-Contracting Parties*
 - b) Resolution 02/09 *Establishment of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF)*
 - c) Resolution 03/02 *On criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party*
 - d) Resolution 10/05 *On the establishment of a meeting participation fund for developing IOTC Members and Non-Contracting Cooperating Parties (CPCs)*
 - e) Resolution 10/09 *Concerning the functions of the Compliance Committee*
3. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 13/01 *On the removal of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures* as well as the Conservation and Management Measures detailed in paragraphs 1 and 2.

RESOLUTION 14/02
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL TUNAS STOCKS IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNISING that based on past experience in the fishery, the potential production from the resource can be negatively impacted by excessive fishing effort;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the available scientific information and advice, in particular the IOTC Scientific Committee conclusions whereby the yellowfin tuna stock might have been over or fully exploited and the bigeye tuna stock may have been fully exploited in recent years; RECOGNISING that during the 12th IOTC scientific meeting held in Seychelles from 30 November to 04 December 2009, the IOTC Scientific Committee recommended that yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna catches should not exceed the MSY levels which have been estimated at 300,000 tonnes for yellowfin tuna and at 110,000 tonnes for bigeye tuna;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the implementation of a TAC without a quota allocation would result in an inequitable distribution of the catches and fishing opportunities among the IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) and non-CPCs;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the tuna artisanal fisheries sector needs strengthening in terms of catch statistics reporting in order to more closely follow the catch situations and notwithstanding improvement in the industrial fishery catch statistics reporting requirements;

NOTING the importance of applying the precautionary approach for the management of the tropical tuna and swordfish stock, in particular yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean;

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

1. CPCs shall implement the following action plan:
 - a) Establishment of an allocation system (Quota) or any other relevant measures based on the IOTC Scientific Committee recommendations for the main targeted species under the IOTC competence;
 - b) Advise on the best reporting requirement of the artisanal tuna fisheries and implementation of an appropriate data collection system.
2. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 12/13 *For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence.*

RESOLUTION 14/03

ON ENHANCING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

HAVING responsibility for the sustainable utilisation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean;

RECOGNISING the need for action to ensure the achievement of IOTC objectives to conserve and manage tuna resources in the IOTC area of competence;

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), on the strengthening of existing organisations and arrangements;

NOTING recommendation 30 of the Performance Review Panel, adopted by the Commission as Resolution 09/01 *on the performance review follow-up* requesting that new guidelines for the presentation of more user-friendly scientific reports in terms of stock assessments should be developed;

RECALLING that the IOTC Scientific Committee has initiated a process leading to a Management Strategy Evaluation 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;

CONSIDERING scientific advice provided by the Scientific Committee as the corner stone for establishing an effective management framework for stocks and fisheries under the purview of the IOTC;

RECOGNISING that the Commission has limited time during its annual Sessions to consider the level of detail contained within the annual report of the Scientific Committee, and that a dedicated Science-Management Dialogue process be instituted to assist in the synthesis of the SC recommendations and in particular on how they may be used to develop scientifically-based Conservation and Management Measures would be highly beneficial to the IOTC process;

HIGHLIGHTING the need to further enhance the dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists in the coming years in order to achieve the Agreement objectives in the most efficient and effective way;

STRESSING that such enhanced dialogue should, in particular, allow the Commission to focus on the establishment of management frameworks that take into account the recommended interim Target and Limit Reference Points, consistent with Resolution 13/10 *on interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework*, or any subsequent revision;

RECALLING that provisions laid down in Resolution 10/05 *on the establishment of a meeting participation fund for developing IOTC Member and Non-Contracting Cooperating Parties (CPC's)*, establishing a meeting participation fund should ease the attendance of fisheries scientist and managers from developing Contracting Parties and therefore contribute to an inclusive and participative dialogue;

EMPHASISING that the Commission management decisions should be based on the best available science independently developed by the Scientific Committee;

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

1. A Science and Management Dialogue process dedicated to enhance the decision making response of managers to existing Resolutions and recommendations made by the Scientific Committee to the IOTC, is established with the objective of:

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- a) Enhancing communication and to foster mutual understanding between fisheries managers, stakeholders and scientists;
 - b) Promoting the efficient use of scientific resources and information;
2. In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives
- a) The Secretariat shall institute a series of Science and Management Dialogue Workshops;
 - b) These Science and Management Dialogue Workshops shall be held in 2015, 2016 and 2017, as needed, prior to the respective Commission Annual Sessions;
 - c) The Commission shall review the products of the Workshops at its Annual Session and also provide further directions to the Secretariat for conduct of subsequent Science and Management Dialogue Workshops; In the light of this review, the Commission may suggest additional topics to be examined by this dialogue.
 - d) The Science and Management Dialogue Workshops shall be open to Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, advisers, Scientific Committee members and accredited observers. Other experts may be invited depending on the topics to be discussed;
 - e) The structure of the meetings shall include an open forum/dialogue;
 - f) To the degree possible, the Secretariat should investigate all sources of funding including the Meeting Participation Fund to support participation by up to two individuals from each CPC requiring such support.
3. The Terms of Reference, for the Science and Management Dialogue Workshops should include:
- a) Identifying and recommending management strategies for the IOTC fisheries, which are consistent with the objectives of the IOTC Agreement, including such as, socioeconomics, food security, etc., identified by the Commission, ecosystem-based approach to fisheries and the precautionary approach for the consideration of the Commission. Specifically, consideration of the following:
 - b) Overarching management objectives to guide the development of management strategies for the IOTC fisheries;
 - c) Target and Limit Reference Points with reference to the use of interim B_{MSY} and F_{MSY} or other proxies as Target and Limit Reference Points as identified in Resolution 13/10 *on interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework* (or any subsequent revision);
 - d) Harvest Control Rules (HCRs), and associated probabilities of achieving these targets or limits, allowing, in particular, the implementation of a precautionary approach as required by Resolution 13/10 *on interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework* (or any subsequent revision);
 - e) Risks to the fishery and the resource at these limit and target reference points in the context of different hypothetical HCR's and assessing the time and probability to rebuild stocks to the prescribed targets for stocks identified in Resolution 13/10 *on interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework* (or any subsequent revision).
4. The effectiveness of the Science and Management Dialogue Workshops shall be reviewed no later than at the Annual Session of the Commission in 2018.
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RESOLUTION 14/04
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 [superseded by [Resolution 13/02](#)] *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 organisations 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 authorised 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 authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence*;

RECOGNISING 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) 24 metres in length overall or above; 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 'authorised fishing vessels', or AFVs). For the purpose of this Resolution, AFVs that are not entered in 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 "CPC") shall submit electronically, where possible, to the IOTC 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 eligible) ;
To allow the necessary time for CPCs to obtain an IMO number for eligible vessels that do not already have one, paragraph 2.b on IMO number is effective as of 1 January 2016. As of this date, CPCs shall

ensure that all their fishing vessels that are registered on the IOTC Record of fishing vessels have IMO numbers issued to them. Paragraph 2.b on IMO number does not apply to vessels which are not eligible to receive IMO numbers.

- 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.

In assessing compliance with the paragraph above, the Commission shall take into account exceptional circumstances in which a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO number despite following the appropriate procedures. Flag CPCs shall report any such exceptional situations to the Secretariat.

3. All CPCs which issue authorisations to fish to their flag vessels to fish for species managed by the IOTC shall submit to the IOTC 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 IOTC Executive Secretary shall publish the above information in a secure part on the IOTC website for MCS purpose.

4. The template in paragraph 3 shall be used exclusively for monitoring, control and surveillance purposes and a difference between the template and the authorisation 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 IOTC 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 IOTC Executive Secretary shall maintain the IOTC Record, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the Record 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:
- authorise their vessels to operate in the IOTC area of competence only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the IOTC Agreement and its Conservation and Management Measures;
 - take necessary measures to ensure that their AFVs comply with all the relevant IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;
 - 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 tranship;
 - ensure that their AFVs on the IOTC Record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such a 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;
 - 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;
 - 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 actions and sanctions 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 with 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:
- Flag CPCs shall validate statistical documents only for the vessels on the IOTC Record;
 - 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
 - CPCs importing species covered by Statistical Document Programs and the flag States of vessels shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.
10. Each CPC shall notify the IOTC 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 is flying the flag of a CPC, the IOTC 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 IOTC 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 Cooperating Non-Contracting Party 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 Cooperating Non-Contracting Party 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 charterer;
 - 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 13.a) is certified by the competent authority of that Contracting Party or of that Cooperating Non-Contracting Party with the IOTC.
14. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non-Contracting Party 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 Cooperating Non-Contracting Party with the IOTC shall ensure that each gear used by its fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC area of competence is marked appropriately, e.g., 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 Cooperating Non-Contracting Party with the IOTC shall ensure that all their respective fishing vessels of 24 meters or above and vessels less than 24 meters if fishing outside their EEZ, and are registered on the IOTC Record of fishing vessels and authorised 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 vessel for a period of at least 12 months.
- 17. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 13/02 *Concerning the establishment of an IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area.*

RESOLUTION 14/05
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;

CONSCIOUS 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 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 IOTC Scientific Committee, 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 IOTC 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 eligible);

To allow the necessary time to obtain an IMO number for eligible vessels that do not already have one, paragraph 2.c on IMO number is effective as of 1 January 2016. As of this date, CPCs shall ensure that all the fishing vessels that are registered on the IOTC Record of licenced fishing vessels have IMO numbers

issued to them. Paragraph 2.c on IMO number does not apply to vessels which are not eligible to receive IMO numbers.

- d) The flag at the time of issuing the licence;
- 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.

In assessing compliance with the paragraph above, the Commission shall take into account exceptional circumstances in which a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO number despite following the appropriate procedures. The CPC which has issued the licence to this vessel shall report any such exceptional situation to the IOTC Secretariat.

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 IOTC 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 authorised;
 - d) The stock or species authorised 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 IOTC 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 CMMs, the IOTC 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 IOTC 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 the coastal State fishing license;
 - b) The name of the Competent Authority;
 - c) The name and contact of the 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 IOTC 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 I**.

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 IOTC Executive Secretary.
9. The IOTC 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 13/07 *Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information*.

ANNEX I

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 14/06

ON ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME FOR TRANSHIPMENT BY LARGE-SCALE FISHING VESSELS

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities because they undermine the effectiveness of the Conservation and Management Measures already adopted by the IOTC;

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN that organized tuna laundering operations have been conducted and a significant amount of catches by IUU fishing vessels have been transhipped under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

IN VIEW THEREFORE OF THE NEED to ensure the monitoring of the transhipment activities by large-scale longline vessels in the IOTC area of competence, including the control of their landings;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to collect catch data of such large scale long-line tuna to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

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

SECTION 1. GENERAL RULE

1. Except under the programme to monitor transhipments at sea outlined below in Section 2, all transhipment operations of tuna and tuna-like species and sharks caught in association with tuna and tuna-like fisheries in the IOTC area of competence (hereinafter referred to as “tuna and tuna-like species and sharks”) must take place in port.
2. The flag Contracting Party, Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CPCs) shall take the necessary measures to ensure that large scale tuna vessels (hereafter referred as the “LSTVs”) flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in **Annex I** when transhipping in port.

SECTION 2. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR TRANSHIPMENTS AT SEA

3. The Commission hereby establishes a programme to monitor transhipment at sea which applies only to large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (hereafter referred to as the “LSTLVs”) and to carrier vessels authorised to receive transhipments from these vessels at sea. No at-sea transhipment of tuna and tuna-like species and sharks by fishing vessels other than LSTLVs shall be allowed. The Commission shall review and, as appropriate, revise this Resolution.
4. The CPCs that flag LSTLVs shall determine whether or not to authorise their LSTLVs to tranship at sea. However, if the flag CPC authorises the at-sea transhipment by its flag LSTLVs, such transhipment shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures defined in Sections 3, 4 and 5, and **Annexes II** and **III** below.

SECTION 3. RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENTS-AT-SEA IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

5. The Commission shall establish and maintain an IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels authorised to receive tuna and tuna-like species and sharks at sea in the IOTC area of competence from LSTLVs. For the purposes of this Resolution, carrier vessels not entered on the record are deemed not to be authorised to receive tuna and tuna-like species and sharks in at-sea transhipment operations.
6. Each CPC shall submit, electronically where possible, to the IOTC Executive Secretary the list of the carrier vessels that are authorised to receive at-sea transhipments from its LSTLVs in the IOTC area of competence. This list shall include the following information:
 - a) The flag of the vessel;
 - b) Name of vessel, register number;

- c) Previous name (if any);
 - d) Previous flag (if any);
 - e) Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any);
 - f) International radio call sign;
 - g) Type of vessels, length, gross tonnage (GT) and carrying capacity;
 - h) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s);
 - i) Time period authorised for transhipping.
7. Each CPC shall promptly notify the IOTC Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the initial IOTC Record, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the IOTC Record, at any time such changes occur.
 8. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall maintain the IOTC Record and take measures to ensure publicity of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the IOTC website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements notified by CPCs for their vessels.
 9. Carrier vessels authorised for at-sea transhipment shall be required to install and operate a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

SECTION 4. AT-SEA TRANSHIPMENT

10. Transshipments by LSTLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of the CPCs are subject to prior authorisation from the Coastal State concerned. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSTLVs flying their flag comply with the following conditions:

Flag State Authorization

11. LSTLVs are not authorised to tranship at sea, unless they have obtained prior authorisation from their flag State.

Notification obligations

Fishing vessel:

12. To receive the prior authorisation mentioned in paragraph 11 above, the master and/or owner of the LSTLV must notify the following information to its flag State authorities at least 24 hours in advance of an intended transhipment:
 - a) The name of the LSTLV, its number in the IOTC Record of Vessels, and its IMO number, if issued;
 - b) The name of the carrier vessel, its number in the IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels authorised to receive transshipments in the IOTC area of competence, and its IMO number, and the product to be transhipped;
 - c) The tonnage by product to be transhipped;
 - d) The date and location of transhipment;
 - e) The geographic location of the catches.
13. The LSTLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag State, not later than 15 days after the transhipment, the IOTC transhipment declaration, along with its number in the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex II**.

Receiving carrier vessel:

14. Before starting transshipment, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall confirm that the LSTLV concerned is participating in the IOTC programme to monitor transshipment at sea (which includes payment of the fee in paragraph 13 of **Annex III**) and has obtained the prior authorisation from their flag State referred to in paragraph 11. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall not start such transshipment without such confirmation.
15. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall complete and transmit the IOTC transshipment declaration to the IOTC Secretariat and the flag CPC of the LSTLV, along with its number in the IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels authorised to receive transshipment in the IOTC area of competence, within 24 hours of the completion of the transshipment.
16. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, transmit an IOTC transshipment declaration, along with its number in the IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels authorised to receive transshipment in the IOTC area of competence, to the competent authorities of the State where the landing takes place.

Regional Observer Programme:

17. Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transshipping at sea have on board an IOTC observer, in accordance with the IOTC Regional Observer Programme in **Annex III**. The IOTC observer shall observe the compliance with this Resolution, and notably that the transhipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the IOTC transshipment declaration.
18. Vessels shall be prohibited from commencing or continuing at-sea transshipping in the IOTC area of competence without an IOTC regional observer on board, except in cases of “force majeure” duly notified to the IOTC Secretariat.

SECTION 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

19. To ensure the effectiveness of the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:
 - a) In validating the Statistical Document, flag CPCs of LSTLVs shall ensure that transshipments are consistent with the reported catch amount by each LSTLV;
 - b) The flag CPC of LSTLVs shall validate the Statistical Documents for the transhipped fish, after confirming that the transshipment was conducted in accordance with this Resolution. This confirmation shall be based on the information obtained through the IOTC Observer Programme;
 - c) CPCs shall require that the species covered by the Statistical Document Programs caught by LSTLVs 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 a copy of the IOTC transshipment declaration.
20. The CPCs shall report annually before 15 September to the IOTC Executive Secretary:
 - a) The quantities by species transhipped during the previous year;
 - b) The list of the LSTLVs registered in the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels which have transhipped during the previous year;
 - c) A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received transshipment from their LSTLVs.
21. All tuna and tuna-like species and sharks landed or imported into the CPCs either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transhipped, shall be accompanied by the IOTC transshipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.

22. Each year, the IOTC Executive Secretary shall present a report on the implementation of this Resolution to the annual meeting of the Commission which shall review compliance with this Resolution.
23. The IOTC Secretariat shall, when providing CPCs with copies of all raw data, summaries and reports in accordance with paragraph 10 of **Annex III** to this Resolution, also indicate evidence indicating possible infraction of IOTC regulations by LSTLVs/carrier vessels flagged to that CPC. Upon receiving such evidence, each CPC shall investigate the cases and report the results of the investigation back to the IOTC Secretariat three months prior to the IOTC Compliance Committee meeting. The IOTC Secretariat shall circulate among CPCs the list of names and flags of the LSTLVs/Carrier vessels that were involved in such possible infractions as well as the response of the flag CPCs 80 days prior to the IOTC Compliance Committee meeting.
24. Resolution 12/05 *On establishing a programme for transhipment by large-scale fishing vessels* is superseded by this Resolution.

ANNEX I

Conditions relating to in-port transhipment by LSTVs

General

1. Transhipment operations in port may only be undertaken in accordance with the procedures detailed below:

Notification obligations

2. Fishing vessel:
 - 2.1. Prior to transhipping, the Captain of the LSTV must notify the following information to the port State authorities, at least 48 hours in advance:
 - a) the name of the LSTV and its number in the IOTC record of fishing vessels;
 - b) the name of the carrier vessel, and the product to be transhipped;
 - c) the tonnage by product to be transhipped;
 - d) the date and location of transhipment;
 - e) the major fishing grounds of the tuna and tuna-like species and sharks catches.
 - 2.2. The Captain of a LSTV shall, at the time of the transhipment, inform its Flag State of the following:
 - a) the products and quantities involved;
 - b) the date and place of the transhipment;
 - c) the name, registration number and flag of the receiving carrier vessel;
 - d) the geographic location of the tuna and tuna-like species and sharks catches.
 - 2.3. The captain of the LSTV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag State the IOTC transhipment declaration, along with its number in the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex II** not later than 15 days after the transhipment.
3. Receiving vessel:

Not later than 24 hours before the beginning and at the end of the transhipment, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall inform the port State authorities of the quantities of tuna and tuna-like species and sharks transhipped to his vessel, and complete and transmit the IOTC transhipment declaration, to the competent

authorities within 24 hours.

Landing State:

4. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, complete and transmit an IOTC transshipment declaration, to the competent authorities of the landing State where the landing takes place.
5. The port State and the landing State referred to in the above paragraphs shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate with the flag CPC of the LSTV to ensure that landings are consistent with the reported catches amount of each vessel. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.
6. Each flag CPC of the LSTVs shall include in its annual report each year to IOTC the details on the transshipments by its vessels.



ANNEX II

IOTC Transhipment declaration

Carrier Vessel	Fishing Vessel
Name of the Vessel and Radio Call Sign:	Name of the Vessel and Radio Call Sign:
Flag:	Flag:
Flag State license number:	Flag State license number:
National Register Number, if available:	National Register Number, if available:
IOTC Register Number, if available:	IOTC Register Number, if available:

Day Month Hour Year | 2_|0_|_|_| Agent's name: Master's name of LSTV: Master's name of Carrier:

Departure |_|_| |_|_| |_|_| from |_|_|_|_|

Return |_|_| |_|_| |_|_| to |_|_|_|_| Signature: Signature: Signature:

Transhipment |_|_| |_|_| |_|_| |_|_|_|_|

Indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: |_|_|_|_|_| kilograms

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Species	Port		Sea	Type of product									
				Whole	Gutted	Headed	Filleted						

If transhipment effected at sea, IOTC Observer Name and Signature:

ANNEX III

IOTC Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require carrier vessels included in the IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels authorised to receive transhipments in the IOTC area of competence and which tranship at sea, to carry an IOTC observer during each transhipment operation in the IOTC area of competence.
2. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall appoint the observers and shall place them on board the carrier vessels authorised to receive transhipments in the IOTC area of competence from LSTLVs flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties that implement the IOTC observer program.

Designation of the observers

3. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - a) sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
 - b) satisfactory knowledge of the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;
 - c) the ability to observe and record information accurately;
 - d) a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

Obligations of the observer

4. Observers shall:
 - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by IOTC;
 - b) not be, to the extent possible, nationals of the flag State of the receiving carrier vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 5 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the IOTC Secretariat;
 - e) not be a crew member of an LSTLV or an employee of an LSTLV company.
5. The observer tasks shall be in particular to:
 - a) On the Fishing Vessel intending to tranship to the carrier vessel and before the transhipment takes place, the observer shall:
 - i. check the validity of the fishing vessel's authorisation or licence to fish tuna and tuna-like species and sharks in the IOTC area of competence;
 - ii. check and note the total quantity of catch on board, and the quantity to be transferred to the carrier vessel;
 - iii. check that the VMS is functioning and examine the logbook;
 - iv. verify whether any of the catch on board resulted from transfers from other vessels, and check documentation on such transfers;

v. in the case of an indication that there are any violations involving the fishing vessel, immediately report the violations to the carrier vessel's master,

vi. report the results of these duties on the fishing vessel in the observers report.

b) On the Carrier Vessel:

Monitor the carrier vessel's compliance with the relevant Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:

i. record and report upon the transshipment activities carried out;

ii. verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transshipping;

iii. observe and estimate products transhipped;

iv. verify and record the name of the LSTLV concerned and its IOTC number;

v. verify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;

vi. certify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;

vii. countersign the transshipment declaration;

viii. issue a daily report of the carrier vessels transshipping activities;

ix. establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the captain the opportunity to include therein any relevant information;

x. submit to the IOTC Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation;

xi. exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.

6. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the LSTLVs and of the LSTLVs owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.

7. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.

8. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in paragraph 9 of this program.

Obligations of the flag States of carrier vessels

9. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the carrier vessels and their captains shall include the following, notably:

a) Observers shall be allowed access to the vessel personnel and to the gear and equipment;

b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 5:

i. Satellite navigation equipment;

- ii. Radar display viewing screens when in use;
 - iii. Electronic means of communication.
 - c) Observers shall be provided accommodation, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
 - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
 - e) The flag States shall ensure that captains, crew and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.
10. The IOTC Executive Secretary, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, shall provide to the flag State of the carrier vessel under whose jurisdiction the vessel transhipped and to the flag CPC of the LSTLV, copies of all available raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip four months prior to the IOTC Compliance Committee meeting.

Obligations of LSTLV during transhipment

- 11. Observers shall be allowed to visit the fishing vessel, if weather conditions permit it, and access shall be granted to personnel and areas of the vessel necessary to carry out their duties set forth in paragraph 5.
- 12. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall submit the observer reports to the IOTC Compliance Committee and to the IOTC Scientific Committee.

Observer fees

- 13. The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the flag CPCs of LSTLVs wishing to engage in transhipment operations. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the IOTC Secretariat and the IOTC Executive Secretary shall manage the account for implementing the program.
- 14. No LSTLV may participate in the at-sea transhipment program unless the fees, as required under paragraph 13, have been paid.

RECOMMENDATION 14/07

TO STANDARDISE THE PRESENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION IN THE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE REPORT AND IN WORKING PARTY REPORTS

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNISING the importance of sound scientific advice as the centre piece for the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas in line with international law and the information needs of the Commission;

NOTING that participants of the first Global Summit of Tuna RFMOs in 2007 in Kobe, Japan agreed that stock assessment results be presented in a standardised "four quadrant, red-yellow-green-orange" format that is now referred as the "Kobe Plot" which is widely embraced as a practical, user-friendly method to present stock status information;

FURTHER NOTING that, at the Second Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs in June 2009 in San Sebastian, Spain, a "Strategy Matrix" was adopted to provide fisheries managers with the statistical probability of meeting management targets, including ending overfishing and rebuilding overfished stocks, in a standardised manner as a result of potential management actions;

AKNOWLEDGING that the Strategy Matrix is a harmonised format for RFMO science bodies to convey advice, and that this format for presenting stock assessment results facilitates the application of the precautionary approach by providing Commissions with the basis to evaluate and adopt management options at various levels of probability of success;

RECALLING recommendations of the Kobe II Workshop of Experts to Share Best Practices on the Provision of Scientific Advice and of the Kobe III recommendations, in particular on development on research activities to better quantify the uncertainty and understand how this uncertainty is reflected in the risk assessment inherent in the Kobe II strategy matrix;

FURTHER RECALLING the provisions of the Recommendation 12/15 *on the best available science*, that requests the provision of clear, transparent, and standardised formats for scientific advice delivered to the Commission;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Resolutions 12/01 *on the implementation of the precautionary approach* and 13/10 *on interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework*, make possible the implementation of the precautionary approach thanks to the adoption of interim target and limit reference points;

NOTING the excellent work to date by the Scientific Committee, its working parties and the IOTC Secretariat to standardise the presentation of scientific information in their annual reports, including via the '*Executive Summaries*' for each stock;

STRESSING the importance of further refining the presentation of scientific information to facilitate appropriate utilisation by the Commission;

RECOMMENDS, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, that:

1. In support of the scientific advice made available by the IOTC Scientific Committee, the '*Executive Summaries*' within the annual IOTC Scientific Committee report which present stock assessment results, include when possible:

Stock status

- a) A Kobe plot/chart showing:
 - i. Any Target and Limit Reference Points adopted by the Commission, e.g. F_{MSY} and F_{LIM} , SB_{MSY} and SB_{LIM} or B_{MSY} and B_{LIM} , depending on the assessment models used by the Scientific Committee, or proxies where available;

- ii. The stock estimates, expressed in reference to Target Reference Points adopted by the Commission, e.g. as F_{CURRENT} on F_{MSY} and as SB_{CURRENT} on SB_{MSY} or as B_{CURRENT} on B_{MSY} ;
 - iii. The estimated uncertainty around estimates, provided that statistical methods to do so have been agreed upon the Scientific Committee and that sufficient data exist;
 - iv. The stock status trajectory.
- b) A graphical representation showing the proportion of model outputs of the years used for advice from the last stock assessment that are within the green quadrant of the Kobe plot/chart (not overfished, not subject to overfishing), the yellow and orange quadrants (overfished or subject to overfishing) and the red quadrant (overfished and subject to overfishing).

Model outlooks

- c) Two Kobe II strategy matrices:
- i. A first one indicating the probability of complying with the Target Reference Points adopted by the Commission, e.g. the probability of either $SB > SB_{\text{MSY}}$ or $B > B_{\text{MSY}}$ and of $F < F_{\text{MSY}}$ for different levels of catch across multiple years;
 - ii. A second one indicating the probability of being inside safe biological limits expressed through Limit Reference Points adopted by the Commission, e.g. the probability of either $SB > SB_{\text{LIM}}$ or $B > B_{\text{LIM}}$ and of $F < F_{\text{LIM}}$ for different levels of catch across multiple years;
 - iii. When the Commission agrees on acceptable probability levels associated with the target and limit reference points on a stock by stock basis, the Scientific Committee could prepare and include, in the annual report, the Kobe II strategy matrices using colour coding corresponding to these thresholds.

Data quality and limitations of the assessment models

- d) A statement qualifying the quality, the reliability and where relevant the representativeness of input data to stock assessments, such as, but not limited to:
- i. Fisheries statistics and fisheries indicators (e.g. catch and effort, catch-at size and catch at age matrices by sex and, when applicable, fisheries dependent indices of abundance);
 - ii. Biological information (e.g. growth parameters, natural mortality, maturity and fecundity, migration patterns and stock structure, fisheries independent indices of abundance);
 - iii. Complementary information (e.g. consistencies among available abundance indices, influence of the environmental factors on the dynamic of the stock, changes in fishing effort distribution, selectivity and fishing power, changes in target species).
- e) A statement qualifying the limits of the assessment model with respect to the type and the quality of the input data and expressing the possible biases in the assessment results associated with uncertainties of the input data;
- f) A statement concerning the reliability of the projections carried out over the long term.

Alternative approach (data poor stocks)

2. When, due to data or modelling limitations, the IOTC Scientific Committee is unable to develop Kobe II strategy matrices and associated charts or other estimates of current status relative to benchmarks, the IOTC Scientific Committee will develop its scientific advice on available fisheries-dependant and fisheries-independent indicators and provide similar caveats as those detailed in paragraph 1(d).



Additional information and review of the structure and templates of the '*Executive Summaries*'

3. The Commission encourages the IOTC Scientific Committee to include either in its annual report or in the detailed reports, where possible and if considered as relevant and useful, any other tables and/or graphics supporting scientific advice and management recommendations. In particular, the IOTC Scientific Committee will include, where possible, information on the recruitment trajectories, on the stock-recruitment relationship and some ratio such as yield per recruit or biomass per recruit.
4. As far as needed, the IOTC Scientific Committee shall review recommendations and templates for the Kobe II strategy matrices, plot and graphical representations as laid down in this Recommendation and will advise the Commission on possible improvements.