

Report of Implementation for the year 2014

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 26 FEBRUARY 2015

Reporting CPC: Republic of Maldives

Date: 05/02/2015

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

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 14/01 On the removal of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures

No action was taken to implement the measures outlined in this resolution. Several conservation and management measures that were deemed obsolete by the resolution were recommendations or resolutions that required no action from a CPC. Furthermore, the existing legal framework for fisheries management and development is based on the current conservation and management measures that are relevant to the Maldives hence, no action has been undertaken to cater for this resolution.

2. Resolution 14/02 For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence

Management measure outlined by an IOTC resolution which is relevant to the Maldives has been drafted into local fisheries regulations.

However, work on establishing allocation (quota) system for the pole and line skipjack fishery and handline yellowfin tuna fishery has not been initiated as IOTC is working towards and allocation system among the CPCs.

During the past year, a catch allocation mechanism was established for the Maldivian longline fishing fleet based on Maldives Fleet Development Plan. A regulation has been gazetted to implement the catch allocation system and all Maldivian fishing vessels engaging in tuna longlining now has to acquire a quota prior to obtaining a fishing license.

3. Resolution 14/03 On enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers

None. This resolution has provisions for the secretariat to implement. Maldives is however, taking part all of the Dialogue Workshops and actively engaged in the process of the MSE Programme

4. Resolution 14/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence^a

Article 3 of licensing regulation mandates all commercial fishing vessels to hold a valid fishing license. The information requirement under this resolution is already catered for under this regulation as the information specified in this regulation is already been collected.

However, the license template for both to fish in Maldivian waters and outside Maldivian Jurisdiction has been changed and a revised template will be sent to IOTC and will be published in Government's gazette.

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. A weekly update of valid fishing licenses is published in Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture website (www.fishagri.gov.mv).

5. Resolution 14/05 Concerning a record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC area of competence and access agreement information ^a

The foreign fishing vessel licensing scheme has been scrapped by the Government of Maldives as of March 2009. Therefore this resolution is not relevant to the Maldives and no changes has been brought to the legal framework as a result of this resolution.

6. Resolution 14/06 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels ^a

Licensing regulation bans at sea transshipments for large scale fishing vessels. The vessels have to report to a port for transshipment activities.

Note: ^a indicate that a template report exists for some of the requirements and can be downloaded at <http://www.iotc.org/compliance/reporting-templates>

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.*

Maldives have implemented a catch-allocation based licensing scheme for longline vessels based on the fleet development plan submitted to IOTC under resolution 03/01. Assuming that the amount of fishing vessels leaving and entering the skipjack pole and line and yellowfin handline fishery remains constant, the government felt the changes in capacity could be used to develop the longline fishery targeting bigeye tuna. The longline regulation stipulates articles on buying/selling catch-quotas, exchanges of quotas and auctioning of quotas. Quotas for longline are sold from June 01 of every year to May 31 of the following year. During the first year, (2014 - 2015), total of 7,700 MT of quotas were sold. This increased the licensing revenue generated from the fishery and increased the amount of participation from the longline vessels.

A Regulation on Protected Species has also been drafted and will be gazetted around end of February 2015. This regulation have provisions on undertaking conservation programmes for protected species and also outlines the penalties for catching, retention or sale of any protected species.

Part C. Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the *section February 2015 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 ☐

The report is attached to the implementation report:

Yes ☐

No ☐

Additional information:

Not applicable. Maldives do not import bigeye tuna.

- 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 been already reported to the commission.

- 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 sea bird mitigation measures specified in the Resolution. The incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fishery are reported to 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 2014 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 transshipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2014 is attached to the implementation report:

Yes ☐

No ☐

Additional information:

Not Applicable. Maldives do not import tuna and tuna products

- 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.

However, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture has obtained funds to employ 2 observers in 2015.

- 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 14/06 On establishing a programme for transshipment 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 transshipments in ports by its vessels (Name of LSTV, IOTC Number, name of carrier vessel, species and quantity transhipped, date and location of transshipment). *[A template report exists].*

The details on transshipment in ports for 2014 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes ☐

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

No ☐

The details on transshipment in ports for 2014 are attached to the implementation report:

Yes ☐

No ☐

Additional information:

Not applicable. At sea transshipments are banned under licensing regulation.

- 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 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 under 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 the Maldivian waters by the Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act no. 5/87)

- Resolution 14/05 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

Not applicable. Maldives do not license foreign vessels fishing.