

Report of Implementation for the year 2014

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 26 FEBRUARY 2015

Reporting CPC: Mauritius

Date: 26/02/15

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
Mauritius is agreeable for the removal of the obsolete conservation and management measures with regards to the above resolution.
2. Resolution 14/02 For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence

Mauritius has devised its Fleet Development Plan (FDP) which establishes a control over the number of vessels deployed, thus contributing towards the equitable distribution of the catches and fishing opportunities. In addition, the FAD management plan for Mauritian purse seiners limits the number of FADs to only 500 per vessel hereby encouraging the sustainable fishing of tropical tunas.

Mauritius has also participated in the two Technical Committees on Allocation Criteria (TCAC) held, respectively, in Kenya and Oman. It will continue to participate in other TCAC to contribute further and for concrete recommendations on an Allocation quota system, or any other relevant measures for the management of the main targeted species under the IOTC area of competence.

Furthermore, a pilot project to improve data collection for tuna, sharks and billfish from artisanal fisheries in Mauritius has been conducted under the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF) programme. An appropriate data collection system is being devised to report effectively on the artisanal tuna fisheries.

3. Resolution 14/03 On enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers
Officers of the Ministry of Fisheries of Mauritius attended the Second Workshop on Connecting the IOTC Science and Management Processes, following which an integrated effort is being made so as to improve the level of comprehension among IOTC stakeholders on how the scientific process informs the management of IOTC species and ecosystems; and, moreover, to foster awareness of IOTC stakeholders on their obligations, as stipulated in the Commissions' Conservation and Management Measures which are based on rigorous scientific advice.

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

The list of authorised vessels including details of the vessels that are authorised to fish outside national jurisdiction was submitted on the 13/02/15 as per the template provided by the IOTC.

The terms and conditions of the Fishing authorisation and licences are being amended according to the requirements of IOTC resolutions 14/04. The terms and conditions are legally binding according to Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Article 37.

The legislative framework has made provisions for fishing vessels to keep a fishing national logbook containing information on fishing trip and catch /effort. Based on the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Article 41 :

"The Master or owner of any licensed fishing boat or fishing vessel shall keep a fishing logbook in such form as may be approved in writing by the Permanent Secretary."

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 Ministry of Fisheries keeps a record consisting of all the details of fishing vessels licensed to fish in the waters of Mauritius. Licences are issued to foreign fishing vessels according to the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels. Details of the licensed fishing vessels are regularly transmitted to the IOTC. The list of foreign licensed vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC area of competence was submitted on the 11/02/15. Information, as well as a copy of the agreement concerning Government-Government Access Agreements was submitted to IOTC.

No foreign fishing vessel was denied a licence in 2014.

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

Mauritius has no LSTLVs that were involved in transhipment at sea.

Mauritius has LSTVs (purse seiners) active in 2014 and a nil report of transhipment in foreign port has been submitted on the 24/02/15.

Moreover, as per the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act, 2007 - Article 39 (1), transhipment in the Maritime Zones is prohibited.

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.*

The Fisheries and Marine Resources Act, 2007 is actually under review so as to conform with regional and international instruments.

The National Plan of Action for Sharks with the objective to ensuring the conservation and management of sharks and their long-term sustainable use, is being finalised.

The Port State Control Unit of the Ministry of Fisheries is being reinforced with the help of Port State Measures Workshop conducted by the IOTC to better control fishing vessels calling in the port.

In addition, licenses are issued to local and foreign fishing vessels only after all the conditions promoting the implementation of conservation and management measures, are met

The implementation of the joint Regional Surveillance Programme under the Smartfish/Indian Ocean Commission continued during 2014, whereby fishing vessels not complying with the licensed conditions are contravened. A long range patrol vessel has been acquired in 2014 to better equip the National Coastguard to monitor fishing vessels in the EEZ of Mauritius.

Licensed and national fishing vessels are monitored through the Vessel Monitoring System by the Fisheries Monitoring Centre and the National Coastguard. All vessels are now required to be fitted with the Automatic Identification System (AIS).

The legal framework has made provision for the mandatory marking of vessels according to the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act, 2007 - Article 40.

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 ☒ **X**

The report is attached to the implementation report:

Yes ☐ **No** ☒ **X**

Additional information:

Not applicable as Mauritius does 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”.

The activities of authorised fishing vessels are regulated by the terms and conditions of the licences as well as the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act, 2007 and regulations.

All licensed fishing vessels operating in the Mauritian waters should land/tranship their catch at the port of Mauritius and a report of the catch landed/transhipped is submitted to the IOTC on a yearly basis.

Furthermore, all AFVs calling at the port for transhipment/landing are inspected by the Fisheries Protection Officers based at the Port State Control Unit (PSCU). A national inspection scheme has been established for the Mauritian-flagged vessels.

AFVs are monitored by the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) through a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and Automatic Identification System (AIS).

The PSCU is responsible for the implementation of the Statistical Catch Document Programme.

At the level of fishing grounds, AFVs are managed by the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) through a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and by Surveillance Mission whereby monitoring and inspection are carried out by patrol boats. Furthermore, all vessels are equipped with the Automatic Identification System (AIS) for better monitoring of their activities.

- 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.

Mauritius does not have longliners registered with the IOTC in 2014.

- 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 transhipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2014 is attached to the implementation report:

Yes ☐ No ☒

Additional information:

The data is being compiled for Resolution 10/10 and will be submitted in due course.

- 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.

Mauritius has registered seven purse seiners and has trained 8 observers.

3 observers are expected to be deployed as from February 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.

The agents of foreign licensed fishing vessels and owners of national boats were informed of the above resolution and mitigation measures. Marine turtle identification cards have been distributed to fishing operators. National purseine fishing operators have been requested to abide by Section 9 of Resolution 12/04.

Resolution 12/04 will be included in the terms and conditions of the licences issued to Mauritian fishing vessels.

Encounter with sea turtles has not been reported by national fishing vessels.

- 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 X

Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): 24/02/15

No

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

Yes ☐

No X

Additional information:

A nil report of transshipment in foreign ports by the Mauritian-flagged vessels (purse seiners) was submitted on the 24/02/15.

- 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.

Provision has been made in the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act, 2007 - Article 12(d)

- 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 of encounter with a cetacean was reported in the logbooks.

- 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 of encounter with a whale shark was reported in the logbooks.

- 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

Information concerning the agreements has been submitted to IOTC. A copy of the Access Agreement has been submitted on the 24/02/15.