

## **Report of Implementation for the year 2014**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 26 FEBRUARY 2015**

Reporting CPC: Sri Lanka

Date: 26-02-2015

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

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**Part A.** *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission at its sixteenth Session.*

1. Resolution 14/01 On the removal of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures  
Sri Lanka noted this resolution
2. Resolution 14/02 For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence  
Sri Lanka has further strengthen the large pelagic fish data collection and reporting system mainly targeting the tuna and tuna like species with the close supervision and technical guidance of IOTC through IOTC /OFCF and BOBLME project (2012-2014).
3. Resolution 14/03 On enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers  
Two officers of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic resources participated at the first workshop held in February 2015 Thailand on this regard. They will share the acquired knowledge gained while making the decisions and policies on tuna fisheries.
4. Resolution 14/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence<sup>a</sup>

Sri Lanka maintains an up-to-date vessel registry of all Sri Lankan flagged vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence. The list of fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence is submitted to the IOTC Executive Secretary on 10th February 2015. A total of 421 vessels >10.3m has been authorized to operate at high seas to the end of January 2015. All information required under paragraph 2 of Resolution 14/04 is provided to IOTC as per the template provided by IOTC. Any changes to the authorised vessel list are promptly notified to the IOTC.

International Radio Call Signs are being issued to the vessels operating at high seas. At present 306 numbers of vessels are with IRCS. The authority of issuing IRCS is the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (TRC) subjected to the approval of the Ministry of Defence. There is a screening process under Ministry of Defence before granting approval for the issuance of IRCS for security reasons. It takes some time for the screening process

and thus a delaying of issuance of IRCS to the applicants. 1370 number of applicants are currently waiting to obtain IRCS at present.

Sri Lanka provided the sample document of the updated official authorisation that carried on board in the Sri Lankan flagged fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence together with the information requested by the point 3 of this resolution on 13th February 2015.

All requirements for high seas fishing mentioned in the point 07 of this resolution is addressed in the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No 35 of 2013 and the following regulations drafted and under implementation.

*(Fishing boat registration regulation (Annex – i), High seas fishing operations regulations (Annex ii), Data collection regulation amendment 2014 (Annex – iii), Regulations for gear marking (Annex – iv), Port State Measures regulation (Annex – v), Operational VMS on board Regulation (Annex – vi))*

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<sup>a</sup>

Sri Lanka do not issue licence to foreign fishing vessels to fish either within EEZ or High seas.

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

Transshipment has not been allowed for the Sri Lankan flagged vessels. One exception that Sri Lanka had been experienced in a large scale Tuna logline vessel in year 2014. This vessel had engaged in a single transshipment under distressed situation. The transshipment details reported to Department of Fisheries Sri Lanka and the relevant statistical documents have been validated by the authorized officers. At sea Transshipment obligations in the Resolution 14/06 will be incorporated to the High Seas regulations in its next amendment which is scheduled to be done shortly.

Note: <sup>a</sup> 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.*

## **1. Adoption of new legislations 2014**

### 1.1. High seas fishing operation regulation (1<sup>st</sup> Sep.2014) - Annex ii

#### 1.2 Catch data collection Regulation (1<sup>st</sup> Sep.2014) – Annexiii

After doing a gap analysis the catch data collection regulation 2012 was repealed and the catch data collection regulation 2014 was gazetted by making the log book compulsory on-board the vessels > 10.3m and the submission of duly filled log sheets at the end of each fishing trip.

#### 1.3.Amendment to the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2015)

To introduce higher deterrent sanctions for the high seas fishing vessels undermine the conservation and management measures based on the size of the vessel.

#### 1.4. Fishing Gear marking regulation (LD approved and at the Govt. Printer)- Annex iv

## **2. Legislation drafted and pending at Legal Draftsmen Department**

### 2.1 Port State Measures Regulation – Annex v

### 2.2 Operational VMS onboard Regulation – Annex vi

3. Legal Actions taken under the National Legislation for the infringements undermining the conservation and management measures of IOTC in 2014 is annexed (Annex -vii)

4. Administrative actions taken against the vessels reported on IUU fishing in BIOT waters and initiation of legal actions under the provisions of FARA Act No.35 (Annex-viii)

**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:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- 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”.

Management in the fishing grounds

The observer programme is carried out at pilot scale in year 2014. 20 observers were trained and 3 pilot trips have been undertaken. A country specific Observer Manual and reporting template to be prepared with the technical assistance of the IOTC expected by 23<sup>rd</sup> February at the observer programme training workshop organized by IOTC/DFAR.

Sri Lanka VMS programme is implemented in two stages, namely an interim solution which covers 50 units and the main programme which covers 1,500 units. Installation of the 50 units has been started on November 2014 and 39 numbers have been installed up to date. The progress up to date is attached to this report. (Annex- ix).

Transshipment has not been allowed for the Sri Lankan flagged vessels. Sri Lanka had only one large scale Tuna logline vessel in year 2014. This vessel has engaged in a single transshipment under distressed situation. The transshipment details reported to Department of Fisheries Sri Lanka and the relevant statistical documents have been validated by the authorized officers. At sea Transshipment obligations in the Resolution 14/06 will be incorporated to the High Seas regulations in its next amendment which is scheduled to be done shortly.

Port state measures are in place in terms of the IOTC Resolution 10/11 and the FAO/PSM agreement. At the designated ports, the minimum 24 hrs in advance port-call and information of the relevant competent authorities have been updated and reported to the IOTC Secretariat. Port inspectors have been appointed and inspections have been conducted. The inspection reports have been sent on time to the IOTC Secretariat with a copy to the Flag countries. 15 vessels have been monitored and 12 inspection reports have been submitted for the year 2014 covering 7.5% of the landings. Foreign vessels authorized to operate in IOTC area of competence by the respective Flag countries with valid operation license were only permitted to land fish in the designated ports of Sri Lanka. Non-contracting parties have not been permitted to land fish in ports of Sri Lanka. The list of foreign vessels and the fish landed for the year 2014 will be reported to IOTC before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 in line with the deadlines given. Sri Lanka will further improve the implementation of PSM once the drafted PSM regulation comes into effect.

Sri Lanka has strengthened the inspection of local fish landings by increasing the number of Fisheries Inspectors at major fishing harbours. This inspection is carried out at departure and on arrival of the vessels to the ports. Inspections are also conducted by the Navy officers, Coast guard officials, Fisheries officers and fishery harbour managers in all aspects to combat IUU fishing within the capacities of the authority. However, certain aspects such as absence of log books, absence of gear marking, absence of call sign could not be taken as convicted of high seas fishing in year 2014 due to absence of legal provisions at the time considered. Thereby, most cases of the detections of violation ended up with warning and making them aware of the consequence of these violations. Strengthening of the inspection programme has been planned with the deployment of more officers for the year 2015 and thus cases reporting will be minimized in next submissions.

- 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.

1. Sea bird catches are not reported in Sri Lanka due to the nature of the fishery and less availability of sea birds in the high seas area around Sri Lanka. Seabirds are not interacting with long liners either line is setting or line hauling mostly due to the low height of the small boats without sophisticated super structure and also the bait used may not be attractive. Gill net of Sri Lanka are multifilament nylon, which are

usually highly visible to seabirds and have less potential of becoming entangled than the less visible monofilament nets. The National Aquatic Resources and Research Development Agency (NARA) has done two short-term studies on sea birds through comprehensive port sampling, onboard observer records and tracking (Research cruises - Dr. Fridtjof Nansen and RV Roger Revelle in the high seas of the Bay of Bengal) and interview with fishermen. The findings were present at the WPEB in 2014. Sea birds have not been caught even to the coastal trawl fishing studied during the survey period. Thus there is no mitigation measures in applied to prevent seabird interactions. Hence Sri Lanka has not developed the NPOA-Sea birds.

- 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 ☐ No ☒

**Date of reporting (30/04/2015):**

There were no transhipments happen in Sri Lanka in 2014. However in the light of the IOTC compliance assistance officers, the port inspectors have been made aware to be more vigilant on such activities.

**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:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- 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 observer programme was carried out at pilot scale in the latter part of the year 2014. Reports have not submitted. The program is still under supervision of IOTC technical experts. Once the country specific reporting templates provided with proper training on filling up of

the forms by the technical mission of IOTC in Sri Lanka on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015, the reporting will be commenced as appropriate.

- 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.

Sea turtles are legally protected under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance, No 2 of 1937 (amended 1970; 1993) and the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No 2 of 1996. It is an offence to kill, wound, harm or take a turtle, or to possession a turtle (dead or alive) or any part of a turtle, to sell or expose for sale a turtle or part of a turtle, or to destroy or take turtle eggs. The punishments meted out to offenders have been increased by the Fauna and Flora Protection (Amendment) Act No 49 of 1993).

The National Aquatic Resources and Research Development Agency (NARA) has done two short-term studies on sea turtle integration of large pelagic fisheries through comprehensive port sampling, on-board observer records and tracking and interview with fishermen. The study revealed that incidental catch data of sea turtles in gillnets and longline fisheries targeting large pelagic fish in the offshore and high seas are extremely low and thus impact on their survival is insignificant. Hence Sri Lanka has not developed the NPOA-Sea turtles.

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

Each flag CPC of the LSTV shall include in its annual report each year to IOTC the details on the transhipments in ports by its vessels (Name of LSTV, IOTC Number, name of carrier vessel, species and quantity transhipped, date and location of transhipment). *[A template report exists].*

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

Yes ☐

No ☐

Additional information:

No Transhipments in the ports of Sri Lanka for the year 2014

- 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.

Use of gill nets > 2.5 km is prohibited by the High-sea fishing Operations Regulations with effect from September 2014. A team of officers comprising of Sri Lanka Navy, Coast Guard, Harbour Managers and Fisheries officials have been appointed for boat inspection on departure and arrival at the port. The vessels with high seas operation licence detected with the gill nets > 2.5 km have been asked to off load the nets before leaving the port. These cases could not be taken as conviction of high seas fishing condition in year 2014 due to absence of legal provisions at the time consider and they were warned and made aware of the consequence of violations with the implementation of the regulation . Strengthening of the inspection programme has been planned with the deployment of more officers for the year 2015 and legal actions will be taken against the violators and reported in next submissions.

- 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.

Incidental catch data of cetaceans (dolphins, whales and dugong) have not been reported in catch statistics recorded through port sampling, log book of any fisheries (Gillnet, longline, ring net, purse seine) employed in coastal and high-sea targeting large pelagic in Sri Lanka. Details of catch statistics which is collected through port sampling programme will be reported with catch statistics before 30<sup>th</sup> June.

- 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 such encircling reported in year 2014.

- 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),



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*A report template exists and can be requested at [secretariat@iotc.org](mailto:secretariat@iotc.org)*

Inapplicable