

GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS TO THE IOTC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE IN 2015

The National Report is due to be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the start of the annual regular session of the Scientific Committee.

DEADLINE: 9 NOVEMBER 2015

Purpose: To provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee on fishing activities of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties operating in the IOTC area of competence. The report should include all fishing activities for species under the IOTC mandate as well as sharks and other byproduct/ bycatch species as required by the IOTC Agreement and decisions by the Commission.

NOTE: The submission of a National Report is **Mandatory**, irrespective if a CPC intends on attending the annual meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Explanatory note

This report is intended to provide a summary of the main features of the tuna and billfish fisheries for Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. As such, it does not replace the need for submission of data according to Resolution 15/02 *Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*

Mandatory versus Desirable information

National Reports must include all headings as noted in the template below as [Mandatory]. Where data/information is not available for a given [Mandatory] heading, the reason why it is not available should be clearly stated. These mandatory fields for the *National Reports* were agreed to be the Scientific Committee in 2010.

Where available, CPCs are encouraged to provide additional information under the headings shown as [Desirable].

For clarification on minimum reporting requirements for the National Report, please contact the IOTC Secretariat (secretariat@iotc.org).

NOTE

Please use the template below when preparing your National Report. Simply delete this explanatory page and add your own cover page/preliminaries if needed.

Please also delete any text shown in **red** below before submitting your National Report.

[COUNTRY NAME] National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2015

Authors

Author/s affiliation [organisation/s]

INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

<p>In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, final scientific data for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year, for all fleets other than longline [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2015, final data for the 2014 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2015)</p>	<p>YES or NO [delete one]</p> <p>DD/MM/YYYY [Add submission date here]</p>
<p>In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, provisional longline data for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2015, preliminary data for the 2014 calendar year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2015).</p> <p>REMINDER: Final longline data for the previous year is due to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 Dec of the current year [e.g. for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2015, final data for the 2014 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2015).</p>	<p>YES or NO [delete one]</p> <p>DD/MM/YYYY [Add submission date here]</p>
<p>If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:</p>	

Executive Summary [Mandatory]

*[Include a summary of the key aspects of the National Report for the most recent reporting year. This summary will be included in the Scientific Committee report (**300 words maximum**)]*

Contents *[add a table of contents with page numbers]* [Desirable]

1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION [MANDATORY]

[add a general description of national fleets including national fisheries, methods and fishing area for the previous year]

2. FLEET STRUCTURE [MANDATORY]

[Add a description of the national fleet structure, by gear type, including vessel size and duration of fishing operations.]

Table 1: Number of vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence, by gear type and size *[minimum – most recent five years: 2010–2014; Desirable for as long a period as possible]*

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND GEAR) [Mandatory]

[Add a general description of fishing activities by national fleets (by gear type) in the IOTC area of competence, including changes in fishing patterns, fleet operations and target species.]

Table 2. Annual catch and effort by gear and primary species in the IOTC area of competence. *[for the most recent five years at a minimum]* Include a 'not elsewhere indicated – NEI' category for all other catch combined. [Note: Multiple tables may be required e.g. **Table 2a, 2b, 2c**]. [Mandatory]

Figure 1. Historical annual catch for the national fleet, by gear and primary species, for the IOTC area of competence for the entire history of the fishery/fleet. [Mandatory]

Figure 2a. Map of the distribution of fishing effort, by gear type for the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (most recent year e.g. 2014). *[may require a separate map for each gear type]* [Mandatory]

Figure 2b. Map of the distribution of fishing effort, by gear type for the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (average of the 5 previous years e.g. 2010–2014). *[may require a separate map for each gear type]* [Mandatory]

Figure 3a. Map of distribution of fishing catch, by species for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence (most recent year e.g. 2014). *[may require a separate map for each species]* [Mandatory]

Figure 3b. Map of distribution of fishing catch, by species for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence (average of the 5 previous years e.g. 2010–2014). *[may require a separate map for each species]* [Mandatory]

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY [Mandatory]

[A description of recreational fishing activities in the IOTC area of competence. Include information on catches if available]

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES [Mandatory]

[A description of the overall environmental issues and progress within national fisheries (e.g. ecological risk assessments; bycatch action plans) and for individual species groups including]

5.1 Sharks [Mandatory]

[add a brief summary of key national strategies related to sharks, including the status of the NPOA-sharks, National shark finning regulations and trends in shark interactions]

Table 3: Total number and weight of sharks, by species, retained by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2010–2014). *[Note: Multiple tables may be required for this item]* [Mandatory]

Table 4: Total number of sharks, by species, released/discarded by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2010–2014). Where available, include life status upon released/discard. *[Note: Multiple tables may be required for this item]* [Desirable]

5.2 Seabirds [Mandatory]

[add a brief summary of key national strategies related to seabirds, including NPOA-seabirds, current seabird mitigation measures used by the national longline fleet, recovery plans and interactions]

5.3 Marine Turtles [Mandatory]

[add a brief summary of key national strategies related to marine turtles, including recovery plan and interactions]

5.4 Other ecologically related species (e.g. marine mammals, whale sharks) [Desirable]

[add a brief summary of key national strategies related to other ecologically related species such as marine mammals and whale sharks]

Table 5. Observed annual catches of species of special interest by species (seabirds, marine turtles and marine mammals) by gear for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2010–2014 or to the extent available). [Mandatory]

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS [Mandatory]

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification (including date commenced and status of implementation)

6.2. Vessel Monitoring System (including date commenced and status of implementation)

6.3. Observer programme (including date commenced and status; number of observer, include percentage coverage by gear type)

Table 6. Annual observer coverage by operation, e.g. longline hooks, purse seine sets (for the most recent five years at a minimum, e.g. 2010–2014 or to the extent available). [Mandatory]

Figure 4. Map showing the spatial distribution of observer coverage. [Mandatory] *[Recommended spatial resolution = 1 x 1 degree grid]*

6.4. Port sampling programme [including date commenced and status of implementation]

Table 7. Number of individuals measured, by species and gear [Mandatory]

6.4. Unloading/Transshipment [including date commenced and status of implementation] [Mandatory]

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS [Desirable]

[a description of research activities covering target and non-target species e.g. biological studies supporting stock assessments; composition of the catch according to length, weight and sex; research on environmental factors, abundance/biomass surveys, oceanographic and ecological studies, etc.]

Table 8. Summary table of national research programs, including dates. [currently underway]

Example only

Project title	Period	Countries involved	Budget total	Funding source	Objectives	Short description
Programme régional de marquage de thons	2010–2014	EU – France and Spain		ED- DG FISH	Observer program: collection of bycatch data	

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOTC RELEVANT TO THE SC. [Mandatory]

Respond with progress made to recommendations of the SC and specific Resolutions relevant to the work of the Scientific Committee [to be updated annually to include most recent Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission].

Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2005 and 2015.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	
15/05	On conservation measures for striped marlin, black marlin and blue marlin	Paragraph 4	
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7–9	
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>)	Paragraphs 7–9	
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	
12/06	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	
11/04	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 9	
05/05	Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 1–12	

9. LITERATURE CITED [Mandatory]