



COOPERATION WITH OTHER RFMOs

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REVIEW AREA: *International cooperation*

GENERAL CRITERION: *Cooperation with other RFMOs*

DETAILED CRITERIA:

- 1) Extent to which the RFMO cooperates with other RFMOs, including through the network of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats.
- 2) Extent to which IOTC works intra-regionally to adopt common regulatory principles, standards and operational schemes, and processes where appropriate, e.g., observer coverage, FADs management, access rules and appropriate financial mechanisms.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- Extent to which the RFMO cooperates with other RFMOs, including through the network of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats.
 - Other tRFMO's seldom attend IOTC meetings unless their travel is paid for under the umbrella as an Invited Expert
 - There is a commonality in how the tRFMO's conduct business
 - There is some level of commonality in the management measures adopted by tRFMO's
 - The IOTC Secretariat is a member of the regional network of Secretariats
- Extent to which IOTC works intra-regionally to adopt common regulatory principles, standards and operational schemes, and processes where appropriate, e.g., observer coverage, FADs management, access rules and appropriate financial mechanisms.

Since its inception, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission has entered into a number of arrangements with other institutions, almost invariably of a technical nature, either to conduct activities in cooperation or to facilitate exchange of information that would enhance the output of both organizations.

[Appendix I](#) provides a summary of the formal arrangements that, to date, IOTC (or its Secretariat) has entered with other bodies.

Participation of RFBs at IOTC meetings

- CCSBT 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001
- CCAMLR 1998,
- ICCAT 1998, 1999, 2000, 2003
- IATTC 1999
- APFIC 1999
- SEAFDEC, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006
- FFA 2001, 2002
- SWIOFC 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014
- WCPFC 2007, 2014

Participation of IOTC at other RFB meetings

- Due to a limitation in resources and time, IOTC Secretariat staff attend very few of the meetings held by other RFMOs and RFBs. However, the reports of such meetings are received by the Secretariat.
- The IOTC Technical groups are usually informed on the outcomes of the technical meetings held by the other relevant RFMOs by participants that attend both meetings.

Relationship with CCSBT

- At its First Special Session in 1997 the Commission recognised that CCSBT had the prime CCSBT for conservation and management of southern bluefin tuna (while also recognising the legal competence of IOTC to do so). There is increasing need for further cooperation in the areas of ecosystem interactions and by-catch. The IOTC further signed an MOU with CCSBT on the arrangements to include the exchange of data relating to the transshipment and observer programmes as a means to eliminate duplication of work and reducing data collection costs.

Relationship with WCPFC

- In 2007, in acknowledgement of the commonalities between IOTC and the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) the Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding between IOTC and WCPFC that puts into place arrangements and procedures to promote cooperation between the two organisations and enhance the conservation and sustainable use of species which are within the competence of both organizations.

Relationship with SWIOFC

- The IOTC Secretariat attends SWIOFC sessions and those of its Scientific Committee and other working parties as relevant (for example those that deal with information sharing, data and research).

Commonality of management measures

- As many of the commissioners at IOTC also participate in the meetings of the other Tuna RFMOs there is typically a commonality in terms of the nature and extent of the management measures introduced to the respective RFMO's. This is most apparent with respect to ICCAT and IOTC and lesser extend to WCPFC.

Cooperation with other tuna RFMOs

- The IOTC Secretariat is a member of the informal network of tuna RFMO's Secretaries comprising ICCAT, IATTC, CCSBT, WCPFC and IOTC

Cooperation MOU on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

- In 2009 the IOTC and ACAP signed an MOU to promote cooperation between the two organisations to enhance the conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels in the IOTC Area. That MOU put into place arrangements and procedures to promote cooperation between the two organisations and enhance the conservation of seabirds.

Cooperation FAO

- This represents an agreement between the Commission and FAO, for participation of IOTC in the FIRMS initiative (Fisheries Resources Monitoring System Partnership Arrangement). FIRMS is a partnership drawing together international organizations, regional fishery bodies and national scientific institutes, collaborating within a formal arrangement, who are willing to report and share information on status and trends of fishery resources.

Cooperation with IOSEA

- The IOTC cooperates informally with IOSEA (Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding). A number of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) IOTC members are also IOSEA Signatory States. The cooperation is at the level of the subsidiary body of the IOTC in particular the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch and the Scientific Committee.

APPENDIX I

A summary of the arrangements that, to date, IOTC (or its Secretariat) has entered with other bodies

Organization	Purpose	Preparation of arrangement	IOTC Signatory
Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan	Capacity building in data collection in developing countries	Draft presented at the 2001 Commission	Executive Secretary instructed to sign
Commission de l'océan Indien	Supervision of a large-scale tagging project	Draft (proposed by COI) presented at the 2003 Commission	Executive Secretary instructed to sign
FAO	IOTC Participation in FIRMS	Draft (proposed by FAO) presented at 2003 Commission	Executive Secretary instructed to sign
Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission	Promote cooperation and exchange of information	Draft (proposed by WCPFC) presented at 2007 Commission	Chairperson instructed to sign
Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels	Promote cooperation	Proposal from ACAP presented at 2009 Commission	Chairperson instructed to sign
Secretariat of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna	Logistic arrangements for implementation of shared monitoring programme	Proposed by CCSBT Secretariat	Endorsed by Commission, signed by the Secretary
Secretariat of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	Logistic arrangements for implementation of shared monitoring programme	Agreed draft between ICCAT and IOTC Secretariats – arrangement reported to 2010 Compliance Committee	Signed by the Executive Secretary