

## **IOTC Agreement – Article X**

### **Report of Implementation for the year 2015**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 16 MARCH 2016**

Reporting CPC: Mauritius

Date of submission: 16/03/16

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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 Nineteenth Session.*

- Resolution 15/11 On the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties.<sup>a</sup>

Mauritius has submitted a Fleet Development Plan in 2008, which was updated in 2011 and 2013. The present Fleet Development Plan is being revised and a new one will be submitted to the Secretariat in due course.

- Resolution 15/10 On target and limit reference points and a decision framework.  
Mauritius is actively participating in the work of the Scientific Committee and hereby participating in the target reference points of this Resolution.

- Resolution 15/09 On a fish aggregating devices (FADs) working group.  
Mauritius is willing to participate in a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) working group.

- Resolution 15/08 Procedures on fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including a limitation on the number of FADs, more detailed specifications of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species.<sup>a</sup>

Mauritius-flagged purse seiners deploy only non entangling FADS (made of biodegradable materials) to minimise the risk of incidental by catch species such as sharks and marine turtles. In addition the buoys are clearly marked for identification and each buoy is equipped with satellite tracking system for monitoring. A total of 1065 buoys were deployed by the 7 purse seiners during 2015.

Furthermore, the purchase order concerning instrumental buoys for 2016 to be used on Mauritius-Flagged purse seiners has been communicated to the secretariat on 31/12/2015. The detailed catch obtained from FAD sets for 2014 have been compiled and reported to the IOTC as well.

Furthermore, the progress report of the FAD Management Plan is annexed to the Implementation Report.

- Resolution 15/07 On the use of artificial lights to attract fish to drifting fish aggregating devices. Fishing with the aid of artificial light is prohibited as per Article 18 (1) of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007.

- Resolution 15/06 On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, and a recommendation for non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC area of competence.

As per the licence condition (No.26) for purse seiners, it is mandatory for operators to abide by Resolution 15/06.

- Resolution 15/05 On conservation measures for striped marlin, black marlin and blue marlin.

The Mauritius purse seine fishery restarted in 2014 and there was only 0.1 t of marlin reported in the logbooks. As for 2015, only 4.6 t of marlin was reported. Hence a baseline based on catch for the last five years cannot be established at the moment. However, operators of fishing vessels have been advised to release any of the three marlin species brought alive onboard or alongside the vessel. As for the Mauritius-flagged longliners, only an average of 1.5 tonnes of marlin species have been caught as during 2010-2014.

- Resolution 15/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence.<sup>a</sup>

The list of AFVs submitted consisted only of purse seiners as Mauritius does not have longliners above 24 metres or less than 24m that operate outside the EEZ. The licence conditions also make it mandatory for the vessels to carry certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or tranship. As per article 45, part (1b) of the Fisheries and Marine resources Act 2007, cancellation or suspension of registration may occur in case the fishing boat has contravened international fishery conservation and management measures on the high seas or in the EEZ of any State. Provisions have been made in fishing licences to comply to paragraph 15 of Resolution 15/04 with regard to marking of gears. Furthermore, information pertaining to Resolution 15/04 has been submitted to the Secretariat on 15/12/2015.

#### Reporting on IMO number:

To allow the necessary time for CPCs to obtain an IMO number for eligible vessels that do not already have one, paragraph 2.b on IMO number is effective as of 1 January 2016. As of this date, CPCs shall ensure that all their fishing vessels that are registered on the IOTC Record of fishing vessels have IMO numbers issued to them. Paragraph

2.b on IMO number does not apply to vessels which are not eligible to receive IMO numbers.

In assessing compliance with the paragraph above, the Commission shall take into account exceptional circumstances in which a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO number despite following the appropriate procedures. **Flag CPCs shall report any such exceptional situations** to the IOTC Secretariat.

**The report on exceptional situations has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:**

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

No  ; **if no report exceptional situations below:**

The IMO numbers of Mauritius-flagged vessels have already been reported to the Secretariat on the 15/12/15.

- Resolution 15/03 On the vessel monitoring system (VMS) Programme.<sup>a</sup>

The VMS at the Fisheries Monitoring Centre of the Albion Fisheries Research Centre has been updated to accommodate all the requirements detailed under resolutions 15/03. All licensed national and foreign vessels are required to be equipped with a functional and tamper resistant transponder to enable transmission of positions during their fishing campaigns. As per the licence conditions, it is mandatory for licensed vessels to report their position daily every two hours.

- Resolution 15/02 On mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs).

The information concerning the total catch data of Mauritius-flagged and foreign-flagged licensed purse seiners and longliners as well as the length frequency has been duly submitted to the IOTC Secretariat on the 30/06/15 as per the requirements of the resolution. The catch for the purse seiners has been reported by the 1° grid area and for the longliners by 5° grid area. Information such as fishing position, FAD type, FADs set and school type has been included in the submission to the IOTC for the Mauritius-flagged purse seiners. The catch data for the Mauritius-flagged purse seiners has been submitted in the Form 3CE, Form 3FA and as per school type as well. Also, for the foreign-flagged licensed longliners, the final set of catch data has been communicated to the Secretariat on the 22/12/15.

There has been no encounter with seabirds, marine turtles by the licensed longliners and purse seiners during the year 2015. However, whales have been encountered during one fishing trip of the Mauritius-flagged longliner (24m), Etretat, and no fishing was undertaken on that fishing day due to that specific incident, as reported in the logbook.

- Resolution 15/01 On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence.



The fishing data of the Mauritius flagged vessels are subjected to a data recording system. According to Article 51 (2) of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, all fishing vessels have to submit information relating to their catch and effort in accordance with the approved fishing logbook. The logbook template for longliners and purse seiners has already been submitted to the IOTC on the 22/01/16. Information on catch and effort data for 2014 was submitted 20.06.2015.

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.*

The conditions of fishing licenses issued to the Mauritius-flagged vessels have been amended so as to make it mandatory for operator to abide by the following resolutions: Resolutions 05/05, 11/02, 12/04, 12/06, 12/09, 12/12, 13/04, 13/05, 13/06, 14/02, 14/06, 15/01, 15/11, 15/08, 15/04, 15/06. In addition, the Authorisations to fish in the high seas for the Mauritius-flagged vessels have also been amended to include the Resolutions mentioned above: 10/01, 05/05, 11/02, 12/04, 12/06, 12/09, 12/12, 13/04, 13/05, 13/06, 14/02, 14/06, 15/01, 15/11, 15/08, 15/04 and 15/06. The terms and conditions are legally binding according to Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Article 37.

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

The NPOA-sharks has been completed and is currently in the implementation phase. 2 workshops on the identification of demersal and pelagic shark and shark fins were conducted by Smartfish/FAO in 2015. The working sessions included practical and theoretical sessions that emphasized mostly on the identification of sharks species using the identification keys in the Shark and Shark fin Identification manual devised by the NPOA.

Also, three observers were deployed onboard Mauritius-flagged purse seiners in a total of 3 trips.

**Part C.** Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the section “Implementation Report due by 16 March 2016” of the *Guide on data and information reporting requirements for Members and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties*, available for download at <http://www.iotc.org/compliance/reporting-templates>).

- 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].

**Nil report, specify the reason:**     No large scale longline vessels on the IOTC RAV  
 Do not export frozen big eye tuna

**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”.

a. Management in the fishing grounds (of flag vessels).

	<i>Scientific Observer boarding</i>	<i>Satellite-based vessel monitoring system</i>	<i>Daily or required periodic catch report</i>	<i>Entry/Exit report</i>
<b>Yes, No?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Note</b>	% 13%	% or number of vessels 100%	Method Logbook	Method Entry and exit reports are received through electronic mails.

b. Management of transshipment (from the fishing grounds to the landing ports; of flag vessels)

	<i>Transshipment report</i>	<i>Port inspection</i>	<i>Statistical document program</i>

Yes, No?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Note</b>	Method Catch transhipped is reported by the vessel owner/agent	Method Port State Control Officers inspect the vessels at port using the IOTC port state inspection forms	All exports involving bigeye tuna and swordfish is accompanied by the IOTC bigeye statistical document and the ICCAT swordfish statistical document respectively.

c. Management at landing ports (of flag vessels).

	<i>Landing inspection</i>	<i>Landing reporting</i>	<i>Cooperation with other Parties</i>
Yes, No?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Note</b>	Method The port state control officers monitor the catch landed using the IOTC Species Identification Guide for Inspectors.	Method The landing catch is recorded in the IOTC Inspection Report Forms by the port state control officers. Furthermore, the catch details are reported in the logbooks submitted by the vessel.	Other parties are contacted on an ad-hoc basis as and when required.

Additional information:  
[Click here to enter text.](#)

- 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].*

**Nil report, specify the reason(s):**  No landing from foreign vessels in national ports  
 No transhipment by foreign vessels in national ports  
 Do not import tuna and tuna-like fish products

**The report on import, landing or transhipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2015 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:**

Yes  Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):  
 No

**The report on import, landing or transhipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2015 is attached to the implementation report:**

Yes

No

Additional information:

As annexed.

- Resolution 11/02 Prohibition of fishing on data buoys

CPCs are to notify the IOTC Secretariat of all reports of observations of damaged data buoys.

Nil Report

The report has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes

Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):

No

The report is attached to the implementation report:

Yes

No

Additional information:

All licensed vessels are required to comply with this resolution as mentioned in the licence conditions.

- 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.

Type of gear	No of vessels monitored in 2014	Coverage in 2014 (%)
Purse seine	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Longline	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Gillnet	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Bait Boat	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Hand line	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.



Additional information:

No observers were deployed in 2014.

- 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.

Resolution 12/04 has been included in the terms and conditions of fishing licences that are issued to national and foreign vessels. Moreover, no person is allowed to fish any marine turtle as per Article 16 Section 1 (c) of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007. Marine Turtle identification guides have been distributed to fishing operators. National purse seine fishing operators are abiding to section 9 of resolution 12/04. Moreover, the agents of foreign fishing vessels have been informed to sensitise masters of foreign vessels to release turtles in case of incidental catch. Observers deployed on the Mauritius-flagged purse seiners confirmed nil encounter with marine turtles

The FAO Guidelines has been completed and is annexed to the Implementation report.

- Resolution 12 /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.

There has been no encounter with seabirds as per the logbooks submitted by foreign-flagged and Mauritius-flagged licensed vessels for 2015. Also, national flagged longliners do not operate in the area south of 25 degrees South latitude, hence the encounter with seabirds is nil. Nevertheless, the respective agents and masters of national flagged vessels are sensitised on the mitigation measures as stipulated in Resolution 12/06 and they have also been provided with 'Seabirds Identification cards'.

- 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 Report a summary of monitoring, control, and surveillance actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas in the IOTC area of competence.

Fishing with driftnet is prohibited according to 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.

**Not applicable (No PS vessels on the IOTC RAV in 2015);**

**No encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015,**

**Encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015 (Complete the table below):**

Name of the species	Number of instances of encirclement
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

Additional information:

Sections 16 (c) and 17 (1) (d) of the Fisheries and Marine resources Act 2007 prohibits the fishing, landing and selling of any marine mammal. Moreover, compliance with Resolution 13/04 is mandatory as per licence conditions.

- 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 whale sharks have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.

**Not applicable (No PS vessels on the IOTC RAV in 2015);**

**No encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015,**

**Encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015 (Complete the table below):**

Name of the species	Number of instances of encirclement
<b>Whale sharks</b> ( <i>Rhincodon typus</i> )	Click here to enter text.

Additional information:

Compliance with the requirements of Resolution 13/05 is mandatory in the license conditions issued by Mauritius.

- 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](mailto:secretariat@iotc.org)*

Additional information:

There has been no changes in the Government to Government access agreements in the course of the year 2015. The existing agreements between 1) the Government of Mauritius and Seychelles and 2) The Government of Mauritius and the EU have already been submitted to the IOTC in February 2015.

- Resolution 14/06 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (Report of flag vessels transshipping in foreign ports)

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].*

**Nil report, specify the reason(s):**  No LSTVs on the RAV

Flag LSTVs do not tranship in foreign ports

**The details on transshipment in ports for 2015 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:**

Yes       Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):  
No

**The details on transshipment in ports for 2015 are attached to the implementation report:**

Yes       No

Additional information:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- Resolution 15/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence.

CPCs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 7, including punitive actions and sanctions and, in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report the results of the review to the Commission annually. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag CPCs of AFVs on the IOTC Record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.

The flag CPCs of the vessels on the record shall:

- take measures to ensure that their AFVs comply with all the relevant IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;

Describe the measures:

The terms and conditions of the Fishing Authorisation and licences have been amended to make it mandatory for operators to comply with the following resolutions: 05/05,10/01, 11/02, 12/04, 12/06, 12/09, 12/12, 13/04, 13/05, 13/06, 14/02 , 14/04, 14/06, 15/01, 15/11,15/08, 15/04 and 15/06. The terms and conditions are legally binding according to Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Article 37.

- take measures to ensure that their AFVs on the IOTC Record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or tranship;

Describe the measures:

It is stipulated as a licence condition that " licence shall be kept on board at all times".

Furthermore, no vessels licensed by Mauritius are allowed to tranship in the high seas as per the license conditions. As per the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Section 39, a vessel can only tranship if a valid authorisation is obtained from the Ministry.

- ensure that their AFVs on the IOTC Record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such a history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels; the parties of the IUU incident have officially resolved the matter and sanctions have been completed; or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their AFVs are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;

Describe the measures:

The Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Section 44 and 45 denies the registration of a vessel if the vessel has been used in contravention of international fishery conservation and management measures inside the EEZ and on the high seas, or of fishery conservation measures in the EEZ of any State. Furthermore, Section 44 provides for the refusal of the registration of any vessel that has not operated in compliance with international fishery conservation and management measures.

- ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their AFVs on the IOTC Record are not engaged in or associated with tuna fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the IOTC Record in the IOTC area of competence;

Describe the measures:

Section 36 (1) of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007 provides that no Mauritius-flagged fishing vessel should be authorised to undertake fishing or any related activity in the maritime zones and on the high seas, except under a licence. Furthermore, Section 36 (6d) highlights that no licence shall be provided to any Mauritian-flagged vessel in case there is suspicion of non-compliance with international fishery conservation and management measures.

- take measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the AFVs on the IOTC Record are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them;

Describe the measures:

As per the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007, Section 43 (a-d) stipulates that "a fishing boat shall qualify for registration as a Mauritian fishing boat where it is wholly owned by :

- a) the State of Mauritius; or
- b) one or more persons who are citizens of Mauritius
- c) a statutory corporate corporation in Mauritius; or
- d) a body corporate, a company or other association incorporated in Mauritius or established under the laws of mauritius and having a place of business in Mauritius."