



**ON THE LIMITATION OF THE USE OF SUPPLY VESSELS**

**SUBMITTED BY: MAURITIUS, 13 APRIL 2016**

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***Explanatory Memorandum***

Supply vessels are associated with purse seiners in tuna fishing and contribute to their fishing effort. Their roles are numerous, and include among others, the management of DFADs, the location of favourable fishing areas and the support of fishing operations in general.

The purpose of this resolution is to rationalize the use and number of supply vessels in accordance with the DFADs limitation.

**RESOLUTION 16/XX**  
**ON THE LIMITATION ON THE USE OF SUPPLY VESSELS**

**Keywords:** DFADs; purse seiners; auxiliary vessels, supply vessels, support vessels; DFADs, non-targeted, associated or dependent species (NTADs).

**The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),**

RECALLING that Article 5, paragraph c, of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA), establishes the application of the precautionary approach as a general principle for sound fisheries management;

NOTING that recommendations 37 and 38 of the 1<sup>st</sup> Performance Review Panel, adopted by the Commission as Resolution 09/01, indicate that pending the amendment or replacement of the IOTC Agreement to incorporate modern fisheries management principles, the Commission should implement the precautionary approach as set forth in the UNFSA;

RECOGNISING the need to ensure the sustainability of fisheries for tunas and tuna-like species for food security, livelihoods, economic development, multispecies interactions and environmental impacts in its decisions;

RECALLING that the objective of the IOTC Agreement is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of stocks covered by the mentioned Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks and minimising the level of bycatch;

AWARE that the Commission is committed to adopt Conservation and Management Measures to reduce juvenile bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna mortalities from fishing effort on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs);

MINDFUL of the fact yellowfin tuna was determined as being overfished and subject to overfishing at the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee in 2015;

RECALLING Resolution 12/01 stipulates that the Commission should implement the precautionary approach as set forth in the UNFSA and to ensure the sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources as set forth in Article V of the IOTC agreement;

RECOGNISING that proper management of all fishing aids deployed to target resources under the competence of IOTC can contribute to control fishing effort and thereby bring the yellowfin stock to sustainable levels;

GIVEN that supply vessels operate as fishing aids with one or a group of purse seiners for the deployment of DFADs and the location of favourable fishing areas thereby contributing to the fishing effort of the purse seine fleet on tuna stocks in the IOTC area of competence;

ADOPTS, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, that:

1. This Resolution shall apply to each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (hereinafter referred to as "CPC") having supply vessels.
2. CPCs shall ensure that one supply vessel services not less than two (2) purse seiners.
3. CPCs shall submit, at the beginning of each calendar year, to the IOTC Executive Secretary the name of the supply vessel as well as the names of the associated purse seine vessels. Should any change occur in the



association of vessels, it is the responsibility of the CPCs to advise the IOTC Executive Secretary, in due time, of the actual change.

4. Support and auxiliary vessels cannot be used as supply vessels.
5. This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 of January 2017.