
ON THE MIGRATION OF THE IOTC WEBSITE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 22 APRIL 2017

PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the rationale for the migration of the IOTC website under the FAO infrastructure and the progress made since the last session of the Commission on that process.

BACKGROUND

As the migration of the IOTC website (www.iotc.org) under the FAO website (www.fao.org) moves along, IOTC Members communicated the below questions to FAO.

After discussions took place with OCC/CIO at FAO HQ (Rome) (June 29-July 1st, 2016), and progress on the new website has been made by OCC/CIO, the following answers can be provided to the Members' questions.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS AND ANSWERS FROM FAO

Note: the questions below are those asked by the Members in advance of the 20th Annual Session of the Commission in 2016.

1) The Commission requests clarification of the basis on which the FAO would propose to move the IOTC website, including the basis on which the FAO considers the DGB 2014/46 and the FAO's web policy and guidelines would apply to the IOTC. The Commission also requests a clear account of the need for the proposed movement of the IOTC website and the benefits of the movement for the IOTC.

Answer: The migration is a question of global FAO policy, as the Organisation is bringing all contents (HQ, regional offices, projects, etc.) under the fao.org website. As IOTC is an Article XIV body, this global policy applies. Benefits for IOTC would be of a financial (no hosting or maintenance costs for the website and email system, which would be all handled by FAO) and technical nature (maintenance, backups, continuity of service etc. handled by FAO's services).

2) The IOTC has operated its own website for almost 20 years, using the financing of the Members of the Commission, and as such the website, its operation and incorporated information has been paid for entirely and is considered wholly owned by the Members.

Answer: Not discussed, as this is a matter of FAO policy (see above).

3) Noting our preference for this movement of the IOTC website not to occur, particularly without having clarified the basis on which it would be imposed, we request that FAO provide to the Commission, a detailed technical proposal and evaluation of the proposed migration, which the Commission would be prepared to consider at its upcoming [next] Session. The proposal should demonstrate that there will be no loss of functionality of the website or access to information by Members, no risk to the integrity and security of data and no additional cost to Members associated with the movement. The proposal should account for:

- a. all current elements in the iotc.org website and how they would be reflected in the fao.org website;

Answer: All features of the iotc.org website itself will be replicated on the new FAO/IOTC website, but independent IOTC operational information systems (e-PSM, e-MARIS, Statistical system...) will remain on IOTC servers and on iotc.org subdomains (e.g. epsm.iotc.org).

- b. a detailed timeline of the proposed migration; post-migration web site management arrangements shall also be detailed;

Answer: A timeline has been discussed and agreed upon, and has been revised to reflect implementation delays (see table at the end of this document).

- c. expected costs to FAO and the IOTC for the migration and also all post-migration maintenance of the proposed new website;

Answer: *The migration will be done at no cost for IOTC, except time spent by IOTC staff to advise OCC/CIO on the process. Regarding on-going maintenance and operating costs, these should be covered by the current ICRU system (or any mechanism that might replace it, as part of the IT costs). This still needs to be confirmed by CIO.*

- d. how the iotc.org domain name, which Members consider to be the property of the Commission, will be maintained for future use by the Commission;

Answer: *The iotc.org domain name will be migrated to FAO's domain name registrar, but will be kept active to allow redirections to the new site/email accounts and to avoid domain squatting, as well as to accommodate operational systems hosted on iotc.org subdomains (see 3.a above).*

- e. how FAO would handle confidential elements of the current IOTC website, such as the Statistical Document Validation database and also future elements and databases to be incorporated as required by the Commission.

Answer: *restricted access to certain areas of the IOTC section of the FAO website will be maintained as they currently exist. Satellite IOTC information systems will remain on IOTC servers and thus subject to any IOTC confidentiality policy.*

- f. how consultancy contracts currently underway would be handled, particularly for the important Indian Ocean-wide operational tools such as the e-PSM system (for the implementation of Port States Measures) or the e-MARIS system (for compliance-related electronic reporting).

Answer: *Satellite IOTC information systems will remain on IOTC servers and thus will not be impacted by the migration. Any new "operational tool" that IOTC could develop will be covered by this clause.*

- g. the e-PSM development has been underway for some two years and is nearing completion at substantial investment cost to the Commission. How will this application be incorporated into an FAO website;

Answer: *Satellite IOTC information systems will remain on IOTC servers and thus e-PSM will not be migrated.*

- h. the way and means in which the IOTC email system will be migrated to the FAO email system, in particular how existing @iotc.org email addresses will be migrated to @fao.org email addresses, without disrupting communication with or data submissions from Members.

Answer: *an @fao.org email account will be created for each @iotc.org email account in use at the Secretariat, and redirections from the latter to the former will be put in place. email accounts used by automated systems (such as e-PSM) will be tackled on an ad-hoc basis.*

For more details, please refer to the report on discussions that took place between IOTC and OCC/CIO, available at the IOTC Secretariat.

STATUS OF THE MIGRATION

OCC/CIO has progressed with the migration of the website and, as of early April 2017, here is the status of the migration:

- Static content (about IOTC, description of the activities etc.): this has all been migrated, though it will need an update to the latest iotc.org content.
- News, meetings and documents web applications: this has all been migrated, though it will need an update to the latest iotc.org content.

- Conservation and management measures database, Register of Authorized Vessels and Statistical Document Validation database: detailed technical specifications for the existing applications have been provided to OCC/CIO, which have been used to build equivalent tools on the migrated version of the site.
 - CMMs DB: preliminary implementation has been completed, and feedback has been sent to CIO following testing by IOTC; finalization of the application is pending.
 - RAV: preliminary implementation has been completed, and feedback has been sent to CIO following testing by IOTC; application can be considered complete, except for the tool to upload/update the RAV data, which still present some issues.
 - Statistical Document Validation database: not implemented yet.
- There has been no demonstration or information to IOTC staff regarding the content management features of the migrated website (adding/managing content such as documents, CMMs, news, etc.)

Below is the roadmap that was provided during the July meeting, along with the status of each task.

Tasks	Scheduled for	Status
IOTC will provide technical specifications on the Conservation and management measures database, Online Authorized vessels registry and Statistical Document Validation database, so that OCC can migrate them efficiently.	July 2016	Completed
OCC/CIO continues working on the migration, exchanging with IOTC as needed.	July-August 2016	Ongoing
IOTC will evaluate the work done by OCC on the new website and provide feedback on the implemented features.	September 2016	Ongoing, pending implementation by OCC/CIO
Finalization of the new website, including migration of the content produced since the last time content was provided to OCC/CIO.	Autumn 2016	Pending implementation of all features
Final evaluation by IOTC of the level of implementation of the new website.	Autumn 2016	Pending implementation of all features
Decision on the final timeline for the migration, in consultation between IOTC and OCC/CIO.	Autumn 2016	Pending implementation of all features

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2017–S21–05 which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider the rationale for the migration of the IOTC website under the FAO infrastructure and the progress made since the last session of the Commission on that process.