



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture  
and Water Resources**

Ref: 2017/014646E

Dr Ahmed Al-Mazroui  
IOTC Chair  
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission  
PO Box 1011  
VICTORIA SEYCHELLES

Dear Dr Al-Mazroui

Thank you for your letter of 26 May 2017 about Australia's outstanding compliance issues. Australia considers strengthening compliance with IOTC conservation and management measures fundamental for effective fisheries management.

Please find enclosed Australia's response to the matters requiring attention.

My sincere thanks to you, and the Chair and members of the Compliance Committee, for your ongoing efforts to strengthen compliance with IOTC measures.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Neil'.

Gordon Neil  
Assistant Secretary  
Fisheries Branch  
23 November 2017



## **Australia's response to the 2017 Compliance Committee's letter of feedback**

### Resolution 15/02 Mandatory statistical requirements – missing data and size frequency

The missing size data has been located and has been submitted to the Secretariat. With the addition of this data, and based on the weight of the fish sampled, Australia will now have met the relevant sampling coverage requirement.

In relation to the period April to June 2015, Australia did not employ human observers as electronic monitoring was being implemented in its tuna fisheries. Although this meant length data was not collected during this period, Australia's overall obligations in respect of both observer coverage and (with the submission of additional species data outlined above) mandatory statistical data reporting continued to be met for 2015.

The various agencies of the Australian Government involved in the collection and reporting of fishery data have standard procedures in place to ensure consistent transmission of data, which Australia considers will avoid this error arising again.

Australia accepts the rating of partially compliant for this period.

### Resolution 05/05 Submission of data regarding sharks – size frequency

As per previous advice, due to very low levels of effort in Australia's relevant fisheries sampling is undertaken upon landing and is primarily focused on achieving effective sampling coverage for target species. Sharks are not a target species in these fisheries and Australia has a very low catch of sharks in these fisheries (many species cannot be landed and all live sharks must be released). As a result Australia is unable to meet the relevant sampling coverage and is unable to provide size frequency for sharks.

Australia accepts the rating of partially compliant for this period.

### Resolution 15/04 Provision of IMO numbers

Australia is in the process of ensuring that all eligible vessels obtain an IMO number and those numbers are provided to the IOTC Secretariat. At this stage there is one remaining eligible vessel that does not have an IMO number. Its owner has filed the relevant paperwork and are awaiting receipt of their assigned number. The IOTC will be updated when this number is available.

Australia accepts the rating of partially compliant for this period.