

07 June 2018

## IOTC CIRCULAR 2018-25

Dear Sir/Madam

### REPORTING OF FISHERIES STATISTICS FOR 2017 TO THE IOTC

This letter represents the first reminder for the reporting of fisheries statistics for IOTC and dependent species, according to the provisions in IOTC Resolutions 15/02, 15/01, 17/08, 17/05, 12/06, 12/04, 13/04, 13/05 and 15/05, Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) that have not submitted complete statistics for 2017 are invited to provide the information required no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> 2018. In addition, other parties having fisheries in the IOTC area of competence are invited to provide the same information at their convenience, if possible according to the same time frame.

We would also like to bring to your attention the amendment of [Resolution 15/02](#) and that therefore, in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 6 of [Resolution 15/02](#) on mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC CPCs:

Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) shall provide the following information to the IOTC Secretariat according to the timelines specified in paragraph 7:

- Paragraph 2 *“Estimates of the total catch by species and gear, if possible quarterly, that shall be submitted annually as referred in paragraph 7 (separated, whenever possible, by retained catches in live weight and by discards in live weight or numbers) for all species under the IOTC mandate as well as the most commonly caught elasmobranch species according to records of catches and incidents as established in [Resolution 15/01](#) on the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence (or any subsequent superseding Resolution).”*
- Paragraph 3 *“Concerning cetaceans, seabirds and marine turtles data should be provided as stated in [Resolution 13/04](#) on Conservation of Cetaceans, [Resolution 12/06](#) on reduction the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries and [Resolution 12/04](#) on the conservation of marine turtles (or any subsequent superseding resolutions).”*
- Paragraph 4 *“Provisions on catch and effort data, applicable to tuna and tuna-like species, shall also be applicable to the most commonly caught elasmobranch species according to records of catches and incidents as established in [Resolution 15/01](#) on the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence (or any subsequent superseding Resolution).”*
- Paragraph 6 *“Given that the activities of purse seine supply vessels and the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet, the following data shall be provided by CPCs:*
- a) The number and characteristics of purse seine supply vessels: (i) operating under their flag, (ii) assisting purse seine vessels operating under their flag, or (iii) licensed to operate in their exclusive economic zones, and that have been present in the IOTC area of competence;*

#### Distribution

**IOTC Contracting Parties:** Australia, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom (OT), Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Bangladesh, Liberia, Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** Chairperson IOTC. Copy to: FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

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- b) *Number of days at sea by purse seine and purse seine supply vessels by 1° grid area and month to be reported by the flag state of the supply vessel;*
- c) *The total number set by the purse seine and purse seine supply vessels per quarter, as well as:*
- i. *The positions, dates at the time of setting, FAD identifier and FAD type (i.e. drifting log or debris, drifting raft or fad with a net, drifting raft or FAD without a net, anchored FADs and other FADs e.g. Payao, dead animal etc.);*
- ii. *The FAD design characteristics of each FAD (consistent with Annex 1 to [Resolution 17/08](#) Procedures on a fishing 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)."*

In accordance with paragraphs 6 of [Resolution 17/05](#), on the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC:

Paragraph 6 *"CPCs shall report data for catches of sharks no later than 30 June of the following year, in accordance with IOTC data reporting requirements and procedures in [Resolution 15/02](#) mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC's) (or any subsequent superseding resolution), including all available historical data, estimates and life status of discards (dead or alive) and size frequencies"*

In accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10, of [Resolution 17/08](#), on fish aggregating devices (FADs):

Paragraph 9 *"CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag and fishing on DFADs to submit, by the end of 2016 the number of instrumented buoys activated, deactivated and active on each quarter during 2016 its purse seine vessel under the confidentiality rules set by [Resolution 12/02](#) (or any subsequent superseding Resolution)"*

Paragraph 10 *"All CPCs shall ensure that all fishing vessels as referred to in paragraph 1 shall record fishing activities in association with FADs using the specific data elements found in **Annex I** (DFAD) and **Annex II** (AFAD) in the section of the "FAD-logbook"."*

In accordance with paragraphs 4 and 7, of [Resolution 13/04](#), on the conservation of cetaceans:

Paragraph 4 *"CPCs using other gear types fishing for tuna and tuna-like species associated with cetaceans shall report all interactions with cetaceans to the relevant authority of the flag State and include all the information outlined in paragraph 3b(i-vi)."*

Paragraph 7 *"CPCs shall report the information and data collected under paragraph 3(b) and paragraph 4, through logbooks, or when an observer is onboard through observer programs, and provide to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the following year and according to the timelines specified in Resolution 10/02 [superseded by [Resolution 15/02](#)] (or any subsequent revision)."*

In accordance with paragraphs 4 and 7, of [Resolution 13/05](#), on the conservation of whale sharks:

Paragraph 4 *"CPCs using other gear types fishing for tuna and tuna-like species associated with a whale shark shall Report all interactions with whale sharks to the relevant authority of the flag State and include all the information outlined in paragraph 3b(i-v)."*

Paragraph 7 *"CPCs shall report the information and data collected under paragraph 3(b) and paragraph 4 through logbooks, or when an observer is onboard through observer programs, and provide to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the following year and according to the timelines specified in Resolution 10/02 [superseded by [Resolution 15/02](#)] (or any subsequent revision)."*

In accordance with paragraphs 4, of [Resolution 15/05](#), on conservation measures for striped marlin, black marlin and blue marlin:

Paragraph 4 *"CPCs, in particular those employing gillnet fisheries, for which very few data exists on catch and effort, length frequencies and bycatch/discards, shall collect and report such data to the IOTC Secretariat."*

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Furthermore, following the request to increase the level of detail for the aggregated discard data information as reported by CPCs, the IOTC Secretariat has updated Form\_1DI to include provisions for *optionally* reporting the reference quarter for each record.

Also, in accordance with the request from the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (see IOTC-2017-SC20-R[E], paragraph 111) the IOTC Secretariat has updated Form\_3FA to also incorporate a specific field to provide FAD ownership details for each record.

The *Forms for the Submission of Fisheries Statistics* to the IOTC are available as MS Excel template forms (available for downloading here: <http://www.iotc.org/data/requested-statistics-and-submission-forms>) to simplify the process of entering and submitting the data. Forms in this format allow the reporting officer to enter the data directly on the form for later submission by email to the IOTC Secretariat. Please, refer to the document *Notes for the Completion of IOTC Forms* for details on how to use the forms:

<http://www.iotc.org/documents/notes-completion-iotc-form>.

In order to facilitate the reporting of fisheries data, the IOTC Secretariat has updated the *Guidelines for the reporting of fisheries statistics to the IOTC* to accommodate the new requirements. The Guidelines are based on the existing IOTC Data Requirements:

<http://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/data/Guidelines%20Data%20Reporting%20IOTC.pdf>.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information concerning the above.

Yours sincerely /



Christopher O'Brien  
Executive Secretary

**Attachments:**

- Nil