



## REVIEW OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES RELATING TO DATA AND STATISTICS

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### PURPOSE

To encourage participants at the 14<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS14) to review the existing Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) relating to data collection and statistics, noting the CMMs referred to in document IOTC–2018–WPDCS14–04; and as necessary to 1) provide recommendations to the Scientific Committee on whether modifications may be required; and 2) recommend whether other CMMs may be required.

### BACKGROUND

In addition to the CMMs outlined in document IOTC–2018–WPDCS14–04, IOTC fisheries are currently subject to a range of other data/statistical CMMs adopted by the Commission. In an attempt to focus the efforts of the WPDCS participants may wish to annually review several of the key CMMs which are clearly based on scientific advice, or which match current requests from the Commission. The following are a list of the key CMMs for the consideration of the WPDCS. At the next meeting, a range of other CMMs may be presented for discussion.

**Resolution 15/02 *On mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*.** This resolution updates the requirements set forth by Resolution 10/02 (that it supersedes) in terms of frequency, structure and overall completeness of the mandatory statistical data to be submitted by CPCs to the IOTC Secretariat. In particular, it recommends an increase in the recording frequency for total catches that is expected to be brought up to a quarterly basis when possible. Furthermore, given the urgent need of improving the quality of the assessments on the status of endangered marine species, it highlights the need to provide relevant data in accordance with past resolutions dealing with incidental bycatch reduction and conservation measures. Additionally, it states the need to collect and share - with the due confidentiality policies applied by the Secretariat - all FAD-related data from purse seine fleets in order to increase the quality and completeness of the fishing efforts information. ([Appendix I](#))

**Resolution 16/04 *On the implementation of a pilot project in view of promoting the Regional Observer Scheme of IOTC*.** This resolution proposes the creation of a pilot project aiming to enhance the implementation of the Resolution 11/04 on a Regional Observer Scheme and to raise the level of compliance to the implementation of Resolutions 15/01 and 15/02, respectively on the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence and on mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting parties (CPCs). ([Appendix II](#))

### DISCUSSION

As part of best practice, the WPDCS is obliged to review existing CMMs and consider whether their data/science-based components need to be updated. If this is the case, then the WPDCS should provide clear, science-based recommendations for the Scientific Committee's consideration.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the WPDCS **NOTE** paper IOTC–2018–WPDCS14–05 which aimed to encourage the WPDCS to review the existing Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) relating to data and statistics, and as necessary to 1) provide recommendations to the Scientific Committee on whether modifications may be required; and 2) recommend whether other CMMs may be required.

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix I:** [Resolution 15/02 on mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties \(CPCs\)](#)

**Appendix II:** [Resolution 16/04 On the implementation of a pilot project in view of promoting the Regional Observer Scheme of IOTC](#)

**APPENDIX I****RESOLUTION 15/02*****ON MANDATORY STATISTICAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC CONTRACTING PARTIES AND COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES (CPCs)***

**Keywords:** Data reporting; total catch; catch and effort; size data; fish aggregating devices (FAD); surface fisheries; longline fisheries; coastal fisheries

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

GIVEN that the Agreement for the implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) encourages coastal States and fishing States on the high seas to collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, inter alia, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort;

NOTING that the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing provides that States should compile fishery-related and other supporting scientific data relating to fish stocks covered by subregional or regional fisheries management organisations and provide them in a timely manner to the organization;

RECALLING the commitment made by Contracting Parties under Article V of the IOTC Agreement to keep under review the conditions and trends of the stocks and to gather, analyse and disseminate scientific information, catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation and management of the stocks and to fisheries based on the stocks covered by the Agreement;

COGNISANT that the above commitment can only be achieved when Contracting Parties meet the requirements of Article XI of the IOTC Agreement i.e. to provide statistical and other data and information to minimum specifications and in a timely manner;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the IOTC Scientific Committee has repeatedly stressed the importance of the timeliness of data submissions;

GIVEN that the activities of support vessels and the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet;

CONSIDERING the provisions set forth in Resolution 15/02 on *mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*, adopted by the Commission in 2015;

NOTING the Scientific Committee's concern that the lack of data from CPC fisheries under the mandate of the IOTC on the mortality of marine turtles and marine mammals undermines the ability to estimate levels of marine turtle and marine mammals bycatch and consequently the IOTC's capacity to respond and prevent adverse effects of fishing on these marine species;

FURTHER NOTING the Scientific Committee's concern about the impossibility to undertake assessments on the status of seabirds in the Indian Ocean, while acknowledging that some species are currently critically endangered, and that the lack of reporting of seabird interactions by CPCs seriously undermines the ability of IOTC to respond and prevent adverse effects of fishing on seabirds;

CONSIDERING the recommendations of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee;

FURTHER CONSIDERING the call upon States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organisations and arrangements included in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/79 on sustainable fisheries to collect the necessary data in order to evaluate and closely monitor the use of fish aggregating devices and their effects on tuna resources and tuna behaviour and associated and dependent species, to improve management procedures to monitor the number, type and use of such devices and to mitigate possible negative effects on the ecosystem, including on juveniles and the incidental bycatch of non-target species, particularly sharks and turtles;

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

1. 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:
2. **Total catch data:**  

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).
3. Concerning cetaceans, seabirds and marine turtles data should be provided as stated in Resolutions 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).
4. **Catch and effort data<sup>2</sup>:**
  - a) **For surface fisheries:** catch weight by species and fishing effort shall be provided by 1° grid area and month strata. Purse seine and pole and line fisheries data shall be stratified by fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects). The data shall be extrapolated to the total national monthly catches for each gear. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely. Effort units reported should be consistent with those effort requirements of Resolution 15/01 (or any subsequent superseding revision).
  - b) **Longline fisheries:** catch by species, in numbers or weight, and effort as the number of hooks deployed shall be provided by 5° grid area and month strata. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely. For the work of relevant working parties under the IOTC Scientific Committee, longline data should be of a resolution of 1° grid area and month or finer. These data would be for the exclusive use of IOTC Scientific Committee and its Working Parties, subject to the approval of the data owners and IOTC Resolution 12/02 *Data confidentiality policy and procedures*, and should be provided for scientific use only in a timely fashion. Effort units reported should be consistent with those effort requirements of Resolution 15/01 or any subsequent revision of such resolution.
  - c) **For coastal fisheries:** catches by species that shall be submitted annually as referred in paragraph 7, fishing gear and fishing effort shall be submitted frequently and may be provided using an alternative geographical area if it better represents the fishery concerned. Effort units reported should be consistent with those effort requirements of Resolution 15/01 (or any subsequent superseding revision).

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).

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<sup>2</sup> Longline fisheries: Fisheries undertaken by vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels that use longline gear.

Surface fisheries: All fisheries undertaken by vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels other than longline fisheries; in particular purse seine, pole-and-line, gillnet fisheries, handline and trolling vessels.

Coastal fisheries: Fisheries other than longline or surface, as defined above, also called artisanal fisheries.

5. **Size data:**

Size data shall be provided for all gears and for all species according to paragraph 4 and following the guidelines set out by the procedures described in the *Guidelines for the reporting of fisheries statistics to the IOTC*. Size sampling shall be run under strict and well described random sampling schemes which are necessary to provide unbiased figures of the sizes taken. Sampling coverage shall be set to at least one fish measured by ton caught, by species and type of fishery, with samples being representative of all the periods and areas fished. Alternatively, size data for longline fleets may be provided as part of the Regional Observer Scheme where such fleets have at least 5% observer coverage of all fishing operations. Length data by species, including the total number of fish measured, shall be submitted by a 5° grid area by month, by gear and fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects for the purse seiners). Documents covering sampling and raising procedures shall also be provided, by species and type of fishery.

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;
- 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 15/08 *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*).

These data would be for the exclusive use of IOTC Scientific Committee and its Working Parties, subject to the approval of the data owners and in accordance with Resolution 12/02 *Data confidentiality policy and procedures*, and should be provided in a timely fashion.

7. **Timeliness of data submission to the IOTC Secretariat:**

- a) Longline fleets operating in the high seas shall provide provisional data for the previous year no later than 30 June. Final data shall be submitted no later than 30 December;
- b) All other fleets (including supply vessels) shall submit their final data for the previous year no later than 30 June;
- c) In case where the final statistics cannot be submitted by that date, at least preliminary statistics should be provided. Beyond a delay of two years, all revisions of historical data should be formally reported and duly justified. These reports should be made on forms provided by the IOTC Secretariat and reviewed by the IOTC Scientific Committee. The IOTC Scientific Committee will advise the IOTC Secretariat if revisions are then accepted for scientific use.

8. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 10/02 on *mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*.

**APPENDIX II**  
**RESOLUTION 16/04**

***ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PILOT PROJECT IN VIEW OF PROMOTING THE REGIONAL  
OBSERVER SCHEME OF IOTC***

**Keywords:** Regional Observer Scheme;

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

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to increase the scientific information, in particular to provide the IOTC Scientific Committee working material in order to improve the management of the tuna and tuna-like species fished in the Indian Ocean;

REITERATING the responsibilities of Flag States to ensure that their vessels conduct their fishing activities in a responsible manner, fully respecting IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;

CONSIDERING the need for action to ensure the effectiveness of the IOTC objectives;

CONSIDERING the obligation of all IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (hereinafter CPCs) to fully comply with the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;

AWARE of the necessity for sustained efforts by CPCs to ensure the enforcement of IOTC's Conservation and Management Measures, and the need to encourage Non-CPCs to abide by these measures;

UNDERLINING that the adoption of this measure is intended to promote the implementation of the Resolution 11/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*;

CONSIDERING the deliberations of the 18th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee held in Bali, Indonesia from 23-27 November 2015, notably that CPCs should comply with IOTC data requirements as requested per Resolution 15/01 and 15/02, respectively *on the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence* and *on mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting parties (CPCs)*, given the gaps in available information in the IOTC database and the importance of basic fishery data in order to assess the status of stocks and for the provision of sound management advice.

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

1. Create a pilot project aiming to enhance the implementation of the Resolution 11/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme* and to raise the level of compliance to the implementation of Resolutions 15/01 and 15/02, respectively *on the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence* and *on mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting parties (CPCs)*.
2. This pilot project will be funded through IOTC budget and/or from voluntary contributions. The pilot project will be prepared taking into account the following elements:
  - a) Identification and selection of voluntary participatory Contracting Parties or Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs). Participatory CPCs should indicate their vessels that will participate in the project.
  - b) Terms of Reference (ToR) and selection of scientific observers, according to provisions of the Resolutions 11/04, 15/01 and 15/02.

- c) Definition of an Action Plan for the observers work, including indicatively, a working calendar and an area of activity.
  - d) Mid-term review and a final term review, the latter should include recommendation on how to expand the experiences and results of the pilot project to all IOTC area of competence.
  - e) Cooperation coordination mechanism between CPCs participating in the project.
  - f) Complementarity with the Regional Observer Scheme actions already in place.
3. The IOTC Scientific Committee will draft guidelines regarding the ToR and work of observers, and an indicative budget for approval by the Commission in 2017. This project will focus on developing states, with priority given to promote the implementation of the ROS to small island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDC).
4. Contracting Parties will provide their comments and suggestions within one month after the IOTC Executive Secretary transmission of the draft project, following the Scientific Committee.
5. The revised draft proposal, including a detailed budget, will be submitted to the Compliance Committee and to the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance for review, and submitted for consideration and approval at the annual meeting of the Commission in 2017.
6. The pilot project will explore the possibilities offered by electronic observation and observation in port.
7. The Scientific Committee will evaluate whether electronic observation or observation in port can be used to collect data matching IOTC standards. Scientific Committee will also propose minimum standards for the implementation of Electronic observation systems and how they can be used to increase levels of observer coverage for Indian Ocean fisheries.
8. The pilot project will not preclude any Regional Observer Scheme's actions already implemented by Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties and respective fleets.

## **Annex I**

### **Minimal requirements for observers**

#### **Scientific observers**

1. Without prejudice to whatever specific training and qualifications are recommended by the Scientific Committee, the designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
- a) a satisfactory knowledge of the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;
  - b) the ability to observe and record information accurately;
  - c) a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed;
  - d) sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
  - e) proven training in security and survival at sea.
2. Observers shall:
- a) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
  - b) observe and estimate catches and check consistency with entries made in the logbook;
  - c) note the position of the vessel when engaged in catching activity;

- d) carry out scientific work such as collecting of IOTC mandatory statistical information and fulfilment of logbooks;
- e) report the results of these duties on the fishing vessel in the observers report to the flag state fishing authority,
- f) submit the observer report to Flag State authorities within 30 days from the end of the period of observation;
- g) treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transshipment operations of the fishing vessels and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
- h) comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned;
- i) respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel personnel.

### **Obligations of the Master**

3. The Master shall allow observers to:

- a) visit the fishing vessel, if weather conditions permit, and to have access to vessel staff and to the gear and equipment but not interfering with the equipment on-board;
- b) have access to the equipment listed below, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties. This shall be done on a request basis. The equipment concerns
  - i) satellite navigation equipment; (consultation only)
  - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use; (consultation only)
  - iii) electronic means of communication;
- c) Observers shall be provided with accommodation, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
- d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties;

### **Obligations of the Flag State**

- 4. The Flag States shall ensure that masters, crew and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.
- 5. No later than two months upon completion of a fishing trip, observer reports will be sent to the IOTC secretariat, who shall manage and keep record of the mentioned observer's reports in a manner consistent with IOTC confidentiality requirements, and will submit copies of the observer reports to the Scientific Committee.
- 6. Data collected in any Coastal State EEZ will also be provided to the Coastal State authorities within the same delays and conditions of the previous paragraph.

### **Mutual recognition of observers**

The observers selected to participate in this pilot project will be recognised by all CPCs participating in the project.