



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

In reply please quote
...14/25/12V3.....

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27 June 2018

Dear Sir,

Subject: Feedback Regarding Compliance Issues

Please refer to your letter dated 25 May 2018, (IOTC reference 6943) on the above subject.

2. The comments of this Ministry in response to the compliance issues raised in the letter are herewith annexed.
3. We remain at your disposal for any further clarification.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Sheik Mamode'.

A. Sheik Mamode
for Ag Permanent secretary

**The Chairman
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission,
Victoria, Mahé
Seychelles**

Issues raised in the Feedback Letter:

1. Has not reported Size frequency for coastal fisheries to IOTC Standard, as required by Resolution 15/02:

- Nominal catch, catch & effort and size frequency data were reported for the semi-industrial fishery i.e for longline vessels less than 24M in length operating inside the EEZ. For the artisanal fishery (AFAD fishery), nominal catch and catch and effort were reported. It is only for size frequency of the artisanal anchored FAD fishery that data was not provided as we had a shortage of enumerators. Hence Mauritius is partially compliant to this Resolution. Measures are being taken to ensure that data from artisanal AFAD fishery is collected and transmitted to the IOTC.

2. Has not reported size frequency for surface fisheries as required by Resolution 15/02:

- Data for size frequency of surface fisheries was provided but we could not meet the requirement of 1 fish per tonne. Remedial action is being taken and data will be made available to the IOTC in the near future.

3. Has not reported Nominal Catch on sharks to IOTC Standard as required by Resolution 17/05;

4. Has not reported Catch & effort on sharks to IOTC standard, as required by Resolution 17/05

5. Has not reported Size frequency on sharks, as required by Resolution 17/05

- Mauritius is not a shark fishing nation. Occasional catches of sharks are reported in the logbooks of the semi-industrial and purse seine vessels. The nominal catch for sharks for the semi-industrial longline fishery and purse seine fishery were reported to the IOTC on 30 June 2016 1RC. Similarly the catch and effort data for the semi-industrial longline fishery was reported to the IOTC on 30 June 2016 in form 3CE. The size frequency for the sharks in the semi-industrial longline fishery could not be sampled as the sharks are landed with the head and tail cut off. Presently we are taking measurements of the distance between the first and second dorsal fins and we would wish to have the assistance of the IOTC in providing a conversion formula for this measurement.

The nominal catch, catch & effort and size frequency for the artisanal AFAD fishery could not be collected as there was a lack of enumerators for collection of the data. Action is being taken to remedy the situation. Mauritius is partially compliant to this resolution.

6. Has not fully implemented the requirement of at least 5% inspection of LAN or TRX, as required by Resolution 16/11

- Mauritius has partially complied to this Resolution, even though the required 5% coverage has not been achieved. Remedial action is being taken for at least 5% coverage.

7. Has not provided the annual report Statistical Document Programme, as required by Resolution 01/06:

- Action has already been taken and data for the year 2017 is available.

8. Has not provided the FADs Management plan to IOTC standard, as required by Resolution 17/08.

A FAD Management Plan was submitted to the IOTC in 2014. This Plan will soon be revised to include elements found in Resolution 18/08.

9. Has not reported Size frequency for longline fisheries, as required by Resolution 15/02.

Mauritius has provided size frequency data for the longline vessels operating inside its EEZ. It is only for vessels that operate outside the EEZ that data have not been provided. Remedial action will be taken.

10. Has not fully implemented the Regional Observer Scheme, no coverage for longline gear as required by Resolution 11/04.

Mauritius has fulfilled its commitment with regards to the Observer Scheme for its purse seine fleet. It is only for the longliners operating outside the EEZ that we have not fulfilled this requirement. Corrective measures will be taken.

11. Has not fully implemented the 5% Mandatory coverage at sea (All vessels) as required by Resolution 11/04

With regards to its purse seiners, Mauritius has achieved coverage of 31%. It is only for the longliners fishing outside our EEZ that we have not been able to meet the requirement. Corrective action will be taken.

12. Has not provided observer reports for the longline fleet , as required by Resolution 11/04.

No observer was deployed on the longliners fishing outside our EEZ. Remedial action is being envisaged.

13. Has not provided 2nd Semester report of 2016, as required by resolution (01/06) (and not 11/04)

Apart from the Bigeye tuna which are imported for processing and canning, there has not been any import of BET by Mauritius. Taiwan (Province of China) has reported that it has exported 1.8t of BET to Mauritius. However, we have no record of any import of BET from Taiwan. It is most likely that some Taiwanese vessel had landed the BET as bycatch. As per our records, Taiwanese vessels have landed 6.7t of bigeye as bycatch. These were not accompanied by any statistical catch document and were not considered as imports.

14. Has not provided the report on import, landing and transshipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products in ports, as required by resolution 10/10

The report could not be submitted in time as we faced problems with the transmission of Port Inspection Reports (PIRs) to the IOTC Secretariat. It took us about 15 minutes to send one PIR. We had to submit 685 PIRs. We had already submitted about 600 PIRs at the time of the Compliance Meeting. This issue has now been resolved and all the data has been transmitted to the IOTC.