



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries  
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

Brussels, 21 May 2019  
MARE.B.2/LAM/AM

Dr. Chris O'Brien  
IOTC Executive Secretary  
Chris.O'Brien@fao.org

**Subject: Outstanding Compliance issues**

Ref.: Your letter of the 25 May 2018 (IOTC Reference 6934)

Dear Dr. O'Brien,

Please find enclosed the EU response to the letter of 25 May 2018 from the IOTC Vice-Chairperson Ms Jung-Re Riley Kim regarding the European Union's outstanding compliance issues. The EU apologises for the delay in the reply and wants to reassure you that it is undertaking all efforts to further improve its compliance with IOTC reporting obligations.

The EU strongly believes that strengthening compliance within IOTC is of crucial importance. In this perspective, the EU has submitted a proposal to amend Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure with the objective of streamlining and strengthening the CPCs compliance assessment in IOTC by improving the existing IOTC compliance assessment procedure.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Martini  
Head of EU delegation to the IOTC

Annex: 1

## **EU RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK LETTER REGARDING COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

1. Has not fully reported catch and effort for the longline fisheries (data reported for target species only), as required by Resolution 15/02.

This shortcoming applies to only one segment of the EU fleet (EU-fleet). The relevant national authorities are currently improving data collection protocols for all species, including non-target species, notably with observer data. The data processing for longline fisheries for the years 2017 and 2018 is currently under process. New and updated data for longline fisheries will be transmitted to the IOTC Secretariat as soon this data becomes available.

The EU is working to further improve data provisions in order to match the IOTC standards and provide the outstanding data.

2. Has not reported size frequency for the coastal fisheries for the fleet of Mayotte, as required by Resolution 15/02.

The National Fishing Authority in Mayotte is making progressive efforts to gather data concerning size frequency for coastal fisheries, notably through sampling coverage in port. The situation is progressing in a satisfactory way and some data has already been gathered and transmitted to the IOTC Secretariat.

Despite the difficulties of undertaking this task in Mayotte, the EU is strongly committed to fully comply with this request and hope that in the near future size frequency data will be provided to the IOTC Secretariat and Scientific Committee.

3. Has not reported nominal catch, catch and effort and size frequency on sharks for some fleets, as required by Resolution 17/05.

This shortcoming in fact applies to only one segment of the EU fleet (EU-France). The EU is currently undertaking efforts to improve the level of details about total catches, catch and effort and size frequency for IOTC shark species in that segment of the longline fishery.

4. Has not provided its Annual Report for the IOTC Bigeye Tunas Statistical Document Programme, as required by Resolution 01/06.

With regards to Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme, the EU has provided the IOTC secretariat with the first and second semester reports on imports of bigeye tuna for the year 2016. However, the EU has not provided the annual report in 2018 in order to crosscheck the imports and exports data for 2016.

In regard to the 26,132 kg of bigeye tuna allegedly exported to Japan in 2016, which have been identified in the *R2\_Reports by countries importing bigeye tuna, by year and harvesting fleets*, the EU has conducted an investigation and has concluded that no export of said quantity of BET was made to Japan. One possible explanation might be that the import have been erroneously attributed as coming from the EU, while they may have been made directly by Seychelles or Mauritius (e.g. EU catches stocked by a cannery and exported as such).

As the EU did not export bigeye tuna in 2017, it did not provide with an annual report in 2019, but the EU will submit its report for exports of 2018 in 2020.

5. Has not reported on import, landing and transshipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products in ports, as required by Resolution 10/10.

The EU acknowledges that there was a confusion in 2018 regarding reports to be submitted under the resolution 01/06, 03/03 and 10/10.

The EU will endeavour to transmit the relevant reports to the IOTC Secretariat as soon as we have gathered the relevant data.

6. Has not provided the list of foreign vessels licensed in 2017, as required by Resolution 14/05.

The list of foreign vessels licensed in 2017 is known, but some mandatory information are still in the process of being retrieved (such as the name of the operator and the name of the charterer). You will find attached the draft list and the EU will transmit to the IOTC secretariat the final list as soon as available.

7. Has not provided the transshipments in port report for some fleets, as required by Resolution 17/06.

The EU confirm that the fleets of EU-Portugal and EU-United Kingdom do not tranship in ports, but only land in port, so it should be considered a nil report.

The EU is still working on the report of transshipment in port in 2017 by EU-Italy and it will transmit to the IOTC Secretariat as soon this data becomes available.

8. Has not provided its report of landings by foreign vessel(s) in its port, as required by Resolution 05/03.

The EU has already submitted this information to the IOTC secretariat in 2018. You will find attached a copy of the port inspection report for 2017.

9. Has not provided inspection report(s) and monitoring forms, as required by Resolution 16/11.

The EU is still retrieving the inspection report in question and we will transmit it to IOTC secretariat as soon as available.