

**NATIONAL REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

UNITED KINGDOM

13th IOTC Meeting, Bali 30 March - 3 April 2009

**BIOT¹ / UK²: Annual statement of the actions taken with respect to IOTC conservation
and management measures since the previous IOTC meeting held in May 2008.**

BIOT statement:

The British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Authorities' management of the BIOT Fisheries Management regime includes elements related to fisheries operations (licensing, administration etc.), science and management, and monitoring control and surveillance. Access is granted to third parties to fish in the BIOT Fisheries Conservation and Management Zone (FCMZ) under licence, with attached terms and conditions. The BIOT Authorities do not operate a flag registry, BIOT does not have a fleet of commercial fishing vessels, and there is no commercial port in BIOT, although a small recreational fishery exists on Diego Garcia which catches some tuna and tuna like species. These characteristics set the context in which IOTC resolutions are applied within the BIOT FCMZ, and not all are directly applicable. Table 1 summarises the action taken with respect to the four IOTC resolutions agreed in May 2008.

Table 1: Summary of actions taken by the BIOT and UK authorities with respect to IOTC resolutions agreed in May 2008

No.	Resolution	Application	Responsibility	Action
08/01	Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC members and cooperating non contracting parties	Improved reporting by flag states on their vessels, and improved reporting of surface fisheries (FADs)	Contracting parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties.	BIOT: N/A - National flagged vessels only UK flagged vessels report through the EU
08/02	On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels	Port transshipment is preferred, but a record of vessels authorized to receive transshipments at sea is established. Coastal states required to authorize at sea transshipments	Contracting parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties.	BIOT: N/A - BIOT does not permit transshipment at sea within the FCMZ UK vessels do not tranship at sea within the IOTC area

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08/03	On reducing the incidental by-catch of seabirds in longline fisheries	The resolution applies to longline fishing activities South of 30°S and requires the introduction of two sea bird mitigation measures. North of 30°S measures can optionally be introduced.	Contracting parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties.	BIOT: No- action – optional and seabird by-catch is not an issue in the FCMZ. Data on bird by-catch to be monitored to determine future need for introducing such controls. UK vessels will submit data on bird by-catch in future years and this will be monitored to determine whether controls are needed.
08/04	Concerning the recording of catch by longline fishing vessels in the IOTC area.	Sets minimum standards for reporting by Longline vessels	CP and flag CPCs	BIOT: N/A, and BIOT logbook already requires more information than the minimum proposed. Updated in 2008 to separate details on sharks and rays. UK flagged longliners report their catches in line with the recommendation and these are transmitted through the EU

During the period May 2008-January 2009 (when this statement was compiled) the BIOT Authorities have:

- Updated the BIOT longline logbook in order to improve data collection on sharks and rays. This became effective from 1 January 2009. The BIOT longline logbook already requires more detail than the minimum recommended in Resolution 08/04.
- Increased the species resolution of data gathered from the recreational fishery of Diego Garcia since January 2008.
- Introduced a vessel monitoring system for foreign flagged vessels which became effective in January 2009.
- Maintained a BIOT Patrol Vessel throughout the year to police the fisheries within the BIOT FCMZ including inspections on board licensed purse seine and long line fishing vessels and unlicensed vessels in transit through the zone. In addition to routine patrols and boardings, two arrests were made in 2008 resulting in prosecution for IUU activity. Both were Sri Lankan vessels³.
- Provided complete data submissions to IOTC as required and in a timely fashion. Data submissions included information required under Resolution 06/01 'On establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the IOTC area' relating to two Sri Lankan IUU vessels. The information is to be brought before the Compliance Committee.
- Participated actively in the Scientific Committee and the Working Party on Tropical Tunas and contributed to the stock assessments for yellowfin tuna, big-eye tuna and skipjack tuna.

UK statement:

Five UK flagged longline vessels are registered on the IOTC list of authorised vessels. None of the vessels have fished within the BIOT FCMZ. The UK reports to IOTC through the EU.

³ 1. S.T. Lanka 17/02/2008 Illegal fishing for tuna, tuna-like species and sharks contrary to section 7(1) of BIOT Ordinance 5 2007. 2. Jhanth Putha 3 12/08/2008 Illegal fishing for tuna, tuna-like species and sharks contrary to section 7(1) of BIOT Ordinance 5 2007, and for possessing prohibited fishing gear (wire traces) contrary to section 6(2) BIOT Ordinance 5 2007.