
**NATIONAL REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IOTC CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT MEASURES
FRANCE TERRITORIES**

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**Annual Report on the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management
Measures since the 2008 Session**

France Territories has, soon after the 12th Session of the Commission, implemented measures to better control fishing in the waters under its jurisdiction and conserve the resource, following the recommendations of the IOTC Scientific Committee.

Access to fishing areas under French jurisdiction is strictly regulated.

Fishing for tunas, tuna-like and other pelagic species is open from January 1st to December 31, but requires a fishing license. Requests for a license must be submitted at the latest two month before the opening of the fishing season.

Being granted a fishing license or permit implies that the holder adhere to and comply with territorial regulations.

The aforementioned regulations, updated in December 2008, include:

- A ban on at-sea transshipments (IOTC resolution 08/02).
- The mandatory presence on board each vessel of a satellite-based VMS.
- The mandatory presence on board each vessel of an observer, before entering French territorial waters.
- The mandatory collection of by-catch numbers and weights, preferably by species.
- The mandatory release of juvenile sharks and gravid female sharks captured alive.
- During the setting of a longline and when seabirds are present that are attracted by bait, the Master of the vessel has to enforce the use of bird-scaring lines (IOTC Resolution 08/03).
- A ban on discharging offal and food waste within one hour before setting the line and during the whole hauling phase (IOTC Resolution 08/03).
- The recording of catches and by-catch (IOTC Resolution 08/04).
- The recording and regulation of at-sea discards of non-degradable waste (plastic and other).
- The enhancement of the data collection system in order to improve the knowledge on artisanal fisheries (IOTC resolution 08/01).

Non conformance with these regulations can lead to the suspension of the fishing permit or license, notwithstanding the applicable penal sanctions.