

Report of Implementation for the year 2010

Reporting CPC: Sri Lanka

Date: 13 /03/11

Part A. *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission at its Fourteenth Session.*

Resolution 10/01 For the Conservation and Management of Tropical Tuna Stocks in the IOTC Area of Competence *There is no provision for fishing outside of EEZ under prevailing , However there is an ongoing process to amend the present Act to include provisions to issue operation license outside EEZ binding to international obligations and complying with IOTC resolutions. Further actions are being initiated to implement VMS system and field demonstrations are in process by the selected parties. Strengthening of port state measures including issuance of log books, implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System, strict punitive action on IUU fishing, training and awareness programs on Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries, measure size restrictions, restriction on trawling and destructive fishing methods are all part of a well designed plan of action for conservation and management of tropical tuna.*

Resolution 10/02 Mandatory Statistical Requirements For IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) *Sri Lanka has complied with IOTC requirement for data provision and the National statistics for the year 2007, 2008, and 2009 have been submitted to the Scientific Committee of IOTC.*

A statistical data collection programme is being carried out by the National Aquatic Resources Research and development agency (NARA). Twelve samplers are mobilized in all major fishery harbours covering all fishing zones. The sampling scheme collects data on catch, effort by craft and gear combinations and length measurements for all tuna species, billfish and spanish mackerel. Catch of shark species is also being recorded collectively as a group but from time to time species composition of the catch has been analyzed. The NARA sampling programme maintains a database (PELAGOS) and reporting system and has been updated several occasions; 1996 and 2004 with the technical and financial assistance of IOTC and the Overseas Fishery cooperation Foundation Japan (OFCF) respectively. Parallel to this programme Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) is also carrying out a statistical data collection programme covering all the landing sites throughout the country with the objective of production estimation. DFAR maintains a vessel registry starting from year 2007 with the help of funds provided by Icelandic International Development Assistance (ICEIDA).

There has been a delay of submission of available data in the past. We are now in the process of streamlining communication/ report submission modalities to ensure timely, official submission of these data through the Ministry being the focal point.

Resolution 10/03 Concerning the recording of catch by fishing vessels in the IOTC area *Catch data collection is done on a regular basis. Additionally a log book system is now being introduced. Log books have been already printed and the scheme is to be implemented shortly. Logbook maintenance and provisions of data according to the given instructions has made compulsory under Regulations and the drafted regulations are in the Legal Draftsmen Department under ongoing process.*

Resolution 10/04 On a Regional observer scheme *The Regional Observer Scheme will be developed and implemented in tandem with the Fleet Development Plan (FDP). This will be an extension of already existing catch-data collection undertaken by DFAR.*

Resolution 10/06 On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries *Due to the nature of the lon-line fishery no sea birds are caught and hence this is not relevant*

Resolution 10/07 Concerning a Record of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing for Tunas and Swordfish in the IOTC Area *Not applicable as Sri Lanka does not register or issue operational licenses for foreign fishing vessels Present legal framework in Sri lanka does not permit foreign fishing vessels to operate within the EEZ .*

Resolution 10/08 Concerning a Record of Active Vessels Fishing for Tunas and Swordfish in the IOTC Area *Information regarding a total of active 3350 vessels has already been submitted to the secretariat. This information is now available in the IOTC website.*

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Resolution 10/10 Concerning Market Related Measures *Sri Lanka issue permit under legal mandate to land tuna and tuna-like fish products in our designated ports for IOTC positive foreign vessels. (Landing of fish regulation 1997) Transshipments are prohibited under the same regulation. No report of import of tuna for re-export, Customs data is being under observation to find out importation for consumption if there any.*

The Fish Inspection and Quality Control activities were strengthened nationally and detailed market data are being compiled. Catch Certification is done on a routine basis for all exports to establish accountability of exports. Industry is encouraged to add value and fuller utilization of the landings through awareness and demonstration programmes in line with Code of Conduct. These activities will be further strengthened shortly in tandem with the ongoing FAO Tuna Regional TCP. .

Resolution 10/11 On Port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing *fPort state measures have already been ratified. Mutwal Harbour has been already designated and IOTC secretariat informed on 28 February 2011. Seven (07) Port inspectors have been appointed on December 2010. Training workshop was conducted on 28 January 2011. Record of foreign vessels engaged in fish landings at Sri Lankan designated harbours has already submitted to IOTC.*

We are also in the process implementing a vessel monitoring scheme. Twenty six (26) technical bids have already been scrutinised and 3 shortlisted bidders are now in the process of conducting field demonstrations.

In addition Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources emphasizes the importance of adhering to the guidelines of the Code Sri Lanka acknowledged the receipt of a letter from the IOTC Secretariat that informed Sri Lanka of some Sri Lankan fishing vessels presumed to have fished in the waters under the jurisdiction of British Indian Ocean Territories.

The government has already taken strong action on this matter, cancelled their operational license and has delisted these vessels from the vessel registry. Banks have already been informed not to enter into any transactions with these parties. of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) during the monthly progress review meetings of the Head office.

Resolution 10/12 On the Conservation of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Agreement Area *Landings mainly consists of silky sharks and very few Thresher sharks. Shark species are caught as an incidental catch in gillnet and long line fisheries. Shark catch in 2009 was in the range 2000 MT in 2009. Shark flesh fetched a high price in the local market and thus the landed shark catch was fully utilized. No disposals were made at sea after the removal of fins. With implementation of legally mandated log book system recordings of incidental catches (by-catch) will be improved. Awareness programs have been conducted at field level by NARA and DFAR on releasing if*

incidental catches of turtle and other marine mammals which have been already prohibited under 1996 fishing operation regulations.

Recommendation 10/13 On the Implementation of a Ban On Discards Of Skipjack Tuna, Yellow Fin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna, And Non Targeted Species Caught By Purse Seiners Not applicable as Sri Lanka does operate purse-seiners Sri Lanka is in a policy decision of not permitting purse seining emphasizing the sustainability of tuna fishery.

Part B. *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission in previous Sessions, and which have not been reported previously.*

Regulations making compulsory recording of catch data by implementing log book have been already drafted and an actions have been taken to approve them by the legal draftman.

Port State Measures are now being institutionalized with the introduction of a log book scheme, an extensive VMS programe and strengthening catch certification activities including fishing gear restrictions to ensure resource sustainability. Fishermen awarenss programmes and industry consultations are being undertaken to promote Code of Conduct recommendations .

Present Fisheries Act is being on process of amendment, so as to be incorporated legal provisions of international obligations which represent in conventions.