



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

*In reply please quote
FCR 14/25/7^r*

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12 July 2019

Dear Sir,

Subject: Feedback Regarding Compliance Issues

Please refer to your letter dated 21 June 2019 on the above subject
(Ref: IOTC Reference 7248).

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Lim Shung'.

C. Lim Shung
for Permanent Secretary

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

Response to Feedback on compliance issues

1. Resolution 15/02 Has not provided size frequency for the longline fisheries (industrial)

In 2017, Mauritius has provided size frequency data for the longline vessels operating inside its EEZ. However, no sampling could be carried out on vessels that operate outside our EEZ. Remedial action was taken. Consequently, the company has provided us with size frequency data for 2018 for its vessels operating in the EEZ of Mozambique. The data was sent to the IOTC on 30 June 2019.

2. Resolution 15/02 Size frequency for the coastal fishery as per IOTC standard

Size frequency data were provided to the IOTC but Mauritius did not meet the requirement of 1 fish per ton. However, more fish was sampled in 2018 to meet the IOTC standard. The size frequency data for 2018 was submitted to the IOTC on 30 June 2019.

3. Nominal catch on sharks for the longline and coastal fisheries

4. Catch and effort on sharks for the longline and coastal fisheries

5. Size frequency on sharks for the longline and coastal fisheries

Only one specie of shark was reported in both fisheries in 2017. Longline operators have been requested not to aggregate the species in the logbooks and during landing. Remedial action was taken in 2018 and data was submitted to the IOTC on 30 June 2019. Our ministry is also envisaging to hold a workshop in order to improve the skills of skippers in shark identification.

6. Resolution 11/4: No observer coverage for the industrial Longline fleet

Whilst our observer coverage for purse seiners exceeded 20%, we were not able to place observers on the Afritex vessels that operate in the EEZ of Mozambique in 2017. Remedial action was taken in 2018 and observers were deployed on the small longliners operating outside our EEZ. The observer reports shall be provided to the IOTC accordingly.

7. Resolution 01/06: Has not provided second semester report 2017 for the bigeye Statistical Document

8. Resolution 01/06: Has not provided 1st Semester of 2018

The submission of the bigeye statistical report was remedied as from the 2nd semester report for 2018. The 2nd semester report for 2018 was submitted to the IOTC on 30 March 2019.

9. Resolution 01/06: The annual report on bigeye statistical document (not fully provided)

The figures we have provided for the annual report of the Bigeye statistical document for the year 2017 do not tally with the figures from the importing countries. This may be attributed to the fact that bigeye exports done in December 2016 may have been reported as 2017 imports by the importing country. Measures are being taken to avoid any discrepancy onwards.

10. Resolution 16/11: Has not implemented the requirement of 5% inspection on Landing or transshipment:

Remedial action was taken. Officers have been requested to take the necessary measures to ensure that all inspection forms are submitted in order to fulfill the requirement of Resolution 16/11.

11. Resolution 15/04: IMO number on vessels less than 24M that operated outside the EEZ

This concerns the fishing vessels that operate in Mozambique waters. The company has been requested to register its vessels with the International Maritime Organisation to obtain an IMO number for its vessels. The numbers will be communicated to the IOTC accordingly.

12. Resolution 18/10: Chartering consent

The private company has not informed the Mauritian authorities of the chartering arrangements of its vessels with a Mozambican company. Remedial actions were taken. The company and owner of the vessels have been notified about the conditions laid down in Resolution 18/10 to ensure compliance with this resolution. A letter of consent will be sent to the IOTC shortly.

13. Resolution 16/11: Has not provided all port inspections reports

Connectivity issues were encountered with the e-PSM platform in 2018. The IOTC was informed that the system was not accepting electronic AREP files. Hence the local agents had to submit their request for port access manually. The IOTC was informed of the connectivity issue. This explains some missing entries on the system and subsequently the non- submission of some port inspection reports (PIRs). Remedial actions are being taken in order to be fully compliant with the resolution 16/11.

14. Resolution 11/04: Has not provided coverage for the artisanal landing

Landings by the boats involved in the artisanal fishery are monitored by enumerators which are placed at the landing sites to ensure proper data reporting. Remedial action will be taken to ensure that the coverage for the artisanal landing is reported to the IOTC in the future.