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Sent: 18 January 2020 21:09
To: IOTC Secretariat <secretariat@iotc.org>
Cc: Al Muatasam Al-Habsi <muatasim4@hotmail.com>; Tariq Al_alawi <ta_alalawi_211@hotmail.com>; RUQ Albulushi <albulushiruq085@gmail.com>
Subject: Feedback on the Oman's outstanding compliance issues

IOTC Secretariat,

Dear Susan Imende (Ms)

Subject: Feedback on the Oman's outstanding compliance issues

Following the IOTC request on June 21st, 2019 regarding the Oman's outstanding compliance issues, please herein this Ministry's report on each remark expressed by the Compliance Committee:

Remark 1: R(1)- Requirement for logbook on board vessels, as required by Resolution 15/04.

Remark 2: R(2)- requirement related to documents to be onboard, no logbook onboard, as required by Resolution 15/04.

IOTC logbook form was sent by this Ministry to the company (Vessel Sinaw16) to implement the IOTC logbook during the upcoming fishing operations.

R(3)- Size frequency for the Coastal fisheries, as required by Resolution 15/02.

R(4)- Size frequency for the longline fisheries, as required by Resolution 15/02.

Our statistical model does not collect this type of data due to lack of human resources and need for capacity building. However, we are enhancing the statistical system and hopefully we will be able to sort this matter out in the near future.

R(5)- Catch and effort on sharks to IOTC Standard, as required by Resolution 17/05.

Attached

R(6)- Size frequency on sharks, as required by Resolution 17/05.

Our statistical model does not collect this type of data due to lack of human resources and need for capacity building. However, we are enhancing the statistical system and hopefully we will be able to sort this matter out in the near future.

R(7)- Nominal catch for the longline fisheries, as required by Resolution 15/02.

R(8)- Catch & effort for the coastal fisheries to IOTC Standard, as required by Resolution 15/02.

R(9)- Catch & effort for the longline fisheries, as required by Resolution 15/02.

Excel sheet attached

R(10)- Nominal catch on sharks to IOTC Standard, as required by Resolution 17/05.

Attached

R(11)- Data on interactions with marine turtles, as requested by Resolution 12/04.

The companies were requested by this Ministry to report records on any turtle interactions and no records were received till to date. It is to be mentioned that turtles are strictly protected under both the 2019 marine living resources law and the environmental laws in Oman. In 1996 Oman established the protected area in Res Al Hadd by the Royal Decree NO 25/96. This area had been identified as a nesting and nursery ground for turtles. Other projects are being carried out on turtles to further ensure conservation and protection of these creatures.

R(12)- Data on interactions with sea birds, as requested by Resolution 12/06.

R(13)- Data on interactions with cetaceans, as requested by Resolution 13/04.

R(14)- Data on interactions with whale shark, as requested by Resolution 13/05.

The companies were requested by this Ministry to report records on any interactions on the above-mentioned species and no records were received till to date.

R(15)- At-sea transshipments reports, as requested by Resolution 17/06 (19/06).

Attached

R(16)- The transshipments in port reports, as requested by Resolution 17/06 (19/06).

Attached

R(17)- The on results of investigations on possible infractions, as requested by Resolution 17/06 (19/06).

Attached

R(18)- The observer scheme, 5 % phasing in artisanal landings, as required by Resolution 11/04.

R(19)- The observer scheme, no deployment, as required by Resolution 11/04.

R(20)- The observer scheme, no observer coverage at sea, as required by Resolution 11/04.

R(21)- Observer report, as required by Resolution 11/04.

Considering the insufficiency of the skilled human resources for such tasks and the need for the capacity building, the Ministry is working currently on a comprehensive program to comply with the requirements of this resolution. We are confident that this shortage of implementation of the observer scheme will be overcome in the upcoming years.

R(22)- The list of active vessels, as required by Resolution 10/08.

vessel Name: SINAW 16

Vessel identifiers

IOTC: 546

TUVI: 9172

IMO: 7900429

IRCS: A4DL3

Specifications

Type: Long liners

LOA: 49.49m

GRT: -

GT: 665

Gear: Drifting longline

Owner and Operator: Century Star LLC

R(23)- The VMS report, as required by Resolution 15/03.

The tracking system in Oman was first introduced in 2001. Currently, and considering the inefficiency of this system, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, in collaboration with Food and Agriculture organization (FAO), has launched a project to introduce a new tracking system with upgraded features.

R(24)- The prohibition on sharks finning, as required by Resolution 17/05.

It is to be announced that all fresh shark fishing in Oman (coastal and artisanal fleets) does not practice shark finning onboard. Regulation wise, Article 6.b of the Executive by-law of the Marine living resources Law stipulates that “it is forbidden to remove shark fins and tails from their bodies except in accordance with the conditions specified by the competent authority and it is not permissible to trade, market and export any part of them except with the license of the competent authority.

R(25)- Information on landing (2017) of foreign vessels in ports, as required by Resolution 05/03.

Attached

R(26)- The sea bird’s mitigation measure, no legal reference provided, as required by Resolution 12/06.

Article 11 (The Living Marine Resources Law of the Royal Decree No. 2019/20) stipulates that it is forbidden to hunt turtles and collect their eggs, whaling, hunt dolphins, mammals and seabirds except if otherwise stipulated in accordance with the regulations and it is forbidden to interfere with the nesting and frequentation areas of turtles.

R(27)- The obligation to carry line cutters and de-hookers on longline vessel, no legal reference provided, as required by Resolution 12/04.

With regard to the request for longline vessels to carry line cutters and de-hookers, it is to be mentioned that this fleet category had been advised to comply with this requirement. But in any case, there is only one longliner flying Oman flag and working in IOTC area. We will insist again on this Company to comply with this resolution.

As indicated in the remark, there is in fact no legal reference for this issue in the Oman

Regulations, but be advised that Oman is working currently on the preparation of a new executive by-law for the 2019 marine living resources law and we will make sure these measures will be introduced in this by-law.

R (28)- Implemented the prohibition on thresher sharks, as required by Resolution 12/09.

R (29)- Implemented the prohibition on oceanic sharks, as required by Resolution 13/06.

The prohibition of targeting thresher shark species is limited to commercial fleets and Oman has, so far, only one longliner that may be concerned with this resolution.

Moreover and as indicated in the remark, there is in fact no legal reference for this issue in the Oman Regulations, but be advised that Oman is working currently on the preparation of a new executive by-law for the 2019 marine living resources law and we will make sure these measures will be introduced in this by-law..

Kind Regards

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