



Mr. Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

April 7, 2021

Dear Executive Secretary,

I write in response to the feedback letter regarding compliance issues, IOTC Reference IOTC2020-184 dated 4 December, 2020.

Please see our response below :

Issue No. 1 : Has not reported size frequency for surface fishery to IOTC Standard(Less than one fish per metric ton of catch per species), as required by Resolution 15/02.

Response : *Korean purse seiners usually have observers from the Seychelles on board but we have had difficulties in obtaining the observer data from such observers/observer providers. We have been in consultation with the Seychelles to address this issue and will provide additional size frequency data once the observer data/reports become available to Korea.*

Issue No. 2 : Has not fully implemented the observer scheme coverage below 5% for the longline fleet, as required by resolution 11/04.

Response : *Certain Korean longline vessels targeting Southern Bluefin Tuna operate in both IOTC and ICCAT area. Usually, the same observer covers SBT fisheries as well as IOTC fisheries on the same vessel due to the limited availability of observers. So, the more SBT fisheries take place in ICCAT area the less IOTC fisheries are covered by the observer. It is not always easy to foresee the conditions of SBT fishing ground or fishing patterns and 2018 was one of the years when more SBT fisheries took place in ICCAT area than expected. As a result, we achieved an observer coverage less than 5% in the Indian ocean but we will explore possible ways to ensure the achievement of minimum observer coverage including training and recruitment of additional observers.*

Issue No. 3 : Has not provided a response to the feedback letter, as requested by the commission.

Response : *We were not able to provide our response in a timely manner due to the change of Korea's point of contact for IOTC and the challenges stemmed from COVID-19. However, we did provide our response after the deadline, on the 11 September 2020. We will do our best to provide our response to the feedback letter in a timely fashion in future.*



Issue No. 4 : Has not provided complete information on the List of Authorized vessels 24 metres in length overall or more, some photographs not legible for 7 vessels, as requested by Resolution 19/04.

Response : *We submitted updated photographs for one of the 7 vessels mentioned on 5 October 2020. We will submit new photographs for the remaining 6 vessels as soon as possible, once the photographs become available.*

Issue No. 5 : Has not provided all the observer reports, as required by resolution 11/04.

Response : *Korean observers were dispatched to our longline vessels and the observer reports were already submitted. As for the purse seine vessels, we had observers from the Seychelles but are experiencing difficulties in obtaining the observer report and data from such observers or observer providers. We have been in consultation with the Seychelles to address this issue and will provide the missing observer reports as soon as they become available.*

Thank you very much.

Best Regards,

Sung-taek, Oh

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International Cooperation Division
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Republic of Korea