



SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY

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Please address all Correspondence to the Chief Executive Officer

OUR REF: SFA/IOTC2020-185

Date: 8th April 2021

Dr. Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Le Chantier Mall
P.O. Box 1011,
Victoria, Seychelles

Dear Dr. O' Brien,

**RE: SEYCHELLES' RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK LETTER REGARDING
COMPLIANCE ISSUES (IOTC REF: IOTC2020-185)**

In reference to the letter dated 4th December 2020, we took note of the concerns raised by the Compliance Committee in regards to Outstanding Compliance issues for the Seychelles. We would like to bring to your attention some clarifications as well as provide details of corrective actions undertaken, to address those issues raised by the Chairperson of the Commission.

Please find in attachment the Annex summarizing the actions undertaken for each of the outstanding compliance matter.

Let me also take this opportunity to reaffirm Seychelles' full commitment towards improving its compliance level *vis-a-vis* its obligations to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Furthermore, we would like to thank you and your team for your support for the Compliance Support Mission undertaken from 30th March to 1st April 2021.

Yours sincerely

Vincent Lucas (Mr.)
Chief Executive Officer
SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY



attach



Responsible Fishing For Sustainability

The CoC ACKNOWLEDGED the difficulties that Seychelles continue to face to fully implement the following CMMs adopted by the Commission:	Response
• Has not provided data on interactions with cetaceans, as required by Resolution 13/04.	Null reports submitted as no interactions were reported.
• Has not provided data on interactions with whale sharks, as required by Resolution 13/05.	Null reports submitted as no interactions were reported.
• Has not provided data on sea birds interactions, as requested by Resolution 12/06.	Data capture for Longline for year 2019 has been delays due to fungus in statistical offices, Computer virus attack on statistical server and administrative issues. Data will be made available by Q1 in 2021. However, provisions were made for vessels to report on logbook. We will provide once the logbook data has been captured.
• Has not provided data on marine turtle interactions, as requested by Resolution 12/04.	Data capture for Longline for year 2019 has been delays due to fungus in statistical offices, Computer virus attack on statistical server and administrative issues. Data will be made available by Q1 in 2021. However, provisions were made for vessels to report on logbook. We will provide once the logbook data has been captured.
• Has not provided transshipments in port report for the year 2019, as required by Resolution 19/06.	Reports not completed in view of COVID-19 restrictions and limited staffs working at the institution. All reports to be submitted before 23 rd April 2020.
• Has not fully implemented the observer scheme, vessels monitored and coverage by gear type, as required by Resolution 11/04.	Observer scheme for the purse seine fleet fully implemented beyond the minimum requirement.
• Has not fully implemented the observer scheme, no observer coverage for the LL fishery, as required by Resolution 11/04.	Observer deployment for LL fishery is logistically complex. A pilot Electronic Monitoring programme has been initiated in 2019 for this fleet.
• Has not fully implemented the observer scheme for artisanal landing, as required by Resolution 11/04.	Artisanal landing are covered by observers on multiple landing sites. Information regarding Coverage will be communicated through National Report to the Scientific Committee
• Has not provided observer reports to IOTC standard and for the LL fishery, as required by Resolution 11/04.	Reports were submitted in ST09 format for purse seine fishery. Currently the longline fishery is not covered by human observer. Possibility of Coverage via EMS is being evaluated.
• Has not inspected at least 5% of landing or transshipment, as required by Resolution 16/11.	Limited human capacity to undertake the port inspections. The MCS has gone under substantial restructuring in late 2019 and 2020. The IOTC Secretariat has also assisted with capacity building for the new unit that will be dealing with port Control. It is expected that Landing Monitoring will improve significantly both in quantity and quality in coming years (Subject to limitations imposed by COVID-19)
• Has not provided all inspection reports, as required by Resolution 16/11.	To be compiled and forwarded to secretariat before 23 rd April 2021. IOTC secretariat has done capacity building in late 2019 to this end
• Has not provided the report of progress on implementation of FADs management plan.	With enhanced human resource capacity, this requirement will be met in the future (2020 onward).





Annex: Response to the Letter of Feedback regarding compliance issues.

The CoC ACKNOWLEDGED the difficulties that Seychelles continue to face to fully implement the following CMMs adopted by the Commission:	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not reduced the yellowfin catch by 15 % (PS), as required by Resolution 19/01. 	Existing system at that time did not allow for near real time monitoring of quota consumptions. The necessary adjustment and capacity enhancement was completed in 2019 to improve monitoring of quota consumptions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not reported all Catch & Effort for the Coastal fisheries, Missing effort information, as required by Resolution 15/02. 	Data capture for 2019 has been delayed due to fungus outbreak in statistical offices, Computer virus attack on statistical server and administrative issues. Data was made available in Q1 in 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not reported Size frequency for the Coastal fisheries, as required by Resolution 15/02. 	In 2020 logistics were adjusted accordingly to initiate sampling of landings, which often take place in the early hours of the morning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not reported Size frequency for the longline fisheries to IOTC standard, as required by Resolution 15/02. 	Data capture for 2019 has been delays due to fungus in statistical offices, Computer virus attack on statistical server, 2 staff on maternity leave and administrative issues. Data will be made available in Q2 of 2021.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not reported Nominal catch on sharks to IOTC Standard, Aggregated as SKH for coastal fishery; Reported as discard for PS fishery, as required by Resolution 17/05. 	<p>Data on sharks landed by coastal fisheries are capture through Observer programme at landing sites. Specimens are landed dressed and often cut into many pieces, making reporting by species challenging.</p> <p>For Purse seine fishery, the necessary adjustment to reporting will be made to ensure reporting are compatible with data processing system and the data will be submitted accordingly.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not reported Catch and effort on sharks to IOTC Standard; no data for PS and aggregated as SKH for coastal fishery, as required by Resolution 17/05. 	<p>Data on sharks landed by coastal fisheries are capture through Observer programme at landing sites. Specimens are landed dressed and often cut into many pieces, making reporting by species challenging.</p> <p>For Purse seine fishery, the necessary adjustment to reporting will be made to ensure reporting are compatible with data processing system and the data will be submitted accordingly.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not reported Size frequency on sharks to IOTC Standard, Not submitted for longline industrial longline & not by IOTC standard, less than 1 fish measured per MT as required by Resolution 17/05. 	Data capture for years 2016 to 2019 has been delays due to fungus in statistical offices, Computer virus attack on statistical server, 2 staff on maternity leave and administrative issues. Data will be made available in Q2 of 2021.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not provided information on the implementation of the FAO guideline to reduce mortality of sea turtles, as required by Resolution 12/04. 	With enhanced human resource capacity, this requirement will be met in the future (2020 onward).



The CoC ACKNOWLEDGED the difficulties that Seychelles continue to face to fully implement the following CMMs adopted by the Commission:	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not provided the List of Authorized vessels 24 metres in length overall or more at IOTC Standard, Mandatory information missing: beneficial owner, company, photograph, as required by Resolution 19/04. 	<p>The missing information has been compiled and provided to the Secretariat. However it is to be noted that the resolution categorize some of the requested information as optional, for example the beneficial owner (If known).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not provided the List of Authorized vessels (less than 24m, operating in waters outside EEZ of the flag state) at IOTC Standard, Mandatory information missing; beneficial owner, company, photograph, as required by Resolution 19/04. 	<p>The missing information has been compiled and provided to the Secretariat. However it is to be noted that the resolution categorize some of the requested information as optional, for example the beneficial owner (If known).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not provided the List of foreign vessels denied a licence. 	<p>Nil report</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not provided the VMS report on implementation and technical failures for the year 2018, as required by Resolution 15/03. 	<p>Reports not completed in view of COVID-19 restrictions and limited staffs working at the institution. All reports to be submitted before 23rd April 2021.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not provided the BET Annual report, as required by Resolution 01/06. 	<p>Reports not completed in view of COVID-19 restrictions and limited staffs working at the institution. All reports to be submitted before 23rd April 2021.</p>

