
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS RELEVANT TO THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 28 MAY 2021

PURPOSE

To provide the Compliance Committee with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the intersessional period, in relation to the recommendations for actions by CPCs and/or the IOTC Secretariat, made by the Compliance Committee (CoC17).

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the Commission endorsed nine (9) **RECOMMENDATIONS** and one (1) **REQUEST**, from the Compliance Committee (CoC17), which required actions by CPCs and/or the IOTC Secretariat. These actions and the status of their implementation during the intersessional period are detailed below.

RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRING ACTION

1) Reporting of mandatory information and data for the 2019.

CoC17.01 (Para 12) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs (Bangladesh, China, Eritrea, European Union, India, Iran, Japan, Madagascar, Oman, Pakistan, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Yemen) that have failed to submit mandatory information and data for the 2019 reporting cycle (catch data for 2018) shall be reminded by the IOTC Secretariat to:

- i. provide a clear timeline as to when the missing mandatory information and data will be submitted,
- ii. as the case may be, when they will be in a position to fulfil these obligations for which they have recurring non-compliance,
- iii. work closer with the IOTC Secretariat if they are encountering challenges in implementation/submission of mandatory information and data.

Progress of Implementation: Letters were sent to the individual Members listed in recommendation CoC17.01 on the 7th April 2021, to remind them of this recommendation. At the time of preparing this document, only India and Japan have responded.

2) Requirement regarding reporting obligations.

CoC17.02 (Para 13) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that the Secretariat write to the concerned CPCs reminding them of their obligations as CPCs and to notify those which continue to have compliance issues with this measure, that may be due to capacity limitations, that support is available to build capacity for them to meet their reporting obligations.

Progress of Implementation: In the same letter that was sent on the 7th April 2021, the concerned Members were advised that the Secretariat stands by to assist them in any way possible to improve their processes for the collection and submission of mandatory information and data.

3) Implementation of the IOTC Port State Measure - Resolution 16/11.

CoC17.06 (Para 23) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs carrying out less than 5% of inspection on landings or transshipments in their ports during each reporting year to provide the IOTC Secretariat with an explanatory note, indicating the obstacles that prevent them from reaching the goal and the remedy action they intend to deploy.

CoC17.07 (Para 24) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that the IOTC Secretariat compile this information with the aim of presenting it at the CoC18 in 2021.

Progress of Implementation: Letters were sent to the individual Members (Eritrea, the European Union, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia South Africa, Sudan, and Yemen) who were identified as carrying out less than 5% inspection on landings or transshipments in their ports, on the 7th April 2021. At the time of preparing this document, only the European Union had responded, and indicated the following:

One vessel was inspected in 2019, the Malagasy vessel “Ile Sainte Marie” which is the only foreign-flagged vessel regularly unloading catches in La Réunion.

Three inspections were conducted on this vessel as indicated in the IOTC Form relating to the establishment of an IOTC Programme of Inspection in Port. In this Form, the catches unloaded by the vessel “Ile Sainte Marie” do not fall under the purview of the IOTC. From this review, it is apparent that:

- *If these species had fallen under the purview of the IOTC, the minimum coverage rate of 5% would have been met (3 inspections for 43 port calls).*
- *This information has been erroneously reported both in the inspections in port Form and the Compliance Questionnaire.*
- *These elements explain why the IOTC forms have not been used.*

In conclusion, these inspections were conducted under the European “IUU” legislation requiring a 5% inspection rate of landings by foreign-flagged vessels and not in the framework of the IOTC. French Authorities in La Réunion and the national Fisheries Monitoring Centre will be informed of this to ensure these errors will not recur.

4) **Implementation of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme - Resolution 11/04.**

CoC17.08 (Para 29) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs with observer coverage below the minimum level of 5% of operations/sets by gear type for those vessels covered by Resolution 11/04 to provide the Secretariat with an explanatory note, indicating the obstacles that prevent them from reaching the 5% coverage and the remedy actions they intend to implement.

CoC17.09 (Para 30) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that the IOTC Secretariat compile this information with the aim of presenting it at the CoC18.

Progress of Implementation: Letters were sent to the concerned Members (Bangladesh, Eritrea, India, Iran, Madagascar, Oman, Pakistan, Somalia Sudan and Yemen) on the 19th April 2021, to remind them of this recommendation. At the time of preparing this document, only India had responded.

5) **Request for advice from the European Union on its internal review of 2018 nominal catch data.**

Para 45 The CoC **REQUESTED** the European Union to inform the Secretariat by letter before next CoC about the timescale for the completion of this study internal review a short description of its content and its impact on the submission of the approved mandatory statistics.

Progress of Implementation: A letter was sent to the European Union on 7th April 2021, to remind them of this request. At the time of preparing this document, no response has been received from the European Union.

6) Capacity building activities to support the improvement of the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme and submission of mandatory statistics.

CoC17.33 (Para 129) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that the IOTC Secretariat continue with capacity building activities that would allow CPCs to address the issue of mandatory statistics and the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme.

Progress of Implementation: The following is a list of capacity building activities that have taken place, ongoing or planned:

- A remote data compliance and support mission is planned for May 2021 to help Indonesia improve the quality and standards of their regular statistical data submission to the IOTC.
- Support has been (and will continue to be) provided to Pakistan - through WWF PAK - to ensure the information collected by the crew-based data collection programme could be used to compile georeferenced catch-and-effort and size-frequency data according to Resolution 15/02.
- Capacity building (in terms of remote support) has been provided to Sri Lanka in order to help them submit the ROS information for their longline fleet using the ROS e-tools.
- Other capacity building activities in support of data compliance to be delivered upon request by concerned CPCs.

7) The IOTC Secretariat to explore the conduct of capacity building activities remotely.

CoC17.34 (Para 130) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that the IOTC Secretariat explore the possibility of conducting capacity building activities remotely, taking into consideration the limitations imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic.

Progress of Implementation: During the intersessional period, staff of the IOTC Secretariat (Compliance Section) and a MCS Expert (funded by the IOC administered SWIOFish 2 Project) have conducted two in person missions to Seychelles (refresher training in the use of the e-PSM application and a Compliance Support Mission). With the agreement of the Kenyan authorities, a remote Compliance Support Mission was undertaken, and further assistance were subsequently provided to address a number of compliance issues.

Mozambique and Tanzania were also approached with a view of assisting them remotely, through the standard Compliance Support Mission format, but at the time of preparation of this document it has so far not been possible to fix a date for Mozambique, and Tanzania's staff had been engaged in meeting compliance deadlines.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- That the CoC18 **NOTE** the progress made by the Secretariat in sending out the necessary reminders implementing the recommendations and the request from CoC17.
- That the CoC18 **NOTE** the extremely low-level of responses received this far.