



Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative

A Fishery Improvement Project for the Indian Ocean Purse Seine Tuna Fishery

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<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indian-ocean-tuna-purse-seine-sioti>

SIOFI Position for the 25th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Approved by the SIOFI Executive Board

May 31st 2021

The **Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative (SIOFI)** submits this statement in support of the adoption of conservation and management measures for tropical tunas at the 25th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) beginning on 7 June, 2021.

SIOFI¹ is a large-scale Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) comprising major purse seine fishing fleets and tuna processors in the Indian Ocean.

1. IOTC members must urgently reach an effective interim agreement on rebuilding the yellowfin stock, in advance of the next yellowfin stock assessment and any potential new advice from IOTC Scientific Committee.
2. IOTC should extend the scope of Resolution 19/01 to cover all vessel types, regardless of vessel size and fishing areas.
3. SIOFI supports a fair and equitable distribution of yellowfin tuna catch reduction efforts across different gear types and CPCs in order to achieve more effective rebuilding of the stock.
4. SIOFI supports the scientific advice recommending that catches of yellowfin tuna should be maintained at levels below the catch-MSY estimate of 403,000 metric tonnes.
5. SIOFI does not support a complete ban on supply vessels but can support recommended levels of supply vessels on the basis of scientific advice.
6. SIOFI does not support a ban period on the use of FADs.
7. SIOFI will support FAD limits on the basis of scientific advice.
8. SIOFI advocates for the development of management procedures for the skipjack tuna harvest control rule (HCR) to maintain catches at the catch limit so that the stock status stays in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot, i.e. not overfished and not subject to overfishing.

Signed

Tony Lazazzara, SIOFI President

¹ SIOFI is an association registered in Paris, France.