

27 September 2021

## IOTC CIRCULAR 2021-50

Dear Madam / Sir

### OBJECTION FROM MADAGASCAR TO IOTC RESOLUTION 21/01

Please find attached a communication from Madagascar regarding its objection, in accordance to Article IX (5) of the IOTC Agreement, to [IOTC Resolution 21/01](#) *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence*, which was adopted at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOTC.

Given a previous objection, an extension period of 60 days has already been applied to the date when Resolution 21/01 comes into force. Thus, Resolution 21/01 will come into force on 17 December 2021, unless a total of more than one-third of the members also object, before this time. Madagascar's objection is the fifth to be received.

The relevant paragraphs (5, 6 and 7) of Article IX on the ensuing process are reproduced herein for your reference.

*5. Any Member of the Commission may, within 120 days from the date specified or within such other period as may be specified by the Commission under paragraph 4, object to a conservation and management measure adopted under paragraph 1. A Member of the Commission which has objected to a measure shall not be bound thereby. Any other Member of the Commission may similarly object within a further period of 60 days from the expiry of the 120-day period. A Member of the Commission may also withdraw its objection at any time and become bound by the measure immediately if the measure is already in effect or at such time as it may come into effect under this article.*

*6. If objections to a measure adopted under paragraph 1 are made by more than one-third of the Members of the Commission, the other Members shall not be bound by that measure; but this shall not preclude any or all of them from giving effect thereto.*

*7. The Secretary shall notify each Member of the Commission immediately upon receipt of each objection or withdrawal of objection.*

Yours sincerely



Christopher O'Brien  
Executive Secretary

#### Attachments:

- Letter from Madagascar

Distribution

**IOTC Contracting Parties:** Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** Chairperson IOTC. **Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only



MINISTRE DE LA PECHE  
ET DE L'ECONOMIE BLEUE  
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Antananarivo, le 23 Sept 2021

The Minister

To

The Executive Secretary of the IOTC  
SEYCHELLES

N°097/21-MPEB/Mi.-

Subject: Objection to the IOTC Resolution 21/01 under Article IX (5) of the IOTC Agreement

Ref.: IOTC Circular 2021/31 dated 21 June 2021

Dear Executive Secretary,

I hereby refer to IOTC Circular 2021-31 communicating the Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted by the IOTC during its 25th Session, which was held by videoconference from 7 to 11 June 2021. I have the honour to hereby reiterate Madagascar's position on the « Resolution 21/01 On an interim plan to rebuild the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence ».

First of all, Madagascar, as a Contracting Party, has always been supportive of all the Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the IOTC, from its accession to present. Despite the economic and social situation prevailing in our country, Madagascar has made every possible effort to implement them and fulfil its obligations.

As reported during the meeting, Madagascar is in the process of reforming the fisheries sector, and intends in the short term to develop its national offshore fishery. This decision falls within the implementation of the policy of economic emergence through which fisheries should act as a lever for Madagascar's development. However, the recently adopted Resolution 21/01 which limits our yellowfin tuna annual catch limit to 2,000 t, is directly detrimental to our development goal.

Therefore, as per Article IX (5) of the IOTC Agreement, Madagascar hereby submits its objection to the application of the « Resolution 21 /01 of the IOTC On an interim plan to rebuild the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence » to our country.

Recognizing the importance of yellowfin tuna fisheries for the economy of the IOTC Members Countries and the need to take the required measures to rebuild this stock in the Indian Ocean, Madagascar hereby renews its commitment to contribute to this objective.

As per the provisions of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter to all Parties concerned.

Please accept, Mr Executive Secretary, the assurance of my highest consideration.



MABATANTSI TSIMANORATY  
Paupert