

Following



SEYCHELLES FISHING AUTHORITY

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Please address all Correspondence to the Chief Executive Officer

17th March 2022

OUR REF: SFA/IOTC2021-135

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 FOLLOWING CoC 18 - (IOTC REF: IOTC2021-135)**

In reference to the letter dated 17th June 2021, we took note of the concerns raised by the Compliance Committee regarding 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 to this letter annex 1, containing a table which summarizes the actions undertaken for each of the outstanding compliance matter raised.

Let me also take this opportunity to reaffirms Seychelles full commitment towards improving its compliance level *vis-a-vis* its obligations to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

Yours sincerely

Nichol Elizabeth (Mr.)
Chief Executive Officer



Responsible Fishing For Sustainability



Annex I: Summary of actions undertaken to address outstanding compliance issues raised by the Chairperson following the CoC18.

CPC: Seychelles	Responses/clarifications
• Has not provided all information for the list of authorised vessels over 24m in length as required by Resolution 19/04	The missing information has been complied and provided to the Secretariat. Furthermore, the application to obtain Certificate of Authorization has been amended to ensure that the previously missing information are provided prior to issuance of the certificate.
• Has not provided all information for the list of authorised vessels less than 24m in length as required by Resolution 19/04.	The missing information has been complied and provided to the Secretariat. Furthermore, the application to obtain Certificate of Authorization has been amended to ensure that the previously missing information are provided prior to issuance of the certificate.
• Has not provided all information on catch & effort for coastal fisheries (grid information) as required by Resolution 15/02	Catch and Effort data for coastal Longline was resubmitted in December 2021 and the same information for coastal handline will be submitted by June 2022.
• Has not provided all information on size frequency for coastal fisheries (artisanal fisheries) as required by Resolution 15/02	Technicians have difficulties accessing tuna species to collect Length frequency during landing and shark species are already land by pieces making it difficult to collect length frequency data.
• Has not provided all information on size frequency for longline fisheries (less than 1 fish per metric tonne) as required by Resolution 15/02	There were delays in data capture and the data for year 2020 and 2021 will be submitted by December 2022.
• Has not provided nominal catch for sharks as required by Resolution 17/05	Shark catches for coastal fishery are collected through a catch assessment survey and are aggregated during data processing. Purse seine logbook has been revised to collect shark catch data by species and weight for year 2022.
• Has not provided catch & effort for sharks as required by Resolution 17/05	Shark catches for coastal fishery are collected through a catch assessment survey and are aggregated during data processing. Purse seine logbook has been revised to collect shark catch data by species and weight for year 2022.
• Has not provided size frequency for sharks as required by Resolution 17/05	Size frequency data for longline will be submitted by December 2022 whilst size frequency for coastal fishery is difficult to obtain since the catches are landed by pieces.
• Has not provided seabirds report as required by Resolution 12/06	The missing information has been compiled and was provided to the Secretariat. Furthermore, reporting requirement are being enforced on revised logbook.
• Has not provided data on interactions with whale sharks as required by Resolution 13/05	There was no report of interactions with whale shark on logbook and the form was submitted to IOTC in June 2021
• Has not provided transshipments in port report as required by Resolution 19/06	Due to Covid-19 restrictions and lack of staff working at SFA, delay was experienced for the compilation of report.

	Following reinforcement of personnel, the data was compiled and has been submitted to the secretariat.
• Has not provided information on the Regional Observer Scheme as required by Resolution 11/04	Due to the covid-19, technical assistance for technical support with the observer database was not possible. Seychelles is seeking assistance from collaborating partners to address this technical matter in 2022.
• Has not reached 5% mandatory at sea observer coverage for all vessels (none for LL) as required by Resolution 11/04	Observer deployment for LL fishery is logistically complex. The Electronic monitoring programme pilot project initiated in 2019 is still on going and Seychelles will report on the result at the appropriate IOTC forum.
• Has not provided observer reports for LL as required by Resolution 11/04	Currently the longline fishery is not covered by human observer. Possibility of coverage via EMS is being evaluated.
• Has not provided annual report for Bigeye tuna as required by Resolution 01/06	Due to various restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 there has been a delay in compiling the report. Though late, Following reinforcement of personnel the data was submitted.
• Has not provided inspection reports as required by Resolution 16/11	Through capacity building conducted by IOTC secretariat report are being compile and download directly onto the IOTC system.
• Has not inspected at least 5% of LAN/TRX as required by Resolution 16/11	There is limited human capacity to undertake port inspection which was aggravated with the occurrence of Covid -19. The Department was faced with many limitations. MCS has undertaken some restructuring and recruitment, through capacity building it is to be expected that port control activities will improve.
• Has not provided information on at-sea transshipments as required by Resolution 19/06	Due to Covid-19 restrictions and lack of staff working at SFA, delay was experienced for the compilation of report. Following reinforcement of personnel, the data was compiled and has been submitted to the secretariat.

