

Clarification of Thailand on the areas of non-compliance with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

Issues	Clarification
1. Collection of size-frequency data for Tuna or Tuna-like species in all gears in the coastal areas of Thailand	Data on tuna or tuna-like fisheries from coastal purse seine were collected constantly at port through accidental sampling every month. However, there were implementation restrictions because purse seines were not found at port during some samplings or there were purse seines with no tuna and tuna-like catch data. In addition, the effect of the moon's cycles and monsoon causes fishing vessels to be unable to operate fishing throughout the year. Furthermore, the limited budget for conducting the survey resulted in insufficient data that did not meet the requirements of the IOTC CMM; however, in 2021, to reduce the risk of data non-complying with the requirements of the IOTC, Thailand improved the method of data collection by assigning officers at Thailand's key ports to take charge of the enumerator of tuna and tuna-like caught by purse seine to ensure that the data gaining will be in compliance with the CMM.
2. Size-frequency data on sharks in all fisheries/gears	At present, sharks or cartilaginous fish actually are not the target species in Thailand. This type of fish is frequently found as a bycatch of trawl fishing in a minor proportion. The majority of the sharks discovered are small to medium-sized sharks, such as <i>Chiloscyllium punctatum</i> , <i>Chiloscyllium griseum</i> , <i>Atelomycterus mamoratus</i> , <i>Carcharhinus sorrah</i> , and <i>Carcharhinus leucas</i> , which are not on the IOTC conservation shark list. Furthermore, due to the limits of resources and fisheries surveys as clarified in Item1, sharks are less likely to be found, as a result, no data was collected.
3. Nominal catch on sharks in all fisheries/gears	Same as Item 2
4. Catch and effort on sharks in all fisheries/gears	Same as Item 2
5. Prohibition to retain on board, transship, land, any Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Indo-pacific Sailfish smaller than 60 cm Lower Jaw Fork Length	Thailand is working to revise two implementing rules involved this issue namely: 1) Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Rules and Regulations of Thai Fishing Vessels Operating in Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Competence Area B.E. 2561 (2018), and 2) Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Rules and Regulations of Thai Carrier Vessels that Transshipping Aquatic Animals in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Competence Area B.E. 2561 (2018), which are under consideration for approval. They are expected to come into effect by May 2022 as per Attachments.