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IOTC CIRCULAR

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Dear Madam / Sir

A PORT STATE MEASURES SPECIES IDENTIFICATION GUIDE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR FISHERIES INSPECTORS

The Guide "Port State Measures – Species identification guide for fisheries inspectors" has just been published and is available for fisheries inspectors. The guide is written in English and French and the abstract is reproduced below:

This species identification guide has been developed to improve the implementation of the IOTC Resolution on port State measures designed to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

The guide is designed to assist inspectors of IOTC fisheries accurately identify tuna and tuna like species, billfishes, sharks and other fish species commonly encountered when monitoring transshipments or landings in ports, in the IOTC Area of Competence. It will also improve the accuracy of the information recorded and reported for species commonly caught in the IOTC tuna fisheries; and this in turn will improve the quality of information which the Commission will have to make management decisions. The guide provides identification keys for fresh, frozen and the other processed products of tuna and tuna like species, billfishes, sharks and other fish species most likely to be encountered by inspectors.

The easy-to-use keys and photographs serve to highlight distinguishing external features that will aid identification and recording. This is important because the fish are required to be identified accurately and recorded at species level using the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) species codes. The guide may not cover all the species that may be encountered, so it is recommended that for any fish or fish product an inspector cannot confidently identify using this guide, that digital images are taken and sent to the IOTC Secretariat (IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org) for assistance.

The guide is available on the [Port State Measures page](#) of the IOTC web site. It is available to download in High Definition [HERE](#) and in Low Definition [HERE](#). It is also available on the FAO publications web site [HERE](#)

Hard copies of the guide will be distributed to CPCs as part of future capacity building activities by the Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

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:** Liberia. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** Chairperson IOTC. **Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

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