



23 March 2023

## IOTC CIRCULAR 2023-22

Dear Madam / Sir

### WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALIA'S OBJECTION TO IOTC RESOLUTION 23/02

Please find attached a communication from Somalia withdrawing its objection, in accordance to Article IX (5) of the IOTC Agreement, to [Resolution 23-02](#) *On Management of Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs) in the IOTC area of competence*, which was adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the IOTC.

The relevant paragraphs (5 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.*

*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

**Attachment:**

- letter from Somalia

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.

This message has been transmitted by email only



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA  
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND BLUE ECONOMY  
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Ref: MFMR/OM/135/23

Date: 20/03/2023

Ms. Jung re-Riley Kim  
Chair Person  
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Subject: Urgent Circulation of Letter Regarding Somalia's Position on Resolution 23/02

Dear Madam Chair,

I am writing to you regarding the letter dated on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 from Somalia signed by State Minister Mohamed Bashir Ali objecting the resolution 23/02 on FAD management in the Indian Ocean. I would like to clarify that the letter does not reflect the views of the Somali government, and the state minister does not have the authority to object any decision taken by the Government. Therefore, the said letter is null and void and should be withdrawn.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy of the Federal Government of Somalia would like to confirm that Somalia voted in favor of this resolution 23/02 and fully supports its implementation as the impact of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (dFADs) on Somalia's coastal communities. The socio-economic implications of dFADs on Somalia's coastal habitat are consequential. These devices frequently end up on the Somali coast, seriously threatening local ecosystems and the livelihoods of fishermen who rely on the fish stocks. Therefore, the implementation of resolution 23/02 is of utmost importance to us.

We therefore, strongly support the importance of promptly and effectively implementing this resolution 23/02 and believe that it is essential for the sustainable management of fishery resources in the Indian Ocean to protect our shared resources. We request the full cooperation of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and its member states in achieving this goal.

To prevent similar incidents in the future, we would like to inform you that all future correspondence on political decision-making matters will be the sole responsibility of the Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy of the Federal Republic of Somalia and our IOTC head of delegate, we will ensure that our communication channels with IOTC are clear and that our position on important matters is communicated accurately and promptly.

We look forward to continuing our fruitful cooperation with IOTC and its member states in promoting sustainable fisheries management in the Indian Ocean, with the request that the decision with Somalia to be circulated by all concerned parties.

Sincerely,



H.E Ahmed Hassan Adan  
Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources,  
The Federal Republic of Somalia