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# Reporting of vessels in transit through BIOT waters for potential breach of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Session IOTC Compliance Committee, 2023

### 1. Introduction

Vessels in transit through British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) waters are requested to provide a transit report, details of the procedure for doing this are given in previous reports.

Between the start of March 2022 and the end of February 2023, 1081 transit reports from 869 different vessels were received from various flag States (Table 1). 201 vessels reported more than one transit, with eight vessels reporting five over this time. As reporting is voluntary, it is likely that the actual number of vessels transiting is higher. However, in general, the number of reports received has increased from last year, particularly from the Sri Lankan fleet, with 901 transit reports compared to last year's 764 reports.

**Table 1: A breakdown of vessels submitting transit reports to the BIOT Authority by flag and vessel type between March 2022 and February 2023.**

| Flag State                  | Type of Vessel |               |              |              |             | Percentage of Totals |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|
|                             | CV             | LL            | MU           | PS           | Total       |                      |
| CHN                         |                | 24            |              |              | 24          | 2.22%                |
| ESP                         |                |               |              | 3            | 3           | 0.28%                |
| FRA                         |                |               |              | 3            | 3           | 0.28%                |
| KOR                         |                |               |              | 2            | 2           | 0.19%                |
| LKA                         |                | 838           | 63           |              | 901         | 83.35%               |
| MUS                         |                | 2             |              |              | 2           | 0.19%                |
| SYC                         |                | 34            |              | 2            | 36          | 3.33%                |
| TWN                         | 13             | 96            | 11           |              | 109         | 10.08%               |
| UNK                         |                | 1             |              |              | 1           | 0.09%                |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>13</b>      | <b>995</b>    | <b>63</b>    | <b>10</b>    | <b>1081</b> | <b>100%</b>          |
| <b>Percentage of Totals</b> | <b>1.20%</b>   | <b>92.04%</b> | <b>5.83%</b> | <b>0.93%</b> | <b>100%</b> |                      |

CV – Carrier / Cargo Vessel; LL – Longline; MU – Multiday vessels; PS – Purse Seine; CHN – China; TWN – Taiwan, Province of China; ESP – Spain; FRA – France; KOR – Republic of Korea; LKA – Sri Lanka; MUS- Mauritius; and SYC – Seychelles. KOR- Republic of Korea.

Once the transit reports are received, the name and corresponding identifying marks are cross-checked against the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV). Nine reports were received for vessels that had an IOTC number but the authorisation to fish for tuna and tuna-like species had expired or had not been updated at the time of transit (Table 2), this is compared to three in 2021 and 77 in 2020. It should be emphasised that vessels do not need to be on the RAV to transit through BIOT and this is no indication that that they are IUU, they are reported here for information only.

**Table 2: List of those vessels transiting BIOT that were not currently authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area at the time of transit.**

| IOTC No.  | Expiry date of IOTC ATF | Vessel name                     | Callsign | Flag | Type | BIOT Entry date |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|------|------|-----------------|
| 17404     | 24/02/2022 <sup>1</sup> | Nalisha Putha 02 (IMULA0154PTM) | 4SF5368  | LKA  | LL   | 03/03/2022      |
| 17008     | 31/01/2022 <sup>2</sup> | Isuru Putha 2 (IMULA0823CHW)    | 4SF5449  | LKA  | LL   | 30/03/2022      |
| 900080035 | 31/12/2021              | Yuan Tai No 806                 | BZIR     | TWN  | CV   | 18/06/2022      |
| 12225     | 03/09/2015              | Lakshani 02 (IMULA0591CHW)      |          | LKA  | LL   | 04/05/2022      |
| 10513     | 11/11/2022              | Lihini 01 (IMULA0229CHW)        |          | LKA  | LL   | 03/12/2022      |
| 18481     | 26/12/2023 <sup>3</sup> | Suranga 05 (IMULA2150TLE)       |          | LKA  | LL   | 08/06/2022      |
| 16698     | 03/01/2022              | Win Marine 07 (IMULA0729NBO)    | 4SF5336  | LKA  | LL   | 19/01/2023      |
| 17209     | 26/01/2023              | Dulaj Putha 4                   | 4SF5374  | LKA  | LL   | 25/02/2023      |
| 900070039 | 31/12/2022              | Ho Yuan                         | BI2039   | TWN  | CV   | 28/02/2023      |

In addition, nine that reported transit were not on the current or historical RAV and had no IOTC number (Table 3). This is similar to 2021 where there were seven vessels but far fewer than 2020 with 76 vessels. As above this does not imply that they were IUU and is reported for information only.

**Table 3: Those vessels with no IOTC number recorded.**

| Vessel name                      | Flag | Type | Entry date                |
|----------------------------------|------|------|---------------------------|
| Umayanga Putha 02 (IMULA0800NBO) | LKA  | LL   | 10/03/2021                |
| Queen Mary 3 (IMULA2026NBO)      | LKA  | LL   | 29/03/2022                |
| Jasu Giwamani 07                 | LKA  | LL   | 15/05/2022                |
| Anjalo 3 (IMULA0739NBO)          | LKA  | UNK  | 15/06/2022                |
| Ruth Baba 06                     | LKA  | LL   | 22/07/2022                |
| Ruth Baba 05                     | LKA  | LL   | 27/07/2022                |
| Thushan Fish 4 (IMULA0868NBO)    | LKA  | LL   | 17/08/2022                |
| Jaya Sahan (IMULA2103MTR)        | LKA  | LL   | 22/12/2022                |
| Blue Eagle (IMULA2141NBO)        | LKA  | LL   | 05/01/2023 and 16/02/2023 |

<sup>1</sup> Its entry on the RAV was renewed on 20/04/2022, it transited through a number of times, all other times it was valid.

<sup>2</sup> Its entry on the RAV was renewed on 25/04/2022, it transited through a number of times, all other times it was valid.

<sup>3</sup> Vessel was not on RAV at time of transit, is currently listed, valid between 27/12/2022 and 26/12/2022

## 2. Observed breaches of IOTC CMMs

As part of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) adopted by the BIOT Administration, the Senior Fisheries Protection Officer (SFPO) will board and inspect vessels encountered by the BIOT Patrol Vessel (BPV) while patrolling the BIOT Marine Protected Area (MPA). In particular those vessels that have not provided a transit report will be prioritised. Inspections are routine, the primary purpose being to look for any signs of illegal fishing in which case the vessel will be brought into port for further investigation. During an inspection the SFPO will also check if there is a potential breach of any IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the traditional method of boarding for inspection had been deemed unsafe until a secondary risk assessment had been undertaken, subsequently boardings resumed in August 2022 and vessel detentions in January 2023. Prior to this, remote inspections were conducted from the BPV and associated workboats, limiting the possibility of checking in full the IOTC CMMs.

Table 4 provides a summary of the details of breaches of IOTC CMMs recorded by the BIOT SFPO between March 2022 and February 2023, divided between those vessels that were boarded and those where boardings were not possible. An explanation of the requirements of the CMMs and the breaches observed is given in Section 3. The SFPO submits detailed inspection reports to the BIOT Administration which are compiled for this document.

Only three of the 59 vessels inspected were on the current IOTC RAV. The remaining 56 were either not registered or their authorisation had expired, 16 of these were observed to have IOTC managed species on board. As can be seen in Table 4, most of the vessels (39) could not be boarded due to Covid restrictions so the presence of IOTC species could not be checked. These vessels were approached and asked for documentation (ATF and logbook) although this was rarely possible therefore the indication of an 'X' by these vessels does not necessarily indicate any non-compliance. All vessels inspected, regardless of their IOTC status or whether they have been boarded, have been reported in Table 4. Twenty-one vessels have reported to the flag State, Secretariat and the Compliance Committee for presumed IUU in BIOT Waters (See 20221209\_Draft IUU vessels Summary for 2023 CoC), this includes three vessels not directly inspected by the SFPO but reported to the SFPO from another vessel. These have not been included in Table 4.

The most common non-compliance was a lack of flag state ATF and logbook which were not produced when requested. Lack of gear markings is still common on those vessels that could be checked, although for most vessels this was not possible to verify. Within Table 4, any blank cells either indicate compliance or that the particular requirement could not be checked by the SFPO and therefore should be classified as 'Unknown'.

**Table 4 List of vessels inspected from March 2022 to February 2023 and their compliance with relevant CMMs. An 'X' indicates that the vessel was in a potential breach of that particular CMM.**

| Details of vessels inspected             |      |            |       |          | CMM breaches shown as 'X' |        |                  |            |                 |               |              |
|--|------|------------|-------|----------|---------------------------|--------|------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Vessel Name                              | Flag | Date       | Type  | IOTC RAV | ATF                       | No VMS | Not tamper-proof | No logbook | Vessel markings | Gear markings | IOTC Species |
| <b>Vessels inspected but not boarded</b> |      |            |       |          |                           |        |                  |            |                 |               |              |
| INDGJ32MM6505 – Heaven                   | IND  | 07/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM6742 – Ruby                     | IND  | 08/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM6151- The Divine                | IND  | 08/03/2022 | LL/GN | X        |                           |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM7148 - Sahayamatha              | IND  | 08/03/2022 | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM401 - St Antonys                | IND  | 09/03/2022 | LL    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM6227 - God's Gift               | IND  | 09/03/2022 | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDKA01MM3693- Thawakkal1                | IND  | 16/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM4551- Anbu Matha                | IND  | 17/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM6755- Fatimah                   | IND  | 17/03/2022 | LL    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM5232 - Bihamol                  | IND  | 17/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM4679 - Yehova Shalom            | IND  | 17/03/2022 | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM3916 - Maria Annai              | IND  | 19/03/2022 | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM4604 - Dheiva Karunyam          | IND  | 20/03/2022 | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM53 - St Marys                   | IND  | 21/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM5351 - St Marys                 | IND  | 21/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM106 – Littlesha                 | IND  | 22/03/2022 | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM399 - St Marys                  | IND  | 22/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM5162 - St Marys                 | IND  | 22/03/2022 | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM5312 - Thomas Leega             | IND  | 22/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM5661 – Akash                    | IND  | 22/03/2022 | LL    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM6757 - Selva Matha              | IND  | 23/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM7229 - Vlinnaga Thanthai        | IND  | 23/03/2022 | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM5707 – Yona                     | IND  | 27/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM4569 – Nova                     | IND  | 27/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM4783 - Living God               | IND  | 27/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM4594 - Alfa 2                   | IND  | 27/03/2022 | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM5176 - Salve Regina             | IND  | 27/03/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM5189 - Gabrielle 1              | IND  | 05/04/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM5094 – Grace                    | IND  | 05/04/2022 | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM5621 - Yagova Nishi             | IND  | 06/04/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM4682 - St Francis               | IND  | 06/04/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |

| Details of vessels inspected              |      |  |       |          | CMM breaches shown as 'X' |        |                  |            |                 |               |              |
|---|------|--|-------|----------|---------------------------|--------|------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Vessel Name                               | Flag | Date                                     | Type  | IOTC RAV | ATF                       | No VMS | Not tamper-proof | No logbook | Vessel markings | Gear markings | IOTC Species |
| INDTN15MM370 - Shenika Liro               | IND  | 06/04/2022                               | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM3300 - Carmal Mount              | IND  | 06/04/2022                               | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM4845 - God Bless                 | IND  | 06/04/2022                               | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM8314 – Jelishima                 | IND  | 06/04/2022                               | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM8136 - Thomas Leega              | IND  | 08/03/2022<br>06/04/2022                 | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM6744 - Lurthu Matha              | IND  | 07/04/2022                               | LL/GN | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM5273 - Mikil Mon                 | IND  | 10/04/2022                               | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM4857 - Brixtan Mon               | IND  | 10/04/2022                               | GN    | X        | X                         |        |                  | X          |                 |               |              |
| <b>Vessel Boardings Start Again</b>       |      |  |       |          |                           |        |                  |            |                 |               |              |
| INDTN15MM3310 - Annai Velamkanni          | IND  | 30/08/2022                               | LL    | X        | X                         | X      |                  |            |                 | X             | X            |
| INDTN15MM6753 - Yahova Nicy               | IND  | 07/04/2022<br>10/09/2022                 | LL/GN | X        |                           | X      |                  | X          | X               | X             | X            |
| INDTN15MM5327 – Aiden Maria               | IND  | 22/09/2022                               | LL/GN | X        | X                         | X      |                  |            |                 | X             |              |
| INDTN15MM7325 – Benedicta                 | IND  | 06/04/2022<br>22/09/2022                 | LL/GN | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          |                 |               | X            |
| INDTN15MM8581 - Arputha Matha             | IND  | 06/04/2022<br>28/10/2022                 | GN    | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          | X               | X             | X            |
| IMULA2044MTR – Natalia                    | LKA  | 16/10/2022                               | LL/GI | X        | X                         | X      |                  |            |                 | X             | X            |
| IMULA2159CHW – Sanja Putha <sup>4</sup>   | LKA  | 06/11/2022<br>07/11/2022                 | LL    |          | X                         |        |                  |            | X               | X             | X            |
| IMULA0869CHW – Holly Trinity <sup>5</sup> | LKA  | 08/11/2022                               | LL    |          | X                         |        |                  |            | X               | X             | X            |
| INDTN15MM4424 – El Shadai                 | IND  | 22/02/2022<br>19/11/2022                 | GN    | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          | X               | X             | X            |
| IMULA235KLT – Sampath <sup>6</sup>        | LKA  | 21/12/2022                               | LL    | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          |                 |               | X            |
| INDTN15MM322 – Emmanuel                   | IND  | 27/09/2022                               | GN    | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          | X               |               | X            |
| INDTN15MM3587 – Gift of God               | IND  | 30/01/2022<br>30/04/2022<br>01/10/2022   | LL/GN | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          |                 | X             | X            |
| INDTN15MM5557 – Star of the sea           | IND  | 22/02/2022,<br>16/11/2022,<br>18/11/2022 | GN    | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          |                 | X             | X            |
| INDTN15MM6176 – Sharji Amma               | IND  | 11/19/2022                               | GN    | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          | X               | X             | X            |
| IMULA0704NBO <sup>7</sup>                 | LKA  | 05/01/2023                               | LL    | X        | X                         |        |                  |            | X               | X             | X            |

<sup>4</sup> Vessel has VMS on board but was not working due to technical failure, seal was intact.

<sup>5</sup> Vessel had VMS on board but was not operational.

<sup>6</sup> Boat departure form stated VMS on board (code-4) but denied by the captain and could not be located.

<sup>7</sup> Vessel had VMS on board but captain stated operational for last 2 months due to battery problems. Wire seals had been cut.

| Details of vessels inspected            |      |                          |       |          | CMM breaches shown as 'X' |        |                  |            |                 |               |              |
|---|------|--------------------------|-------|----------|---------------------------|--------|------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Vessel Name                             | Flag | Date                     | Type  | IOTC RAV | ATF                       | No VMS | Not tamper-proof | No logbook | Vessel markings | Gear markings | IOTC Species |
| IMULA0947CHW – Hansaya 03 <sup>8</sup>  | LKA  | 16/01/2023               | LL    |          |                           |        |                  |            |                 | X             | X            |
| INDTN15MM4861 – Easron                  | IND  | 18/01/2023               | GN    | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          |                 | X             | X            |
| INDTN15MM9070 – Ave Mariya <sup>9</sup> | IND  | 07/03/2022<br>25/01/2023 | LL/GN | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          |                 | X             | X            |
| INDTN15MM5661 – Akash                   | IND  | 09/02/2023               | LL    | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          |                 | X             | X            |
| INDTN15MM3793 – St Marys                | IND  | 23/02/2023               | LL/GN | X        | X                         | X      |                  | X          |                 | X             | X            |

Seven of these vessels had repeat inspections (INDTN15MM8581 - Arputha Matha, INDTN15MM7325 – Benedicta , INDTN15MM6753 - Yahova Nicy, IMULA2159CHW – Sanja Putha, INDTN15MM3587 – Gift of God, INDTN15MM5557 – Star of the sea INDTN15MM9070- Ave Mariya, in addition, the vessel (Ave Mariya), already features on the IOTC IUU list and has been inspected on two separate occasions during this reporting period, demonstrating a lack of actions from the Indian Authorities despite the vessels IUU status.

### 3. Details of breaches of CMMs observed during inspection

#### IOTC Vessel List.

**Requirement:** Under Resolution 19/04 paragraphs 1 and 2, CPCs are required to register those vessels operating in waters outside their EEZs that are fishing for tuna and tuna-like species on the IOTC RAV. Vessels not on the RAV list are not permitted to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence.

**Breach of CMM:** Due to Covid protocols, most of the vessels were not able to be safely boarded this season and inspections were made from the BPV Workboat accompanied by supporting photographic evidence. Vessels were checked with the most recently updated RAV at time of inspection. For most of the vessels it was not possible to determine if there were IOTC species on board or had gear capable of targeting IUU species. Only three of the 59 vessels inspected by the SFPO were registered on the RAV despite it being confirmed that 16 of the remaining vessels had IOTC species on board.

#### Flag State Licence, Permit, Authorization to Fish

**Requirement:** Under IOTC Resolution 19/04 paragraph 17, it is required that fishing vessels carry on-board a state issued licence, permit or ATF.

<sup>8</sup> Vessel has VMS on board but was not working due to battery problems, appeared to be unplugged.

<sup>9</sup> Vessel currently on IOTC IUU vessel list (included in May 2022).

**Breach of CMM:** Of those vessels that were able to be boarded to check for licenses only two could produce an ATF when requested. For vessels not boarded either no ATF was produced on request or it was not physically possible to request.

### VMS

**Requirement:** Under IOTC Resolution 15/03 paragraphs 1 and 8, all fishing vessels greater than 24m in overall length, or any vessel operating outside the EEZ of the flag State fishing for species covered by the IOTC agreement and within the IOTC area of competence require a VMS on board that is tamper resistant. Those not previously required under Resolution 06/03 should phase this in and ensure all their vessels are compliant by April 2019.

**Breach of CMM:** VMS on board could not be verified due to boardings only restarting in August 2022. Of the 20 vessels physically boarded only four appeared to have a VMS unit installed, none of the units were functional, reasons given were battery problems or technical failure but the units were observed to be switched off or unplugged at the time of boarding. In one case the unit appeared to have been tampered with as the seals were broken.

### Logbook

**Requirement:** Under IOTC Resolution 19/04 paragraph 20, all fishing vessels greater than 24m in overall length, or any vessel operating outside the EEZ of the flag State fishing for species covered by the IOTC agreement and within the IOTC area of competence require a national fishing logbook.

**Breach of CMM:** of the 20 vessels boarded, only seven were forthcoming with evidence of a logbook.

### Vessel and Gear markings

**Requirement:** Resolution 19/04, Paragraph 18 requires that marker buoys and similar objects floating and, on the surface, and intended to indicate the location of fixed fishing gear, shall be clearly marked at all times with the letter(s) and/or number(s) of the vessel to which they belong. It is required that they are marked in such a way that they can be readily identified with generally accepted standards such as the FAO Standard Specification for the Marking and Identification of Fishing vessels.

**Breach of CMM:** eight of the vessels inspected lacked correct vessel markings and seventeen had no gear markings. Although it was not possible to verify this on most of the vessels not boarded, this has shown a small improvement from previous year where 19 vessels had a potential breach of this CMMs. The requirement of gear markings would aid SFPOs in associating gear found within the FCMZ to vessels within the vicinity.



## 4. For the attention of the Compliance Committee

This information paper is submitted in response to recommendations of the Compliance Committee<sup>10</sup> and for consistency of reporting covers the same time period as other reports, from March through to February. Fifty nine vessels were inspected over this period, some several times were carried out and summarised in this report (compared to 40 in 2021/22, 10 in 2020/21, 11 for 2019/20, 6 in 2017/18, 10 in 2016/7 and 22 in 2015/16). The lack of boardings in the earlier part of the year has meant there has been inconsistency in the reporting, particularly if trying to determine whether vessels should actually be included in the RAV or not (i.e. if they are targeting IOTC managed species). If it is assumed they are then all vessels were in breach of one or more IOTC CMMs in this reporting period (100%). This compares to 90% in 2021/22, 90% in 2020/21, 100% in 2018/19, 50% in 2017/18, 100% in 2016/17 and 73% in 2015/16, although these figures should be interpreted with care.

All vessels encountered, both pre and post resumption of boardings have been included here for reference. The increase in the number of inspections is due primarily to the increased activity from the Indian fleet, representing 53 of the vessels inspected (since February there has been continued activity).

Vessel registration aside, as with previous years, the most common breach was failure to mark gear. It is noted that IOTC-2022-WPICMM05-15<sup>11</sup> looks at the issue of gear marking in more detail and how the uptake of gear markings, following the FAO voluntary guidelines as advocated in the CMM, is progressing.

As in previous years we do not propose specific sanctions against individual vessels (except those on the draft IUU vessel list reported for illegally fishing in BIOT waters), but again raise this as an issue for the consideration of the Compliance Committee to consider what actions should be taken and to focus discussions on how compliance can be improved.

It is encouraging that the number of vessels registered on the RAV continues to be high (just nine with out-of-date registrations and seven vessels not on the RAV from 1081 Transit reports submitted) and that the number of reports submitted continues to increase. The BIOT Administration would like to thank CPCs for their cooperation with submitting these transit reports.

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<sup>10</sup> In 2014, 2017, 2018 and 2019: Recommendation para 68 of IOTC-2019-CoC16-R.

<sup>11</sup> Status of the development of the IOTC scheme to operationalise the FAO voluntary guidelines on the marking of fishing gear. IOTC Secretariat, 4 February 2022.