

24 May 2023

## IOTC CIRCULAR

### 2023-35

Dear Madam / Sir

### OBJECTION FROM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO IOTC RESOLUTION 23/02

Please find attached a communication from Tanzania regarding 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.

Given a previous objection, an extension period of 60 days has already been applied to the date when Resolution 23/02 will come into force. Thus, Resolution 23/02 will come into force on 8 August 2023, unless a total of more than one-third of the members also object, before this time. The objection from Tanzania is the eighth to be received.

The relevant paragraphs (5, 6 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.*

*6. If objections to a measure adopted under paragraph 1 are made by more than one-third of the Members of the Commission, the other Members shall not be bound by that measure; but this shall not preclude any or all of them from giving effect thereto.*

*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 Tanzania

## 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



**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
DEEP SEA FISHING AUTHORITY**

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Ref. No. BA 39/103/01/88

23rd May, 2023

The IOTC Executive Secretary,  
P.O. Box 1011,  
**VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES.**

**Re: OBJECTION OF RESOLUTION 23/02 ON THE MANAGEMENT OF  
DRIFTING FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (DFADs) IN THE IOTC AREA OF  
COMPETENCE**

Reference is made to the IOTC Circular 2021-09 dated 9th February 2023 concerning the Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission at its 6th Special Session.

2. Since the release of the above-mentioned Circular, the United Republic of Tanzania has been following with concern the subsequent objections lodged by a number of CPCs. Resolution 23/02 reflects a partial view of the burden that various fishing gears should bear in attaining the sustainability of tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean. Furthermore, Tanzania strongly believes that a thorough investigation into the usage of DFADs in the purse seine fishery will facilitate the Commission to take appropriate and consolidated decisions on the management of DFADs in the future.

3. In addition, Tanzania is of the view that the trend of the objections to the IOTC Resolution 23/02 makes it questionable in producing the intended outcomes, but rather reflects a disproportionate burden to CPCs, especially developing coastal states like Tanzania with aspirations to develop their fisheries, as has been the case previously.

4. Therefore, the United Republic of Tanzania hereby objects to the IOTC Resolution 23/02 and requests this decision to be communicated to all CPCs in accordance with Article IX (5) of the IOTC Agreement.

5. Thank you for your cooperation.

  
Dr. Emmanuel A. Sweke  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**