

Sultanate of Oman – Statement letter to IOTC S27

- Oman is ready to move forward to lift its objection to Resolution 21/01, subject to certain conditions, to adopt and implement not merely an INTERIM but a PLURIANNUAL REBUILDING PLAN ON YF, seeking the consensus of this Commission.
- With this purpose, it has submitted to IOTC a Letter that CPs and Observers can find as “Reference Documents” of this S27.
- It is not a proposal of draft Resolution to amend Res.21/01, it has the intention to open a frank discussion with CPs.

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Oman respectfully requests to this Commission to reopen the dialogue with objected CPS of Resol 21/01 wishing **to explore ways to address their concerns**, as indicated in the Communication dated 20 July 2022 (IOTC ref. IOTC2022-210), the DameChair stated:

In your letter you also stated that ...*”IOTC Heads of Delegations met on 19 July 2022 and agreed to the below process to collect information from objectors and hold a series of meetings **with objecting Contracting Parties (CPs) and interested CPs to explore ways to address concerns**”.*

Unfortunately, to date, **these meetings with IOTC Secretariat and other interested CPS have not taken place yet.**

Currently, **no catch limits** apply for Madagascar, Oman and Somalia, as confirmed every year by the IOTC Secretariat:



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien

31 December 2022

**IOTC CIRCULAR
2022–56**

Dear Sir/Madam

REGARDING IOTC YELLOWFIN TUNA ALLOCATED CATCH LIMITS FOR 2023

Resolution 19/01

[IOTC Resolution 19/01](#) *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence* came into force on 28 December 2019 and applies to Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Madagascar, Oman and Somalia. Paragraph 24 of Resolution 19/01 requires the IOTC Secretariat, under the advice of the Scientific Committee, to prepare and circulate a table of 2023 allocated catch limits disaggregated as per the conditions set out in paragraphs 5 – 10.

Background on the calculations and discussions regarding these allocated catch limits will be available in the Report of the 25th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee which will soon be posted on the [SC25 meeting page](#).

2022 (calculated) and 2023 (estimated) catch limits for yellowfin tuna

CPC	Gear (industrial)	Base allocated catch limit	Allocated catch limits (t)	
			2022	2023
Indonesia	Longline	11,381	11,381	11,381
	Purse seine	12,395	1,666	3,402
Iran I.R.	Gillnet	21,961	-1,866	-8,989

No catch limits apply for Madagascar, Oman and Somalia in 2023.

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- However, regardless the scope of Resolution 19/01, **Oman INFORMS to this Commission that is willing to rapidly and progressively implement catch limitations of YF**, in line with Resolution 21/01, subject to certain conditions.
- In the Letter submitted to IOTC, Oman announces the preparation, adoption and implementation of a **Fleet Restructuring Plan with a view to reduce YF catches**.
- To this respect, Ministry of Fisheries of Oman has recently created a Task Force focus exclusively on IOTC matters, composed by fisheries officers, stakeholders and supported with external consultants.

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Striving to become a developed country, the Sultanate of Oman is building a productive and diversified economy, founded on innovation, integration of roles, and equal opportunities; to ultimately achieve inclusive and **sustainable development**. Source: **Oman 2040 Vision Plan** <https://www.oman2040.om/vision-en.html>

The Sultanate of Oman overlooks a coastline that extends for 3,165km

The fisheries sector is one of the most important economic sectors and among the key sources of income for the national economy. It is natural therefore to find that fishing is the main source of income for a considerable number of Omani individuals and companies in the coastal areas.

On top of that there is an emerging industry fishing sector including processing and canning factories, and also aquaculture projects.

Fishermen are becoming more professional, and there is a need to modernise the fleet sector without losing the main principle of implementing a solid sustainable fishing activity.

المتاح للإستهلاك ونسبة الإكتفاء الذاتي من إجمالي الإنتاج السمكى .

Available for consumption and self-sufficiency ratio of the total fish production .

السنة	الإنتاج	الصادرات	إعادة تصدير	إجمالي الصادرات	الواردات	المتاح للإستهلاك	الإكتفاء الذاتي	نصيب الفرد	السنة
Year	Production	Export	Re-Export	Total Export	Import	Available for	Self-sufficiency	Per capita	Year
	(MT)	(MT)	(MT)	(MT)	(MT)	for (MT) (1)	(%)	Gram/day Kg/Year (2)	
2010	164055	86933	100	87033	11960	89082	184%	87.9 32.1	
2011	158722	93928	649	94577	16550	81344	195%	67.1 24.5	
2012	191728	117083	1935	119018	183,00 € 18,433	91337	210%	67.4 24.7	
2013	206517	125690	569	126259	11852	92679	223%	65.5 23.9	
2014	211315	132448	287	132735	19270	98137	215%	67.1 24.5	
2015	257172	132014	10175	142189.2	23430	148588	173%	97.9 35.7	
2016	279610	151832	4958	156790.5	29754	157532	177%	97.2 35.5	
2017	347541	196711	3621	200332	29120	179950	193%	108.1 39.5	
2018	553445	244852	2773	247626	28311	336905	164%	114.7 41.9	
2019	580240	205367	2489	207856	35072	409944	142%	152.6 55.7	
2020	840378	282605	1829	284435	32463	590235	142%	195.0 71.2	
2021	922083	281043	4930	285973	53819	694860	133%	249.5 91.1	

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الصيد الحرفي والساحلي والتجاري والإستزراع السمكي : إجمالي الإنتاج بالطن حسب النوع خلال الفترة من ٢٠١٢ الى ٢٠٢١م											
Artisanal, Coastal ,Industrial Fishery & Aquaculture: Total Landing (mt) by species from 2012 to 2021.											
Years	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	السنوات
Species	النوع										
Large Pelagics	الأسماك السطحية الكبيرة										
Yellowfin tuna	5582	7769	7606	14957	20859	19407	28601	37074	68815	71676	جيزر
Longtail tuna	14287	12976	11161	13954	14542	20894	16613	14684	27228	28163	سهوة
Kawakawa	4608	4320	4034	4900	5555	7818	9501	6702	8141	7351	صدة
Striped bonitto	501	307	1143	4545	4574	1695	2195	1078	1495	2149	سقطانة
Frigate tuna	944	1014	395	684	1078	1184	2186	1130	2457	6368	تبانة
Skipjack	100	8	23	16	216	55	206	102	436	229	حقيبة
Other tuna	1225	522	739	1619	397	1288	1159	2576	9442	11380	تونات اخرى
Kingfish	5620	4176	4979	3992	7011	3341	2601	2098	5913	7667	كنعد
Queenfish	4244	2782	3531	3550	3005	3876	5432	5340	3336	5014	حبس
Baracuda	4002	4259	4284	6808	6087	9476	10972	10890	7453	7979	عقام
Cobia	128	124	185	165	196	229	260	173	204	223	سكل
Sailfish	3521	3117	1129	2251	1763	1633	1864	1495	2658	2883	ميخ
Large Jacks	9328	8350	8306	8277	9194	7397	16523	15177	18409	21526	صال كبير
Other	1041	4647	1949	2503	2421	4878	3668	17061	12202	15388	اخرى
Subtotal	55131	54371	49465	68220	76898	83174	101783	115578	168189	187997	اجمالي

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Fishing Type	Characteristics				
	Species' type, Gear	Number	length	Number of Crew	Distance of fishing
Commercial fishing	Large Pelagic Fishing (Longline -Tuna)	3	≥30 M	94 Omani 460 non-Omani	≥20 NM
	Purse sine (Tuna)	1			≥40 NM
	Small pelagic Fishing (Mid-water Trawling \ Mackerel)	6	≥30 M		≥20 NM \ 80 m depth
	Purse sine (Mackerel)	2			≥25 NM \ 80 m depth
	Midwater Trawl net (Giant Squid)	2			≥150 NM
Costal fishing	Vessels	303	14 – 24 M	≥384*	≥15 NM
Artisanal fishing	Vessels (Daws)	688	10 – 20 M	≥2792*	≥10 NM
	Boat	25827**	5 – 9 M	≥58078*	Not limited



Artisanal (traditional Vessel): with no facilities on board>



Artisanal Boat



Coastal Vessel: More facilities in regard of (Cabin include beds, kitchen, toilet)

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Total Population:

Item	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Population (000) (million)	3623	3855	3993	4159	4414	4560	4602	4618	4481	4527
Omani (000)	2093	2172	2261	2345	2428	2505	2579	2655	2736	2804
Expatriate (000)	1530	1683	1732	1814	1986	2055	2022	1963	1745	1723

Tourist:

Item	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Inbound Visitors - (000)	1714	1923	2225	2634	3207	3178	3242	3506	869	-

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The main obstacle to support the current version of Resol 21/01 is that imposes set catch limits mainly based solely of a period of time (2014) and, for others, 2015 (with due respect, Seychelles had just 25,000 MT in 2014 versus 41,500 MT in 2015), that **clearly discriminates** to some CPs like Oman.

Others CPs , with relevant diplomatic efforts, were granting time to “build up” its YF quota, accepting this Commission to consider YF of other period of reference 2017.

Oman, as Coastal Developing State, respectfully requests to consider a different average period of reference, accepting the reported YF catches of the period 2020-2022 (**considering that a relevant % of catches are made by small vessels of less than 10 meters length**).

The Maximum Sustainable Yield (Resol 21/01 set up 405,000 MT) will need to be reviewed to update unreported estimated catches by artisanal fleet of Oman for period 2017-2018-2019. Similar exercise is being undertaken with Indonesia.

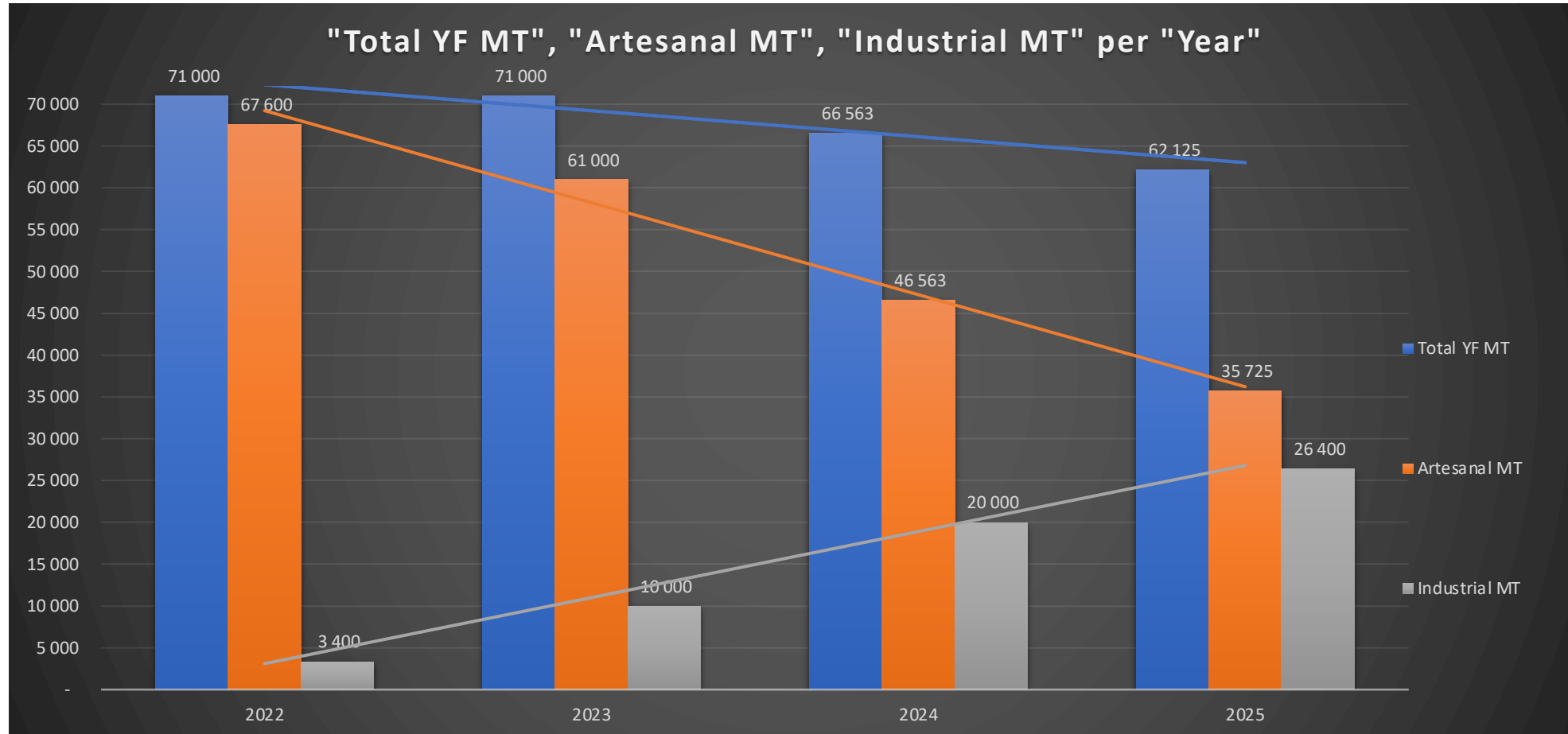
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- In this regard, since 2006 (*by Letter 24 May 2006 ref. CoC08 [E]-add4 Sultanate of Oman Fleet Development Plan*) Oman has continuously reported in different meetings to the IOTC Oman's plans to restructure the artisanal fleet and to develop an industrial fleet that would be completed before 2025.
- As coastal State it has the right to develop an industrial tuna fishing and has a plan to carry out investments in farming, canneries (which is already under construction).
- To this respect, it has plans to register just a few purse seiners. IOTC has already recorded in June 2022 one purse seiner in the RAV -Authorized Vessels List. And a second newly state of the art purse seiner owned by State Omani company shall be delivered by the shipyard soon, and has plans to start fishing operations in November this year.
- In any event, these addition to the Omani fleet **shall never increase** the total catches of YF to be agreed in by this Commission, under a new Resol.

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- Oman is fully committed to accept catch limits based on period of reference 2020-2022, that will progressively implement across a maximum period of three years.
- To **accept the 12,5% reduction** based 21/01 Development CPs (Oman is in this category) but under different period of reference
- Measures will apply to the whole fleet, including artisanal fletes, that will implement an **Artisanal Fleet Restructuring Plan** shall relevant measures such as:
 - reduction of structural effort
 - new ATF fishing licences to new vessels units subject to withdraw older units
 - limitation of YF catches per vessel
 - review registry of active vessels

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- The implementation of the Artisanal Restructuring Plan and the support to Oman to an amended Resol of Resol 21/01 will provide benefits to
 - fishermen,
 - shipowners,
 - processing fishing industries, traders, canning industries both inside and outside Oman,
 - quality of fish,
 - retail chain,
 - consumers and more important,
 - the environment and the Oceans respecting a sustainable fisheries of YF by the whole Omani fleet.
- The industrial fleet will be monitored 100% with EMS, and all the related IOTC RMCM
- Oman remains available to engage with CPs and also with NGOs to provide more details and receive comments to this proposal