



24 July 2023

IOTC CIRCULAR 2023-45

Dear Madam / Sir

OBJECTION FROM MAURITIUS TO IOTC RESOLUTION 23/02

Please find attached a communication from Mauritius 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 6th 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 Mauritius is the tenth 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

Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

- letter from Mauritius

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



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

**MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES,
FISHERIES AND SHIPPING**

22 July 2023

Mr. Paul De Bruyn
Executive Secretary
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Dear Sir,

**Subject: Objection to IOTC Resolution 23/02 “On Management of Drifting
Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs) in the IOTC Area of Competence”**

I have the honour to refer to the **IOTC Circular 23-09 dated 09 February 2023**, regarding the adoption of the Resolution 23/02 at the 6th Special Session of the Commission which was held in Kenya from 3 to 5 February 2023.

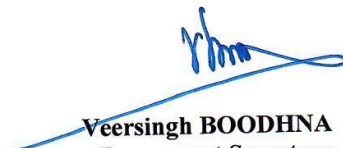
2. As stated during the 6th Special Session, Mauritius fully supports conservation and management measures which aim at the sustainable exploitation and management of the tuna resources. We emphasised, however, that such measures should be based on scientific evidence as provided under **Article V (2c) and 2 (d) of the Agreement** for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission which read as follows:

“ (c) to adopt in accordance with Article IX and on the basis of scientific evidence, conservation and management measures, to ensure the conservation of the stocks covered” and

“ (d) to keep under review the economic and social aspects of the fisheries based on the stocks covered by this Agreement bearing in mind, in particular, the interests of developing Coastal States”,

3. The decision of a FADs closure from 01 July to 11 September each year has been adopted without any scientific study being carried out to support either the specific period or the duration of the closure.

4. From an economic point of view, this measure could hinder the smooth and continuous supply of raw materials to local canneries and result in severe losses in revenue for the developing Coastal States, including Small Islands Developing States (SIDs) who rely heavily on the purse seine fishery.
5. Mauritius has also noted that, so far, nine (9) Contracting Parties have already objected to the Resolution which render the intended effect of the Resolution negligible.
6. Mauritius therefore wishes to notify the Commission that it is hereby recording its objection to Resolution 23/02.
7. As per Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, we should be grateful if this letter could be circulated to notify the decision of Mauritius to all Parties.
8. Please accept dear Executive Secretary the assurances of my highest consideration.



Veersingh BOODHNA
Permanent Secretary
for Supervising Officer