



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Ref: 2023/004950E

Dr Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
PO Box 1011
VICTORIA MAHÉ - SEYCHELLES

Dear Dr de Bruyn

I refer to the letter from the Chair of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Ms Jung-re Riley Kim, dated 26 May 2023 about Australia's outstanding compliance issues. Australia considers strengthening compliance with IOTC conservation and management measures fundamental for effective fisheries management and the integrity of the IOTC. Australia's responses to the matters are as follows:

Has not reported catch and effort for coastal fisheries to IOTC standard, as required by Resolution 15/02. Data partially provided by IOTC standards. Line fisheries are grouped together while they should be split for each coastal fishery.

Australia is currently assessing how coastal fisheries catch and effort data are currently grouped within our data systems, and, if possible, will split catch and effort data in the future.

Has not reported size frequency for coastal fisheries, as required by Resolution 15/02. According to the form 1RC, AUS caught and retained 12 t of SBF and 236 t of COM with trolling lines and 1 t of COM with handlines in 2021.

Australia's fishing effort is very low in the relevant fisheries making it difficult to meet the requirements for the relevant sampling coverage. Australia primarily focuses on achieving effective sampling coverage for target species, which is undertaken upon landing. The data are currently not available, and we are investigating whether it can be provided in future.

My thanks to you, as well as the Chair, Compliance Committee Chair and members, for your ongoing efforts to strengthen compliance with IOTC measures.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'George Day'.

George Day
Assistant Secretary
Fisheries Branch

13 March 2024