
REPORT OF THE IOTC SECRETARIAT ON THE YEAR 2023

Prepared by: IOTC Secretariat

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

To inform the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) about the activities undertaken by the IOTC Secretariat in 2023. A list of acronyms is provided in [Appendix 4](#).

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1) MEMBERSHIP OF THE IOTC IN 2023

- 30 Contracting Parties:** Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (OT), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep. of), Japan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania (United Rep. of), Thailand, United Kingdom and Yemen.
- 1 Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCP):** Liberia (granted in May 2022 and renewed in May 2023).

2) MISSION AND STAFFING OF THE IOTC SECRETARIAT

The mission of the IOTC Secretariat is:

“To facilitate the processes required to implement the policies and activities of the Commission, whose goal is to achieve the objectives stated in the IOTC Agreement.”

- In essence, these processes include the acquisition, processing and dissemination of information that constitutes the basis for informing the Commission’s decisions, as well as supporting the actions taken by Contracting Parties (Members) and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) (collectively termed CPCs) to effectively implement those decisions.
- The structure of the IOTC Secretariat in 2023 is provided in Figure 1.

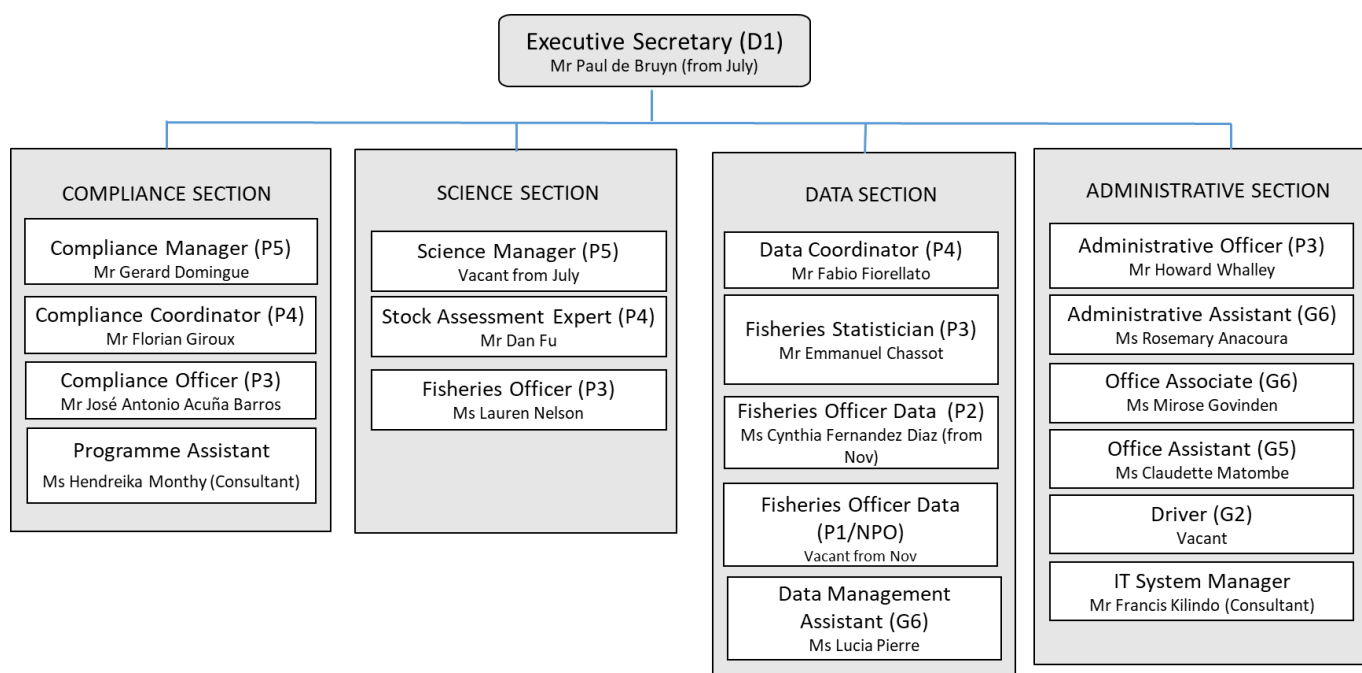


Figure 1: IOTC Staff Structure 2023

Professional Staff – Recruitment activities

- The Executive Secretary retired at the end of June and Mr Paul De Bruyn was appointed as the new Executive Secretary in July 2023. This meant that the P5 Science Manager position became vacant. The recruitment process for a new P5 Science Manager was completed by November 2023 with the aim of filling the position in 2024.
- After a competitive recruitment process the P1 Fisheries Data Officer was appointed to the newly created P2 position in November.

General Service Staff – Recruitment activities

- The General Service Staff positions remained filled throughout 2023 except for the Driver position which is still under review.

3) DAMAGE TO IOTC SECRETARIAT OFFICES

8. On the 7th of December a massive explosion took place in the neighbourhood of Providence, Seychelles where the IOTC offices are located. The explosion caused extensive damage to the office building. No IOTC staff were injured as the explosion took place in the early hours of the morning. Initially all staff were instructed to work from home, while the worst of the damage was repaired. Subsequently staff have been returning to the office, although it is still in a state of disrepair and awaiting further extensive renovations.

4) FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF WORK

9. To facilitate accountability, the activities of the IOTC Secretariat in 2023 have been grouped into six major functional areas which reflect the *'Program of work and budget'* approved by the Commission at its 26th Session in 2022, as follows:
1. **Support to meetings:** Logistic support in the facilitation of meetings, preparation of reports and maintenance of the meetings calendar.
 2. **Support to scientific activities:** The acquisition and processing of scientific data, as required by the Scientific Committee to conduct stock status analyses. Supply of stock assessment services as required by the working groups.
 3. **Support to compliance activities:** Maintenance of lists of vessels and compliance databases, reporting on compliance by Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs). Providing support to CPCs in the implementation of IOTC Resolutions.
 4. **Communications and public information:** Considered essential in allowing CPCs to follow the progress of the Commission's work in a transparent way, and to increase the visibility of the Commission's activities to the general public.
 5. **Information Technology:** Provide basic computer infrastructure, including maintenance of the network and servers, as well as Internet support.
 6. **Administration:** Financial administration in conjunction with FAO, administration of extra-budgetary funds, travel arrangements, general logistical support to the activities of the technical sections.

FUNCTIONAL AREA 4.1 SUPPORT TO MEETINGS

Logistic support in the facilitation of meetings

10. The IOTC Secretariat organised and supported 23 meetings in 2023 ([Appendix 1](#)).
11. New meeting formats introduced during Covid restrictions continued to be used in 2023. These included, virtual working groups, and working parties, teleconferences, meetings by correspondence and hybrid meetings using both virtual platforms and correspondence.
12. On-site interpretation services returned to normal, and interpreters were hired to service meetings in Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles and India. Participation with interpretation through the Zoom platform was made available for all commission and committee meetings.

Preparation of reports

13. The IOTC Secretariat staff provided the necessary support to all IOTC meetings in 2023 related to the development and dissemination of meeting reports. All IOTC meeting reports were developed, finalised and disseminated efficiently and in the shortest timeframe possible to ensure CPCs had access to the most recent meeting findings and recommendations soon after the completion of a meeting. This process took a little longer in some cases due to the added time required for the editing and clearance process by correspondence. All final documents were available in French soon after the final adoption.
14. The IOTC Secretariat continued to work with two translators for the provision of translation services. Documents are prepared in both languages of the Commission for the Sessions of the Commission, and all Committees.
15. [Appendix 3](#) lists the documents produced by the IOTC Secretariat in support of all the 2023 meetings of IOTC bodies.

Meeting Participation Fund usage

16. The Secretariat administers the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). The MPF currently serves nine scientific bodies (seven working parties, the Technical Committee on Management Procedures and the Scientific Committee); and five non-scientific bodies (the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria, the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures, the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance, the Compliance Committee and the Commission). The MPF was also used for a Special Session of the Commission in 2023.
17. Use of the MPF in 2023 increased significantly as COVID 19 travel restrictions were lifted and extra meetings were added (Special Session and 2 TCAC meetings). The numbers of attendees supported by the MPF in 2023 and other details are provided in IOTC-2024-SCAF21-05.

FUNCTIONAL AREA 4.2 SUPPORT TO SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IN 2023

18. The IOTC Secretariat's scientific support services area was staffed as follows:

- Science Manager (P5) (until July)
- Stock Assessment Expert (P4)
- Data Coordinator (P4)
- Data Management Assistant (G6)
- Fisheries Officer – Data (P1) (promoted to P2 in November)
- Fishery Officer-Statistician (P3)
- Fishery Officer-Science (P3)

The role of the IOTC Secretariat in scientific matters

19. The IOTC Secretariat currently provides the following services to the scientific processes of the Commission:

- Advice and training in data collection and reporting.
- Advice and training on stock assessment methods.
- Advice, management, and coordination of a range of scientific activities, including research projects.
- Preparation and provision of summary mandatory fisheries statistics for use by CPCs for research and the production of stock assessments (e.g. catch at size and catch at age).
- Preparation and reporting on the status of the IOTC databases to Working Parties.
- Drafting of species Executives Summaries.
- Drafting and production of the Working Party and Scientific Committee reports.
- Organisation of the Working Parties and Scientific Committee.
- Preparation of background documents for the Working Parties and the Scientific Committee.
- Stock assessments on species as determined by the Scientific Committee.
- IOTC scientific meetings – Working Parties & Scientific Committee.

Science activities in 2023

20. In 2023, 11 technical (science) meetings and one Scientific Committee meeting were organised and facilitated by the IOTC Secretariat ([Appendix 1](#)). The numbers of attendees at each meeting are provided in IOTC-2023-SC26-R. The current Chairs and Vice-Chairs for each Committee and Working Party are listed in [Appendix 2](#).
21. [Appendix 3](#) lists the documents produced by the IOTC Secretariat in support of the scientific meetings held in 2023. In addition, the IOTC Secretariat produced revised Executive Summaries for all of the IOTC stocks, as well as for sharks, seabirds and marine turtles in association with various experts.

Other activities

- IOTC Species ID guides: Work is ongoing to translate, typeset, format and print the IOTC Species ID guides into the priority languages identified by the SC. Funding for translating and delivering ID cards was provided by OFCF. In 2023, ID guides have been produced in: Thai for tuna; Thai, Swahili, Sinhalese and Tamil for billfish; and Sinhalese and Tamil for sharks and rays. The current set of identification guides available is provided here: www.iotc.org/science/species-identification-cards.
- Yellowfin Tuna Stock Assessment Peer Review Workshop: The IOTC secretariat facilitated and participated

in the external Yellowfin Tuna stock assessment peer review workshop. The workshop was requested by the SC in 2021 and endorsed by the Commission in 2022. The workshop was held from 6 – 10 February in Rome, Italy. The objectives were to undertake, in consultation with the stock assessment expert from the IOTC as well as IOTC WPTT, WPM and SC chairs and vice-chairs, a peer review of the 2021 yellowfin stock assessment in the Indian Ocean (IOTC) and based on the review work provide recommendations for improving the assessment, including data inputs, model configuration, biological parameters, modelling approaches and treatment of uncertainty. The report of this workshop was presented to the WPTT in late 2023. Funding was provided via Grants provided by the EU.

- Bigeye thresher shark tagging: A consortium has been established to work jointly on a tagging project to evaluate the post-release mortality of bigeye thresher sharks and the effectiveness of the no retention measure in Resolution 12/09. Scientists are working with observers to deploy tags on sharks released according to routine practices from the fleets of Japan, China, Taiwan Province of China, EU, Portugal, EU, France and South Africa. Fifty-four pop-up archival satellite tags have been purchased and are in the process of being deployed. An update was provided in IOTC-2023-WPEB19-19.
- Skipjack tuna stock assessment: The IOTC stock assessment scientist carried out a stock assessment of skipjack tuna (1950-2022) using stock synthesis III. The results indicated that the stock is currently not overfished nor subject to overfishing. The updated skipjack assessment was used to provide input for the skipjack Harvest Control Rule adopted in Res 21/03 to determine the catch limit for 2024-2026.
- Swordfish assessment: The IOTC stock assessment scientist carried out a stock assessment of swordfish (1950-2022) using stock synthesis III. The results for the Swordfish assessment indicated that the stock is currently not overfished nor is it subject to overfishing.
- Neritic tuna assessment: The IOTC stock assessment scientist carried out stock assessments of three neritic tuna species including longtail tuna, narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, and kawakawa (1950-2022) using several data limited methods. The results for the longtail tuna assessment indicated that the stock is currently overfished and is subject to overfishing; The results for the Spanish mackerel assessment indicated that the stock is currently overfished and is subject to overfishing; The results for the kawakawa assessment indicated that the stock is currently overfished but is not subject to overfishing.
- Neritic tuna CPUE Standardisation workshop: The IOTC stock assessment scientist and the SC chair conducted a CPUE training workshop for the WPNT participants (on the first day of the WPNT meeting). The purpose of the workshop was to assist CPCs in building their capacity to undertake CPUE analysis. It also intended to encourage participants to develop abundance indices from their catch effort data that can be incorporated into assessments of neritic tuna.
- CAPAM workshop on good practice for tuna assessment: The IOTC stock assessment scientist has attended the CAPAM workshop on good practice for tuna assessment held in Wellington New Zealand in March. The participation was funded by ISSF.
- Spatial stock assessment methods workshop: The IOTC stock assessment scientist has participated the spatial stock assessment methods workshop held in Wellington, New Zealand in March and has collaborated with scientists from AZTI and NOAA to create a spatial assessment model for yellowfin tuna based on simulated data.
- Yellowfin and bigeye tuna MSE: A Stock Assessment consultant (CSIRO) funded by a contribution from Australia conducted MSE for yellowfin and bigeye tuna. This voluntary contribution by Australia has provided ongoing funding for this work through 2023.
- Skipjack MSE: A Stock Assessment consultant (Charles Edwards) funded by the IOTC regular budget, conducted MSE for skipjack tuna. The consultant is working to update the skipjack harvest control rule and develop a fully specified Management Procedure based on the updated stock assessment for the species.
- Albacore and swordfish MSE: A Stock Assessment contract with the University of Wageningen funded by the IOTC regular budget, conducted MSE for albacore tuna. The University is working to update the OM based on the updated stock assessment for albacore as well as develop an OM for swordfish.
- Alternative Monitoring of Catches: A consultant (Sarah Martin) conducted a feasibility study to assess the validity of alternative data collection mechanisms in combination with existing data collection and reporting measures for IOTC small-scale fisheries, with special consideration to pilots being implemented by IOTC CPCs in the Indian Ocean. The results of the study were presented to the WPDCS in 2023 (IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-13_Rev1).
- Tropical Tuna CPUE Standardisation and effort creep: A consultant (Simon Hoyle) conducted a study to

provide advice to analysts developing CPUE indices for IOTC stock assessments. The work provided general advice to analysts developing CPUE indices for IOTC tropical tuna stock assessments.

- Albacore Biological Parameters: A consultant (Simon Hoyle) conducted a desktop review of the spatiotemporal patterns in growth and reproductive variability of albacore tuna in the Indian Ocean and other oceans, to provide a better understanding of the population structure and dynamics of the species, as well as to pinpoint knowledge gaps and future research needs. The results of this study will be presented to the next meeting of the WPTmT.
- CITES shark proposals: The Secretariat participated in a series of workshops to discuss how the CITES and RFMO processes could be better harmonized especially in light of the recent listing of a range of shark species in CITES Appendix II (including blue sharks).
- Cetacean Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA): A consultant (Jeremy Kiszka) carried out a review of the information on cetacean bycatch in IOTC fisheries and produced an Ecological Risk Assessment for cetacean species interacting with IOTC fisheries. This included the completion of a Productivity-Susceptibility Analysis (PSA), and other appropriate analyses as part of the ERA. The report was presented to the WPEB (IOTC-2023-WPEB19-24_rev3). Funding was provided via Grants provided by the EU.
- Mainstreaming climate change into international fisheries governance: The IOTC Fishery (Science) Officer participated in a FAO led workshop looking at how Regional Fisheries Bodies can integrate climate change considerations into their science and management with a focus on the Indo-Pacific region. The Fishery Officer presented on IOTC's activities in relation to climate change including current activities and initiatives, lessons learned, potential entry points and opportunities and the gaps and challenges and discussed these topics in relation to other Regional Fisheries Bodies.

Data activities in 2023

Data-related activities: Data management, capacity building and other initiatives

22. The IOTC Secretariat manages fisheries and biological data for tuna and tuna-like species that span more than seven decades. In 2023, all datasets required for the WPs and workshops were prepared in a timely manner and by the expected standards. In addition, the Secretariat also provided data and expertise to address several data-related requests by the CPCs and other national and international institutions (e.g., FAO, Universities, NGOs).
23. The IOTC Secretariat continues with its mandate to provide direct support to and facilitate the work of developing coastal states, mainly through funds from the IOTC capacity building budget and other collaborating agencies, including the European Union and the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF) who provided substantial resources and advice for the strengthening of data collection and reporting systems in 2023.
24. Table 1 provides a summary of the main capacity building activities undertaken since the end of SC25, which can be broadly categorised into the following activities:
 - a) **Data compliance and support missions**: these are aimed at facilitating improvements in the validation and reporting of core statistical datasets to the IOTC Secretariat (i.e., retained catches, catch and effort, and size-frequency data), assess current shortcomings concerning the collection and management of fisheries data, and agree on a plan of action required for CPCs to deliver improvements in their levels of reporting.
 - b) **Technical assistance missions**: including capacity building in data collection, support for the development of national fisheries databases and statistical systems, or other issues related to fisheries data management.
 - c) **Support for implementation of the ROS and implementation of the ROS Pilot Project**: ROS-related capacity building activities cover several components, including the further development and improvements of the IOTC ROS e-tools, as well as studies on the implementation of electronic monitoring systems (EMS) in small-scale fisheries.
25. Following two on-site missions in 2022, the Secretariat continued its close collaboration on the estimation of historical Indonesian catches with the organisation of one workshop in Jakarta and three remote workshops held in July, October, and November 2023 (Table 1). The work is essential regarding the importance of Indonesian tuna fisheries and is expected to be finalised in 2024.

26. Following a proposal on Minimum standards for the design and implementation of EMS in Indian Ocean tuna fisheries presented at the SC in 2020, the Secretariat has supported the delivery of the 3rd ad-hoc Working Group on EMS (March 2023).
27. To streamline the data reporting flow, the Secretariat has continued to work on the IOTC data reporting forms ([IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-14 Rev1](#), [IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-16](#), [IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-17](#)) which have been complemented with data submission validators ([IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-15 Rev1](#)) so as to improve the quality control procedure performed on the data that will be submitted from 2024. Work is ongoing to integrate the validators inside the e-Maris platform to shorten the feedback loop to the CPCs on data quality and completeness.
28. In addition, the Secretariat has fully revised the IOTC data reporting guidelines, developed a comprehensive IOTC data reference catalogue, improved the data browser giving access to the main IOTC datasets, and started the enhancement of metadata for improving the description of the public-domain data accessible from the IOTC website.

Other data initiatives

29. **FIRMS Global Tuna Atlas (GTA):** The IOTC continues with its contribution to the provision of updated and harmonized geo-referenced monthly catches and total catches of main IOTC species to the GTA. The resulting product (which is now part of the offering of FAO / FIRMS) provides a combined global overview of the extent and magnitude of commercial tuna fisheries across all major oceans, including data sourced from the five tRFMOs and the collated and harmonized dataset it manages has been used to support the work of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas, and IOTC Working Group on FADs, among others.
30. **FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP):** The IOTC, through its Data Coordinator, remained engaged in contributing to the work of the CWP by chairing the main and intersessional meetings, and coordinating the capture fisheries subgroup.
31. **Regional Observer Scheme:** An update on progress with the implementation of the ROS Pilot Project is provided in paper [IOTC-2023-SC26-07 Rev2](#). Key areas of progress this year include:
- The Electronic Monitoring Systems trial project for small-scale fisheries in Sri Lanka has concluded. The equipment was successfully installed onboard four vessels and the final sets of equipment have been delivered but are still pending installation onboard two further vessels by the Sri Lanka Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.
 - A contract was awarded for the development of training materials and supporting national observer schemes in six IOTC CPCs between 2019 and 2020, later reduced to four due to some CPCs being unable to meet the requirements set out for participating in the pilot project. Activities were further postponed due to travel restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and the project finally resumed in Q3 2021, with a package of training manuals and supporting documents presented to the WPDCS17. The project is now completed, and full training has been delivered in all four participating countries. The Secretariat remains engaged with participating countries to start receiving data from deployed observers.
32. **Processing of cannery sales data from ISSF-affiliated companies:** since 2010 the IOTC Secretariat has been receiving quarterly summaries of the products offloaded at several canneries associated with the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF). The ISSF funded a consultancy to clear, harmonize and compile all tuna factory quarterly reports submitted by the ISSF-participating companies during 2010-2021, upload harmonized reports into a relational database, and proceed to further curate the data to improve its overall quality and traceability. In light of the importance of this complementing source of information, the IOTC Secretariat (under advice from the WPTT) has planned to initiate a more thorough and continuous revision process of all received information for future dissemination to the IOTC scientific working parties.
33. **Socio-economic data:** Since 2021 the IOTC Secretariat has collaborated with the Fisheries Development Division of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to collate time series of import prices for tuna and crude oil prices and make them available through the IOTC website for supporting the IOTC scientific work. In addition, contacts have been taken with FAO to develop a procedure of exchange of additional socio-economic data sets (e.g., imports/exports of fish products, contribution of fisheries to the national Gross Domestic Product) which will be instrumental for the new Working Party on Socio-Economics planned to start in 2024 (Res. 23/10).

FUNCTIONAL AREA 4.3 SUPPORT TO COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES IN 2023

Compliance Section Staffing

34. The IOTC Secretariat's compliance support services area was staffed by three full-time positions during 2023, with assistance provided by a local consultant with data processing duties. The staff are as follows:

- Compliance Manager (P5)
- Compliance Coordinator (P4)
- Compliance Officer (P3)
- Consultant

The Compliance Section also benefitted from the support of a consultant funded by the IOC-SWIOFish 2 (World Bank) Project, up to the end of August 2023. His role was to provide support to the IOTC CPCs who are beneficiaries of the SWIOFish 2 Project.

Role of the IOTC Secretariat in technical matters

35. The IOTC Secretariat currently provides the following services in the compliance processes of the Commission:

- Maintain all vessels' lists (Active, Authorised and IUU).
- Maintain the Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme (validation information and tables of import/re-export statistics).
- Maintain the e-PSM application.
- Maintain the e-MARIS application.
- Advice and training in the implementation of CMMs (Compliance Support Mission).
- Advice and training in the implementation of PSM (Port State Measures training).
- Training on the use of a specialised application for implementing port State Measures (e-PSM application).
- Preparation and reporting on the status of compliance by CPCs.
- Drafting and production of the Working Party and Compliance Committee reports.
- Coordinate the work of *ad-hoc* Working Groups (Catch Documentation Scheme and Vessel Monitoring System).
- Preparation of meeting documents for the Working Groups, Working Party and the Compliance Committee.
- Assist in the preparation of meeting documents for the SCAF and Commission (compliance related activities).
- Supervise the implementation of Regional Observer Programme to monitor transshipments at sea, including dissemination of deployment reports to the fleets participating in the Programme.

36. In addition to the above listed core duties, staff of the Compliance Section supervised several projects undertaken by consultants through extra-budgetary funding, in response to work tasked to the IOTC Secretariat by the Commission.

Meetings supported by the Compliance team: VMS and CDS Working Groups, the WPICMM and CoC

37. Two meetings of the Vessel Monitoring Systems Working Group (VMSWG) were called in 2023; 14 February and 26 September. The level of participations in the meetings varied from 26 to 34 participants (representing nineteen Member States, three Observer organisations and Invited Experts).

38. The Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG) held two meetings in 2023; 13 February and 28 September. The level of participations in the meetings varied from 34 to 48 participants (representing twenty-three Member States, three Observer organisations and Invited Experts) attended the second meeting.

39. The 6th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission's (IOTC) Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) was held in hybrid format, from 15 to 17 February 2023. A total of 50 participants (representing 23 Member States, two Observer organisations and Invited Experts) attended the Session.

40. The 19th Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC) of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held in hybrid format, from 30 April - 2 May 2023. 25 Contracting Parties (Members), one Cooperating non-Contracting Party, 11 Observer organisations and Invited Experts participated in the meeting.

41. The VMSWG, CDSWG, WPICMM and CoC meetings were facilitated by the Secretariat's Compliance team. [Appendix 3](#) lists the documents produced by the IOTC Secretariat in support of the VMSWG, CDSWG, WPICMM and CoC meetings.

Other meetings

42. Staff members of the Compliance Section also participated in a number of virtual meetings throughout 2023. The number of virtual meetings that compliance staff were invited to contribute to or expected to attend were on par with 2022 the level. The range of time zones over which many of these meetings took place meant that staff members often had to give up their own time to participate.

Compliance related activities

43. The IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels often requires additional attention from the IOTC Secretariat to ensure its accuracy. The processing and quality assurance of IOTC data sets continued to require substantial resources from the IOTC Secretariat, and often involves repeat requests for clarification of data issues between IOTC Secretariat staff and data liaison officers in national fisheries organisations. Just over 25,300 records were processed during 2023; this includes the addition, deletion and updating the history of vessels in the record. This represents a 49% increase over the number of records processed in the previous year. Substantial work has gone into encouraging CPCs to submit information on the new reporting requirements introduced in Resolution 19/04.
44. In parallel to the work on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels, staff members of the Compliance Section contributed to the work of the developers for the online reporting application (e-RAV) for the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessel. Besides providing guidance to the developers, staff of the Compliance Section also engaged in the testing of the application.
45. The maintenance of the IOTC Record of Active Vessels also requires the active follow-up by staff of the IOTC Secretariat to ensure timely data submissions by CPCs. Discrepancies and inconsistencies in the datasets are the main issues that require staff to resolve, through contacts with the various parties involved. During 2023 a total of 5,002 records of active vessels were processed; representing an increase of about 17% over the previous year. These included vessels reported by flag States and foreign vessels reported by coastal States under licensing arrangements.
46. All approved at sea transshipments by large-scale tuna longline vessels were monitored by an observer in 2023. The contract with the Consortium responsible for the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) was renewed in May 2023, to cover the period May 2023 to April 2024. Staff of the Compliance Section maintained the responsibility for approving observer deployment, approving and circulating deployment reports to participants in the programme. In line with IOTC Resolution 22/02 (superseded by IOTC Resolution 23/06), we started to publish transshipment declarations in the secure part of the IOTC website for the facilitation of implementation of Resolution 16/11 on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.
47. In the last quarter of 2023, the Compliance Section also saw higher level of engagement by Indonesia in the implementation of their national observer programme. This resulted in several coordination meetings between Indonesia, IOTC's Compliance staff and Compliance staff of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

Capacity building activities: Compliance Support Missions

48. **Compliance Support Missions (CSM)** are intended to bring the work of the Commission and the Compliance Committee closer to the CPCs. The follow-up CSM are a combination of capacity building and planning exercise to engage in activities that would support the issues that were identified during the review of country-based Compliance Report at the last session of the Compliance Committee. The CSMs are carried by the IOTC Secretariat staff over a period of three days, to an audience composed of national officers in offices involved in the implementation of IOTC Resolutions. The outcome is a Compliance Action Plan and an agreed timeline with the CPC on addressing outstanding compliance issues. One in-person follow-up Compliance Support Mission was conducted 2023.

Capacity building activities: Training in Port State Measures

49. This other component is specific to the implementation of Resolution 16/11 *on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing*. This training is primarily intended for field

personnel and their supervisors, as it focuses more on the operational aspects of the Resolution on Port State Measures. It implements at national level, a training course for government officials on IOTC Port State Measures for CPCs in the region. To support this activity, one training package has been developed relating to the implementation of Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. This training package, beyond providing training national officers on PSM basic concepts and inspection procedures, also focus on the use of the new offline Port Inspection Report application designed to allow inspectors to capture, *in situ*, the results of port inspections digitally. Four in-country missions were undertaken to train inspectors/government officials during 2023.

Capacity building activities: Training in e-MARIS and e-RAV

50. The Commission has two electronic systems that are integral to the provision of essential data and information. The first is the integrated electronic Monitoring and Reporting Information System (e-MARIS), which enables automatic integration of data from CPCs into the IOTC Secretariat's databases and automatic cross-referencing obligations and reports for the various obligations, in particular related to the provision of compliance related data. The second, which was not available in 2023, is the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV). Resolution 19/04 *Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence* is one of the core management measures which underpins compliance to the objectives of the IOTC. To that end, a good part of 2023 was dedicated to the development and testing of the new online Record of Authorised Vessels (e-RAV). To assist CPCs in their proficient use of these two applications, two regional training were convened, in June and September 2023.

Funding of Compliance related activities

51. Funding for these activities is being provided through cooperation with several initiatives, following presentation of the capacity building initiatives to potential financing agencies. Table 1 summarises all the missions relating to compliance, including those undertaken by consultants supported by the IOC-SWIOFish 2 (World Bank) Project.

52. The IOTC Secretariat received financing from the World Bank Project (SWIOFish 2) administered by the Indian Ocean Commission with financing support to undertake, in qualifying countries, Compliance Support Missions, PSM trainings, develop a monitoring and reporting information system (e-MARIS) in 2023.

FUNCTIONAL AREA 4.4 COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

53. The IOTC Secretariat continues with the publication of all reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies on the IOTC website. All reports are published in electronic format only following the decision by the Commission at its 17th Session to go paperless.

FUNCTIONAL AREA 4.5 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

54. The provision of computer infrastructure, including maintenance of the network and servers, as well as internet support continued to be provided by a consultant paid partially under the provisions of the current Headquarters Agreement. These services were also extended to general meeting support and IOTC website maintenance.

55. Equipment purchases included new network equipment, new laptop computers, a new server and new system components. Asset control mechanisms remain in place and continue to be monitored carefully.

56. The Internet bandwidth is currently at a satisfactory level and is being monitored carefully, as online services and virtual meetings increase. The IOTC internet capacity is currently provided on a dedicated (individual) connection and the bandwidth requirements will be closely assessed again in 2024 in the search for future improvements.

57. The Secretariat has a range of up-to-date equipment for virtual meetings. The meeting room in the new offices offers a smaller but adequate space with a SMART television connected to a high-definition camera and quality audio equipment.

58. Some technical improvements/modifications were made to the IOTC website after consultation with users and the webpages were updated.

Table 1. Missions undertaken by staff from the IOTC Secretariat during 2023 in relation with capacity building activities.

Country	Date	Staff	Description
Science and data			
Indonesia (in person, Jakarta) (remote) (remote)	27 Feb-3 Mar. 2023 COMPLETED 11-13 Oct. 2023 COMPLETED 9 and 14 Nov. 2023 COMPLETED	IOTC Data Coordinator IOTC Fisheries statistician Representatives from: 1. Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia 2. National research institutions 3. FAO (Fisheries Statistics Division) International Pole and Line Foundation	Continuation of the previous remote / in person meetings held in 2021 and 2022, to discuss the current state-of-the-art in terms of re-estimation procedures for Indonesia's annual catches. The main activities of the missions were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the progress made since WPDCS 17 (see document IOTC-2022-WPDCS18-27) Provide technical advice on the current methodology proposed by Indonesia
Tanzania (in person, Zanzibar)	10-14 July 2023 COMPLETED	IOTC Fishery Officer (data) IOTC data assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an updated overview of Tanzania's current compliance level with respect to IOTC data reporting requirements Review and obtain a better understanding of the current data collection and processing methodology in place in Tanzania Further clarify any outstanding aspects of the IOTC data reporting process and propose potential improvements to increase the efficiency of data reporting.
Comoros, Indonesia, I.R. Iran, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Kenya, Thailand, Seychelles, Tanzania (remote)	20 Oct. 2023 COMPETED	IOTC Fishery Officer (data) IOTC data assistant	Workshop on the characterization of IOTC fisheries using the FAO matrix approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder on IOTC current categorisation of fishing vessels as artisanal or industrial Introduction and test of the matrix-based approach developed by FAO to characterize fisheries
All IOTC members (virtual)	June-July 2023 COMPLETED	IOTC Fishery Officer (data)	Scoping study on Electronic Data Collection Tools (see IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-27)

Compliance			
Thailand	3 - 8 September 2023	Compliance Coordinator Compliance Officer International Consultant	Training for national e-MARIS appointed managers from Eastern CPCs and other relevant officials on the use of e-MARIS. In anticipation of the upcoming launch of the new e-RAV, participants were also trained on how to upload and search for data into the e-RAV.
Kenya	9 – 16 October 2023	Compliance Coordinator	Training of government officials from the Kenya Fisheries Service on the use of the Offline port inspection report (PIR) application of the e-PSM application. Delivery of inspection kits to improve port inspection material means and of tablets for completing and sharing digitally port inspection reports through the offline PIR application and the e-PSM platform.
Sri Lanka	10 - 15 October 2023	Compliance Officer	Training of government officials from the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) of Sri Lanka, on the use of the Offline port inspection report (PIR) application of the e-PSM application. Delivery of inspection kits to improve port inspection material means and of tablets for completing and sharing digitally port inspection reports through the offline PIR application and the e-PSM platform.
Tanzania	24 - 26 October 2023	Compliance Officer	Training of government officials from multiple national institutions of Tanzania on the use of the offline port inspection report (PIR) application and the e-PSM online platform. Training of PSCU officials on the port State inspection procedures included in the IOTC PSM manual and outlined in Resolution 16/11. Special focus was put on the monitoring of the landing and transshipping of catches in port. Delivery of inspection kits to improve port inspection material means.
Cape Town, South Africa	15 – 17 November 2023	Compliance Coordinator	Training of representatives of agencies for vessels entering South African ports and relevant Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Fisheries Officers, on the use of the e-PSM application and in addition to train DFFE Fisheries Officers on the use of the electronic monitoring and reporting system application (e-MARIS).
Tanzania	10-14 July 2023	MCS expert	Joint Compliance Support Mission with Data Section.

FUNCTIONAL AREA 4.6 ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Staff

59. The IOTC Secretariat's Administrative Unit was staffed as follows:

- Administrative Officer (P3)
- Administrative Assistant (G6)
- Office Associate (G6)
- Administrative Assistant (G5)
- Driver/Receptionist (G2) – Vacant position under review
- IT System Manager (consultant)

Activities of the IOTC Administrative Unit

60. The human resources and administration functions of the IOTC are managed through various FAO electronic systems. The Global Resource Management System (GRMS) covers the administration of all funds, travel arrangements, HR support and procurement. Projects are managed through the Field Programme Management Information System and the integrated Management Information System is used to generate up-to date reports on all areas of administration. Using these systems and in liaison with FAO HQ, the unit provided administrative support to all activities of the Secretariat, in particular:

- Procurement of goods and services including tenders and contract processing.
- Recruitment and management of staff and consultant contracts.
- Financial management and reporting including budget monitoring, contribution tracking, asset control and banking.
- Project management support and liaison with donors.
- Travel of staff, consultants and meeting participants, and the management of the Meeting Participation Fund.
- Meeting planning and logistics.
- Correspondence and communication management.
- IT support.
- Data preparation for reports to the SCAF which advises the Commission on administrative and financial matters such as the financial status and the provisional budget for the ensuing year.
- Facilities Management.
- Guidance and advice to staff about IOTC and FAO rules and procedures.

New Systems and Procedures in 2023

61. The FAO Administrative Guidelines v9 were introduced in 2023 which included a range of measures introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic. These included more flexible work arrangements, clearer travel rules and more flexibility concerning the rules for recruiting project consultants.
62. The TALEO recruitment system continues to ensure a more effective and transparent recruitment process from the screening of candidates to the final selection. It also provides an online repository and fast access to HR records.
63. FAO introduced some changes and a face-lift to the 'Service Now' online portal for all service requests. The portal deals with all requests through HQ and the FAO Shared Services Centre as well as IT queries and is linked to Service Level Agreements with the aim of improving response times.

5) SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

That the SCAF:

- a) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2024-SCAF21-02 which provides the SCAF with an update on the activities of the IOTC Secretariat in 2023.

APPENDIX 1
2023: CALENDAR OF IOTC MEETINGS

Meeting	Date
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC)	30 Jan-2 Feb
Special Session of the Commission (SS-FADs)	3 – 5 Feb
Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG)*	13 Feb
Vessel Monitoring System Working Group (VMSWG)*	14 Feb
Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM)	15-17 Feb
Ad hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards (WGEMS)	15-16 Mar
Management Strategy Evaluation Task Force of the Working Party on Methods (WPM)	27-30 Mar
Compliance Committee (CoC)	30 Apr-2 May
Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF)	3 May
Report adoption: CoC (am) / SCAF (pm)	4 May
Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP)	5-6 May
Commission (S27)	8-12 May
Working Party on Tropical Tunas – data preparation (WPTT-DP) and Ad hoc Working Group on FADs (WGFAD)	29 May – 2 Jun
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC)	19-23 Jun
Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT)	3-7 Jul
Working Party on Billfish (WPB)	6-9 Sep
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB)	11-15 Sep
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC)	16-19 Oct
Working Party on Methods (WPM)	26-28 Oct
Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT)	30 Oct-4 Nov
Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS)	28 Nov-2 Dec
Scientific Committee (SC)	4-8 Dec

APPENDIX 2
LIST OF MEETING CHAIRS IN 2023

Meeting			CPC/Affiliation	Starting	Ending	Term
Commission (S)	Chair	Ms Jung Re Kim	Rep. of Korea	2023	2025	2
	1 st Vice-Chair	Mr Adam Ziyad	Maldives	2023	2025	2
	2 nd Vice-Chair	Mr Qayiso Mketsu	South Africa	2023	2025	2
Compliance Committee (CoC)	Chair	Dr. Indra Jaya	Indonesia	2022	2024	1
	Vice-Chair	Mr Zahor El Kharousy	Tanzania, United Rep. of	2022	2024	1
Scientific Committee (SC)	Chair	Dr Toshihide Kitakado	Japan	2023	2025	3*
	Vice-Chair	Dr Gorka Merino	EU, Spain	2023	2025	1
Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF)	Chair	Mr Muhammad Farhan Khan	Pakistan	2023	2025	1
	Vice-Chair	Dr Muhammed Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury	Bangladesh	2023	2025	1
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC)	Chair	Ms Nadia Bouffard	Independent	2020	2023	-
Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP)	Co-Chairs	Commission and SC Chairs	-	-	-	-
Technical Committee on Performance Review TCPR	Chair	-	-	-	-	
Working Party on Billfish (WPB)	Chair	Dr Jie Cao	China	2023	2025	1
	Vice-Chair	Dr Sylvain Bonhommeau	EU, France	2023	2025	1
Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics WPDCS	Chair	Dr Julien Barde	EU, France	2023	2025	2
	Vice-Chair	Mr Nuwan Gunawardane	Sri Lanka	2023	2025	2
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch WPEB	Chair	Dr. Mariana Tolotti	EU,France	2023	2025	2

	Vice-Chair	Dr. Mohamed Koya	India	2023	2025	2
	2 nd Vice-Chair	Dr Charlene da Silva	South Africa	2023	2025	2
Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM)	Chair	Mr Benedict Kiilu	Kenya	2023	2025	2
	Vice-Chair	Mr Hiroyuki Morita	Japan	2022	2024	1
Working Party on Methods (WPM)	Chair	Dr Hilario Murua	ISSF	2023	2025	3**
	Vice-Chair	Dr Ann Preece	Australia	2023	2025	1
Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT)	Chair	Dr Farhad Kaymaram	I.R. Iran	2023	2025	1
	Vice-Chair	Mr Bram Setyadji	Indonesia	2023	2025	1
Working Party on Temperate Tunas (WPTmT)	Chair	Dr Toshihide Kitakado	Japan	2022	2028	1
	Vice-Chair	Dr Jiangfeng Zhu	China	2022	2028	1
Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT)	Chair	Dr Gorka Merino	EU, Spain	2023	2025	3**
	Vice-Chair	Dr Shiham Adam	IPNLF	2023	2025	3**
Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG)	Chair	Dr Indra Jaya	Indonesia	2022	2024	1
	Vice-Chair	Mr Ansuman Das	India	2022	2024	1
Ad hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards (WGEMS)	Chair	Dr Hilario Murua	ISSF	2023	2025	2
	Vice-Chair	Dr Don Bromhead	Australia	2023	2025	2
Working Group on FADs (WGFAD)	Co-Chair	Dr Gorka Merino	EU, Spain	2023	2025	2
	Co-Chair	Mr Avelino Munwane	Mozambique	2022	2024	1
Vessel Monitoring System Working Group (VMSWG)	Chair	Mr Stephen Ndegwa	Kenya	Nominated for the duration of the Working Group.		
	Vice-Chair	Mr. Shoukot Chowdhury	Bangladesh	2023	2025	1
Management Strategy Evaluation Task Force	Chair	WPM Chair				

*Due to no nominations being received for the role of SC Chair, Dr Kitakado was elected for another term as an interim measure.

**In accordance with the Commission endorsed recommendation by the SC in 2022 to allow Chairs to serve an additional year or years beyond two terms if no suitable candidates are available to replace them once their terms are completed

APPENDIX 3
LIST OF DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY IOTC SECRETARIAT STAFF IN 2023

27th Session of the Commission

IOTC-2023-S27-01a	Provisional agenda v7March
IOTC-2023-S27-01b	Provisional agenda v9April
IOTC-2023-S27-01c	Adopted Agenda v8May
IOTC-2023-S27-02	Progress on the requests for action made by the Commission in 2022
IOTC-2023-S27-04	Report on current CMMs that include a reference to the year 2023
IOTC-2023-S27-05	Review of Objections
IOTC-2023-S27-06_Rev1	IOTC collaborative arrangements - an overview
IOTC-2023-S27-R	Report of the 27th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Compliance Committee

IOTC-2023-CoC20-01a	Provisional Agenda for the Twentieth Session of the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2023-CoC20-01b	Provisional Annotated Agenda for the Twentieth Session of the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2023-CoC20-02	List of documents for the Twentieth Session of the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2023-CoC20-03	Summary report on the level of compliance
IOTC-2023-CoC20-04a	Report on Transshipment Resolution 22/02 – Secretariat’s Report
IOTC-2023-CoC20-04b	A Summary of the IOTC Regional Observer Programme during 2022 – Contractor’s Report
IOTC-2023-CoC20-04c_Rev1	Analysis by the IOTC Secretariat of Indonesia’s Pilot Project for monitoring at-sea transshipments
IOTC-2023-CoC20-04c_Add1	National Report on Transshipment IDN 2021-2022
IOTC-2023-CoC20-06	Capacity of Fishing Vessels in the RAV
IOTC-2023-CoC20-07	Proposed CA – IOTC & IOC
IOTC-2023-CoC20-08_Rev1	Information related to presumed IUU fishing activities in the IOTC Area
IOTC-2023-CoC20-08a	Reporting of vessels in transit - United Kingdom
IOTC-2023-CoC20-08b_Rev1	Summary report on possible infractions observed under the Regional Observer Programme in 2022
IOTC-2023-CoC20-09	The IOTC Draft IUU Vessels List
IOTC-2023-CoC20-09_Add1	Additional information from the United Kingdom concerning four vessels on the 2023 IOTC draft IUU vessels list
IOTC-2023-CoC20-09_Add2	Information update request for IUU Vessels
IOTC-2023-CoC20-09_Add3	Additional information from Sri Lanka concerning a vessel on the 2023 IOTC Draft IUU Vessels List
IOTC-2023-CoC20-10_Rev1	Summary of Compliance with and collection of the drifting Fish Aggregating Devices Management Plans
IOTC-2023-CoC20-11_Rev2	Summary report on Compliance Support Activities
IOTC-2023-CoC20-12	Progress reports of the WPICMM, CDSWG & VMSWG.
IOTC-2023-CoC20-14	Implementation of Recommendations and requests from CoC19

IOTC-2023-CoC20-15	Minimum Standards for EMS
IOTC-2023-CoC20-16	Glossary terms & definitions
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR01	Australia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR02	Bangladesh
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR03	China
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR04	Comoros
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR05	Eritrea
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR06	European Union
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR07	France (OT)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR08_Rev1	India
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR09	Indonesia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR10	Iran, Islamic Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR11_Rev1	Japan
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR12_Rev1	Kenya
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR13	Korea, Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR14	Madagascar
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR15	Malaysia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR16	Maldives
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR17	Mauritius
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR18	Mozambique
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR19_Rev1	Oman
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR20	Pakistan
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR21	Philippines
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR22	Seychelles
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR23	Somalia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR24	South Africa
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR25	Sri Lanka
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR26	Sudan
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR27	Tanzania, United Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR28	Thailand
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR29	United Kingdom
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR30	Yemen
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR31	Liberia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-R	Report of the 20th Session of the Compliance Committee

Scientific Committee

IOTC-2023-SC26-01a	Draft agenda for SC26
IOTC-2023-SC26-03	Outcomes of the 27 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-SC26-04	Previous decisions of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-SC26-05	Report of the Secretariat – Activities in support of the IOTC science process in 2023 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-SC26-06	Status of development and implementation of national plans of action for seabirds and sharks, and implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-SC26-07	Update on the implementation of the regional observer scheme (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-SC26-08	Revision of the program of work (2024–2028) for the IOTC science process (IOTC Secretariat)

IOTC-2023-SC26-09	Proposed schedule of Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2024 and 2025 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-SC26-10	Progress on SC25 recommendations (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-SC26-03	Outcomes of the 27 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)

Standing Committee on Administration and Finance

IOTC-2023-SCAF20-01b	Draft agenda for SCAF20
IOTC-2023-SCAF20-02	Report of the IOTC Secretariat on the year 2022
IOTC-2023-SCAF20-03	Progress on requests for action made by the SCAF in 2022
IOTC-2023-SCAF20-04	Contributions Outstanding
IOTC-2023-SCAF20-05	IOTC Meeting Participation Fund
IOTC-2023-SCAF20-06	Financial Statement 2022
IOTC-2023-SCAF20-07	Mid-Term Financial report 2023
IOTC-2023-SCAF20-08	Provisional Program of work and budget for 2024 (and Indicative Budget for 2025)
IOTC-2023-SCAF20-09	Proposed changes to the IOTC HQ Agreement
IOTC-2023-SCAF20-10	Draft ROP for the IOTC Working Capital Fund
IOTC-2022-SCAF19-R	Meeting report

Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria

IOTC-2023-TCAC11-01	Draft Agenda v29Dec
IOTC-2023-TCAC11-R	Meeting Report
IOTC-2023-TCAC12-01	Draft Agenda v6Sep
IOTC-2023-TCAC12-03	Implementation Plan
IOTC-2023-TCAC12-R	Meeting Report

Technical Committee on Management Procedures

IOTC-2023-TCMP06-01a	Draft: Agenda of the 6 th Technical Committee on Management Procedure Meeting
IOTC-2023-TCMP06-03	Outcomes of the 5 th Technical Committee On Management Procedure
IOTC-2023-TCMP06-04	Outcomes of the 26 th Session of the Commission
IOTC-2023-TCMP06-05	Outcomes of the 25 th Session of the Scientific Committee
IOTC-2023-TCMP06-08	Candidate empirical MPs for Indian Ocean skipjack tuna (Edwards C)
IOTC-2022-TCMP05-R	Meeting Report

Working Party on Billfish

IOTC-2023-WPB21-01a	Draft Agenda for WPB21
IOTC-2023-WPB21-03	Outcomes of the 25th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPB21-04	Outcomes of the 27th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPB21-05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPB21-06	Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPB20 and SC25 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPB21-07	Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for billfish species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPB21-08	Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2024-2028) (IOTC Secretariat)

IOTC-2023-WPB21-19	Indian Ocean Swordfish Stock Assessment 1950-2021 (Stock Synthesis) (Fu D)
IOTC-2023-WPB21-R	Meeting report

Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics

IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-01a	Draft agenda for WPDCS19
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-03	Outcomes of the 25th session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-04	Outcomes of the 27th session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-05	Review of current Conservation and Management Measures relating to the WPDCS (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-06	Progress made on the recommendations of WPDCS18 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-07	Report on IOTC Data Collection and Statistics (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-08	IOTC capacity building activities in support of developing coastal CPCs (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-09	Revision of the WPDCS Program of Work 2024–2025 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-10	Updates on the implementation of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme and its pilot project (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-11	Updated calculations of yellowfin tuna catch limits for 2023 / 2024 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-12	Summary of updates on data-related requests from other Working Parties (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-13	Alternative methods to improve data collection in IOTC coastal fisheries: progress, pitfalls and priorities (Martin S)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-14	Further updates on the IOTC data reporting forms (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-15	Online tools for the validation of data submissions (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-16	Revised IOTC forms for the provision of detailed interactions with drifting floating objects (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-17	A proposal for new IOTC forms for the provision of detailed interactions with anchored floating objects (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-18	Benefits of assigning DOIs to IOTC documents and data (Barde J, IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-23	Updated results on the implementation of the FAO matrix approach for the characterization of selected IOTC fisheries (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-28	Updated guidelines for the reporting of fisheries statistics to the IOTC (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-29	Proposal for a technical data workshop to support the reporting of fisheries statistics to the IOTC (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-R	Meeting Report

Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch

IOTC-2023-WPEB19-01a	Draft Agenda for WPEB19
IOTC-2023-WPEB19-03	Outcomes of the 25th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPEB19-04	Outcomes of the 27th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPEB19-05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to ecosystems and bycatch (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPEB19-06	Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPEB18 and SC25 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPEB19-07_rev2	Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for ecosystems and bycatch species (IOTC Secretariat)

IOTC-2023-WPEB19-08_rev1	Status of development and implementation of National Plans of Action for seabirds and sharks, and implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPEB19-09	Revision of the WPEB Program of Work (2024–2028) (IOTC Secretariat & Chairperson)
IOTC-2023-WPEB19-24	Ecological risk assessment of cetaceans to Indian Ocean tuna fisheries (J. Kiszka)
IOTC-2023-WPEB19-INF38	Global governance guard rails for sharks: Progress towards implementing the United Nations international plan of action (E. Gilman, M. Chaloupka, N. Taylor, L. Nelson, K. Friedman and H. Murua)
IOTC-2023-WPEB19-R	Meeting Report

Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures

IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-01a	Provisional Agenda
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-01b	Provisional Annotated Agenda
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-02	Draft list of Documents
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-03	Progress report on the implementation of the WPICMM Work Plan and on the recommendations of the WPICMM05
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-03_Add1	Sanctions, penalties and incentives to promote compliance in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-03_Add2_Rev1	Glossary of definitions and key terms used in IOTC Resolutions
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-04	Report on possible infractions observed under the Regional Observer Programme in 2022
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-04_Add1	Report on repeated possible infractions observed under the Regional Observer Programme in 2022
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-04_Add2_Rev3	Results of investigation received from the fleets on the possible infractions detected under the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) in 2022
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-05	Review and update of the WPICMM Work Plan
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-05_Rev1	WPICMM Work Plan Reviewed/Endorsed by WPICMM06
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-06	Summary report on assessment criteria for the Compliance Report for CoC20
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-06_Add1	Assessment criteria for Compliance Report - Country Template for CoC20
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-06_Add1_Rev1	Assessment criteria for Compliance Report - Country Template for CoC20 - Reviewed/Endorsed by WPICMM06
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-06_Add2	Country Compliance Report Template for CoC20
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-06_Add2_Rev1	Country Compliance Report Template for CoC20 - Reviewed/Endorsed by WPICMM06
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-07	Proposal to amend appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure – European Union
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-08	Progress of work and plan for 2023 of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Working Group
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-09	Progress of work and plan for 2023 of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Working Group
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-10	Progress on the development of the e-MARIS application and the online RAV
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-11	Analysis on problems and possible solutions on the implementation of Resolution 19/04
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-12	IOTC scheme to operationalise the FAO voluntary guidelines on the marking of fishing gear – Comments from CPCs
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-13	Tool to publish ROP Transshipment Declaration for the facilitation of implementation of Resolution 16/11 on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-R	Report of the Sixth Session of the IOTC Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM05)

Working Party on Methods

IOTC-2023-WPM14(MSE)-01a	Draft agenda for WPM14(MSE)
IOTC-2023-WPM14(MSE)-03	Initial robustness trial of empirical MPs for Indian Ocean skipjack tuna (Edwards C)
IOTC-2023-WPM14(MSE)-R	Meeting Report
IOTC-2023-WPM14-01a	Draft agenda for WPM14
IOTC-2023-WPM14-03	Outcomes of the 25th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPM14-04	Outcomes of the 27th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPM14-05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relating to methods (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPM14-06	Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPM13 and SC25 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPM14-07	Revision of the WPM Program of Work (2024-2028) (IOTC Secretariat & Chairpersons)
IOTC-2023-WPM14-13	Conditioning IOTC Albacore OMs using the ABC approach (Hillary R, Mosqueira I)
IOTC-2023-WPM14-14	IOTC Swordfish Management Strategy Evaluation Update (Brunel T, Mosqueira I)
IOTC-2023-WPM14-15	Effort creep in tuna fishery stock assessments: preliminary investigation (Hoyle S)
IOTC-2023-WPM14-16	Status of the Skipjack OM (Edwards C)
IOTC-2023-WPM14-R	Meeting Report

Working Party on Neritic Tunas

IOTC-2023-WPNT13-01a	Draft agenda for WPNT13
IOTC-2023-WPNT13-03	Outcomes of the 25 th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPNT13-04	Outcomes of the 26 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPNT13-05	Review of current Conservation and Management Measures relating to neritic tuna species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPNT13-06	Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPNT12 and SC25 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPNT13-07	Review of the statistical data available for the neritic tuna species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPNT13-08	Revision of the WPNT Program of Work (2024-2028) (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPNT13-14	Assessment of Indian Ocean longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) using data-limited methods (D. Fu)
IOTC-2023-WPNT13-15	Assessment of Indian Ocean kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) using data-limited methods (D. Fu)
IOTC-2023-WPNT13-16	Assessment of Indian Ocean narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) using data-limited methods (D. Fu)
IOTC-2023-WPNT13-R	Meeting Report

Working Party on Tropical Tunas

IOTC-2023-WPTT25(DP)-01a	Draft agenda for WPTT25(DP)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25(DP)-03	Outcomes of the 25 th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25(DP)-04	Outcomes of the 6 th Special Session and 26 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25(DP)-05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to tropical tuna (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25(DP)-06	Progress made on the recommendations of WPTT24 (IOTC Secretariat)

IOTC-2023-WPTT25(DP)-07.1	Overview of Indian Ocean tropical tuna fisheries
IOTC-2023-WPTT25(DP)-07.2	Review of Indian Ocean skipjack tuna statistical data
IOTC-2023-WPTT25(DP)-INF01	Review of Indian Ocean bigeye tuna statistical data (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25(DP)-INF02	Review of Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna statistical data (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25(DP)-R	Meeting Report
IOTC-2023-WPTT25-01a	Draft agenda for WPTT25
IOTC-2023-WPTT25-04	Outcomes of the 27th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25-05	Revision of the WPTT program of work (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25-09	Indian ocean skipjack tuna stock assessment 1950-2022 (stock synthesis) (Fu D)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25-12	An investigation of the recruitment dynamics of Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna (Langley A)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25-13	Independent review of recent IOTC yellowfin tuna assessment (Maunder M, Langley A, Howell D, Minte-Vera C)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25-INF05	Review of Indian Ocean bigeye tuna statistical data (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25-INF06	Review of Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna statistical data (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WPTT25-R	Meeting Report

Catch document Scheme Working Group

IOTC-2023-CDSWG08-01a	Provisional agenda
IOTC-2023-CDSWG08-02	Draft IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Strategy
IOTC-2023-CDSWG08-03	IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme - IOTC CDS Strategy Companion
IOTC-2023-CDSWG08-R	Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group
IOTC-2023-CDSWG09-01a	Provisional agenda
IOTC-2023-CDSWG09-02a	IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Strategy v3
IOTC-2023-CDSWG09-02b	IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Strategy (clean version)
IOTC-2023-CDSWG09-03	IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme - IOTC CDS Strategy Companion
IOTC-2023-CDSWG09-R	Report of the Ninth Meeting of the Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group

Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of Electronic Monitoring Programme Standards

IOTC-2023- WGEMS03-01a	Draft agenda for WGEMS03
IOTC-2023- WGEMS03-R	Meeting Report

Working Group on FADs

IOTC-2023-WGFAD04-01a	Draft agenda for WGFAD04
IOTC-2023-WGFAD04-03	Outcomes of the 25th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WGFAD04-04	Outcomes of the 6 th Special Session and 27 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WGFAD04-05	Review of the statistical data on FADs (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WGFAD04-R	Meeting Report
IOTC-2023-WGFAD05-01a	Draft agenda for WGFAD05
IOTC-2023-WGFAD05-03	Review of the statistical data on FADs (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2023-WGFAD05-04	Assessing the response of Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) stocks to variations in DFAD fishing effort (Tidd A, Capello M, Guillotreau P, Fu D)
IOTC-2023-WGFAD05-R	Meeting Report

Vessel Monitoring System Working Group

IOTC-2023-VMSWG06-01	Provisional Agenda
IOTC-2023-VMSWG06-02	Terms of reference to determine extra costs related to infrastructure, staffing, and data security required for the IOTC vessel monitoring system
IOTC-2023-VMSWG06-02_Rev1	Terms of reference to determine extra costs related to infrastructure, staffing, and data security required for the IOTC vessel monitoring system [Reviewed by VSMWG06]
IOTC-2023-VMSWG06-03	Proposed revision to resolution 15/03 (last updated at VMSWG05)
IOTC-2023-VMSWG06-03_Rev1	Proposed revision to resolution 15/03 (last updated at VMSWG06)
IOTC-2023-VMSWG06-04_Rev1	Technical concept note for potential VMS trials in the context of the ongoing pilot project between IOTC and GFCM
IOTC-2023-VMSWG06-R_Rev1	Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Vessel Monitoring System Working Group
IOTC-2023-VMSWG07-01	Provisional Agenda
IOTC-2023-VMSWG07-02	Proposed revision to resolution 15/03
IOTC-2023-VMSWG07-03	Draft TOR for an IOTC VMS Pilot Project
IOTC-2023-VMSWG07-R	Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Vessel Monitoring System Working Group

Management Strategy Evaluation Task Force

IOTC-2023-WPM14(MSE)-01a	Agenda
IOTC-2023-WPM14(MSE)-03	Initial robustness trial of empirical MPs for Indian Ocean skipjack tuna (Edwards C)
IOTC-2023-WPM14(MSE)-R	Meeting Report

APPENDIX 4

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CDS	Catch Documentation Scheme
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CNCP	Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, of the IOTC
CoC	Compliance Committee
CPs	Contracting Parties
CPCs	Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
MPF	Meeting participation fund
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
OFCF	Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan
SC	Scientific Committee
SCAF	Standing Committee on Administration and Finance
TCAC	Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria
TCMP	Technical Committee on Management Procedures
TCPR	Technical Committee on Performance Review
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WPB	Working Party on Billfish
WPDCS	Working Party on Data Collection & Statistics
WPEB	Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch
WPICMM	Working party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures
WPM	Working Party on Methods
WPNT	Working Party on Neritic Tunas
WPTmT	Working Party on Temperate tunas
WPTT	Working Party on Tropical Tunas