
Held by video-conference, 14 to 15 February 2024

**DISTRIBUTION:**
- Participants in the Session
- Members of the Commission
- Other interested Nations and International Organizations
- FAO Fisheries Department
- FAO Regional Fishery Officers

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY**
Acronyms

CDS  catch documentation scheme
CMM  conservation and management measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CoC  Compliance Committee
CPCs  Contracting Parties (Members) and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
EU  European Union
EEZ  exclusive economic zone
FAD  fish aggregating device
FAO  Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOTC  Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
LSTLV  large-scale tuna longline vessel
MCS  monitoring, control and surveillance
TBD  to be determined
VMS  vessel monitoring system
WP  work plan

*HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT*

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

**Level 1:** From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:

**RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION:** Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

**Level 2:** From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a Contracting Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CPC), the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:

**REQUESTED:** This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a Committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalize the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

**Level 3:** General terms to be used for consistency:

**AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 or level 2 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be considered/endorsed by the next level in the Commission’s structure.

**NOTED/NOTING:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference.

**Any other term:** Any other term may be used in addition to the Level 3 terms to highlight to the reader of the IOTC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. However, other terms used are considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3, described above (e.g. CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED).
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Seventh Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission’s (IOTC) Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) was held by video-conference, from 14 to 15 February 2024. A total of 51 participants attended the Session. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Benedict Kiilu (Kenya), who welcomed participants to the Session.

The following is a subset of the recommendations from the WPICMM07, which are provided in full at Appendix 4:

WPICMM07.01 (Para. 34) The WPICMM07 ENDORSED the assessments conducted by the IOTC Secretariat and RECOMMENDED these assessments to be endorsed by the Compliance Committee (CoC21).

WPICMM07.02 (Para. 69) The WPICMM07 RECOMMENDED the Compliance Committee to review the Guidance and Recommendations for Preparing IOTC Resolutions and Recommendations (Annex 2 of the Legal scrubbing of IOTC Resolutions, IOTC-2020-WPICMM03), and the agreed terms and definitions of the Glossary, with a view to endorse them.
1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1. The Seventh Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission’s (IOTC) Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) was held by video-conference, from 14 to 15 February 2024. A total of 60 participants attended the Session. The list of participants is provided at Appendix 1. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson of the WPICMM, Mr Benedict Kiilu (Kenya), who welcomed participants to the video-conference and thanked them for their presence at the Seventh Session of the WPICMM.

2. The Chairperson highlighted some of the achievements by the WPICMM so far and thanked participants for their continued support in progressing the work of the Working Party.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**

3. The WPICMM07 ADOPTED the agenda provided in Appendix 2.

3. **ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**

4. The WPICMM07 ADMITTED the observers in the list of participants in Appendix 1.

4. **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WPICMM WORK PLAN**

4.1 **Progress report on the implementation of the WPICMM work plan and on the recommendations of the WPICMM06**

5. The WPICMM07 NOTED paper IOTC–2024–WPICMM07–03 that describes the progress on the implementation of the WPICMM Work Plan and on the recommendations of the WPICMM06 endorsed by the Twentieth Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC20) and approved by the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Commission (S27).

6. The WPICMM07 NOTED the progress made in the implementation of the WPICMM Work Plan, where:
   - 23 actions are pending implementation;
   - 18 actions are ongoing; and
   - 45 actions have been fully implemented.

7. The WPICMM07 NOTED the implementation of the recommendations of WPICMM06, where the 13 recommendations have been fully implemented.

8. The WPICMM07 NOTED that the WPICMM Work Plan terminates in 2024.

4.1.1 **Component 1 Action 1.2.3 - A plan to improve compliance, it could include: specific training events, amendments to reporting requirements, data analysis assistance**

9. The WPICMM07 NOTED that at present, CMMs compliance is solely compared against the previous year’s assessment, and FURTHER NOTED the potential benefits of understanding the evolution of compliance rates over an extended timeframe, to identify which CMMs are experiencing a decline or no increase in compliance levels, in order to target capacity building activities.

10. The WPICMM07 NOTED that Compliance Committee’s meeting document entitled “Summary report on the level of compliance” (last version for CoC20 available here) provides a good overview of compliance rates of CMMs, which can be used to prioritize capacity building interventions.

11. The WPICMM07 REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat provides a report indicating CMMs compliance trends over a timeframe of several years to next Compliance Committee (CoC21).

12. The WPICMM07 NOTED that the new Rules of Procedure have provisions for follow-up actions that could be used to address some of the activity items required in the WPICMM work plan.

13. The WPICMM07 NOTED the need to identify, in accordance with item 6.1 of the WPICMM Work Plan, the weaknesses of CPCs prior to designing and executing a plan to improve compliance.
14. The WPICMM07 NOTED that following the meetings of the next Compliance Committee and the Commission, CPCs would be in a stronger position to identify what are the elements that should be incorporated into a plan to improve compliance.

15. The WPICMM07 AGREED to continue the work on Components 1, 14, 18 and 19 of the WPICMM Work Plan, during WPICMM08.

4.1.2 Component 14 Action 14.1.4 - On capacity building and training interventions

16. The WPICMM07 NOTED a request for capacity building from a CPC on e-PSM application.

17. The WPICMM07 NOTED that CPCs willing to receive specific training or capacity building should forward a formal request to the IOTC Executive Secretary.

4.1.3 Component 18 Action 18.1.3 - To include additional reporting and implementation obligations in the Compliance Assessment Process

18. The WPICMM07 NOTED there was no comment on this component.

4.1.4 Component 19 Action 19.1.1

4.1.4.1 WPICMM discuss possibility of conducting the review for other CMMs in WPICMM07 for more comprehensive facilitation of CMMs implementation

19. The WPICMM07 NOTED there was no comment on this component.

4.2 Review the list of Large-scale Tuna Longline Vessels (LSTLVs)/carrier vessels presumed to have committed infractions against IOTC CMMs under the at-sea transshipment programme and recommend actions (component 10, sub-component 17.2 of WP)


21. The WPICMM07 NOTED that for the year 2023, a total of 127 possible infractions were reported under the Programme, and FURTHER NOTED that 127 (100%) responses were received prior to WPICMM07.

22. The WPICMM07 NOTED that the responses were received from China, Japan, Malaysia, Seychelles and Taiwan, Province of China, within the deadline of 15 January 2024 and FURTHER NOTED that Mauritius provided some responses after the deadline.

23. The WPICMM07 NOTED that the most common possible infractions related to LSTLV markings, followed by possible infractions related to fishing logbooks and authorisation to fish.

24. The WPICMM07 NOTED that new certificates of authorisation to fish issued by China often cannot be delivered directly to their vessels operating in the Indian Ocean in a timely manner and FURTHER NOTED that in the interim period before the new certificate of authorization to fish is delivered, Chinese vessels continue to carry both a scanned version of the new authorization to fish and the old one on board.

25. The WPICMM07 NOTED that in accordance to the legislation of Taiwan, Province of China, both paper-based and electronic fishing logbooks are required to be kept on board their vessels and FURTHER NOTED that their vessels primarily use e-logbooks to report mandatory data.

26. The WPICMM07 NOTED that the high number of possible infractions recorded in vessels of Taiwan, Province of China, is primarily attributable to the language barrier, which leads the master to present the paper-based logbook to the observer instead of the e-logbook.

27. WPICMM07 NOTED document IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-04_Add1 on repeated possible infractions observed under the Regional Observer Programme in 2023.

28. The WPICMM07 NOTED that three (3) fleets, China, Taiwan, Province of China, and Mauritius had LSTLVs with repeated possible infractions in the ROP in 2023.
29. The WPICMM07 NOTED that three fleets (3), China, Taiwan, Province of China, and Mauritius have LSTLVs with occurrences of possible infractions. The WPICMM07 NOTED the doubts presented by one CPC on the mandate of the WPICMM and infractions in both 2023 and 2022.

30. The WPICMM07 NOTED that various Chinese vessels with repeated possible infractions, are associated to the same owners and FURTHER NOTED that China has established a system or procedures to address these situations and is actively exploring methods to improve the management of these vessels.

31. The WPICMM07 NOTED that three fleets (3), China, Taiwan, Province of China, and Mauritius have LSTLVs with occurrences of possible infractions in both 2023 and 2022.

32. The WPICMM07 NOTED that there are:
   i. 70 responses pre-assessed as “appropriate action taken by the fleet” and no recommendation is required to be made to the Compliance Committee (CoC21).
   ii. 57 responses that were pre-assessed as “Not considered as a possible infraction” and no recommendation is required to be made to the Compliance Committee (CoC21).
   iii. 0 response that were pre-assessed as “Fleet requested to provide further evidence for discussion at next CoC”.

33. The WPICMM07 ENDORSED the assessments conducted by the IOTC Secretariat and RECOMMENDED the assessments to be endorsed by the Compliance Committee (CoC21).

4.3 Modification of the possible infraction form

35. The WPICMM07 NOTED document IOTC-2024-WPICMM07-REF03, which proposes an amendment to the possible infraction form.

36. The WPICMM07 NOTED the concerns raised following the IOTC Secretariat’s pre-assessment of various possible infractions associated with Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS).

37. The WPICMM07 AGREED that following their investigation, confirmation provided by fleets that a vessel’s VMS unit was functional at the time of inspection, should serve as a valid alternative form of substantive evidence.

38. The WPICMM07 AGREED to the proposed modification of the possible infraction form without changes.

5. Assessment criteria for the 2024 CPCs’ Compliance Reports

39. The WPICMM07 NOTED document IOTC-2024-WPICMM07-05_Rev1, which describes the new assessment criteria, the decision making process during the Compliance Committee.

40. The WPICMM07 NOTED the mismatch between the deadline for the IOTC Secretariat to make available the Draft Compliance Report and the deadline for CPCs to submit their Implementation Report and Responses to the Feedback Letter.

41. The WPICMM07 noted that changing the deadline would not affect the substance of the recently adopted Rules of Procedure and FURTHER NOTED that a more permanent solution should be sought.

42. The WPICMM07 RECALLED that it is the responsibility of CPCs to submit a motion to amend paragraph 4 a (iii) of Appendix V of the Rules of Procedure, as per RULE XVIII of the Rules of Procedure (2023), to ensure that the Secretariat has adequate time to prepare and provide the draft IOTC Compliance Report to CPCs.

43. The WPICMM07 ACKNOWLEDGED the utility of the e-MARIS application and commended the efforts invested in its development.
44. The WPICMM07 NOTED that completing the Compliance Questionnaire within e-MARIS can be a cumbersome process.

45. The WPICMM07 NOTED that within e-MARIS, the requirement on system or procedures is required to be reported twice via a dropdown menu and in a text box.

46. The WPICMM07 AGREED on the need to streamline reporting on system or procedures and REQUESTED to include it either as a separate item within e-MARIS, or alternatively, to require to complete only the drop down menu or the text boxes.

47. The WPICMM07 NOTED the high volume of e-mail notifications received from e-MARIS and REQUESTED the system to be improved in order to receive weekly or fortnightly summaries of e-MARIS related notifications.

48. The WPICMM07 AGREED that changes to e-MARIS should apply to next year’s campaign.

49. The WPICMM07 AGREED that the provision of information on system or procedures through the dropdown menu or the text box only should be assessed as Compliant, for this element of the Compliance assessment.

50. The WPICMM07 AGREED that the IOTC Secretariat compile the Compliance Reports with the assessment criteria and FURTHER AGREED that the assessment will be carried out in the e-MARIS application.

6. PROGRESS OF WORK AND PLAN FOR 2024 OF THE VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM WORKING GROUP

51. The WPICMM07 NOTED document IOTC-2024-WPICMM07-06 providing the progress of work and plan for 2024 of the Vessel Monitoring System Working Group (VMSWG).

52. The WPICMM07 NOTED the slow progress made by the VMS Working Group with respect to its terms of reference and with respect to the pilot project on Vessel Monitoring System.

53. The WPICMM07 NOTED that the meeting scheduled for the first quarter of 2024 had to be postpone due to delays from the donor agency to recruit a consultant whose work was to form the basis for that meeting.

54. The WPICMM07 EXPRESSED frustration over the extremely slow progress of the work of the VMSWG.

7. PROGRESS OF WORK AND PLAN FOR 2024 OF THE CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME WORKING GROUP


56. The WPICMM07 NOTED the progress made by the CDS Working Group with respect to its terms of reference and ongoing activities on the e-CDS Concept Paper and draft Resolution on CDS.

57. The WPICMM07 NOTED that the meeting scheduled for the first quarter of 2024 had to be postpone due to delays from the donor agency to recruit a consultant whose work was to form the basis for that meeting.

58. The WPICMM07 RECALLED that the IOTC Secretariat will work with the consultant, when recruited, and the Chair on updating the proposal for an IOTC Resolution on CDS with due consideration to other existing CMMs on CDS adopted by other RFMOs.

8. PROGRESS OF WORK ON GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS AND KEY TERMS USED IN IOTC RESOLUTIONS

59. The WPICMM07 NOTED paper IOTC–2024–WPICMM07–08-, which present the draft glossary of terms and definitions and ENCOURAGED CPCs to use the agreed terms and definitions as a guideline, when drafting proposals for Resolutions for the Commission.

60. The WPICMM07 NOTED that Annex I of document IOTC-2022-CoC19-13 on Summary of the implementation process and the progress of the legal scrubbing of the IOTC Resolutions, provides guidance and recommendations for preparing IOTC Resolutions and Recommendations.
61. The WPICMM07 **NOTED** that the Commission should endorse the Glossary before reviewing or using these guidelines for the drafting of IOTC Resolutions.

62. The WPICMM07 **NOTED** the utility of the Glossary in providing standard definitions that could facilitate the understanding and drafting of Resolutions and be used as reference at national level.

63. The WPICMM07 **NOTED** that the Glossary should remain dynamic and subject to regular revisions and **FURTHER NOTED** that it does not need to adhere strictly to the definitions provided within the IOTC Resolutions.

64. The WPICMM07 **RECALLED** that the Glossary has no legal standing or establishes no obligation.

65. The WPICMM07 **AGREED** to review the twenty-five (25) terms whose definitions the Ad Hoc Working Group had not yet reached agreement upon.

66. The WPICMM07 **AGREED** on the definitions for seventeen (17) terms and the exclusion of four (4) terms from the glossary.

67. The WPICMM07 **NOTED** that although agreement in principle was also reached on one term, *Fish Aggregating Device*, the WPICMM07 considered it prudent to ensure that the agreed definition is aligned with that of the FAD Working Group.

68. The WPICMM07 **NOTED** that consensus could not be reached on three terms: *Limit Reference Point, Landing and Large-scale tuna vessel*, and **AGREED** to leave the former pending until the Scientific Committee provide guidance, and the latter two remains pending until further discussions are held.

69. The WPICMM07 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee to review the Guidance and Recommendations for Preparing IOTC Resolutions and Recommendations (Annex 2 of the Legal scrubbing of IOTC Resolutions, IOTC-2020-WPICMM03), and the additional agreed terms and definitions of the Glossary, with a view to endorse them.

**9. REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE WPICMM WORK PLAN**

70. The WPICMM07 **NOTED** document IOTC-2024-WPICMM07-09, that provides the status of the Work Plan, as at January 2024.

71. The WPICMM07 **RECALLED** that the WPICMM Work Plan was originally endorsed by the Compliance Committee (CoC15) in 2018 and **ACKNOWLEDGED** that certain activities outlined in it, required clarification and reviewing to better align them with the present needs of the IOTC.

72. The WPICMM07 **RECALLED** document IOTC-2019-WPICMM02-MCS_CDS_Study and **NOTED** that the section on *Developing a comprehensive MCS system for IOTC* includes relevant work for CPC’s consideration for making proposals for streamlining existing Resolutions.

73. The WPICMM07 **AGREED** to draft a new WPICMM Work Plan and **REQUESTED** CPCs to work intersessionally on its draft after the Compliance Committee (CoC21) and Commission (S23) meetings.

74. The WPICMM07 **AGREED** to work intersessionally 60 days after the meeting of the Commission (S28), following a two-phased approach, where initially CPCs will suggest the main themes of the WPICMM Work Plan, and subsequently identify the activities under each theme.

75. The WPICMM07 **NOTED** that currently component 9 of the WPICMM Work Plan cannot be implemented as the meeting of the WPICMM is convened before the publication of the IOTC Draft IUU Vessel List.

76. The WPICMM07 **AGREED** to either drop component 9 of the WPICMM Work Plan or consider to delay future meetings of the WPICMM to at least 40 days prior to the Compliance Committee meeting to allow it to review the evidence of the draft IUU vessels list.

**10. ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE NEXT BIENNIIUM**

77. The WPICMM07 elected Mr Kimiyoshi Hiwatari (Japan) as Vice-Chair of the WPICMM.
11. **DATE AND PLACE OF THE EIGHTH AND NINTH SESSIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CMMs**

78. The WPICMM07 **AGREED** that the meeting in 2025 can only be determined after the date of the Compliance Committee is made known at the upcoming Commission meeting.

79. The WPICMM07 **AGREED** to conduct the next meeting virtually.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

80. The WPICMM07 was closed on the 15th February 2024, with no other business.


81. The WPICMM07 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPICMM07, provided at Appendix 4.

APPENDIX 1
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<td>UNITED KINGDOM</td>
<td>Mr Carlo BELLA Department for Environment, Food and rural Affairs <a href="mailto:Carlo.Bella@defra.gov.uk">Carlo.Bella@defra.gov.uk</a> Mr Marc OWEN Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs <a href="mailto:marc.owen@defra.gov.uk">marc.owen@defra.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
YEMEN
Absent

LIBERIA
Absent

COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES

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AGENDA: SEVENTH MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

14 February 2024

Date: 14–16 February 2024
Location: Hybrid (Platform: Zoom)
Time: 1100–1500 hrs daily (Seychelles time)

Chair: Mr. Benedict Kiilu (Kenya)  Vice chair: Mr Hiroyuki Morita

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION (Chair)
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION (Chair)
3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS (Chair)
4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WPICMM WORKPLAN (Secretariat/Plenary)
   4.1 Progress report on the implementation of the WPICMM work plan and on the recommendations of the WPICMM06 (Secretariat/Plenary)
   4.2 Review the list of Large-Scale Tuna Longline Vessels (LSTLVs)/carrier vessels presumed to have committed infractions against IOTC CMMs under the at-sea transhipment programme and recommend actions [component 10, sub-component 17.2 of WP] (Secretariat/Plenary),
   4.3 Proposal for the amendment of the Possible Infraction Form (Secretariat/Plenary).
5. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR THE 2024 CPCs’ COMPLIANCE REPORT (APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE) (Secretariat/Plenary),
6. PROGRESS OF WORK AND PLAN FOR 2024 OF THE VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS) WORKING GROUP (VMS WG Chair/Plenary),
7. PROGRESS OF WORK AND PLAN FOR 2024 OF THE CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME (CDS) WORKING GROUP (CDS WG Chair/Plenary),
8. PROGRESS OF WORK ON GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS AND KEY TERMS USED IN IOTC RESOLUTIONS (Secretariat/Plenary),
9. REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE WPICMM WORK PLAN (Secretariat/Plenary),
10. ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE NEXT BIENNIIUM (Chair/CPCs),
11. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 8TH AND 9TH SESSIONS OF THE WPICMM (Chair/CPCs),
12. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT, AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE WPICMM (Chair),
13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Chair).
APPENDIX 3
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND COMPLIANCE REPORT TEMPLATE

The assessment criteria endorsed by the WPICMM07 are available HERE.
APPENDIX 4
CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM WPICMM07

WPICMM07.01 (Para. 34) The WPICMM07 ENDORSED the assessments conducted by the IOTC Secretariat and RECOMMENDED these assessments to be endorsed by the Compliance Committee (CoC21).

WPICMM07.02 (Para. 69) The WPICMM07 RECOMMENDED the Compliance Committee to review the Guidance and Recommendations for Preparing IOTC Resolutions and Recommendations (Annex 2 of the Legal scrubbing of IOTC Resolutions, IOTC-2020-WPICMM03), and the agreed terms and definitions of the Glossary, with a view to endorse them.

WPICMM07.03 (Para. 81) The WPICMM07 RECOMMENDED that the Compliance Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPICMM07, provided at Appendix 4.