

Report of the 20th Session of the Compliance Committee

In person & by videoconference, 30 April to 2 May and 4 May 2023

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IOTC 2023. Report of the 20th Session of the
Compliance Committee. In person & by
videoconference, 30 April to 2 May & 4 May 2023.
IOTC-2023-CoC20-R[E], 65 pp



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ACRONYMS

AIS	automatic identification system
CDS	catch documentation scheme
CMM	conservation and management measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CoC	Compliance Committee of the IOTC
CPC	Contracting Party (or “Member”) and cooperating non-Contracting Party
DFAD	drifting fish aggregation device
EMS	electronic monitoring system
FAD	fish aggregation device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIES	FAO’s Global Information Exchange System
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU	illegal, unreported and unregulated
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
OT	Overseas Territory
ROS	Regional Observer Scheme
SCAF	Standing Committee on Administration and Finance of the IOTC
VMS	vessel monitoring system
WGEMS	Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards
WPICMM	Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

The CoC20 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 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 formalise 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/adopted 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 and 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

Opening of the Session

The Twentieth Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC) of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held in person to a limited extent and by videoconference on 30 April to 2 May and 4 May 2023.

Attendees comprised delegates of 25 Contracting Parties (Members), one Cooperating non-Contracting Party, and 11 Observers, including Invited Experts. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix 1](#). The meeting was chaired by Mr Indra Jaya (IDN), the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee (Indonesia).

The following is a subset of the complete set of recommendations from the CoC20 to the Commission, which are provided at [Appendix 10](#).

- CoC20.01 ([Para.31](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission endorse the recommendations of the WPICMM06 ([Appendix 8](#)).
- CoC20.02 ([Para.32](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission endorse the Glossary of terms already agreed by the WPICMM06 as amended by the CoC20 with the exception of “gear”, which would be removed.
- CoC20.03 ([Para.48](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission (S27) consider endorsing the CDS Strategy v3.0 as revised by the CoC20.
- CoC20.06 ([Para.67](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission further discuss document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-15](#) and proposal H which provides the minimum standards for those CPCs wishing to institute electronic monitoring, noting the comments from a CPC.
- CoC20.08 ([Para.82](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider urging CPCs to attend the Sessions of the Compliance Committee.
- CoC20.10 ([Para.84](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider urging CPCs to provide to the Commission, where possible, in one of the two official IOTC languages, copies of laws, regulations and administrative instructions in force (including terms and conditions of flag State Authorisation to Fish having force of law).
- CoC20.11 ([Para.85](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider and provide a decision on whether provision of legislation *not* translated into an official IOTC language should render the CPC partially compliant on a particular requirement.
- CoC20.12 ([Para.86](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider encouraging CPCs to make use of the e-MARIS application for CoC21, in line with the WPICMM06 recommendation that e-MARIS be made mandatory henceforth ([IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-R](#) para. 95), noting technical difficulties of CPCs that hinder their access to e-MARIS.
- CoC20.13 ([Para.131](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider returning to review the Compliance Reports of CPCs who had not attended the preceding Session of the Compliance Committee and who are present at the Commission’s Session.
- CoC20.14 ([Para.142](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** Indonesia to include in its request to extend the pilot project a vision as to when and how it might be integrated into the IOTC ROP, and that there be an independent assessment of the project for presentation to the Compliance Committee in 2025.
- CoC20.15 ([Para.177](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission approve that the vessels included in the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List (Appendix 5) be included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List, except for IMUL-A-2159-CHW (SANJANA PUTHA).
- CoC20.16 ([Para.178](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the flag of the three vessels SEA VIEW, SEA WIND and PROGRESO be changed on the IOTC IUU Vessels List from Cameroon to Unknown.
- CoC20.17 ([Para.179](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the cross-listed vessel EROS DOS be removed from the IOTC List of IUU Vessels as it has been delisted from NEAFC and subsequently from SEAFO.

- CoC20.18 ([Para.191](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider accepting Liberia’s request to renew its Cooperating non-Contracting Party status.
- CoC20.19 ([Para.204](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider requesting the IOTC Secretariat to identify, propose and secure financing for the operation and maintenance of the e-MARIS application and the online Record of Authorised Vessels application after the end of the SWIOFish2 project in September 2023, and to keep future sessions of the Compliance Committee informed of progress.
- CoC20.20 ([Para.205](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) endorse the collaboration and exchange of information between the e-PSM and the FAO’s Global Information Exchange System.
- CoC20.21 ([Para.206](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider that e-MARIS is encouraged to be used while continuing to be voluntary for the 2024 campaign leading to CoC21 and consider that the use of e-MARIS become mandatory henceforth, while recognising that its voluntary nature may be extended if necessary.
- CoC20.22 ([Para.207](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider requesting the Executive Secretary sign the draft cooperation agreement between the IOTC and Indian Ocean Commission on behalf of the IOTC.
- CoC20.23 ([Para.210](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from CoC20, provided at [Appendix 10](#).

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Twentieth Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC) of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held with in person attendance, and by videoconference, from 30 April to 2 May and 4 May 2023.
2. Attendees comprised delegates of 25 Contracting Parties (Members), one Cooperating non-Contracting Party, and 11 Observers, including Invited Experts. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix 1](#). The meeting was chaired by Mr Indra Jaya (IDN), the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee.

2. LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS

3. The CoC20 **NOTED** that letters of credentials had been received from the following CPCs: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, European Union, France (OT), Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Philippines, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom and Liberia.
4. The CoC20 **NOTED** that nomination letters had been received from India and from Somalia.
5. The CoC20 **NOTED** that India intervened online.
6. The CoC20 **NOTED** no letter of credentials had been received from Eritrea, Pakistan, Sudan or Yemen.
7. The CoC20 **FURTHER NOTED** that letters of Credentials had been received from 12 Observers, including Invited Experts.
8. The CoC20 **NOTED** the statements on sovereignty from Mauritius and France (OT) on this agenda item, which are found in [Appendix 4](#).

3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

9. Pursuant to Article VII of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, the CoC20 admitted the following observers, as defined in Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014):

Members or Associate Members of the FAO

- i. Panama
- ii. United States of America (USA)

Intergovernmental Organisations

- iii. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- iv. Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

Non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission.

- v. Blue Marine Foundation (BMF)
- vi. International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF)
- vii. International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)
- viii. The Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)
- ix. The Shark Project International (SPI)
- x. Sustainable Fisheries and Communities Trust (SFACT)
- xi. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Invited experts

- xii. Taiwan, Province of China.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

10. The CoC20 **ADOPTED** the Agenda provided at [Appendix 2](#). The documents presented to the CoC20 are listed at [Appendix 3](#).

5. REPORT OF WORKING PARTY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES (WPICMM06)

11. The CoC20 **NOTED** documents [IOTC-2023-CoC20-12](#) and [IOTC-2023-CoC20-12 Add2](#) presenting the progress of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures and the Operationalisation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear in the IOTC Area of Competence with comments from one CPC.
12. The CoC20 **NOTED** [IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-R](#) with a consolidated set of recommendations in its Appendix 5, presented in [Appendix 8](#) of this report.
- 5.1. REVIEW OF THE LIST OF LARGE-SCALE TUNA LONGLINE VESSELS/CARRIER VESSELS PRESUMED TO HAVE COMMITTED INFRACTIONS AGAINST IOTC CMMS UNDER THE AT-SEA TRANSSHIPMENT PROGRAMME**
13. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-08b](#), related to the summary report on possible infractions observed under the Regional Observer Programme in 2022.
14. The CoC20 **NOTED** that there were 50 observer deployments resulting in a total of 148 possible infractions:
- 50 related to fishing logbook (2021: 3; 2020: 20; 2019: 33),
 - 81 related to marking of vessels (2021: 4; 2020: 19; 2019: 51),
 - 13 related to ATF (2021: 3; 2020: 20; 2019: 22),
 - 3 related to VMS (2021: 0; 2020: 0; 2019: 70),
 - 1 unauthorized transshipment event (2021: 0; 2020: 0; 2019: 0).
15. The CoC20 **NOTED** that 100 per cent responses were received:
- Three fleets (Japan, Malaysia and Taiwan, Province of China) provided their responses before the deadline of 15th January 2023.
 - Two fleets (China and Seychelles) provided some of their responses after the deadline of 15 January 2023.
 - One fleet (Mauritius) provided its responses after the deadline of 15 January 2023, but prior to the WPICMM06.
 - One fleet (Oman) provided its responses after the deadline of 15 January 2023 and after the WPICMM06.
16. The CoC20 **NOTED**, regarding repeated possible infractions:
- Only two fleets (China and Taiwan, Province of China), with one large-scale tuna longline vessel each, had records of repeated possible infractions in 2022 and 2021.
 - Five fleets (China, Taiwan, Province of China, Malaysia, Mauritius and Seychelles) had possible repeated infractions in 2022.
17. The CoC20 **NOTED** that one of the responses provided by Oman regarding a logbook with missing pages was pre-assessed as “Appropriate action taken by the fleet” and that the other regarding the ATF was pre-assessed as “Fleet requested to provide further evidence for discussion at CoC20”.
18. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** Oman to provide proof that the vessel SINAW 16 returned to port and was provided with a new logbook, and **FURTHER REQUESTED** that Oman participate in future meetings of the WPICMM, as its fleet participates in the ROP.
19. The CoC20 **NOTED** the supplementary information and supporting documents duly translated provided by Oman during the Session regarding vessel SINAW 16 and the actions taken by Oman.
20. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the vessel SINAW 16 returned to port in February and Oman issued to the Master a new logbook with all the pages and **FURTHER NOTED** that Oman will re-inspect the vessel and its logbook this month.
21. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** Oman to report to the IOTC Secretariat on the results of this re-inspection.
22. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the second alleged infraction was that the ATF granted to this vessel did not correspond to the template provided to the IOTC Secretariat. Oman **ADDED** that the difference in registration number was due

to a typing mistake and the observer had noted the commercial registration number instead of the NRN (National Registration Number).

23. The CoC20 **NOTED** that a new Authorisation to Fish has been issued for vessel SINAW 16, which contains the registration number in the IOTC RAV, but it does not match the template on the IOTC website.
24. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** Oman to provide the correct template to the IOTC Secretariat and **FURTHER REQUESTED** Oman to update its list of authorised vessels.
25. The CoC20 **NOTED** that Seychelles addressed poor markings in a timely manner and provided the IOTC Secretariat with evidence of improvement and **FURTHER NOTED** that the infractions related to logbooks are due to the removal of pages from the logbook in order to send a copy to the Seychelles Fishing Authority and that they regarded this as a minor infraction.
26. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the regional observer programme appears to be effective considering that the infractions noted are relatively minor.

5.2. REVIEW OF THE IOTC GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

27. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-16](#), the glossary containing the definitions that have already been agreed by the WPICMM06.
28. The CoC20 **NOTED** that there is a need for further discussion on the definition of gear and fishing vessel.
29. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** that the VMS Working Group review the definition of a mobile transceiver unit.
30. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat contact all CPCs inviting them to nominate technically-qualified officers to the ad hoc working group on the Glossary, which would be held by correspondence.

Recommendation/s

31. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission endorse the recommendations of the WPICMM06 ([Appendix 8](#)).
32. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission endorse the Glossary of terms already agreed by the WPICMM06 as amended by the CoC20 with the exception of “gear” and “fishing vessel”, which would be removed.

6. REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS ON CDS AND VMS

33. The CoC20 **NOTED** documents [IOTC-2023-CoC20-12](#) and [IOTC-2023-CoC20-12 Add1 Rev1](#) presenting the progress of the Catch Documentation Scheme and the Vessel Monitoring Systems Working Groups, and the CDS Strategy.

6.1. CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME

34. The CoC20 **NOTED** the progress of the CDS Working Group, in particular the development of the CDS Strategy.
35. The CoC20 **NOTED** the comments from the EU, Japan, Malaysia and Maldives on the CDS Strategy in document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-12 Add1 Rev3](#) and **AGREED** to the changes to the CDS Strategy v2.0 proposed by some CPCs during the CoC20.
36. The CoC20 **NOTED** the importance of the implementation of the CDS in a stepwise manner.
37. The CoC20 **NOTED** that artisanal fisheries whose catches are not being traded internationally not be included in the CDS in the first instance.
38. The CoC20 **NOTED** that reference to coastal State in para. 2.6 be removed until inclusion of this is clarified.
39. The CoC20 **NOTED** with reference to para. 3.1 that it is uncertain what would happen if a port State or importing State is not party to the CDS.
40. The CoC20 **NOTED** concerns that artisanal fisheries may not be able to transition to fishery-based CDS and **FURTHER NOTED** that para. 2.8 provides that they would transition on a case-by-case basis and as appropriate.
41. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the CDS Working Group would continue to work on details of the CDS Strategy’s implementation.

6.2. AN IOTC VESSELS MONITORING SYSTEM

42. The CoC20 **NOTED** the progress of the VMS Working Group and **CONSIDERED** Pilot Project options and the next steps regarding a draft Resolution and the recruitment of a VMS Consultant.

43. The CoC20 **NOTED** that one CPC stated that it had difficulties of a legal nature with paragraph 8 of revised Resolution 15/03 that requires sharing of information with the IOTC Secretariat.
44. The CoC20 **NOTED** that one CPC noted difficulties with the scope of the draft Resolution.
45. The CoC20 **NOTED** support for the Pilot Project for CPCs, in order to appreciate the implications of such a system.
46. The CoC20 **EXPRESSED** appreciation to the GFCM Secretariat for their cooperation and **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat continue collaborating with the GFCM Secretariat in order to learn from their experience.
47. The CoC20 **NOTED** support for an IOTC Pilot Project, given that most IOTC CPCs are not parties to GFCM.

Recommendation/s

48. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission (S27) consider endorsing the CDS Strategy v3.0 as revised by the CoC20.
49. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) endorse the CoC20 proposal that the IOTC Secretariat prepare a Terms of Reference for an IOTC Pilot Project on VMS, taking into consideration the experience of GFCM to date.

7. REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SCHEME TO OPERATIONALISE THE FAO VOLUNTARY GUIDELINE FOR FISHING GEAR AND FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES IN THE IOTC AREA

50. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2022-CoC19-06 Add1](#) on the operationalization of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear and Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD).
51. The CoC20 **NOTED** that one CPC had provided comments on the operationalization of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear and Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD).
52. The CoC20 **NOTED** comments of the plenary on the document, including:
 - a. Markings on the mainline of a longline may cause entanglement.
 - b. In the document of the consultant it was not clear whether FADs were included as a fishing gears, and that FADs might be covered by other IOTC Resolutions.
 - c. Marking poles is a rather “extreme” measure in pole and line fisheries.
 - d. ICCAT had adopted a Regulation that excluded longliners since these have less of an environmental impact.
53. The CoC20 **NOTED** that one CPC would provide written comments after the Commission meeting.
54. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** CPCs send their comments intersessionally for discussion at WPICMM07.

Recommendation/s

55. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider endorsing the CoC20 proposal that CPCs’ comments on the operationalization of the Voluntary Guidelines for Fishing Gear and Fish Aggregating Devices be discussed at WPICMM07.

8. REVIEW OF MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEMS

56. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-15](#) on minimum standards for electronic monitoring systems (EMS).
57. The CoC20 **NOTED** the three parts of the standards, being:
 - a. Appendix I Electronic Monitoring Related Terms and Definitions
 - b. Appendix II IOTC Electronic Monitoring Programme Standards
 - c. Appendix III IOTC EMS and Data Standards.
58. The CoC20 **ACKNOWLEDGED** the hard work of the EMS Working Group in providing the draft before the deadline given to it.
59. The CoC20 **NOTED** the importance of EMS as an option for improving data collection.
60. The CoC20 **NOTED** the following comments from CPCs:

- a. The requirement of Res.22/04 “To ensure the minimum mandatory ROS data reporting standards are met, the EMS may be complemented by port sampling and/or other Commission approved data collection methods” (para. 5) is too burdensome given the current technological capability of EM, and as such may disincentivize CPCs to implement the EMS for the improvement of their data collection.
- b. Some CPCs have 30 per cent coverage with EMS, whereas observer coverage is only mandated at 5 per cent.
- c. Commission Decision ([IOTC-2019-S23-R_Rev1](#)) does require IOTC Secretariat approval of each CPC’s observer scheme. The proposed EMS standards include a requirement of accreditation by the IOTC Secretariat to align with the observer program requirements.
- d. Standards could apply simply to electronic monitoring instead of to an electronic monitoring system.
- e. In the future, Resolution 22/04 may be amended to include coverage by EM, but this is a different issue to the minimum standards.
- f. The adoption of minimum standards could provide reassurance to CPCs currently developing electronic monitoring that their system would be in line with IOTC standards.
- g. A CPC raised concern of the cost-effectiveness and the additional burden of using EMS in small vessels.

61. The CoC20 **NOTED** that EMS implementation could assist CPCs meet or increase their observer coverage rates.
62. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the EM standards in no way oblige CPCs to substitute their current observer schemes with an EMS, but will guide those CPCs who are intending to meet or increase their compliance with mandatory data requirements through EM.
63. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the EM standards had already been endorsed by the Scientific Committee.
64. The CoC20 **NOTED** that there is still time for technical discussions before approval by the Commission (S27).
65. The CoC20 **NOTED** reservations from CPCs on the need for approval of the country’s EMS national plan by the IOTC Secretariat.
66. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the fields in the information from the Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) had passed through the Scientific Committee and **FURTHER NOTED** that the EMS is a tool for the provision of information to the ROS.

Recommendation/s

67. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission further discuss document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-15](#) and Proposal H which provides the minimum standards for those CPCs wishing to institute electronic monitoring, noting the comments from a CPC.
68. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that once the EM standards are adopted and a CPC institutes an EMS, the way the EMS would be counted for the observer coverage of the CPC even when the EMS does not provide all the mandatory data requirements for the regional observer scheme, should be further discussed.

9. PROPOSAL TO AMEND APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE (TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE)

69. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-13](#) prepared by the European Union, that presents a proposal to amend Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.
70. The CoC20 **NOTED** the feedback provided by different CPCs on the draft proposal:
 - a. that the category “capacity building in progress” may serve to improve the compliance rates of the CPCs;
 - b. that consideration be given to the difficulties and work required for gathering data for coastal artisanal fisheries; and
 - c. that the proposed changes would be made to the 2022 Rules of Procedure.

71. The CoC20 **NOTED** endorsement of the European Union’s proposal by the majority of CPCs, and **FURTHER NOTED** that one CPC had sent comments in writing that would be incorporated into the proposal tabled at the Commission (S27).
72. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** that CPCs provide any additional feedback in writing to the European Union and the IOTC Secretariat before the Session of the Commission (S27).

10. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IOTC CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

10.1. GLOBAL REVIEW OF SELECTED CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

73. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2023–CoC20–03](#), prepared by the IOTC Secretariat, which summarised the level of compliance by CPCs with a number of resolutions adopted by the Commission and **FURTHER NOTED** that the average current level of compliance of the Commission has decreased from 70 percent for 2021, to 65 percent for 2022.
74. The CoC20 **EXPRESSED CONCERN** at the declining level of overall compliance and **URGED** CPCs to set higher targets to improve their rates of compliance.
75. The CoC20 **NOTED** that some of those CPCs whose level of compliance that is lower than the overall average are not present at the Session of the Compliance Committee and **URGED** CPCs to attend its Sessions.
76. The CoC20 **NOTED** that one CPC underlined that some requirements are difficult to implement, and **FURTHER NOTED** that compliance might be increased if the requirements were made easier while giving due consideration not to undermine the functionality of the Commission.
77. The CoC20 **NOTED** that with respect to port State measures in 2022:
- a. Some port States are not providing port inspection reports.
 - b. Some port States are not reporting the change of their designated ports to the IOTC Secretariat.
 - c. Some port States are not inspecting/monitoring at least five per cent of landing and transshipment.
 - d. No port State has reported denial of entry or denial of use of port, and consequently no withdrawal of denial of use of port was reported.
 - e. The e-PSM application is equipped with a tool that allows port States to conduct inspection on board vessels with a tablet-based system and five port States have been trained and provided with tablets, allowing CPCs to comply with the three days’ deadline to submit inspection reports.
78. The CoC20 **NOTED** one CPC’s appeal that there is a need to streamline the reporting requirements of Resolutions 05/03 and 16/11.
79. The CoC20 **NOTED** that some compliance issues are related to the lack of transposition of IOTC Resolutions into national legislation or not providing any legal reference.
80. The CoC20 **NOTED** that CPCs are required to provide legislation to the IOTC Secretariat, but that they are not required to provide translations into English or French, and **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat that they should not be assessed as partially compliant or non-compliant if they do not do so.
81. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the level of submissions of the IOTC reporting requirements has increased with the use of the e-MARIS application.

Recommendation/s

82. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider urging CPCs to attend the Sessions of the Compliance Committee.
83. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider streamlining the reporting requirements of Resolutions 05/03 and 16/11.
84. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider urging CPCs to provide to the Commission, where possible, in one of the two official IOTC languages, copies of laws, regulations and administrative instructions in force (including terms and conditions of flag State Authorisation to Fish having force of law).

85. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider and provide a decision on whether provision of legislation *not* translated into an official IOTC language should render the CPC partially compliant on a particular requirement.
86. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider encouraging CPCs to make use of the e-MARIS application for CoC21, in line with the WPICMM06 recommendation that e-MARIS be made mandatory henceforth ([IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-R](#) para. 95), noting technical difficulties of CPCs that hinder their access to e-MARIS.

10.2. REVIEW OF CPC'S COMPLIANCE REPORTS TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED REPORTS

87. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the assessments of CPCs were based on the following documents relevant to this agenda item, including:
- a. [IOTC-2022-CoC20-CR01-31](#) - CPC-based Compliance Reports
 - b. [IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ01-31](#) - Compliance Questionnaires
 - c. [IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL01-31](#) –Response to Feedback Letters
 - d. [IOTC-2022-CoC20-IR01-31](#) - Implementation Reports
 - e. [IOTC-2023-CoC20-04a](#) - Report on Transshipment Resolution 22/02 – Secretariat's Report
 - f. [IOTC-2023-COC20-04c Rev1](#), – Indonesia's Pilot Project on at-sea transshipments – Secretariat's analysis, [IOTC-2023-CoC20-04c Add1](#) – National Report on Transshipment 2020-2022 from Indonesia and [IOTC-2023-CoC20-04c Add2](#) - Decision Director General of Capture Fisheries No.25 of 2021 about monitors on fishing vessels and fish transporting vessels
 - g. [IOTC-2023-CoC20-05](#) - Implementation of reporting obligations of nominal catch data (IOTC Resolution 18/07)
 - h. [IOTC-2023-CoC20-10 Rev1](#) - Summary of compliance with the drifting fish aggregating devices management plans
 - i. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-10 Rev1](#) - Summary of compliance with the drifting fish aggregating devices management plans
88. The CoC20 **NOTED** the statements on sovereignty from Mauritius and France (OT), which are found in [Appendix 4](#).
89. The CoC20 **NOTED** the final table of assessment of CPCs' compliance presented in [Appendix 7](#).

Compliance Reports

90. The CoC20 **NOTED** comments and commitments from CPCs as summarised in [Appendix 6](#).
91. The CoC20 **AGREED** that there would be no Compliance Report for Eritrea for CoC21.
92. The CoC20 **NOTED** the absence of remarks on the Compliance Reports from India, Oman, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.
93. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the submission of Implementation Report, Compliance Questionnaire and Response to Feedback Letter is not dependent on capacity and **FURTHER NOTED** that India had provided the Implementation Report and the Compliance Questionnaire on the last day of the CoC20 but had not provided a Response to the Feedback Letter as requested.
94. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the final assessment of Iran's compliance report will be adjusted based on Iran's comments provided on 7 April 2023, taking into consideration the difficulties in submitting information through e-MARIS.
95. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the vessel on the IOTC IUU Vessel List flagged to Iran is cross-listed from CCAMLR and **FURTHER NOTED** that Iran had submitted all necessary information to CCAMLR, which will consider it in its next Session.
96. The CoC20 **ENCOURAGED** CPCs to look closely at the scope of Resolutions and at the assessment criteria before the WPICMM so comments can be received on the IOTC Secretariat's interpretations.
97. The CoC20 **NOTED** that Oman had not provided the Implementation Report, however Oman had provided the Compliance Questionnaire, and it has also provided the Response to Feedback Letter on the last day of the CoC20.

98. The CoC20 **NOTED** that Oman was unable to provide any explanation on its compliance issues during the discussions and **EXPRESSED CONCERNS** on the willingness of Oman to participate in the work of this Committee.
99. The CoC20 **ACCEPTED** Oman to submit a written statement on the Summary Report on the level of compliance in relation to Oman, a copy of which is provided in [Appendix 9](#), and at the request of the CoC20, Oman was invited by the Chair to make an oral presentation of its written statement.
100. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** CPCs in future to provide their reports in time to allow a better discussion during the annual Sessions of the CoC.
101. The CoC20 **EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERNS** at Oman’s having declined the data compliance support mission offered to it by the IOTC Secretariat, which was requested by the Commission (Communication IOTC2022-217 dated 22 July 2022), since such a mission would have facilitated information-sharing to better understand the development of its fisheries, considering the relevant increase of yellowfin tuna catches reported to IOTC in 2020 onwards.
102. The CoC20 **NOTED** that Oman reiterated that in communication sent in 25 August 2022 to IOTC Secretariat provided the reasons to decline such an offer, and presented a Summary table with the reported catches of yellowfin tuna by the largest harvesters showing that there have been across the last years other CPCs who also reported significant increases of catches in short periods of time. Furthermore Oman has stated in the aforementioned letter that the increase of reported catches of yellowfin tuna in 2020 onwards is due largely to improved data collection, as was reported by Oman, and reflected in page 54 of the Report of CoC19 ([IOTC-2022-CoC19-R](#)). However, two CPCs expressed concerns on this, considering the local consumption, fleet size and export data.
103. The CoC20 **NOTED** with concerns that some CPCs were not available for comment on their Compliance Reports.
104. The CoC20 **NOTED** that some CPCs had found that e-MARIS had contributed to improved submissions and compliance levels.

Implementation Report

105. The CoC20 **NOTED** that six CPCs (Eritrea, Oman, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen) did not submit an Implementation Report, four CPCs submitted incomplete reports.
106. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the late publication of the Bigeye Tuna Statistical Reports on imports resulted in difficulties for some CPCs in completing the Annual Reports in time.
107. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the import data is aggregated, which makes it difficult for CPCs to search for the export certificates.
108. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat provide the Bigeye Tuna Statistical Reports on imports at least 20 working days before the deadline for the Bigeye Tuna Annual Report and that these data be made available or provided to the concerned CPCs in a disaggregated form.

Compliance Questionnaire

109. The CoC20 **NOTED** that four CPCs (Eritrea, Pakistan, Sudan, Yemen) did not submit a Compliance Questionnaire and that 25 CPCs submitted an incomplete Questionnaire.

Response to Feedback Letter – S17

110. The CoC **NOTED** that five CPCs (Eritrea, India, Pakistan, Sudan, Yemen) did not submit responses to the Feedback Letter, and that two CPCs submitted incomplete ones, and **FURTHER NOTED** that two CPCs were not issued with a Feedback Letter in 2022.

Record of Authorised Vessels (Resolution 19/04)

111. The CoC20 **NOTED** that mandatory information regarding IMO numbers, beneficial owners, companies and pictures of vessels were all compliance issues.
112. The CoC20 **NOTED** the importance of pictures in identifying a suspect vessel.
113. The CoC20 **NOTED** that some vessels do not have an end date to their period of authorisation and **REQUESTED** CPCs to review their vessels’ dates of authorisation.

114. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat provide a report on compliance with dates of authorisation to CoC21.

Reporting of mandatory statistics (Resolutions 15/02, 17/05 & 18/07)

115. The CoC20 **NOTED** at the recurrent low level of compliance with Resolution 15/02 (catch statistics on IOTC species) and Resolution 17/05 (catch statistics on sharks).

116. The CoC20 **NOTED** the continued low level of compliance with size frequency and catch and effort data requirements and **REQUESTED** CPCs to write to the IOTC Secretariat with the difficulties they encounter in gathering the required data for discussion at the WPICMM.

117. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-05](#) - Implementation of reporting obligations of nominal catch data (IOTC Resolution 18/07).

118. The CoC20 **NOTED** that only sixteen CPCs had submitted a catch matrix fully compliant with the requirements of IOTC Resolutions 18/07.

119. The CoC20 **NOTED** that three CPCs had submitted a catch matrix although in a format not in full accordance with the requirements of IOTC Resolutions 18/07.

120. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the Commission may consider invoking Resolution 18/07 prohibiting a CPC from retaining catches if catch data is not provided.

On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence -official fishing logbooks (Resolution 15/01)

121. The CoC20 **NOTED** nine CPCs were partially compliant and four CPCs were non-compliant.

122. The CoC20 **NOTED** that some CPCs have not provided the official template for vessels less than 24m LOA but have declared catches for these fisheries.

123. The CoC20 **NOTED** that some CPCs are not introducing logbooks for artisanal vessels and **FURTHER NOTED** that catch data is collected by sampling at landing sites.

124. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the difficulties with regards to the requirement of logbooks for artisanal vessels under Resolution 15/01 will be discussed by the Commission (S27).

On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence and list of vessels having fished for yellowfin tuna in 2022 (Resolution 21/01)

125. The CoC20 **NOTED** that four CPCs were partially compliant and five CPCs were non-compliant.

126. The CoC20 **NOTED** that some CPCs had reported no vessels for coastal/artisanal fisheries, but had a history of catching yellowfin tuna.

127. The CoC20 **NOTED** that some CPCs are facing difficulties in providing the full list of vessels fishing for yellowfin tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence for coastal fisheries where vessels are numerous, small or do not have official registration numbers.

128. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the European Union's updated data for yellowfin tuna is important for stock assessment and **REQUESTED** the European Union provide the information in 2023 in time to allow for updated estimates.

129. The CoC20 **NOTED** Indonesia's commitment to provide data to the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics in November 2023 and **REQUESTED** Indonesia to provide the yellowfin tuna data for the Working Party on Tropical Tunas.

130. The CoC20 **NOTED** the update from the European Union on its internal review of the nominal catch data for 2018 and **FURTHER NOTED** that the EU internal analysis is almost finalised. The European Union informed the CoC20 that the relevant flag State has conducted a thorough cross-check of available data (including catch and landing declarations, sales notes, export certificates and physical inspections of containers upon arrival systematically, taking as final data the highest catch level). During this exercise of cross-checks, an over declaration of bigeye tuna by some vessels was identified. Those vessels have been sanctioned in accordance with the EU regulation on the matter and the data were corrected to compensate for this bias. The European Union has committed to providing an update on the conclusions of the analysis including the decision on the revisions to the catch data by the end of 2023.

Recommendation/s

131. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider returning to review the Compliance Reports of CPCs who had not attended the preceding Session of the Compliance Committee and who are present at the Commission's Session.

10.3. INDONESIA'S PILOT PROJECT ON AT-SEA TRANSSHIPMENTS

132. The CoC20 **NOTED** documents [IOTC-2023-COC20-04c Rev1](#), – Indonesia's Pilot Project on at-sea transshipments – Secretariat's analysis, [IOTC-2023-CoC20-04c Add1](#) – National Report on Transshipment 2020-2022 from Indonesia and [IOTC-2023-CoC20-04c Add2](#) - Decision Director General of Capture Fisheries No.25 of 2021 about monitors on fishing vessels and fish transporting vessels.

133. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the IOTC Secretariat's analysis had concluded that, regarding the standards (administrative and operational requirements) of the Pilot Project, as implemented by Indonesia: seven items do not meet these, six items meet them partially and five items meet them fully.

134. The CoC20 **NOTED** that some CPCs have banned transshipment at sea because of the dangers with respect to IUU fishing and **FURTHER NOTED** that multiple extensions of two years had already been given for the Pilot Project.

135. The CoC20 **NOTED** that it still had no reassurance to date that Indonesia's transshipment at sea Pilot Project meets the standards of the IOTC Regional Observer Programme (ROP) and **EXPRESSED CONCERN** that Indonesia's project does not fully meet the standards applied to the IOTC ROP.

136. The CoC20 **NOTED** that IOTC has a Memorandum of Understanding with CCSBT under the ROP which is not complied with as it does not include Indonesia's Pilot Project and **FURTHER NOTED** that Indonesia does not have a similar pilot project approved with CCSBT.

137. The CoC20 **NOTED** that Indonesia had improved on a number of aspects between 2021 and 2022.

138. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the Pilot Project is a way to understand the difficulties and to rectify the issues in the project before being fully implemented.

139. The CoC20 **NOTED** support from several CPCs for the extension of the Pilot Project for another two years on condition that it provide information to the IOTC Secretariat, there be a vision as to when and how it might be integrated into the IOTC ROP, and that there be an independent assessment of the project, while other CPCs have expressed strong hesitation to renew it.

140. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the quantities transhipped by Indonesia under its Pilot Project is significant and exceed the quantities transhipped by some CPCs under the IOTC ROP.

141. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** Indonesia to work closely with the IOTC Secretariat and provide the following information: quantities transhipped in 2021 and 2022 by species, a plan on how to improve their project, terms of reference for the Pilot Project and additional written comments on IOTC Secretariat's assessment.

Recommendation/s

142. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** Indonesia to include in its request to extend the Pilot Project a vision as to when and how it might be integrated into the IOTC ROP, and that there be an independent assessment of the project for presentation to the Compliance Committee in 2025.

11. REVIEW OF INFORMATION RELATED TO IUU FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

143. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-08 Rev1](#), providing information on two vessels that were temporarily flagged to Panama, five vessels flagged to Sri Lanka and one flagged to India.

144. The CoC20 **NOTED** the statements on sovereignty from Mauritius, France (OT) and the United Kingdom, which are found in [Appendix 4](#).

Vessels HONGDONGFISHERY 12 & LEXMAR009

145. The CoC20 **NOTED** that France (OT) was satisfied with the answer provided by Panama.

IMUL-A-0680-CHW; IMUL-A-1853-MTR; and SUBASHI DUWA 1

146. The CoC20 **NOTED** that Sri Lanka had instituted a project on installation of VMS for all vessels that have capacity and **FURTHER NOTED** that VMS is made compulsory for those vessels and are inspected in port before departure.

147. The CoC20 **NOTED** that that the three-quarters of the VMS installation project is completed and it has decided to enforce the IOTC VMS Regulation 15/03 from 1 June 2023.

IMUL-A-2044-MTR (NATALIA) & IMUL-A-0869-CHW (HOLLY TRINITY)

148. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the United Kingdom considers that Sri Lanka has taken appropriate action against IMUL-A-2044-MTR (NATALIA) and has initiated an investigation against IMUL-A-0869-CHW (HOLLY TRINITY). Pending the outcome for the latter, the United Kingdom will consider the need to resubmit this vessel to CoC21.

IND-TN-15-MM-9070 (AVE MARIYA)

149. The CoC20 **NOTED** that AVE MARIYA, though on the IOTC List of IUU Vessels, was found to be fishing in contravention of IOTC Resolution 18/03.

150. The CoC20 **NOTED** that India is gathering information from the concerned State governments, on the action taken on the IUU vessel AVE MARIYA and the same shall be shared with the IOTC in the intersessional period.

151. The CoC20 **NOTED** the concerns of several CPCs regarding the lack of control that India exerts on its fishing vessels in order to prevent them from engaging in illegal fishing activities, and that the lack of control in this instance undermines the effectiveness of measures adopted by the Commission, including Resolution 18/03.

152. The CoC20 **EXPRESSED CONCERN** that India had not responded to the United Kingdom's requests for information and cooperation to date and was still unable to provide further information to the CoC20.

153. The CoC20 **NOTED** that India will provide information on actions it is taking against the AVE MARIYA to the Commission (S27).

154. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-08a](#) on vessels in transit prepared by the United Kingdom.

12. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT 2023 ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED VESSELS LIST – RESOLUTION 18/03

155. The CoC20 **NOTED** the information provided in documents [IOTC-2023-CoC20-09](#) the IOTC Draft IUU vessels list, [IOTC-2023-CoC20-09 Add1](#) additional information from the United Kingdom, [IOTC-2023-CoC20-09 Add2](#) an information update request from Cameroon, and [IOTC-2023-CoC20-09 Add3](#) providing additional information from Sri Lanka, which will assist it in its deliberations for recommending a Provisional IUU Vessels List for consideration by the Commission (S27).

156. The CoC20 **NOTED** the statements on sovereignty from Mauritius and France (OT), which are to be found in [Appendix 4](#).

157. The CoC20 **NOTED** that 11 vessels flagged to India were provided by the United Kingdom for inclusion in the IOTC Provisional IUU List and **FURTHER NOTED** that neither the United Kingdom nor the IOTC Executive Secretary have received any information from India with regards to actions taken against these vessels, as required by Resolution 18/03.

158. The CoC20 **AGREED** that the vessels flagged to India in document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-09](#) be placed on the Provisional List of IUU Vessels for consideration by the Commission (S27).

159. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** India:

- a. engages collaboratively with UK to tackle IUU fishing by its flagged vessels, and reports the details to the CoC21 on measures taken;
- b. noting the verbal assertion of India at CoC19 and S26 in 2022 to strengthen India's monitoring capability, India provides evidence to the CoC21 of the measures undertaken;
- c. in the absence of adequate controls to date, that among the actions taken by India against the vessels reported to it for IUU, it installs VMS on those vessels and that India provides a plan for VMS installation to the Compliance Committee within six months of CoC20 and a progress report to the CoC21; and
- d. implements an educational programme for fishermen in Tamil Nadu and report on the outcomes to the CoC21.

160. The CoC20 **NOTED** that four vessels flagged to Sri Lanka were provided by the United Kingdom for potential inclusion in the IOTC Provisional IUU Vessel List in document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-09](#) and **FURTHER NOTED** the excellent cooperation between the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka to combat IUU fishing in the IOTC Area of Competence.

161. The CoC20 **NOTED** that adequate sanctions had been applied against the three vessels, IMUL-A-0235-KLT (SAMPATH), IMUL-A-0704-NBO and IMUL-A-0947-CHW (HANSAYA 3), so these vessels should not be placed on the Provisional List of IUU Vessels.

162. The CoC20 **NOTED** that not all actions had been completed against IMUL-A-2159-CHW (SANJANA PUTHA) and **AGREED** that the vessel be included in the Provisional List of IUU Vessels and to recommend to the Commission that the vessel will not be included in the final IUU Vessel List.

HE LI 1 HAO, flag unknown

163. The CoC20 **NOTED** that one vessel in [IOTC-2023-CoC20-09](#), of unknown flag, was provided by Panama for potential inclusion in the IOTC Provisional List of IUU Vessels.

164. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the presumed infraction regarding HE LI 1 HAO refers to fishing in the waters of Oman without authorisation while flagged to Panama.

165. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the vessel had been under administrative sanctions from Panama following a previous infraction in the Pacific Ocean.

166. The CoC20 **AGREED** to include the vessel HE LI 1 HAO in IOTC's Provisional List of IUU Vessels.

EROS DOS

167. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the cross-listed vessel EROS DOS should be removed from the IOTC List of IUU Vessels because it was removed from the NEAFC List in 2022.

ISRAR-1, ISRAR-2 & ISRAR 3

168. The CoC20 **NOTED** that Pakistan was not present in order to confirm that ISRAR-1 has indeed been scrapped.

169. The CoC20 **NOTED** that Oman informed that vessel ISRAR-1 was in Pakistan when deflagged and **FURTHER NOTED** ISRAR-2 and ISRAR-3 appeared to be on their way to Pakistan.

170. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** Oman to provide written answers to the questions raised in response to IOTC Circular 22-042 regarding the ISRAR vessels and **NOTED** that a draft of the letter and supporting documents had been drafted already in September 2022 but had not been submitted, and Oman was **INVITED** to read the contents of this letter and to answer questions raised by some CPCs.

171. The CoC20 **NOTED** also that Oman has sent a communication to the ICCAT Secretariat with copy to the IOTC Secretariat attaching copies of the Certificates of Deletion issued by the Omani Ship Registry.

172. The CoC20 **NOTED** that Oman is not in a position to confirm whether vessels ISRAR 2 and ISRAR 3 were reflagged or indeed scrapped.

173. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the Ministry of Fisheries had investigated ownership and found that the vessels were owned by an Omani company with Chinese and Omani ownership and **FURTHER NOTED** that the company had no other assets than the three vessels.

174. The CoC20 **NOTED** that there is no other beneficial owner of the company under the jurisdiction of Oman that the authorities could pursue.

12.1. VESSELS PROGRESO, SEA VIEW AND SEA WIND

175. The CoC20 **NOTED** the information provided in document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-09 Add2](#), which will assist it in its deliberations on the request to update the information on the flag of three vessels included in the current IOTC IUU Vessels List.

176. The CoC20 **NOTED** that along with its letter requesting an update of information on the flags of three vessels, Cameroon provided Certificates of Deletion for the three vessels, as follows: SEA VIEW and SEA WIND, deleted in October 2019 and PROGRESO, deleted in May 2021.

Recommendation/s

177. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission approve that the vessels included in the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List (Appendix 5) be included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List, except for IMUL-A-2159-CHW (SANJANA PUTHA).

178. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the flag of the three vessels SEA VIEW, SEA WIND and PROGRESO be changed on the IOTC IUU Vessels List from Cameroon to Unknown.

179. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the cross-listed vessel EROS DOS be removed from the IOTC List of IUU Vessels as it has been delisted from NEAFC and subsequently from SEAFO.

13. REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRING INTERSESSIONAL ACTIONS FROM COC19

180. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC–2023–CoC20–14](#), prepared by the IOTC Secretariat, and the progress made in relation to the implementation of the recommendations and requests from CoC19.

181. The CoC20 **NOTED** that all recommendations and requests had been implemented, except the one relating to the removal of vessels with authorisation periods that have elapsed two or more years, pending the roll-out of the online RAV.

182. The CoC20 **NOTED** that no coastal CPC provided their regulation on transit and/or innocent passage, including notice form and contact details, to the IOTC Secretariat during the intersessional period and encouraged coastal CPCs to provide relevant information.

183. The CoC20 **NOTED** that Panama has not responded to the Commission’s invitation to apply for the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party to the IOTC, despite the high number (35) of carrier vessels authorised to participate in the IOTC Regional Observer Programme and **FURTHER NOTED** that the invitation is being passed to the highest level.

184. The CoC20 **AGREED** that documents containing personal data not be published in the public domain, and **NOTED** that alternative means to provide CPCs with these documents need to be explored.

185. The CoC20 **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat send a reminder to CPCs who had not submitted responses to the Feedback Letters of 2022.

186. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC–2023–CoC20–06](#), on the capacity of fishing vessels on the Record of Authorised Vessels.

14. REVIEW OF REQUESTS FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE STATUS OF COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY – APPENDIX III OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE

187. The CoC20 **NOTED** paper [IOTC-2023-CoC20-CNCP01](#) on Liberia’s request for the renewal of its CNCP status.

188. The CoC20 **RECALLED** Liberia confirmed its commitment to respect the Commissions Conservation and Management Measures.

189. The CoC20 **RECALLED** Liberia’s commitment not to engage in harvesting activities but to operate carrier vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence.

190. The CoC20 **AGREED** to support Liberia’s application for CNCP Status.

Recommendation/s

191. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider accepting Liberia’s request to renew its Cooperating non-Contracting Party status.

15. ACTIVITIES BY THE IOTC SECRETARIAT IN SUPPORT OF CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DEVELOPING CPCs (RESOLUTION 16/10)

192. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC–2023–CoC20–11 Rev2](#), prepared by the IOTC Secretariat, which provided information on the activities undertaken by the IOTC Secretariat in support of implementation of CMMs adopted by the IOTC.

193. The CoC20 **NOTED** the continued implementation of capacity building activities by the IOTC Secretariat to improve compliance with CMMs and strengthen the implementation of port State measures and **FURTHER NOTED** the appreciation from CPCs of the IOTC Secretariat’s support activities.

194. The CoC20 **NOTED** the need for data and compliance support missions and **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat to prioritise support upon request to CPCs having greater difficulties.

e-PSM application

195. The CoC20 **NOTED** the implementation of training programmes for port State CPCs, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Resolution 16/11 and the increasing use of the IOTC e-PSM application by port State CPCs.

196. The CoC20 **NOTED** the success of the e-PSM application and **FURTHER NOTED** that the trial period of three years ended in 2019.
197. The CoC20 **NOTED** the cooperation initiative between IOTC and FAO to connect the two PSM information systems (e-PSM and the Global Information Exchange System) and **CONSIDERED** making a recommendation to the Commission (S27) to endorse this initiative.
198. The CoC20 **NOTED** that there would be no additional obligation or cost for port State CPCs using e-PSM and for the IOTC Secretariat in cooperating with the FAO's Global Information Exchange System (GIES).

e-MARIS application

199. The CoC20 **NOTED**, in accordance with the recommendations of CoC15, the progress made by the IOTC Secretariat towards the work related to the development of the e-MARIS application to support the IOTC Compliance process.
200. The CoC20 **CONSIDERED** making a recommendation to the Commission (S27) in accordance with WPICMM06' Recommendation, "The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 consider requesting the IOTC Secretariat to identify, propose and secure financing for the operation and maintenance of the e-MARIS application and the online Record of Authorised Vessels application after the end of the SWIOFish2 project in September 2023, and to keep future sessions of the Compliance Committee informed of progress."
201. The CoC20 **CONSIDERED** making a recommendation to the Commission (S27) on the mandatory use of the e-MARIS application, in accordance with WPICMM06' Recommendation, "The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 consider that e-MARIS is encouraged to be used while continuing to be voluntary for the 2024 campaign leading to Compliance Committee 21 and **FURTHER RECOMMENDED** that the use of e-MARIS become mandatory henceforth."

Online Record of Authorised Vessels

202. The CoC20 **NOTED** that roll-out is planned at the end of June 2023 and that training sessions will be conducted for CPCs having vessels on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.

15.1. PROPOSAL FOR A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION

203. The CoC20 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-07](#) on a proposed cooperation agreement between the IOTC and the Indian Ocean Commission.

Recommendation/s

204. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider requesting the IOTC Secretariat to identify, propose and secure financing for the operation and maintenance of the e-MARIS application and the online Record of Authorised Vessels application after the end of the SWIOFish2 project in September 2023, and to keep future sessions of the Compliance Committee informed of progress.
205. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) endorse the collaboration and exchange of information between the e-PSM and the FAO's Global Information Exchange System.
206. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider that e-MARIS is encouraged to be used while continuing to be voluntary for the 2024 campaign leading to CoC21 and consider that the use of e-MARIS become mandatory henceforth, while recognising that its voluntary nature may be extended if necessary.
207. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider requesting the Executive Secretary sign the draft cooperation agreement between the IOTC and Indian Ocean Commission on behalf of the IOTC.

16. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

208. The CoC20 **NOTED** that the CoC is normally held one week before the meeting of the Commission and **FURTHER NOTED** that the date and venue of the 2024 Commission meeting (S28) will dictate when and where the next Compliance Committee meeting will take place.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

209. There was no other business.

18. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

210. The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from CoC20, provided at [Appendix 10](#).
211. The report of the 20th Session of the Compliance Committee ([IOTC-2023-CoC20-R](#)) was adopted on 4 May 2023.

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APPENDIX 2
ADOPTED AGENDA

Date: 30 April – 02 May and 04 May, 2023

Location: InterContinental Mauritius Resort, Balaclava Fort, Mauritius (Hybrid)

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 hrs

Chairperson: Prof Indra Jaya, **Vice-chairperson:** Mr Zahor El Kharousy

30 April – 2 May

1. Opening of the Session.
2. Letters of Credentials.
3. Admission of Observers.
4. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session.
5. Report of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM06).
 - 5.1 Review the list of Large-Scale Tuna Longline Vessels/carrier vessels presumed to have committed infractions against IOTC CMMs under the at-sea transshipment programme.
 - 5.2 Review of the IOTC Glossary of terms and definitions.
6. Reports of the Working Groups on:
 - 6.1 Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS).
 - 6.2 An IOTC Vessels Monitoring System (VMS).
7. Report on the development of a scheme to operationalise the FAO Voluntary Guideline for Fishing Gears and FADs in the IOTC Area.
8. Review of minimum standards for the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) for purse seine, longline, bait boat (pole and line), handline and gillnet fleets.
9. Proposal to amend Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Compliance Committee).
10. Review of the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) together with associated reports and identification of challenges encountered in the implementation of IOTC CMMs – Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.
 - 10.1 Global review of selected CMMs.
 - 10.2 Review of CPCs Compliance Reports together with associated reports.
 - 10.3 Report on Indonesia's Pilot Project on at sea transshipments and its analysis by the IOTC Secretariat.
11. Review of information related to presumed IUU fishing activities in the IOTC Area of Competence.
12. Review of the Draft IUU Vessels List – Res. 18/03.
13. Review of recommendations requiring intersessional actions, from CoC19.
14. Review of requests for the renewal of the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party - Appendix III of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.
15. Activities by the IOTC Secretariat in support of capacity building for developing CPCs – Res. 16/10.
 - 15.1 Collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission.
16. Date and venue of next meeting.
17. Any Other Business

4 May

18. Adoption of the Report of the 20th Session of the Compliance Committee.

**APPENDIX 3
FINAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

LAST UPDATED: 5 MAY 2023

1. Meeting documents	Title
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-CoC20–04c_Add2	Decision Director General of Capture Fisheries No.25 of 2021 about monitors on fishing vessels and fish transporting vessels
IOTC-2023-CoC20–05	Implementation of reporting obligations of nominal catch data (IOTC Resolution 18/07)
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-CoC20–12_Add1_Rev3	IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Strategy (Including EU MDV MYS JPN Comments)

1. Meeting documents	Title
IOTC-2023-CoC20-12_Add2	Operationalisation of FAO VGMFG in the IOTC Area_EU Comments
IOTC-2023-CoC20-13	Proposal to amend Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (European Union)
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
2. Reference documents	
IOTC Circular 2021-49	Reminder on the Content of IOTC Credentials
IOTC Circular 2023-08	Invitation to the 27 th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission & Associated Meetings
IOTC Circular 2023-17	Matters relating to the 27 th Session of the IOTC (S27) – 60 Days Prior
IOTC-2023-CoC20-Statement-01_MUS	Mauritius Statements under Agenda items 2, 10.2, 11 and 12 of CoC20
IOTC-2023-CoC20-Statement-02_FRA OT	Statement France Territory in response of Mauritius // Declaration France territoires en réponse à Maurice
IOTC-2023-CoC20-Statement-03_UK	Statement United Kingdom in response of Mauritius
3. Reports from other meetings	
IOTC-2022-CoC19-06_Add1	Operationalisation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear in the IOTC Area of Competence
IOTC-2022-CoC19-R	Report of the 19th Session of the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2022-SC25-NR	All National Reports to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2022
IOTC-2022-SC25-R	Report of the 25th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee
IOTC-2023-CDSWG	Reports from meetings of the IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG)
IOTC-2023-VMSWG	Reports from meetings of the IOTC Vessel Monitoring System Working Group (VMSWG)
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-05_Rev1	WPICMM Work Plan ENDORSED by WPICMM06
IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-R	Report of the Sixth Session of the IOTC Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM05)
4. Requests for the Cooperating non-Contracting Party status	Request from
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CNCP01	Liberia CNCP status request
5. Compliance Reports	Members
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

5. Compliance Reports	Members
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
5.1 Compliance Reports	Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CR31	Liberia
6. Implementation Reports	Members
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR01	Australia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR02	Bangladesh
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR03	China
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR04	Comoros
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR05	Eritrea (not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR06	European Union
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR07	France (OT)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR08	India
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR09	Indonesia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR10	Iran, Islamic Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR11	Japan
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR12	Kenya

6. Implementation Reports	Members
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR13	Korea, Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR14	Madagascar
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR15	Malaysia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR16	Maldives
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR17	Mauritius
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR18	Mozambique
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR19	Oman (not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR20	Pakistan (not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR21	Philippines
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR22	Seychelles
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR23	Somalia (not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR24_Rev1	South Africa
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR25	Sri Lanka
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR26	Sudan (Not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR27	Tanzania, United Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR28	Thailand
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR29	United Kingdom
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR30	Yemen (Not submitted)
6.1 Implementation Reports	Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
IOTC-2023-CoC20-IR31	Liberia
7. Compliance Questionnaire	Members
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ01	Australia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ02_Rev1	Bangladesh
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ03	China
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ04	Comoros
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ05	Eritrea (not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ06_Rev1	European Union
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ07	France (OT)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ08	India
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ09	Indonesia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ10	Iran, Islamic Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ11	Japan
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ12	Kenya
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ13	Korea, Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ14	Madagascar
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ15	Malaysia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ16_Rev1	Maldives
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ17_Rev1	Mauritius
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ18	Mozambique
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ19	Oman

7. Compliance Questionnaire	Members
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ20	Pakistan (not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ21	Philippines
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ22_Rev1	Seychelles
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ23	Somalia (not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ24	South Africa
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ25	Sri Lanka
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ26	Sudan (not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ27	Tanzania, United Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ28	Thailand
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ29_Rev1	United Kingdom
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ30	Yemen (not submitted)
7.1 Compliance Questionnaire	Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
IOTC-2023-CoC20-CQ31	Liberia
8. Response to Feedback Letter	Members
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL01	Australia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL02	Bangladesh
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL03	China
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL04	Comoros
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL05	Eritrea (not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL06	European Union
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL07	France (OT) - No Feedback Letter issued in 2022
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL08	India (not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL09	Indonesia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL10	Iran, Islamic Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL11	Japan
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL12	Kenya
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL13	Korea, Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL14	Madagascar
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL15	Malaysia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL16	Maldives
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL17	Mauritius
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL18	Mozambique
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL19	Oman
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL20	Pakistan (not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL21	Philippines
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL22	Seychelles
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL23	Somalia
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL24	South Africa
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL25_Rev1	Sri Lanka
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL26	Sudan (Not submitted)
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL27	Tanzania, United Republic of
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL28	Thailand
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL29	United Kingdom - No Feedback Letter issued in 2021
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL30	Yemen (Not submitted)
8.1 Response to Feedback Letter	Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
IOTC-2023-CoC20-FL31	Liberia - no FL issued in 2022

9. Information Papers	Title
IOTC-2023-CoC20-INF01_Rev1	Information paper to the IOTC Compliance Committee on dFADs
IOTC-2023-CoC20-INF02	Information from Oman to the IOTC Compliance Committee
10. Publications	Title
IOTC CMMs I-Sheets	Conservation and Management Measures implementation sheets / Fiches de mise en œuvre des mesures de conservation et de gestion
IOTC CMMs Manual A	Implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures – Part A - Understanding IOTC and the international fisheries management framework (2022)
IOTC CMMs Manual B	Implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures – Part B - Implementation of IOTC CMMs entailing reporting obligations (2022)
IOTC PSM Guidelines	Guidelines on best practices for interagency cooperation at national level and regional cooperation (2021)
IOTC PSM Manual (2nd edition)	Procedures for the implementation of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Port State Measures (2022)
11. Guidelines	Title
IOTC-Guide-2023_EN	Guide to IOTC data and information reporting requirements (2023)

APPENDIX 4
STATEMENTS ON SOVEREIGNTY

Agenda Item 2: Letters of Credentials

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The long-standing position of the Republic of Mauritius as regards the United Kingdom's purported membership of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission as a "coastal State situated wholly or partly within the Area [of competence of the Commission]" remains unchanged. This is all the more relevant in the context of the decision which the Commission will be taking during its 27th Session in that regard.

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.

Agenda Item 10.2: Review of CPCs Compliance Reports together with associated reports

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius reiterates the statements which it made with regard to the Chagos Archipelago and the Island of Tromelin at the last Session of the Compliance Committee held from 8-10 and 12 May 2022 in Seychelles and which are annexed to the report of that meeting (Document IOTC-2022-CoC19-R[E], Appendix 4).

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.

**Agenda Item 11: Review of information related to presumed IUU fishing activities
in the IOTC Area of Competence**

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius strongly objects to the disclaimer which the IOTC Secretariat has added to the document entitled “Reporting of vessels in transit through BIOT waters for potential breach of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures” (IOTC-2023-CoC20-08a) as it is inconsistent with UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 and the legal advice provided by the FAO Legal Counsel on 6 May 2022 in relation to Agenda item 4 of the 26th Session of the Commission.

In Resolution 73/295, the UN General Assembly has recognized, in accordance with the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 25 February 2019, that as a matter of international law, the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius. It has also called upon the United Nations and all its specialized agencies as well as all other international, regional and intergovernmental organizations to recognize that the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the Republic of Mauritius, to support the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius as rapidly as possible, and to refrain from impeding that process by recognizing, or giving effect to any measure taken by or on behalf of, the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory”.

In her legal advice, the FAO Legal Counsel stated that “the FAO and the Depositary recognize that *“the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius.”*” She also made it clear that the United Kingdom is not entitled to be a member of the IOTC as a coastal State.

Since the United Kingdom is not the coastal State in relation to the Chagos Archipelago and cannot lawfully take any action in respect of the Chagos Archipelago, including reporting on vessels in transit through the waters of the Chagos Archipelago, it would not be appropriate for the Committee to consider the above-mentioned document purportedly submitted by the United Kingdom and for the United Kingdom to be requested to present the document.

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.

Agenda Item 11: Review of the Draft IUU Vessels List – Res. 18/03

Statement by the United Kingdom

'The UK and Mauritius are engaged in constructive negotiations on the exercise of sovereignty of the British Indian Ocean Territory / Chagos Archipelago. These negotiations are continuing.

This is not the appropriate forum or time for a discussion about the UK's coastal State status in the IOTC. To discuss that here would prejudice the outcome of bilateral negotiations which our governments are engaged in.

We look forward to discussing the many important issues on the Compliance Committee agenda and continuing the cooperation that the UK has with CPCs in these areas.

I would be grateful if this statement could be recorded in the meeting report.'

Agenda Item 12: Review of the Draft IUU Vessels List – Res. 18/03

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius reiterates that it does not condone IUU fishing and that it is not opposed to the adoption and implementation of any measure against IUU fishing provided that any such measure is taken or implemented in conformity with international law, including the rights of the Republic of Mauritius under such law.

However, since the Republic of Mauritius is the only State which is lawfully entitled to exercise sovereignty and sovereign rights over the Chagos Archipelago and its maritime zones, it cannot endorse any recommendation for the inclusion on the IOTC IUU Vessels List of vessels reported by the United Kingdom purporting to act as the coastal State in relation to the Chagos Archipelago.

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.

Statement by the Republic of France in response to the statements by the Republic of Mauritius

In response to the statements by the Republic of Mauritius, the Republic of France reiterates the statements which it made with regard to the Island of Tromelin at the last Session of the Compliance Committee held from 8-10 and 12 May 2022 in Seychelles and which are annexed to the report of that meeting (Document IOTC-2022-CoC19-R[E], Appendix 4).

The Republic of France requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.

APPENDIX 5
PROVISIONAL IOTC IUU VESSELS LIST 2 MAY 2023

The complete details of vessels listed are available at the following link:

https://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2023/05/Provisional_IOTC_IUU_Vessels_List_20230502E_F.pdf

APPENDIX 6
STATEMENTS OF COMMITMENTS

CPCs' STATEMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 6 & 8 (2021), AGENDA ITEMS 5 & 7 (2022) AND AGENDA ITEMS 10 & 12 (2023)

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
AUSTRALIA	Australia had not completed the box for other sharks' catch and would ensure the mistake is not repeated.	Australia is committed to improved compliance and is going through a transformative process to modernize its data systems. Consequently, Australia expects that its non-compliant issues will be addressed by the next assessment. Australia shared its experience with electronic monitoring system.	
BANGLADESH	Bangladesh would provide zero catch data from 2022. Have deployed 200 enumerators to coastal zones in 2021 and will provide artisanal catch and effort data from 2022.	Bangladesh is introducing an electronic monitoring system that will improve its compliance with Resolution 15/02; this will be ready by June 2022. It further stated it would submit its zero-catch report in accordance with Resolution 18/07.	Bangladesh commented that it had 196 vessels greater than 24m LOA and 38 vessels lower than 24 m LOA and it had provided a list to the IOTC Secretariat, which was working with Bangladesh on completing the missing information to allow their inclusion as record of active vessels. Bangladesh indicated that it had only been a member since 2018 and it needed some support from the IOTC Secretariat to build capacity and improve performance.
CHINA	China will give serious consideration to attending WPICMM meetings given their involvement in at sea transshipments.	China noted that due to Covid they could not send expert to gather data on size frequency of longliners, whale sharks and seabirds. China did not accept the partially compliant catch reduction assessment. China stated that it would in future report zero interaction on whale sharks and seabirds if that will be the case. China requested that item 2.19 on Resolution 19/01 should not be assessed and there was no objection.	Relating to the requirement for size frequency, China noted that other RFMOs did not assess that requirement that is related to the observer scheme, which itself is not being assessed from 2022. China will make efforts for further improvement

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
COMOROS		Comoros stated that it is drafting a ministerial decree to apply the missing prohibitions (19/03, 18/05, 11/02). Regarding terms and conditions of fishing licences have been submitted so should be compliant for the next year.	Comoros stated that it is drafting a ministerial decree to apply the missing prohibitions (19/03, 18/05, 11/02) and that it would be compliant in these regards for CoC21. Comoros commented it had submitted terms and conditions of fishing licences to the ITOC Secretariat, which should allow for compliance in this regard for CoC21
ERITREA	<i>ABSENT</i>	<i>ABSENT</i> In 2021 Eritrea communicated their decision to leave the organization at the beginning of 2023.	<i>ABSENT</i>
EUROPEAN UNION	<p>The EU had information missing from one purse seiner and would send this information to the Secretariat before the end of the year.</p> <p>The EU had signed an agreement with a private company and it expects to have catch and effort data within the next three months.</p> <p>The EU had signed an agreement with a private company and it expects to have shark data within the next three months.</p> <p>The EU would reach one fish per ton through a data coordination tool and a regional group.</p> <p>The EU have taken note of the missing elements in their FAD Management plan and these will be included in the plan next year.</p>	<p>The European Union noted that it had four fleet segments of four Member States. The EU stated that the discard (1DI) form for the Portuguese segment and the information pertaining to an Italian vessel will be submitted to the IOTC. The EU informed that an internal review of the two different methodologies used to report catch data was being conducted to assess its robustness and completeness. The preliminary internal analysis singled out data inconsistencies between the different methodologies and its conclusions would be made available to the IOTC. In addition to applying common standards, the EU noted that another software version for the reporting of catches was under development. The EU noted its having exceeded the number of active FADs (Resolution 19/02) due to satellite delays, which they found is a satisfactory explanation and noted it has proposed a revised FAD Resolution to address difficulties in its implementation. The EU is investigating the claims of IOTC-2022-CoC19-INF03_Rev2 and IOTC-2022-CoC19-INF04 as to whether the EU fleet is involved in the allegations. The EU shared its experience with its electronic monitoring system.</p>	<p>The EU commented that low rate of compliance for interactions was due to the absence of observers in 2022, and that this will be resolved for CoC21. The EU has been working with Italy regarding missing data since 2017 and will submit the data since 2016, hopefully before 30 June 2023. European Union commented it had instructed their Flag States to submit active FAD data in advance and that it had instructed its vessels to use e-PSM in order to address the erroneous reporting of a transshipment rather than landing. Regarding catch data of 2018, the EU has committed to providing an update on the conclusions of the exercise analysis including the decision on the revisions to the catch data by the end of 2023. The European Union commented that the flag State had applied sanctions amounting to more than EUR 1 million to the vessels where irregularities were found in the reporting</p>

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
FRANCE (TOM)		<i>No non-compliance issue.</i>	<i>No non-compliance issue.</i>
INDIA	India will continue to liaise with Secretariat on the more than 700 vessels identified as suspected of being unauthorised.	India submitted missing photographs for its vessels on the RAV and the response to the feedback letter on the second day of The CoC20 meeting. India would be providing explanations on different issues in the forthcoming response to feedback letter. India stated it had practical problems with catch & effort and size frequency data for coastal fisheries. India presented a request to consider factors relating to nominal catch, catch & effort and size frequency. India would provide its arguments relating to the assessment by the IOTC Secretariat in its response to the Feedback Letter in a timely manner so the CoC may consider the arguments formally. Regarding VMS, India had requested special consideration; the fleet has been instructed to install VMS and it should be complied with by the next assessment. Regarding Resolutions 18/03 and 07/01 three vessels are on the provisional IUU vessel list and they have applied sanctions against those IUU vessels owner. India will share the action taken report by the last day of The CoC20. India	India will submit its missing mandatory information during the CoC20 meeting. India will submit data relating to Resolution 15/02 by the deadline of 30 June 2023. India will be submitting Implementation Report, Compliance Questionnaire and Feedback Letter
INDONESIA	Indonesia is updating its regulation to make it obligatory to provide catch & effort data and because of budgetary and staffing constraints will concentrate on logbooks for this data. Indonesia will consult the Secretariat and provide information to the Secretariat on the pilot project so the CoC can make a decision on its integration into the regional observer programme. Indonesia will provide comments on the EU's draft changes to Appendix V of the Rules of Procedure, in writing.	Indonesia stated that they are increasing the coverage of logbooks (electronic and simplified). Prohibition to retain billfishes 18/05 is still not incorporated into national legislation. Regarding IUU listing and compliance by nationals (18/03 & 17/01) Indonesia stated the actions taken and requested removal of vessel SAMUDERA PACIFIK No 18 from the IUU list. Indonesia is transforming the format of its observer reports (R19/06 & 21/01) so will be in a position to submit observer reports from its pilot project next year. To delete the vessel from	Indonesia is collecting missing information for the Record relating to Resolution 19/04. Indonesia will increase observer and logbook coverage. Indonesia will provide catch estimates to WP Data Collection and Statistics. Indonesia is in the process of applying for IMO numbers for those vessels this is missing.

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
		the IOTC's IUU Vessel List, Indonesia will complete the process for delisting its vessel KM.SAMUDERA PASIFIK NO.18 in ICCAT.	
IRAN		Iran stated that it was not possible to mark gears on some artisanal fisheries (Resolution 19/04). Regarding size frequency (R15/02) Iran had reported on coastal, gill net, longline and purse seine fisheries and regarding sharks (R17/05) since they are prohibited they are caught accidentally and released alive. Iran stated that it was going to train port samplers for length frequency of billfish (R18/05). FAO Guidelines (R12/04) are being translated into Persian and Iran has a national plan of action for turtles. Iran stated it had a plan for full implementation of VMS (R15/03), but due to international sanctions the project is stalled.	Iran has not provided size frequency for sharks in accordance with Resolution 17/05 because sharks are not retained on board and in addition the observer programme was not operational in 2021. Iran expects to complete provision of IMO numbers for all of its eligible vessels by 2024. Iran requested support from the IOTC Secretariat to improve its rate of compliance.
JAPAN	Japan had submitted less than one fish per ton only for bycatch species (marlins) and they will review their collection of data to improve this reporting.	Japan stated that size frequency for sharks (R17/05) of longline and purse seine fisheries was not totally covered in the past because observers were concentrated in tuna fisheries; in 2020 Covid affected the dispatch of observers, which should be resolved in the future. Japan will renew all its licences in May 2022 so in June all the necessary information shall be provided in accordance with R19/04. Japan shared its experience with electronic monitoring system.	Japan indicated that for the 2022 assessment it will have fielded observers so the reporting of size frequency data for LL fisheries including for sharks should be improved for CoC21. Japan stated that the human error regarding transshipment report and e-PSM should not be repeated for CoC21.
KENYA		Kenya stated that since the Kenya Fisheries Act and the creation of the Kenya Fisheries Service, the Director General was only nominated in 2020 and it is undergoing restructuring, recruitment and training of personnel. Kenya acknowledged the support given by the Secretariat on compliance. Covid affected data collection. Kenya hopes to submit the Scientific Report and the response to the Feedback Letter within the period of The CoC20 meeting. The 6 purse seine vessels in the RAV did	Kenya has in the past collected data through a catch survey but it's also currently investigating implementation of continuous sampling during the peak season for tuna and tuna-like species resulting in more accurate reporting. Kenya has deployed 350 new staff to allow for disaggregated species reporting and has invited the IOTC Secretariat's data section for support. Kenya will issue new Gazette notices to address the various prohibitions that are still pending.

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
		not fish in 2021 and they were also not licensed nor flagged by Kenya in 2021. Kenya committed to sending the response to Feedback Letter within the period of The CoC20 meeting.	
KOREA	Korea would ensure training and recruitment of observers to reach the 5% threshold. Korea will provide comments on EU's draft changes to Appendix V of the Rules of Procedure in writing to EU.	Republic of Korea will put every effort now that Covid is over to become compliant on data requirements (R15/02 & R17/05).	Korea is undertaking a review on shark data and will inform the IOTC Secretariat when this is finalized, Korea is training staff to enhance its compliance level.
MADAGASCAR		Madagascar thanked the Secretariat for the support given and committed to improve compliance. Regarding R15/02 & R17/05 Madagascar has a pilot project on data collection for the artisanal fleet	Madagascar cited difficulties in sampling tuna fisheries and the institutional changes (statistical section transferred) and reduced budgets that caused difficulties in gathering data and invite the IOTC Secretariat and other entities or CPCs to assist on this matter. Madagascar will send an update of the licence to fish annually as it changes every year.
MALAYSIA	Malaysia had difficulties in reaching one fish per ton because their catch had increased to 11,000 ton and had submitted data from 10cm whereas the requirement is 5cm, and Malaysia will resubmit the data.	Malaysia commented that there have changes in staffing and that IOTC species comprise only ten per cent of their catches. In 2018 Malaysia started EMS to address problems with posting observers.	Malaysia will submit size-frequency data in 2023.
MALDIVES	Maldives had missed out "Others" in the zero catch matrix and would provide a corrected sheet before the end of the Compliance Committee meeting. Maldives would report on its pilot electronic monitoring system to the next Compliance Committee meeting. Maldives will provide comments on EU's draft changes to Appendix V of the Rules of Procedure in writing to EU shortly after the CoC meeting.	Maldives commented that though there are 1021 on the RAV, in actual all but about 350 of those are only there from requirements from market states. VMS should be installed on all eligible vessels by the end of 2022. Maldives is ready to work with the Secretariat to improve size frequency and catch & effort data. Maldives will endeavour to report on transshipments and inspection report. Maldives will engage with the Secretariat to complete its information in the RAV. Maldives request a compliance support mission from the Secretariat. Maldives reported that EMS covered 15 vessels and a further five units vessels would be covered	Maldives does not have disaggregated billfish data for 2021 but had completed the zero catch matrix for this group and weaknesses in Record of Authorised Vessels data elements have been addressed by the removal of inactive vessels from the Record. Maldives will increase the number of samplers in order to improve the compliance with regards to the one fish per tonne size frequency sampling requirement. Maldives declared that the human error regarding what should have been a nil report for discards will not be repeated for CoC21.

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
MAURITIUS		<p>Mauritius commented that it is difficult for Mauritius to measure one fish per tonne. Mauritius stated that it had submitted size frequency data on sharks on some fisheries. Mauritius declared that it was not subject to catch reductions so should be judged compliant. Mauritius declared that the section that was not completed in the Implementation Report because one of the sections was inappropriate. Mauritius declared that in fact it does not actually have a CPC-to-CPC agreement with Japan as declared in the implementation Report so requests compliance in this regard. Thus 2.15 and 3.10 would be reassessed. Mauritius declared that they have contacted operators and taken actions to limit the number of FADs active.</p>	<p>Mauritius commented that it was difficult for Mauritius to measure one fish per tonne because Mauritius flagged Purse seiners unloaded mostly in Seychelles.</p> <p>With regard to the Resolution on large scale driftnets, as per para 1 of RES 17/07, this resolution applies to vessels registered on IOTC RAV that use driftnets. So this Resolution should not be applicable to Mauritius.</p> <p>Mauritius declared that the Implementation Report was not completed because the Bigeye Annual report was not submitted before the deadline.</p> <p>The list of artisanal boats fishing for Yellowfin was not submitted as these boats are of 6-8 metres that do not appear on RAV and do not have a name but have registration numbers. It was also pointed out that these boats do not fish exclusively on FADs. As proposed by the IOTC Secretariat, Mauritius may provide the list of boats with registration numbers instead of the vessel name.</p> <p>With regard to seabirds, this should be assessed not applicable as our vessels did not go beyond 25 deg South in 2021.</p> <p>PIRs for the 5% coverage of monitoring of LAN/TRX were not completed and will be sent shortly.</p>
MOZAMBIQUE		<p>Mozambique commented that it is in the final stages of restructuring the ministry responsible for fisheries and MCS. The restructuring and Covid have affected Mozambique's compliance. Mozambique commits to submitting the Scientific Report for 2020 to the Secretariat during the present session. Welcome support from the Secretariat. Request that IOTC Secretariat consider the recently submitted terms & conditions for tuna licences. The main area that requires support from the IOTC Secretariat is that of data reporting.</p>	<p>Mozambique had conducted a national artisanal fisheries census in 2022 with a view to being able to improve sampling and data collection. Mozambique will follow the national scientific report more closely in future. Mozambique will liaise with the IOTC Secretariat with a view to removing vessels under 24m that do not have to be there, if it had not been for pressure from market States.</p> <p>Mozambique further informs CoC that it has not implemented logbooks on artisanal fishers due to</p>

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
			small size and no registration numbers, however, it is implementing sampling system.
OMAN	<p>Oman stated that the artisanal fleets are operating mainly within the EEZ and further state that they are at present developing a programme to differentiate those fishing for tuna and those fishing other species by having separate licences.</p> <p>Longline data should be included in the data with the next submission.</p> <p>Oman would try to improve their logbook collection and will provide the zero catch matrix as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Oman commented that the pandemic affected compliance and the team dealing with IOTC reports was shifted to another department. Oman commits to improving its compliance with requirements. Oman stated that some IOTC Resolutions are not transposed into its national law, but they have included requirements in the terms and conditions of licences. Oman is implementing VMS and will solve the logbook issue. Sharp increases in the yellow fin catch corresponds to improved data collection and increased catches from the artisanal sector. . Oman would provide further information on vessels ISRAR 1, ISRAR2 and ISRAR3.</p>	<p>Oman's reduced rate of compliance for CoC20 is mainly due to movement of staff from the section responsible for compliance. A specific task force for IOTC matters has been created to improve compliance. Oman has already provided response to the CoC19 Feedback Letter by 3 May 2023, also a written statement on the summary report on level of compliance. Oman commits to providing the Implementation and National Scientific Reports before end of 2023.</p>
PAKISTAN	<p>Pakistan stated that from next year (2022) it will be able to submit data according to IOTC standards, with the assistance of the FAO and WWF.</p>	<i>ABSENT</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>
PHILIPPINES		<p>Philippines commented that it had not had an active vessel since 2018, therefore they have not updated their vessel records in the RAV. Philippines has drafted a fisheries administrative order available for public consultation that covers sharks, marine mammals and sea turtles. Philippines has a plan of action in order to monitor catches of blue shark. House of Representatives approved a shark</p>	<p>Philippines will be submitting a new list of authorized vessels to the IOTC Secretariat. Philippines can only provide BET import data but will update legislation and regulations to allow for traceability of BET exports.</p>

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
		conservation and regulation act. Philippines commented that reporting on catches of billfishes is being reported to WCPFC but not to IOTC because it has no active vessel. Philippines has no further information on compliance by nationals since the vessel was no longer flagged to Philippines. Philippines is in the process of verifying its bigeye tuna imports from Japan. Philippines has not implemented an electronic monitoring system to date but are open to do so.	
SEYCHELLES	Seychelles will liaise with the Data Section of the Secretariat for improving its catch and effort data. Seychelles had introduced a requirement that vessels advise on their port entry so staff can be present outside working hours to sample their catches, with the aim of reaching at least one fish per ton, for size frequency. Seychelles would ensure that purse seine fleet report weight of shark rather than numbers. Seychelles would present findings on electronic monitoring systems to the next Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch.	Seychelles commented that the difficulties of compliance have been due to the internal restructuring. Some information such as 19/02 FAD management plan, has been submitted. Corrective actions 21/01 were not included in the IR that was an oversight. Reports for BET annual report, at-sea transshipments and in port transshipments have now been submitted. Has challenges regarding beneficial owners. Regarding 16/11 Seychelles will submit further reports and believe they will be compliant. Seychelles is in the process of implementing EMS and ERS from 2019, which if proved successful, full implementation will be considered.	Seychelles implemented corrected action during 2022 to address the yellowfin tuna overcatch recorded by its longline fleet in the IOTC Resolution 19/01. Seychelles will ensure they will provide information on corrective actions regarding Resolution 21/01 in future. Seychelles will provide information for coastal fisheries and longline fisheries to IOTC standards by June 2023. The backlog of reporting with respect to Resolution 19/02 will be submitted by the third quarter of 2023. Seychelles has suffered challenges in size frequency sampling and it is improving port sampling to address this issue
SOMALIA	<i>ABSENT</i>	Somalia committed to submitting the response to the Feedback Letter by 15 May 2022. Somalia requested a side meeting on how to improve compliance. Somalia has established a fisheries monitoring centre.	<i>ABSENT</i>
SOUTH AFRICA	<i>ABSENT</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>	<p><u>Record of Authorised Vessels</u></p> <p>South Africa has revised its list of authorised vessels and the same was transmitted to the IOTC Secretariat. IOTC Secretariat has confirmed that the current list provided conforms to the IOTC standards.</p> <p><u>Discards</u></p> <p>Just for the record, South Africa has provided all the data with respect to the discards and the</p>

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
			<p>transmitted data conform to IOTC standards. It should be noted that as the 1DI form does not have enough columns and the excel was locked, we were not able to add more columns. In light of this and through no fault of our own, South Africa was forced to submit this information using multiple forms.</p> <p>Noting that all the information was submitted and South Africa has fully complied and further noting that our responses were provided after 15 days deadline has elapsed, South Africa would kindly request that its assessment be changed to fully compliant.</p> <p><u>Logbooks</u> This was an oversight from the staff responsible for reporting, for the record, there are only two fishing sectors harvesting tuna and tuna like resources in South Africa and these are Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line. Suffice to say, we have provided logbooks for both.</p> <p>Noting the response provided, South Africa would kindly request that its assessment be changed to fully compliant.</p> <p><u>Size Frequency</u> The requirement for South Africa is to measure 1 fish for every ton caught. Sometimes due to low observer coverage, we may not get the Length Frequencies. It's a relatively very minor issue. Noting that South Africa has increased its observer coverage, it is envisaged that going forward this should not be an issue.</p> <p><u>BET Statistical Programme</u> It was a case of using a wrong template to report the 1st Semester 2022 BET report, the annual report template report has been used instead of the semester report template, which has different</p>

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
			<p>IOTC standard. We've engaged the IOTC Secretariat on this and will send the revised data soonest.</p> <p>Inspection in port and e-PSM</p> <p>This was just a misunderstanding of the Resolutions, 05/03 and 16/11. Noting that the requirement for Resolution 05/03 has different IOTC standard than Resolution 16/11 and the year reporting on are also different for the two requirements. This causes so much confusion and South Africa is of the view that this not affects South Africa but other CPCs as well. South Africa find these two Resolutions to be a bit cumbersome as literally, you're reporting the same thing for two years. As duly noted in the study re Developing a comprehensive MCS system and an electronic Catch Documentation Scheme for IOTC that while Resolution 16/11 largely overlaps with Resolution 05/03, Resolution 05/03 is not referenced in the preamble of Resolution 16/11.</p> <p>South Africa is of the view that there is a need to streamline these two Resolutions.</p>
SRI LANKA		<p>Sri Lanka with regard to 15/02 and 17/05 that a resubmission was requested and done to the IOTC Secretariat. On 18/07 Sri Lanka has corrected the data by resubmitting data on the correct form. Regarding 17/07 Sri Lanka has only banned gillnets on the high seas; for the EEZ, is prohibited in the conditions of the fishing licence, and a new regulation will be published in 2022. On 19/04 Sri Lanka is obtaining the radio call signs for vessels and for 2022 onwards Sri Lanka will be able to provide all information on beneficial owners, and only 2 per cent of vessels are owned by companies. Sri Lanka has sent several batches of photographs to the IOTC Secretariat that have yet to be published on the web site. Regarding 18/03 & 07/01 trial date has been postponed twice due to the Covid situation, Sri</p>	<p>Sri Lanka will increase the compliance rate further by addressing the past issues relating to the list of active vessels (Resolution 10/08), missing information on the RAV (Resolution 19/04) and size frequency (Resolution 15/02). Sri Lanka had difficulties in reaching the target of one fish per tonne and has now increased its staff. Sri Lanka is still undertaking legal proceedings against the three vessels on the IOTC List of IUU Vessels.</p>

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
		Lanka commits to report updates intersessionally on the progress of the legal action. Sri Lanka had not understood how to complete the BET annual report, has benefited from some training and will be able to submit the report. FAO had agreed to support Sri Lanka on its legislation and all IOTC Resolutions will be taken into consideration for a new and complete legislation. Regarding 15/03 Sri Lanka had installed VMS on all authorized vessels in 2015 and thereafter Sri Lanka has decided to install VMS on all multi day vessels potentially fishing outside the EEZ, whose process will be completed.	
SUDAN	<i>ABSENT</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>
TANZANIA	<p>Even though they only had one vessel on one trip in the period concerned Tanzania acknowledge they must report zero catch and will do their best to report.</p> <p>Tanzania will cross-check its catch and effort data and submit.</p> <p>Tanzania will provide letter on the two vessels now de-flagged (BAROON and LABIKO).</p>	Tanzania stated still facing challenges on collecting data in particular in the artisanal fisheries comprising around 60,000 vessels. Tanzania is developing a fishery data system. Regarding 17/05 sharks Tanzania has been able provide some data on sharks in the Scientific Report, is developing a national plan of action on sharks and is preparing a protocol on shark data. Hopefully by next year, Tanzania will be able to provide information data to IOTC standards.	Tanzania stated it had no government-to-government agreement, and that for data there are three entities involved in this. e-MARIS has been a learning process, and welcome the forthcoming e-MARIS regional training. Tanzania will liaise with the IOTC Secretariat on the two port calls indicated in the Compliance Report.
THAILAND		Thailand informed that it has improved its data collection scheme. Thailand commented that they have started to measure size frequency at coastal fisheries landing sites and expect to report size frequency data for 2021. Thailand commented that they have sent information that only two vessels rather than three vessels might be on the RAV.	Thailand commented that it had had difficulties in applying size frequency standards because of the complexity of the neritic tuna fisheries and because of the effects of Covid-19.
UNITED KINGDOM	<i>No non-compliance</i>	The United Kingdom stated that some matters of non-compliance are due to the changed status of the UK within the IOTC. The United Kingdom stated that the terms and conditions specified in its authorization to fish provides sufficient legal background to impose IOTC Resolutions 16/07, 16/08, 11/02 and 18/05. The UK has now submitted	The United Kingdom thanked the IOTC Secretariat for their support.

CPC	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2021	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2022	COMMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF THE CPCs 2023
		the reports concerning BET of resolution 01/06, with exception of the annual report, and requested that it be changed to Compliant for the assessment. New information on authorization will be sent shortly. On the contradictions between the BET report and the compliance questionnaire, the UK will provide a response shortly.	
YEMEN	<i>ABSENT</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>
CNCPs			
LIBERIA	<i>No non-compliance</i>		<i>None</i>
SENEGAL	Senegal will provide information on the IUU vessel MARIO 11, which has been de-registered from Senegal, for S25.	<i>ABSENT</i> Senegal has not renewed its status as CNCP.	

APPENDIX 7

INDIVIDUAL CPCs LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE BETWEEN 2010 AND 2022.

Compliance Rate = number of requirements compliant / number of requirements applicable.

CPCs / year	Compliance rate													Trend
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Australia	47%	85%	78%	84%	85%	88%	93%	96%	96%	97%	95%	77%	97%	↑
Bangladesh						10%	9%	16%	39%	27%	32%	29%	43%	↑
China	55%	74%	76%	85%	96%	90%	88%	96%	100%	96%	90%	82%	82%	↑
Comoros	29%	43%	79%	55%	61%	75%	96%	85%	91%	72%	58%	73%	54%	↓
Eritrea	0%	0%	0%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%	6%	5%	6%	6%	4%	↓
European Union	71%	73%	80%	83%	88%	83%	88%	77%	77%	75%	71%	79%	77%	↓
France (OT)	61%	55%	72%	77%	80%	90%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	↔
India	29%	24%	32%	38%	23%	9%	6%	39%	64%	73%	88%	76%	27%	↓
Indonesia	13%	7%	47%	45%	62%	60%	68%	73%	77%	75%	74%	81%	80%	↓
Iran, Islamic Republic of	11%	52%	60%	65%	69%	75%	76%	71%	70%	56%	73%	73%	31%	↓

CPCs / year	Compliance rate													Trend
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Japan	82%	97%	93%	93%	91%	97%	92%	95%	85%	70%	95%	92%	81%	↓
Kenya	3%	8%	31%	66%	71%	66%	49%	42%	39%	71%	76%	64%	66%	↑
Korea, Republic of	77%	84%	92%	89%	96%	97%	91%	95%	95%	93%	91%	88%	92%	↑
Liberia						100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	92%		88%	↓
Madagascar	13%	18%	22%	75%	81%	66%	81%	65%	74%	61%	77%	73%	76%	↑
Malaysia	11%	26%	17%	40%	57%	56%	75%	74%	79%	80%	79%	87%	93%	↑
Maldives	3%	33%	50%	57%	79%	78%	76%	69%	72%	79%	82%	87%	89%	↑
Mauritius	15%	48%	54%	69%	80%	81%	88%	81%	82%	89%	92%	91%	91%	↔
Mozambique		47%	58%	72%	82%	80%	89%	92%	81%	85%	71%	61%	68%	↑
Oman, Sultanate of	10%	11%	27%	33%	53%	57%	78%	58%	45%	32%	44%	32%	22%	↓
Pakistan	0%	11%	5%	7%	5%	6%	19%	53%	53%	58%	57%	37%	9%	↓

CPCs / year	Compliance rate													Trend
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Philippines	18%	52%	48%	61%	80%	67%	79%	60%	67%	73%	87%	78%	86%	↑
Seychelles	36%	47%	41%	56%	74%	73%	72%	78%	70%	73%	80%	80%	86%	↑
Somalia					80%	71%	73%	44%	48%	17%	23%	20%	16%	↓
South Africa	38%	48%	64%	54%	65%	76%	77%	87%	85%	92%	88%	78%	87%	↑
Sri Lanka	5%	18%	47%	51%	60%	74%	77%	82%	87%	90%	86%	76%	83%	↑
Sudan	0%	0%	0%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	23%	5%	4%	5%	11%	↑
Tanzania	0%	7%	4%	45%	60%	56%	63%	54%	62%	82%	73%	80%	70%	↓
Thailand	28%	38%	43%	44%	45%	68%	66%	85%	84%	92%	91%	98%	98%	↔
United Kingdom	86%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	91%	100%	↑
Yemen			0%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	5%	6%	6%	4%	↓
Commission (All CPCs)	25%	38%	46%	54%	59%	57.5%	62.1%	66.6%	68.2%	69.7%	73.4%	69.9%	65%	↓

Cells in green indicate CPCs that have benefited from the Compliance Support Mission (CSM) and follow up of CSM. Cells in orange indicate CPCs that have benefited from the Data - Compliance Support Mission

APPENDIX 8

CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM WPICMM06

- WPICMM06.02 (Para. 24) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 consider putting aside a system of penalties and sanctions in favour of incentives and positive actions relating to capacity development and technical assistance.
- WPICMM06.01 (Para. 25) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 consider endorsing the Consultant’s report “Sanctions, Penalties and Incentives to Promote Compliance in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)”.
- WPICMM06.03 (Para. 34) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 consider endorsing those terms of the glossary that have already been agreed by the WPICMM06.
- WPICMM06.04 (Para. 55) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee request that fleets participating in the transshipment at sea programme attend the WPICMM and respond to the possible infractions reported.
- WPICMM06.05 (Para. 56) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 consider the outstanding cases on the outcomes of the assessments of possible infractions.
- WPICMM06.06 (Para. 62) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 consider endorsing the Work Plan reviewed by the WPICMM06 (Appendix 3).
- WPICMM06.07 (Para. 78) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 discuss this proposal, after consideration of the deliberations of the WPICMM06 and its Report.
- WPICMM06.08 (Para. 82) The WPICMM06 **NOTED** meeting document IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-08 as well as progress of the recent Sixth VMSWG and **RECOMMENDED** Compliance Committee 20 consider recommendations arising from the VMS Working Group.
- WPICMM06.09 (Para. 87) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 consider endorsing the CDS Strategy, as amended by the Eighth meeting of the CDS Working Group.
- WPICMM06.10 (Para. 94) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 consider requesting the IOTC Secretariat to identify, propose and secure financing for the operation and maintenance of the e-MARIS application and the online Record of Authorised Vessels application after the end of the SWIOFish2 project in September 2023, and to keep future sessions of the Compliance Committee informed of progress.
- WPICMM06.11 (Para. 95) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 consider that e-MARIS is encouraged to be used while continuing to be voluntary for the 2024 campaign leading to Compliance Committee 21 and **FURTHER RECOMMENDED** that the use of e-MARIS become mandatory henceforth.
- WPICMM06.12 (Para. 105) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee 20 consider tasking the IOTC Secretariat to develop a system to efficiently remove vessels whose date of authorisation has expired, in line with the recommendation by CoC19, which was endorsed by the Commission (S26).
- WPICMM06.13 (Para. 124) The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPICMM06, provided at Appendix 5.

APPENDIX 9
LETTER FROM OMAN

NO: 233113278

Prof Indra Jaya,

Chairman of the Compliance Committee

cc. Mr Zahor El Kharousy

Vice-Chairman of the Compliance Committee

cc. Mr. Chris O'Brien Executive Secretary

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Le Chantier Mall, P.O. Box 11 Victoria, Seychelles.

SULTANATE OF OMAN

Muscat, 2nd May 2023

Prof Indra Jaya, dear Chairman,

Ref. 20 TH SESSION OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Point 10 of the Agenda. *Review of the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) together with associated reports and identification of challenges encountered in the implementation of IOTC CMMs – Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.*

During yesterday's session of this 20th Session of the Compliance Committee, the IOTC Secretariat presented its Summary Report on level of Compliance, including the conclusions on Oman 2022 Compliance Report.

The Oman Delegation requested you as Chairman to accept the submission of written comments to this presentation of the 2022 Summary Report in relation to Oman and also in relation to comments raised by some Contracting Parties.

You accepted and we are thankful for it and request that this written statement will be included in the Minutes of the Report of this 20th Session.

First of all, the Sultanate of Oman wishes to express its gratitude to the IOTC Secretariat for this new Summary Report on the level of Compliance.

As a responsible Contracting Party, and as developing coastal State, Oman is committed to address and implement the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) the IOTC Resolutions and Conservation Measure to protect the tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean, which are vital to set up a sustainable tuna fishery in the common interest of the livelihood of thousands of fisheries communities and related actors (fishing industries, supply services, ports, etc).

In relation to our 2022 Compliance Report, Oman, as responsible CPC, wants to formally commit to

improving its current compliance rate reflected in the Summary Report.

Having said that however, Oman wants to respectfully provide some of the reasons why this score is not as good as any CP wants to expect to avoid alleged repeated and non-repeated lack of compliance requirements:

1. Oman has stated that some IOTC CMMs have not been formally implemented into its national law, however, it has included most of the requirements of those CMMs in the terms and conditions of each and every fishing licence granted to the fishermen and, in particular, to shipowners operating largest fishing vessels, both inside and outside the EEZ of Oman within the IOTC Regulatory Area.
2. Oman has fully implemented CMMs on VMS, the systems operate well and there have not been relevant incidents to report last year. However, Oman has not been able to prepare the annual report to IOTC, simply for lack of some support services in the Minister to handle this task.
3. Missing pages of logbooks. To solve this problem, we have requested shipowners not to take pages out from the logbook and to use the approved format of the logbook.
4. Scientific Report, this year Oman was unable to provide this report because of the person in charge has been moved to other Department within the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources. Please note that in the past, every year the Scientific Report has been submitted.

For those and other reasons, the Minister of Fisheries has taken this seriously and recently decided the creation of a Task Force to handle all the matters related to IOTC with top officers of the Ministry, duly supported by representatives of the stakeholders (including shipowners of the tuna purse seiners) and external legal & regulatory and technical experts with international background.

This would remove much of the uncertainty in the Sultanate's non-compliance with the requirements of the Commission .As it is no secret to everyone that the lack of human capacity may be a major reason for not sending reports on time ,and this is what many countries suffer .

During the 20th Session that took place yesterday, some Contracting Parties raised some general comments on Oman's compliance that to some extent were absolutely misplaced and, with ue respect, has nothing to do with the level of implementation of CMMs:

- **COMMENT NUMBER 1: Considering that Oman was one of the largest harvester and keeps on increasing their catches (we understand, referred to YF catches), and that has reported catches when there was not increase of exports and no increase of number of fishermen. In other words raising doubts about the solidity of their latest annual catches reports submitted to the IOTC.**

Oman has already tackled this matter of alleged over catch reporting. Based on Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, Oman submitted a Statement and Commitments that were included in the Report of the 26th Session that was duly notified to all Parties concerned.

Oman reiterates that in recent years it has not significantly increased the yellowfin catches.

On the contrary, what has substantially increased in recent years **has been the reporting** of catches. As explained in Oman Statement S26, sharp increases in the yellow fin catch corresponds to improved data collection and increased catches from the artisanal sector.

The Ministry of Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman has not always had the tools and human resources to report the date. It is not difficult to find relevant disparities in the reporting of catches to the IOTC, both on decreases and increases. For instance, Oman has also had sharp decreases, such as in 2009, (21,045 mt in 2008 and just 7,991 mt in 2009).

Across the years, and for a wide number of reasons, other CPs have also substantially increased or decreased

the reporting of catches, for instance Maldives within two-year time, Maldives increased more than 100% its reported catches (2010: 21,068 mt and in 2012 44,261 mt).

In recent years, other CPs have sharply increased the reporting of catches too.

The below table is self-explanatory:

YEAR	MALDIVES	OMAN	Seychelles	INDIA	KOREA	SPAIN	FRANCE	JAPAN	PAKISTAN	IRAN	CHINA	INDONESIA
1972	0.128	4.060	120	3.082	18.528			3.288	2.762	750		4.332
1980	5.982	6.035	367	3.393	13.298			3.358	1.275	604		5.358
1981	6.251	4.786	940	3.901	12.427	363	188	4.940	1.998	227		5.203
1982	4.814	3.526	610	4.403	10.531	55	1.001	7.400	2.450	606		7.561
1983	7.981	1.564	167	1.500	16.394			10.400	7.981	827		1.630
1984	6.488	4.586	131	2.828	10.207	11.452	39.269	8.145	883	401		5.074
1985	7.136	2.240	177	7.250	12.597	10.420	37.700	9.540	1.487	483		5.838
1986	6.353	2.534	10	3.281	16.902	20.017	42.947	10.664	2.017	643		6.145
1987	7.586	5.574	8	6.904	15.268	26.256	41.012	9.570	2.449	935		6.868
1988	6.218	15.575	3	3.022	14.217	44.928	56.766	9.645	3.894	1.011		9.088
1989	6.776	10.348		4.408	6.076	41.070	33.047	5.470	8.968	880		11.302
1990	5.140	14.486	16	6.097	7.478	43.711	45.365	9.309	3.341	2.280		10.400
1991	7.227	8.170	372	4.308	5.216	44.020	38.136	9.460	6.082	3.238		12.343
1992	8.309	13.086	225	3.090	4.437	37.830	45.282	17.716	23.402	13.161		15.502
1993	6.906	11.555		6.340	4.343	47.802	39.509	16.678	36.817	20.640		20.049
1994	12.621	10.370	8	5.781	3.676	43.140	35.810	15.057	4.004	26.356		24.964
1995	12.031	21.427	5	6.542	2.592	65.143	34.636	12.770	5.140	25.907	208	27.118
1996	11.211	11.708	71	6.778	3.788	69.421	35.677	16.721	3.005	36.234	711	45.798
1997	12.488	9.860	2.862	6.978	5.976	60.566	31.207	16.218	5.414	22.024	876	50.821
1998	13.368	11.415	7.460	7.310	2.554	38.538	22.282	16.753	6.137	21.534	688	46.602
1999	13.261	7.433	9.940	8.978	1.036	61.910	35.756	16.188	11.660	27.686	2.734	53.121
2000	11.625	8.534	11.885	6.722	1.982	46.512	37.694	16.421	9.378	15.743	2.597	40.884
2001	13.658	8.051	13.436	4.290	1.502	47.734	31.252	14.643	11.266	26.163	1.834	28.787
2002	10.610	7.130	17.139	7.208	348	63.532	34.567	14.378	11.021	24.045	1.358	34.638
2003	16.823	10.288	24.722	6.788	2.166	76.960	63.181	17.610	12.218	37.722	3.336	30.828
2004	21.464	20.317	62.845	11.547	4.172	88.820	63.174	16.261	13.541	50.728	3.781	36.387
2005	10.513	22.015	44.821	15.857	5.517	77.546	57.180	22.588	16.227	43.186	4.260	31.465
2006	21.772	18.466	31.036	17.578	3.444	71.076	44.406	23.818	18.307	38.521	5.857	24.787
2007	20.963	19.271	18.362	21.406	3.988	37.849	32.600	19.566	13.702	15.840	2.826	28.835
2008	22.608	21.945	21.348	16.348	1.011	46.181	37.643	11.666	15.961	18.729	889	28.908
2009	19.811	1.881	21.901	15.844	388	33.607	22.182	9.405	13.462	20.787	433	26.733
2010	21.968	3.238	26.002	21.718	702	46.298	22.589	3.620	16.204	30.876	486	29.284
2011	34.941	7.283	26.464	22.343	235	62.360	21.201	4.893	15.645	26.740	191	33.885
2012	44.261	7.850	26.436	22.187	1.777	67.625	23.732	3.562	16.261	34.968	628	31.292
2013	46.888	8.666	27.543	34.818	3.228	68.664	21.671	4.263	15.798	32.403	923	32.807
2014	46.210	7.268	25.079	23.627	10.488	68.228	33.613	4.072	16.841	46.216	1.079	25.276
2015	52.426	15.183	41.468	17.158	9.183	62.886	31.047	3.470	18.817	42.588	1.781	25.945
2016	52.708	20.982	43.261	19.244	11.721	61.660	33.719	3.388	25.592	45.110	1.812	22.638
2017	46.361	19.410	46.086	13.932	6.784	64.586	29.962	4.003	27.794	46.121	2.962	22.162
2018	47.217	26.827	42.881	27.488	6.990	45.360	33.057	3.362	18.384	68.050	4.041	22.038
2019	44.702	37.055	41.487	23.504	10.786	42.218	27.206	2.567	9.358	58.084	3.213	35.961
2020	42.706	88.786	38.250	26.795	5.697	44.260	24.524	2.065	7.919	48.214	5.757	36.512
		71.620										

As reported by Oman, and reflected in the Minutes of the 19th Session of the Compliance Committee (page 54), there have been increase of yellowfin catches from the artisanal fleet and an improvement of data collection which was the replay received from Oman Statistical department which was forwarded to Secretariat earlier that year.

Oman continues strengthening data collection and reporting for IOTC species which have increased in recent years.

I would like to confirm that Oman Fisheries statistic program has been established since 1984 and developed all the way in cooperation with international well-known institutes, for example not limited to FAO, and this system is nowadays considered a valuable tool system in the region.

In fact, Oman is continuously working to:

- a) Improve the understanding of the composition and characteristics of Omani fisheries catching tuna and tuna-like species and ensure these are mapped correctly to the standard fishery classifications.
- d) Provide clarification on any outstanding aspects of the IOTC data reporting process and proposing improvements to increase the efficiency of data reporting to IOTC, including the tools and methodologies being used by our Fisheries administration to also produce official catch estimates.

To this respect, please also note that Oman has agreed to hire the services of external consultants to provide support to our Fisheries Department team dealing with IOTC species.

Oman is fully committed on those tasks, propose you an Open Dialogue and, in any event, will continue reporting to the CPC and Secretariat in forthcoming meetings.

- **COMMENT NUMBER 2: Considering that Oman's rejected a mission to investigate the way the data is collected by Oman.**

In relation to this comment, please respectfully note that Oman already answered to the IOTC by letter dated 24 August 2022 under the Ref. IOTC REF: IOTC2022-217 - PROPOSAL FOR AN IOTC DATA SUPPORT MISSION TO OMAN, which again was self-explanatory:

We thank you for your letter dated 22th July 2022 (IOTC2022-217), where you refer to the “recent request by the Commission for the Secretariat to offer to send a data support mission to Oman”.

As you state, this offer of mission and its related activities fall in the context of the actions identified by the IOTC working parties and Scientific Committee (2019- 2021); and by the Commission at its 26th session (2022).

However, to the best of my knowledge, the 26th Annual Meeting of the Commission did not specifically agree to offer to send a data support mission to Oman or to other Contracting Parties. Point 100 of the Minutes only states that “*The Commission REQUESTED that a Heads of Delegations meeting be convened by the second week of July 2022 to agree on a process to convene a series of meetings with the Contracting Parties objecting to Resolution 21/01 on an Interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin stock and other interested Contracting Parties to explore ways to address their concerns*”.

To this respect, Contracting Parties such as Seychelles made a formal statement where it is stated that “*clearly understand the critical importance of effective conservation and management measures to restrict catches of yellowing tuna to sustainable levels, while at the same time recognizing the rights of coastal States and, in particular, developing coastal States and Small Island Developing States, to develop their fisheries*”.

As reported by Oman, and reflected in the Minutes of the 19th Session of the Compliance Committee (page 54), there have been increase of yellowfin catches from the artisanal fleet and an improvement of data collection.

For these reasons, please note that Oman continues strengthening data collection and reporting for IOTC species which have increased in recent years.

Most of the objectives of that mission stated in your letter have already been presented by Oman Delegation in the 26th Meeting of the Commission with clear explanations and justifications.

I would like to confirm that Oman Fisheries statistic program has been established since 1984 and developed all the way in cooperation with international well-known institutes, for example not limited to FAO, and this system is nowadays considered a valuable tool system in the region.

In fact, Oman is continuously working to:

- a) Improve the understanding of the composition and characteristics of Omani fisheries catching tuna and tuna-like species and ensure these are mapped correctly to the standard fishery classifications.
- b) Provide clarification on any outstanding aspects of the IOTC data reporting process and proposing improvements to increase the efficiency of data reporting to IOTC, including the tools and methodologies being used by our Fisheries administration to also produce official catch estimates.

To this respect, please also note that Oman has agreed to hire the services of external consultants to provide support to our Fisheries Department team dealing with IOTC species.

Oman is fully committed on those tasks, propose you an Open Dialogue and, in any event, will continue reporting to the CPC and Secretariat in forthcoming meetings.

Based on the above mentioned points, Oman thanks again the Secretariat for the proposed offer to carry out a mission on data reporting, but decline the invitation.

Oman request to record and/or to refer to this Written Statement in the Minutes of the 20th Session of the Compliance Committee.

I thank you for your usual co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Abdulaziz Al Marzuqi Head of Delegation to IOTC SULTANATE OF OMAN

CC: FAO Representative to Oman (FAO-OM@fao.org)

Alternate Commissioner to IOTC

APPENDIX 10

**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (30 APRIL
– 2 MAY & 4 MAY 2023) TO THE COMMISSION**

- CoC20.01 ([Para.31](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission endorse the recommendations of the WPICMM06 ([Appendix 8](#)).
- CoC20.02 ([Para.32](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission endorse the Glossary of terms already agreed by the WPICMM06 as amended by the CoC20 with the exception of “gear”, which would be removed.
- CoC20.03 ([Para.48](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission (S27) consider endorsing the CDS Strategy v3.0 as revised by the CoC20.
- CoC20.04 ([Para.49](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) endorse the CoC20 proposal that the IOTC Secretariat prepare a Terms of Reference for an IOTC pilot project on VMS, taking into consideration the experience of GFCM to date.
- CoC20.05 ([Para.55](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider endorsing the CoC20 proposal that CPCs’ comments on the operationalization of the Voluntary Guidelines for Fishing Gear and Fish Aggregating Devices be discussed at WPICMM07.
- CoC20.06 ([Para.67](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission further discuss document [IOTC-2023-CoC20-15](#) and proposal H which provides the minimum standards for those CPCs wishing to institute electronic monitoring, noting the comments from a CPC.
- CoC20.07 ([Para.68](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that once the EM standards are adopted and a CPC institutes an EMS, the way the EMS would be counted for the observer coverage of the CPC even when the EMS does not provide all the mandatory data requirements for the regional observer scheme, should be further discussed.
- CoC20.08 ([Para.82](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider urging CPCs to attend the Sessions of the Compliance Committee.
- CoC20.09 ([Para.83](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider streamlining the reporting requirements of Resolutions 05/03 and 16/11.
- CoC20.10 ([Para.84](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider urging CPCs to provide to the Commission, where possible, in one of the two official IOTC languages, copies of laws, regulations and administrative instructions in force (including terms and conditions of flag State Authorisation to Fish having force of law).
- CoC20.11 ([Para.85](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider and provide a decision on whether provision of legislation *not* translated into an official IOTC language should render the CPC partially compliant on a particular requirement.
- CoC20.12 ([Para.86](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider encouraging CPCs to make use of the e-MARIS application for CoC21, in line with the WPICMM06 recommendation that e-MARIS be made mandatory henceforth ([IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-R](#) para. 95), noting technical difficulties of CPCs that hinder their access to e-MARIS.
- CoC20.13 ([Para.131](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider returning to review the Compliance Reports of CPCs who had not attended the preceding Session of the Compliance Committee and who are present at the Commission’s Session.
- CoC20.14 ([Para.142](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** Indonesia to include in its request to extend the pilot project a vision as to when and how it might be integrated into the IOTC ROP, and that there be an independent assessment of the project for presentation to the Compliance Committee in 2025.

- CoC20.15 ([Para.177](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission approve that the vessels included in the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List (Appendix 5) be included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List, except for IMUL-A-2159-CHW (SANJANA PUTHA).
- CoC20.16 ([Para.178](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the flag of the three vessels SEA VIEW, SEA WIND and PROGRESO be changed on the IOTC IUU Vessels List from Cameroon to Unknown.
- CoC20.17 ([Para.179](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the cross-listed vessel EROS DOS be removed from the IOTC List of IUU Vessels as it has been delisted from NEAFC and subsequently from SEAFO.
- CoC20.18 ([Para.191](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider accepting Liberia’s request to renew its Cooperating non-Contracting Party status.
- CoC20.19 ([Para.204](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider requesting the IOTC Secretariat to identify, propose and secure financing for the operation and maintenance of the e-MARIS application and the online Record of Authorised Vessels application after the end of the SWIOFish2 project in September 2023, and to keep future sessions of the Compliance Committee informed of progress.
- CoC20.20 ([Para.205](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) endorse the collaboration and exchange of information between the e-PSM and the FAO’s Global Information Exchange System.
- CoC20.21 ([Para.206](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider that e-MARIS is encouraged to be used while continuing to be voluntary for the 2024 campaign leading to CoC21 and consider that the use of e-MARIS become mandatory henceforth, while recognising that its voluntary nature may be extended if necessary.
- CoC20.22 ([Para.207](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S27) consider requesting the Executive Secretary sign the draft cooperation agreement between the IOTC and Indian Ocean Commission on behalf of the IOTC.
- CoC20.23 ([Para.210](#)) The CoC20 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from CoC20, provided at [Appendix 10](#).