



## IOTC-2024-CoC21-04a [E]

### REPORT ON TRANSHIPMENT RESOLUTION 23/05

Prepared by IOTC Secretariat, 8 April 2024

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Resolution 23/05 *On Establishing a Programme for Transhipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels*, superseded Resolution 22/02 and entered into force on 16 September 2023. Both Resolutions in force during 2023, call for all transhipment operations of tuna and tuna like species and sharks species in the IOTC Area to take place in port, except under special conditions. In accordance with these Resolutions, at sea transhipments will be monitored by IOTC observers. This applies initially to large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels and to carrier vessels authorised to receive transhipments from these vessels.

#### Executing the IOTC Transhipment Programme

The Consortium of Marine Resource Assessment Group (MRAG) and Capricorn Fisheries (CapFish) is responsible for executing work under the IOTC transhipment programme. The responsibilities of the Consortium include the training and provision of qualified observers, managing the logistics for the deployment of observers and their repatriation at the end of the deployment and maintaining the IOTC transhipment programme database. The Consortium is also tasked with providing the IOTC Secretariat with five-day reports, which summarise the activities undertaken by the programme every five days. A report for each deployment is also submitted to the IOTC Secretariat at the end of each deployment. In line with the agreed confidentiality rules, these reports are subsequently edited by the IOTC Secretariat and forwarded to the concerned fleets whose vessels have transhipped under the deployment for which the report covers. Additionally, the reports for deployments where Southern Bluefin tuna (SBT) have been transhipped are also forwarded to the Secretariat of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), as per the Letter of Understanding (LOU) signed between the IOTC and CCSBT. This arrangement has the benefit of minimising costs to the fleets that catches and tranships SBT in the IOTC Area.

#### Fleets currently participating in the at-sea Transhipment Programme

The following fleets have participated in the at-sea Transhipment Programme in 2023: China, Taiwan (Province of China), Japan, Korea (Republic of), Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman and Seychelles.

Paragraph 5 of Resolution 22/02 and Resolution 23/05. The CPCs that flag LSTLVs shall determine whether or not to authorise their LSTLVs to tranship at sea. [...]



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Table 1, below, list the fleets with number of Large-Scale Tuna Longline Vessels (LSTLVs) currently authorised to operate in the IOTC Area and indicates which fleets have participated in the Programme in 2023.

Fleets	No LSTLVs.	Remarks
Australia	4	Not transhipping at sea.
Bangladesh	0	N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.
China	110	Participated in the at-sea Transhipment Programme.
Taiwan, China	259	Participated in the at-sea Transhipment Programme.
Comoros	0	N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.
European Union	42	Not transhipping at sea.
France (O. T.)	0	N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.
India	3	Not transhipping at sea
Indonesia	248	The Commission agreed in 2019 for Indonesia to operate a national transhipment pilot programme. Last extension period encompasses 2023 – 2025.
Iran	6	Not transhipping at sea.
Japan	152	Participated in the at-sea Transhipment Programme.
Kenya	6	Did not tranship at sea from 2021, onward.
Korea, Republic of	60	Participated in the at-sea Transhipment Programme.
Madagascar	0	N/A – No LSTLVs registered in the e-RAV.
Malaysia	15	Participated in the at-sea Transhipment Programme.
Maldives	0	The Commission agreed in 2019 for Maldives to operate a national programme between its collector vessels and pole and line fishing vessels.
Mauritius*	16	Participated in the at-sea Transhipment Programme.
Mozambique	0	N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.
Oman	3	Participated in the at-sea Transhipment Programme.
Pakistan	0	N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.
Philippines	0	Not transhipping at sea. N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.
Seychelles	34	Participated in the at-sea Transhipment Programme.
Somalia	0	N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.
South Africa	2	Not transhipping at sea.
Sri Lanka	21	Not transhipping at sea.
Sudan	0	N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.
Tanzania	3	Not transhipping at sea.
Thailand	0	N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.
UK	0	N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.
Yemen	0	N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.
Liberia	0	N/A – No vessel registered in the e-RAV.

N/A (not applicable) Fleets without Large Scale Tuna Longline Vessels (LSTLVs) registered in the IOTC Record of Authorized vessels or without N/A – No vessel registered in the IOTC Record of Authorized vessels.

\* On 21/07/2022, the IOTC Executive Secretary sent the official Letter of Confirmation of Mauritius' participation in the IOTC Regional Observer Programme.

**Submission of carrier vessels list**

Paragraph 8 of Resolution 23/05. Each CPC shall submit, electronically where possible, to the IOTC Executive Secretary the list of carrier vessels that are authorised to receive transhipments from its LSTLVs in the IOTC area of competence. [...]

All fleets which participated in the IOTC Transhipment Programme during 2023, have submitted information on carrier vessels which they have authorised to receive transhipments at-sea or in port from their LSTLVs. This represents a total of 105 carrier vessels that have been expressly authorised to receive transhipments from the fleets which participated in the programme; it should be noted that a carrier vessel may be authorised by one or more participating fleets.

From the 105 carrier vessels listed in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels (as of 03 April 2024), 21 carrier vessels have been used by the participating fleets for at-sea transhipments in 2023 (Table 2), following submission of request of deployments by the participating fleets, and subsequent approval of the deployments by the IOTC Secretariat.

**Table 2: Active carrier vessels in 2023 (Deployment starting in 2022 continuing in 2023 and deployment starting in 2023)**

Fleet	Name of carrier vessel active in 2023
Japan	Taisei Maru No. 15
Korea, Republic of	Sei Shin
	Seibu
	Seiyu
Liberia	Chikuma
Malaysia	Kha Yang 333
Panama	Bao Win
	Feng Lu
	Futagami
	Genta Maru
	Harima
	Ibuki
	Meita Maru
	Ocean Star
	Tuna Princess
Singapore	Chitose
Taiwan, China	Chen Yu No 7
	Ho Yuan
	Sheng Hong
	Yong Man Shun
	Yuan Tai No.806

**Costs of implementing the At-sea Transhipment Programme for the year 2023 and calculation of contributions for the participants in the Programme**

Paragraph 13, Annex IV of Resolution 22/02 and Resolution 23/05. The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the flag CPCs of LSTLVs wishing to engage in transhipment operations. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the IOTC Secretariat and the Executive Secretary shall manage the account for implementing the program.

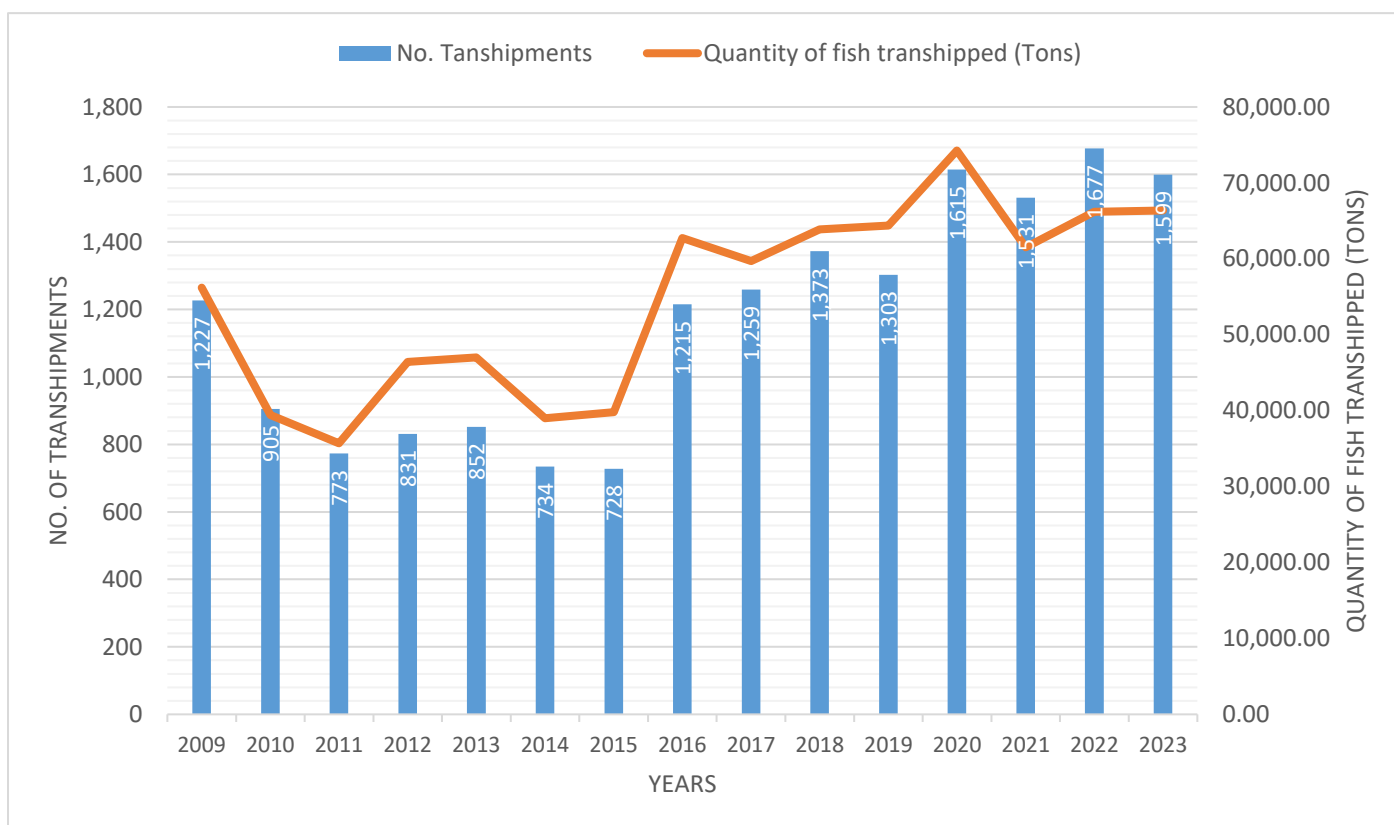
Based on the level of activities recorded during 2022 under the transhipment programme, a budget not to exceed of EUR 685,663 (USD 734,902) was proposed for the programme in 2023 (1 May 2023 - 30 April 2024). This resulted in a total budget of EUR 10,853,783 (USD 11,633,208) allocated for the fifteen years over which the transhipment programme had been implemented.

The principle applied to recover the cost for the programme was discussed and agreed upon by the representatives of the different fleets participating in the at-sea Transhipment Programme. Unlike the initial cost recovery method, which was adopted in the first year of the programme (2009), the cost recovery method for the last fourteen years have been based on actual figures from the preceding year.

The present contract with the Consortium of MRAG Ltd/CapFish cc was issued in May 2023 for an initial period of one year with the possibility of annual renewals up to a total of five years, subject to satisfactory performance and availability of funds. The last ROP contract extension, under the previous contract, was signed in April 2022 for the period 1 May 2022 – 30 April 2023. With a view to ensure the continued implementation of the ROP, a new call for tenders was carried out in December 2022. From it, a new contract was signed by FAO, on behalf of the IOTC, with the Consortium of MRAG Ltd/CapFish cc on 16 February 2023. As its predecessors, this new contract was issued for an initial period of one year from the time of signature and renewable on an annual basis for four more years.

**Transhipments observed**

For 2023, a total of 46 observer deployments from Large Scale Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels (LSTLVs) within the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission's (IOTC) Area of Competence were approved. From those 46 deployments, all were observed and none cancelled by the fleet requesting the deployment. Information on the transhipments observed from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, is presented in Table 3, and Figures 2 and 3. Note that the data pertaining to quantities transhipped are originating from the transhipment declarations made by the vessels (LSTLVs), as opposed to the data produced by the IOTC observers, based on their observations whilst onboard authorised carrier vessels. During 2023, a total of 1,599 at-sea transhipment operations were conducted in which 66,347 tons of fish were transhipped. The number of transhipment operations carried out, although lower than the previous year, constitutes the third highest of the historic record (Figure 1). The quantity of fish transhipped, however, exceeded that of the preceding year (66,195 tons) and represents the second highest amount; surpassed only by the quantities transhipped in 2020 (74,264 tons).



**Figure 1: Evolution of IOTC at-sea transshipment activities from 2009 to 2023, through number of transshipments (blue columns) and total weight of fish transhipped (orange line).**

In terms of species, albacore tuna was the main species transhipped; accounting for 29% of all fish transhipped. This was followed by Yellowfin tuna and Bigeye tuna, which accounted for 22% and 19%, respectively. Oilfish (*Revuttus spp.*), which is a non-IOTC species, accounted for the fourth most important species transhipped in 2023, accounting for 10% of the quantity of fish transhipped. Overall, tuna and billfishes accounted for 78% of all species transhipped (Figure 2).

Taiwan, Province of China represented the fleet with the largest contribution to the total number of IOTC transshipments during 2023; accounting for 58% of the total number of transshipments. The fleets of China and Seychelles, accounted for 24% and 6% of the total number of transshipments, respectively (Figure 3).

**Table 3: Details of the quantities transhipped (tons), by fleets and species/groups of species, during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023.**

Fleet	Albacore	Bigeye tuna	Oilfish	Swordfish	Yellowfin tuna	Other_Tunas <sup>a</sup>	Other_Billfish <sup>b</sup>	Others <sup>c</sup>	Total
China	2,954	3,907	510	1,303	4,830	14	408	2,225	16,151
Taiwan,China	13,584	5,760	6,120	1,140	4,871	543	591	5,640	38,250
Japan	304	370	0	46	778	483	35	30	2,045
Korea, Republic of	35	215	0	11	261	11	7	1	541
Malaysia	2,040	91	54	84	571	14	39	62	2,955
Mauritius	60	761	11	77	1,235	0	29	10	2,183
Oman	0	6	0	0	19	0	0	0	25
Seychelles	306	1,706	27	155	1,825	0	84	94	4,197
Total	19,284	12,816	6,723	2,816	14,389	1,065	1,193	8,061	66,347

**a:** Skipjack tuna, Southern bluefin tuna, Wahoo, Tunas nei.

**b:** Atlantic blue marlin, Black marlin, Indo-Pacific blue marlin, Indo-Pacific sailfish, Longbill Spearfish, Marlins, sailfishes, etc.\_ nei, Shortbill spearfish, Striped marlin.

**c:** Blacktip shark, Blue shark, Hammerhead sharks nei., Longfin mako, Mako sharks, Pelagic sharks nei., Scalloped Hammerhead, Shortfin mako, Silky sharks, Tiger Shark, Various sharks nei, Barracudas nei, Butterfly kingfish, Dorado/Mahi Mahi, Escolar, Japanese Spanish mackerel, Mixed Fish Species, Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, Oceanic Sunfish, Opah, Other fish Unclassified, Pomfret, Pomfrets, ocean breams nei.

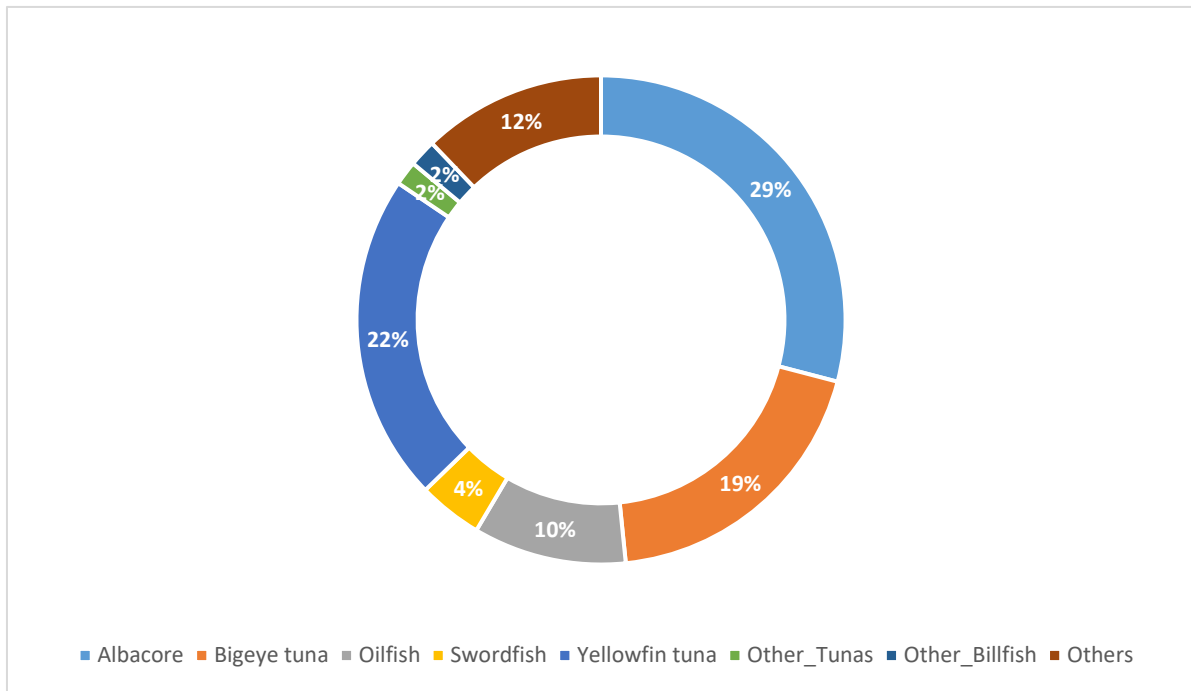


Figure 2: Percentage composition of species groups transhipped in 2023

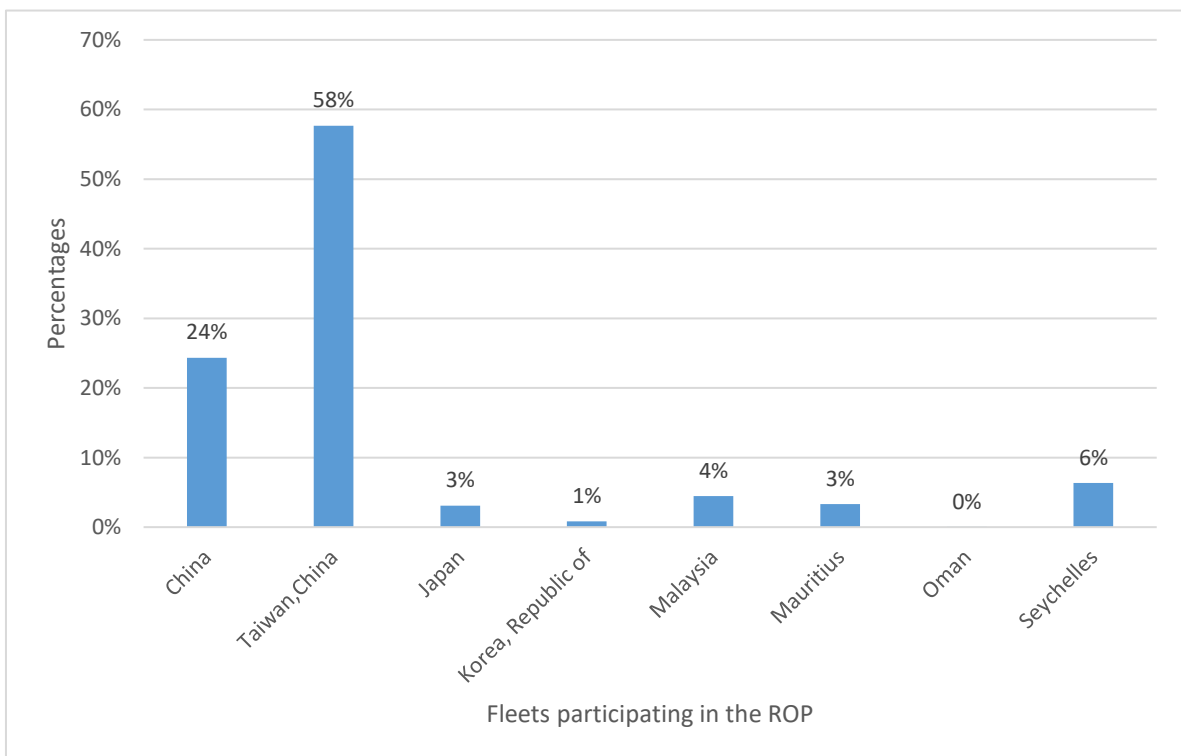
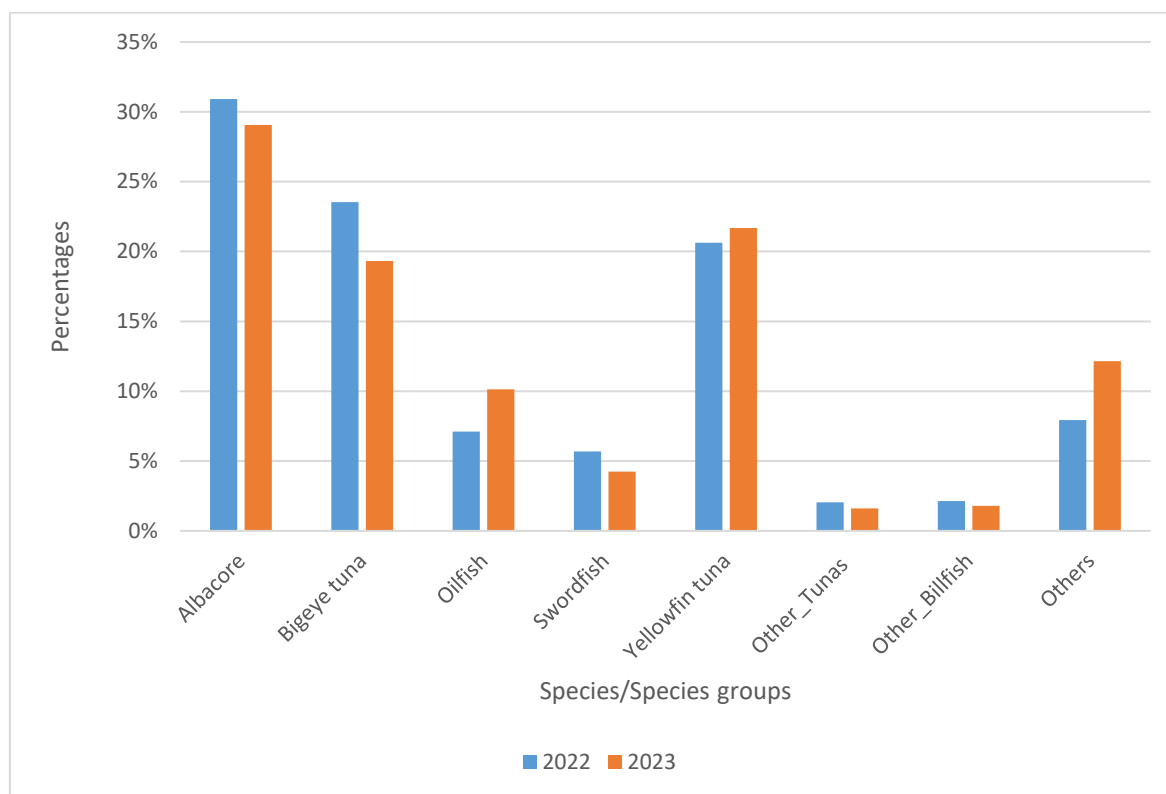


Figure 3. Distribution of transhipments by fleets in 2023



**Figure 4. Distribution of species/species groups transhipped in 2022 and 2023**

### Transshipment declarations at-sea

In conformity with paragraph 22 of Resolution 22/02 and Resolution 23/05, all transshipment declarations received during 2023, from the Masters of carrier vessels are available within the Transshipment Declaration Search Tool. This tool located in [Module 2 of the e-PSM Application](#) (secure part of the IOTC website), intends to facilitate the implementation of Resolution 16/11 On Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

Resolution 22/02 and Resolution 23/05:

*Paragraph 19. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall complete and transmit the IOTC transshipment declaration to the IOTC Secretariat and the flag CPC of the LSTLV, along with its number in the IOTC RCV within 24 hours of the completion of the transshipment.*

*Paragraph 22. The IOTC Secretariat shall promptly publish the documents received pursuant to paragraph 19 in the secure part of the IOTC website for the facilitation of implementation of Resolution 16/11 on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.*



### Supply declarations

The proposed introduction of supply declarations, in accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution 23/05, is scheduled for discussion at the Commission's Annual Session in 2024.

Resolution 23/05 - Paragraph 21. *The Commission shall consider the introduction of supply declaration as follows at its annual Session in 2024 taking into account the effectiveness of such supply declaration introduced in ICCAT since 2022.*

*a. Anytime a carrier vessel on the IOTC RCV provides supply services to another vessel at sea in the IOTC area of competence, the master of the carrier vessel completes a supply declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex V and send it by electronic means to its flag State and the IOTC Secretariat 24 hours in advance of the activity. B.*

*b. A separate supply declaration is not required when the supply activity is conducted in association with transshipment that is monitored by an IOTC Regional Observer.*

Relevant information regarding this topic is contained in the Commission meeting document (S28) titled "*Conservation and Management Measures that include a reference to the year 2024*", with reference number [IOTC-2024-S28-03](#).