SUMMARY REPORT ON COMPLIANCE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Prepared by: IOTC Secretariat, 06 April, 2024

PURPOSE

This document provides a summary of the activities undertaken by the IOTC Secretariat in support of implementation of Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Acronyms are defined in Appendix 3.

1.   General and specific objectives of the activities

The general and specific objectives of the capacity building activities have been presented in previous versions of this document and presented at previous sessions of the Compliance Committee (Consult IOTC-2016-CoC13-09_Rev2).

2.   Compliance Support Mission: activities, methodology and assessment of results

2.1. Activities and methodology

The activities and the methodology to implement the capacity building activities have been presented in previous versions of this document and presented at previous sessions of the Compliance Committee (Consult IOTC-2016-CoC13-09_Rev2).

2.2. Implementation – Compliance Support Mission

The implementation of capacity building activities have been presented in previous versions of this document and presented at previous sessions of the Compliance Committee.

The countries that have benefited from the Compliance Support Missions (CSM) or follow-up missions during the intersessional period are listed in Table 1.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

Country	Date	Description
Mauritius	27-29 June 2023	Regional training for national e-MARIS appointed managers from Western CPCs and other relevant officials on the use of e-MARIS. In anticipation of the upcoming launch of the new e-RAV, participants were also trained on how to upload and search for data into the e-RAV.
Thailand	3 - 8 September 2023	Regional training for national e-MARIS appointed managers from Eastern CPCs and other relevant officials on the use of e-MARIS. In anticipation of the upcoming launch of the new e-RAV, participants were also trained on how to upload and search for data into the e-RAV.
Tanzania	10-14 July 2022	Follow-up Compliance Support Mission, Joint Compliance Support Mission with Data Section (MCS expert)

Table 1 –Compliance Support Missions conducted during the 2022/23 intersessional period.

In the 2024/25 intersessional period, follow up CSMs shall be conducted for CPCs that had previously benefited from similar assistance from 2013 to 2023. Assistance shall be provided remotely or in person.

2.3. Implementation – Data Compliance Support Mission

The countries that have benefited from the data Compliance Support Missions (Data CSM) in 2023 are listed in Table 2.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

Country	Date	Description
All IOTC members (virtual)	June-July 2023	
Comoros, Indonesia, I.R. Iran, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Kenya, Thailand, Seychelles, Tanzania	20 Oct. 2023	Refer to IOTC–2024–SCAF21–02[E] - Table 1. Missions undertaken by staff from the IOTC Secretariat during 2023 in relation with capacity building activities.
Indonesia	27 Feb-3 Mar. 2023 11-13 Oct. 2023 9 and 14 Nov. 2023	
Tanzania (in person, Zanzibar)	10-14 July 2023	

Table 2 – Data Compliance Support Missions conducted during 2023.

2.4. CMMs training package

The updated edition of the CMMs training package is available for download HERE, where each individual implementation sheet can be also downloaded separately. They are also available in the e-MARIS application for each e-MARIS requirements in the section *Capacity building*.

3. Implementation of the IOTC port State measures Resolution (16/11): activities and methodology

3.1. National port State measures training

With regards to the IOTC port State measures Resolution (PSMR), the activities are related to the administrative and operational aspects of the implementation of Resolution 16/11. The training methodology and training package have been presented in previous versions of this document and at previous sessions of the Compliance Committee, click HERE. The PSM training package is available for download HERE.

The methodology also comprises follow-up missions to provide support to the implementation of Resolution 16/11, and to assess the progress of its implementation. The IOTC Compliance Section conducted training related to the use of the new e-PSM tool, the PIR application to conduct inspection on board vessel using tablet, allowing inspectors to transmit inspection report to the mother application digitally, and conducted training on inspection procedure as well as on the use of the module 3 which allow the extraction of PSM data (see Section 5).

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

In 2024/25, follow-up of PSM national training courses shall be conducted on demand for CPCs that have benefited from the national PSM training course. Assistance shall be provided remotely or in person.

3.3. Inspector Kits

Comprehensive inspector kits have been purchased with extra-budgetary funds and received at the Secretariat. Kits have so far been distributed to: Comoros, Kenya , Madagascar , Mozambique , Malaysia , Mauritius , Seychelles , Somalia , South Africa , Tanzania and Thailand.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

Additional kits should be distributed to countries during PSM follow up missions in 2024.

3.4. Publications related to port State measures

Manuals and guidelines are available on the IOTC web site PSM page:

- Manual on Procedures for the implementation of the IOTC Port State Measures, click HERE.
- Port State Measures Guidelines on Best Practices for Interagency Cooperation at a National Level and on Regional Cooperation, click HERE.
- Guide "Port State Measures – Species identification guide for fisheries inspectors / Mesures du ressort de l'État du port – Guide d'identification des espèces pour les inspecteurs des pêches" (Bilingual), click HERE.
- Poster - Tuna and tuna-like species under the mandate of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, click HERE.

4. Legal assistance to CPCs to transpose IOTC obligations into national legal instruments.

Article X of the IOTC Agreement focuses on the implementation of the decisions of the Commission. In practice, the Members have the obligation to transpose, into their national law, relevant Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission.

Since 2015, 12 CPCs (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives; Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania and Yemen) have been assisted to transpose the relevant obligations of IOTC Resolutions into their national legislation, in order to enhance the implementation and compliance to IOTC Resolutions.

Complementary to the updated CMM Manuals A and B, the information sheets on each Resolution have also been updated, and now include a section with suitable text for transposing the Resolution into national legislation.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

A new component of the WPICMM Work Plan has provision for support to CPCs in transposition, and CPCs are invited to make official requests for assistance to the Secretariat.

5. Port State measures and the e-PSM application

With the support of the Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO), of the World Bank, the IOTC Secretariat had developed the e-PSM application, accessible through the IOTC website, to support the implementation of IOTC Resolutions on PSM. Technical information on e-PSM and the training programme have been presented in a previous version of this document to the Compliance Committee.

5.1 Training of CPCs and users of e-PSM application

Four countries have benefited from the e-PSM PIR training course during the 2023/24 intersessional period, as listed in Table 3.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

Country	Date	Description
Kenya	9 – 16 October 2023	Training of government officials from the Kenya Fisheries Service on the use of the Offline port inspection report (PIR) application of the e-PSM application.
		Delivery of inspection kits to improve port inspection material means and of tablets for completing and sharing digitally port inspection reports through the offline PIR application and the e-PSM platform.
Sri Lanka	10 - 15 October 2023	Training of government officials from the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) of Sri Lanka, on the use of the Offline port inspection report (PIR) application of the e-PSM application.
		Delivery of inspection kits to improve port inspection material means and of tablets for completing and sharing digitally port inspection reports through the offline PIR application and the e-PSM platform.

Tanzania	24 - 26 October 2023	Training of government officials from multiple national institutions of Tanzania on the use of the offline port inspection report (PIR) application and the e-PSM online platform. Training of PSCU officials on the port State inspection procedures included in the IOTC PSM manual and outlined in Resolution 16/11. Special focus was put on the monitoring of the landing and transhipping of catches in port. Delivery of inspection kits to improve port inspection material means.
Cape Town, South Africa	15 – 17 November 2023	Training of representatives of agencies for vessels entering South African ports and relevant Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Fisheries Officers, on the use of the e-PSM application and in addition to train DFFE Fisheries Officers on the use of the electronic monitoring and reporting system application (e-MARIS).

Table 3 – e-PSM training course conducted during the 2023/2024 intersessional period.

Over 500 individuals, from 14 IOTC Member States (Port States' officials and industry personnel), have been trained to use the e-PSM application.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

In the 2024/25 intersessional period, the e-PSM training course (Module 3 for extracting PSM data from the e-PSM application, PIR training course) is planned to be conducted for CPCs that have already benefited from the initial e-PSM training course. Assistance shall be provided remotely or in person.

5.2. Use of the e-PSM application

As of 04 April 2024, data available in the e-PSM application indicates: 14,202 vessel files have been created and more than 26,500 PSM forms have been submitted (Table 4). This consists of:

AREP (Advance request of entry into port)	13,117
NFV (notifications (NFV) of entry into port authorised)	10,913
PIR (port inspection reports)	6,410
RAIAREP (Request for Additional information for AREP)	1615
RAIPIR (Request for Additional information for PIR)	47
TRXTD (Transhipment declaration)	207

Table 4 – e-PSM forms submitted via the e-PSM application in 2023.

The application is being used by 48 flag States (17 IOTC flag States), 17 IOTC port States and more than 2,000 vessels' representatives (vessel agents/vessel masters/operators/owners).

The CCALMR, SIOFA, ICCAT and CCSBT Secretariats are also receiving port inspection reports through the application for vessels operating in the Areas of those RFMOs/Organisation, that are calling into South African ports.

The number of port calls in 2023, by port State CPCs and ports in the e-PSM application, are presented in Tables 5.

Port of call – CPCs / Port	Number of calls (AREP)
France (EU) Port de Pointe des Galets	**36**
Kenya	**37**
Malindi	5
Mombasa	32
Madagascar Antsiranana	**40**
Malaysia Penang	**30**

Port of call – CPCs / Port	Number of calls (AREP)
Maldives	**34**
Hithadhoo	1
Kooddoo	31
Maandhoo	2
Mauritius Port Louis	**601**
Mozambique	**5**
Maputo	4
Nacala	1
Oman Salalah	**1**
Seychelles Port Victoria	**816**
Singapore	**5**
South Africa	**387**
Cape Town	346
Durban	35
Port Elisabeth	6
Sri Lanka	**68**
Colombo Commercial Port	49
Galle Commercial Port	18
Dikovita Fishery Harbour	1
Tanzania Zanzibar	**7**
Thailand	**21**
23C Port	1
33A-B port	2
Godung Thai Fa Co., Ltd port	5
Phuket Deep Sea port	8
Public Warehouse Organization port (2 storehouse port No. 27 A)	3
TJ Land Company Limited port	1
Thajeen Union Port Co., Ltd port (Samut Sakhon Province)	1

Table 5 – Number of port calls by port State CPCs and ports in 2023.

The number of port calls in 2023 by flag States registered through the e-PSM application is presented in Table 6.

Vessel flag	BHS	BLZ	CHN	CMR	ESP	FRA	FRAT	HKG	ITA	JPN	KEN	KOR	LKA	MDG	MDV
Calls	9	12	121	10	300	203	2	20	9	74	39	63	4	36	3

Vessel flag	MNG	MUS	MYS	NAM	NOR	OMN	PAN	PRT	SGP	STP	SYC	THA	TZA	UKR	URY	VUT
Calls	1	130	17	1	9	17	27	12	2	3	249	34	39	2	2	6

Table 6 – Number of port calls in 2023 by flag State

Note: Vessels flagged to Non-Contracting Parties (NCP) are in grey or not involved in harvesting IOTC species have also made port calls recorded through the e-PSM application.

For the IOTC species, the total quantity (MT)of IOTC species catches declared (AREP) are summarized in the below tables 7, 8, 9 (2023):

Port / Cargo Freezer [Quantities are in MT]	Onboard quantity (Declared - AREP)	To Be Landed quantity (Declared- AREP)	To Be Transhipped quantity (Declared - AREP)
EU FRA RUN (Foreign vessels)			
Port de Pointe des Galets	13.5	13.5	0
MALDIVES (Foreign vessels)			
Kooddoo	0.5		
MAURITIUS (Foreign & flag vessels)			
	95,024		
Port Louis		65,775	12,443
THAILAND (Foreign vessels)			
33A-B port (Bangkok)	6,133	6,1330	0
Godung Thai Fa Co., Ltd port	5,530	5,530	0
Public Warehouse Organization port	7,557	7,557	0
TJ Land Company Limited port	1,060	1,060	0.0

Table 7 – Quantities of catch onboard, to be landed and/or to be transhipped, as declared by cargo freezers in 2023by port (IOTC Species)

Port / Lonliner[Quantities are in MT]	Onboard quantity (Declared - AREP)	To Be Landed quantity (Declared- AREP)	To Be Transhipped quantity (Declared - AREP)
Kenya (Foreign vessels)			
Mombasa	31,023	0	0
Malaysia (Foreign vessels)	**0**	**0**	**0**
Mauritius (Foreign vessels)			
Port Louis	19,736	692	16,765
Mozambique (Flag vessels)	**0**	**0**	**0**
Seychelles (Foreign vessels)			
Port Victoria	2,807	434	104
South Africa (Foreign vessels)			
Cape Town	20,745	17,109	1,214
Durban	1024.61,526	1,359	0
Sri Lanka (Foreign vessels)			
Colombo Commercial Port	1,077	727	0
Galle Commercial Port	151	0	0

Table 8 – Quantities of catch onboard, to be landed and/or to be transhipped, as declared by longline vessels in 2023 by port (IOTC Species)

Port / Purse seiner [Quantities are in MT]	Onboard quantity (Declared - AREP)	To Be Landed quantity (Declared- AREP)	To Be Transhipped quantity (Declared - AREP)
Madagascar (Foreign vessels)			
Antsiranana	26,156	25,336	0
Mauritius (Foreign vessels)			
Port Louis	5,910	4,881	644
Seychelles (Foreign vessels)			
Port Victoria	392,039	190,308	160,340
Kenya (Foreign vessels)			
Mombasa	1,279	0	0

Table 9 – Quantities of catch onboard, to be landed and/or to be transhipped, as declared by purse seine vessels in 2023 by port (IOTC Species)

For the Yellowfin tuna (YFT) species, the total quantity (MT) of catches declared (AREP) are summarized in the below tables 10 (2023):

Port / Yellowfin tuna PS LL CV [Quantities are in MT]	Onboard YFT quantity (Declared - AREP)	YFT to Be Landed quantity (Declared- AREP)	YFT to Be Transhipped quantity (Declared - AREP)
EU FRA RUN (Foreign vessels)			
Port de Pointe des Galets	897	897	0
Kenya (Foreign vessels)			
Malindi	0	0	0
Mombasa	686	0	0
Madagascar (Foreign vessels)			
Antsiranana	5,173	4,952	0
Malaysia (Foreign vessels)	**49.0**	**49.0**	**0.0**
Mauritius (Foreign & flag vessels)			
Port Louis	24,035	11,809	4,732
Mozambique (flag vessels)	**0**	**0**	**0**
Seychelles (Foreign & flag vessels)			
Port Victoria	113,807	58,934	42,229
South Africa (Foreign vessels)			
Cape Town	1,367	625	369
Durban	22	16	0
Sri Lanka (Foreign vessels)			
Colombo Commercial Port	314	0	0
Galle Commercial Port	77	0	0
Thailand (Foreign vessels)			
Phuket Deep Sea port (Phuket Province)	78	75	0
Thajeen Union Port Co., Ltd port	2,188	1,925	0

Table 10 – Quantities of Yellowfin catch onboard, to be landed and/or to be transhipped, as declared by PS LL CV vessels in 2023.

5.3. Operation, maintenance, hosting, improvement of the e-PSM application.

Since the operation of the e-PSM application in 2016, and in accordance with the paragraph 3.3 of Resolution 16/11, the IOTC Secretariat had received feedback and inputs from stakeholders (vessel representatives, port States and flag States) who have been using the application. Feedback from the stakeholders have been taken into consideration to correct some bugs and to improve the application. With the support of the SWIOFISH 2 Project and the EU grant, three software developers have been recruited to implement those improvements from 2019 to 2024.

Module 2, ''e-PSM library'', of the e-PSM application has been fully operational since 2016. The module allows all CPC port States and flag States users to extract PSM data such as a) port inspections reports (since 2016); b) transhipment declarations provided under the at-sea transhipment programme, Resolution 22/02, (since 2022).

Module 3, "e-PSM Reporting", of the e-PSM application has been fully operational since June 2019. The module allows CPC port States' users to extract PSM data on foreign vessels calling into their ports and it also allows CPC flag States' users to extract PSM data on their flag vessels calling into foreign ports in the Area of Competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

The e-PSM application has been in operation since 2016 with most of the IOTC port State CPCs (and flag States CPCs) using the e-PSM to implement port State measures and to report to the Commission on the various port State measures'

obligations. Considering the Recommendations of the CoC19, endorsed by S26, the use of the e-MARIS application became mandatory from 2022, henceforth.

The IOTC Secretariat has been seeking external funding to ensure the operation, maintenance of the e-PSM application. The application is currently maintained under extrabudgetary funding (EU grant budget). To ensure availability and sustainability of the application, a dedicated budget for the operation, maintenance and hosting, must be made available under the Commission's budget.

The IOTC Secretariat is in the early phase of discussions with the FAO to understand their Cloud hosting policy and budget implications, if the Cloud hosting service used for other IOTC applications (e-MARIS and e-RAV) are not options permitted by the FAO.

5.4. IOTC e-PSM and the PSMA GIES of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The connection between the IOTC e-PSM system and the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) Global Information Exchange System (GIES) has been requested within various fora by States that are both Parties to the PSMA as well as IOTC Contracting Parties. In a wider context, prioritisation of such action can be noted in the recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Parties to the PSMA as well as more recently in the Third Meeting of the PSMA Technical Working Group on Information Exchange, whereby Parties called for the connection of the GIES with existing regional e-PSM systems.

Connections between the two systems would ensure that there is no duplication of effort for States that are both IOTC CPCs and Parties to the PSMA to fulfil PSM related information exchange requirements under IOTC CMMs and the PSMA. The IOTC e-PSM system would remain the system for inputting PSM reports within the scope of the IOTC mandate . Those reports submitted on the IOTC system, originating from a State that is also a Party to the PSMA, would automatically be transmitted to the GIES. With the creation of the GIES and the connection with the IOTC e-PSM system, IOTC CPCs also Party to the PSMA will be able to benefit from a wider range of vessel compliance information from which to make decisions on port entry and use as well as any follow up decisions that may be required, such as for vessels which also conduct activities outside of the IOTC area of competence.

The connection between the two systems would be made using an application programming interface (API). This connection has been approved at S27.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

The design of specifications of the API involving both IOTC and PSMA Secretariats, including mapping of data fields has been conducted. The development and implementation of the API between non-production environments of both systems has been tested. The IT development related to the implementation of the API between the two systems has been completed at no cost to the IOTC Secretariat and could be finalised within the 2024 – 2025 intersessional period.

5.5. Sharing of experience on port State measures.

This activity provides a mechanism for the sharing of experiences between port States' Competent Authorities responsible for the implementation of IOTC port State measures, at national level. The activity involves the relocation of PSM supervisor/administrator and/ or port inspectors from a port State Competent Authority to another port State CPC, to work and share experiences on the following topics: port State Competent Authority (structure, personnel, budget, challenges, etc.); legal provision at national level to implement port State measures (exchanges of legislation); inter-agency cooperation at national level; port inspection procedures adopted at national level, including monitoring of offloading; use of the e-PSM application, work flow processes, including analysis of AREP and vessel's risk assessment.

During the exchange, port inspectors conduct inspection and monitor offloading. The inspection/monitoring team is composed of inspectors from the two port States' Competent Authorities.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

The Secretariat has secured assistance from the EU funded Ecofish Project for PSM exchanges to be conducted during in the 2024 – 2025 intersessional period.

6. Operation, maintenance, hosting, improvement of the Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Information System (e-MARIS application)

In 2013 the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Performance Review made two recommendations related to compliance with data collection and reporting and following up on infringements. These recommendations prompted the e-MARIS concept, which was endorsed by the Commission (S22) in 2018, and it is being financially supported by the World Bank, through the SWIOFISH2 Project. Following the recruitment of one User Interface Design (UI) / User Experience Design (UX) expert, one software architect expert and one quality assurance expert in May 2019, Phase 1 started in July 2019 and ended in August 2021, and focussed on the groundwork development of the application, ending with the delivery of a feature complete application, to be refined in the next phase. From September 2021, Phase 2 of the project started; comprising piloting the application with a few users from CPCs. To this end in November and December 2021 the Secretariat, the European Union (remote), Seychelles and Thailand (remote) were introduced to the use of e-MARIS and the results of the feedback reviewed and integrated in the system, as needed. Feedback led to a beta version of the application that was piloted with all CPCs in the second half of 2022. A global presentation of e-MARIS was followed by one-on-one training workshops with individual CPCs who were interested in participating. Full roll-out and entry into production of the application for use by CPCs took place from December 2022 to January 2023, after an extensive phase of configuration. Intensive support has been made available for addressing observations and issues spotted by both the IOTC Secretariat and CPCs, entailing increased human resources during this period. In order to allow for experience, and capacity building if necessary, in a transition phase from 2023 to 2024, CPCs had the option of submitting information either through e-MARIS or in the old format.

The CoC20 made two recommendations in relation to e-MARIS:

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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.

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.

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7. Operation, maintenance, hosting, improvement of the electronic Record of Authorised Vessels (e-RAV application)

From January 2022, additional software Experts were recruited into the e-MARIS development team to primarily work on the electronic Record of Authorised Vessels.

Following the closure of e-RAV Construction 1 in June 2022, work had progressed on e-RAV Construction 2. A series of important new features had been introduced to the application, including the importation of data, search features, validation and matching, automatic assignment of IOTC numbers and delisting of existing vessels. The team presented the application as a candidate release to the IOTC Secretariat on 9 March 2023 and recommendations were made for e-RAV Construction 3 carried out from March to June 2023. This entailed the Candidate Release being refined into a Stable Release, which is hosted in the Cloud, the historical record being integrated in the new system and staging into

Production. Production includes application-level configurations, an initial staging of the CPCs' initial users, and roll-out at the end of June 2023. From July to August 2023 the e-RAV application entered a regime of observation and on-demand support.

The WPICMM06 made one recommendation in relation to the online RAV:

> 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.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE E-MARIS / E-RAV:

Two regional training courses were organized in June (Mauritius) and September (Thailand), focusing on the use of e-MARIS and the e-RAV, where the new Rules of procedures, adopted at S27, related to the Compliance Assessment process were presented to participant. The e-MARIS manuals are available in the e-MARIS application and can be consulted HERE .

The e-RAV application was launched at the beginning of the second week of 2024 and allows CPCs to manage their fleets on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels. The e-MARIS manuals are available from the IOTC web site and can be consulted HERE .

The e-MARIS has been in production for two campaigns of the CoC, with the majority of CPCs having used e-MARIS to report on the various IOTC obligations. Considering the recommendations of the WPICMM06 to the CoC20, which was endorsed by S27, e-MARIS was encouraged to be used while continuing to be voluntary for the 2024 campaign leading to CoC21 and that the use of e-MARIS become mandatory henceforth, while recognising that its voluntary nature may be extended if necessary.

In line with the recommendation of the WPICMM06 to the CoC20, endorsed by S27, the IOTC Secretariat has been seeking funding to ensure the operation, maintenance and hosting of the e-MARIS and the e-RAV applications. Those two IOTC applications are currently maintained under an EU grant budget. To ensure availability and sustainability of the two applications, a dedicated budget for operation, maintenance and hosting, must be made available under the Commission budget.

The IOTC Secretariat is in the early phase of discussions with the FAO to understand their Cloud hosting policy and budget implications, if the Cloud hosting service used for other IOTC applications (e-MARIS and e-RAV) are not options permitted by the FAO.

The following improvements to the e-MARIS application for the 2025 Campaign, leading to the CoC22, have been implemented to simplify and centralise the reporting on system and procedures. Exclusions/inclusions of CPCs for specific reporting requirements will lead to a reduction in the number of e-mails generated by e-MARIS to CPCs), therefore, an overall reduction of the number of reminders for each reporting requirements.

- System and procedures are now organised in 4 distinct requirements to facilitate the reporting:
    - System or procedures vessels – SPV - to monitor and ensure compliance of flag vessels and persons, should be reported in the requirement ''*1.1Aa CQ SystProcedureVessel CoC22cq*''. This will be part of the Compliance Questionnaire.
    - System or procedures reporting – SPR - to implement IOTC binding reporting obligation - for CPCs to report to the Commission, should be reported in the requirement "*1.1Aa CQ SystProcedureReporting CoC22cq*''. This will be part of the Compliance Questionnaire.
    - System or procedures statistics – SPS - to collect, prepare & submit all catch data, fisheries statistics for IOTC species, sharks, endangered, threatened, and protected (ETP) species (retained catch, discarded catch, catch

& effort and size frequency) for requirements 5.1 to 5.10, should be reported in the requirement ''*5.0 SP STATMandatoryStatistics CoC22cq*''. This will be part of the Compliance Questionnaire.

  o <u>System or procedures transpose – SPT</u> - to transpose IOTC CMMs into national legislation, should be reported in the requirement ''*1.5 TranspositionCMMsInLaws CoC22ir*''. This will be part of the Implementation Report.

- Exclusions/inclusions of CPCs from the audience of specific requirements: for CPCs for which a requirement is Not Applicable by default in a Resolution, the CPCs will be excluded from the audience of the requirement. Therefore, for those CPCs, no response to the requirement is expected, no e-MARIS emails will be sent and the requirement will appear in grey in the compliance dashboard Calendar and Requirements tabs.
  Example: 11 for all PSM requirements (Requirement 11.+), all CPCs located outside the IOTC Area of Competence are excluded from the audience for those requirements.
- Reduction of the number of reminders for the e-MARIS requirements: Only one reminder is set by default for each e-MARIS requirement; between 15-20 days before the deadline.

The requirements concerning the reporting of catch data, fisheries statistics for IOTC species, sharks, endangered, threatened, and protected (ETP) species (retained catch, discarded catch, catch & effort and size frequency), data on supply vessels, have been reduced to 10 requirements assessable and 2 requirements not assessable (*5.11 FishingCraftStatistics CoC22cq* and *5.12 FishPrices CoC22cq*).

8. Assessment of flag State performance.

Under the support of the SWIOFISH 2 Project, and in line with the FAO guideline on assessment of flag State performance, missions have been conducted with the objectives identifying constraints and gaps in the exercise of flag State responsibilities, to enhance flag State performance. The aim is to increase the level of compliance and enhancing contribution of CPCs to the work of the IOTC.

Using the performance assessment criteria (paragraphs 23 to 38) and procedures for carrying out assessments (paragraphs 44 to 46), as defined in the FAO voluntary guideline, the results of the assessments and the identification of corrective actions, a detailed road map and action plan were drafted in order to enhance flag State performance of those CPCs assessed.

The following countries have benefited from the flag State performance assistance:
- Seychelles 23 September to 4 October 2019,
- Tanzania 25 November to 6 December 2019 and
- Mozambique 30 January to 11 February 2022.

For all these CPCs, recommendations were formulated, and flag State action plans were drafted to assist them in improving their performance. The MCS Expert under the SWIOFish2 programme followed up the action plan with Deep Sea Fisheries Agency officer on 30 September, recording progress to date and updating the plan.

Maldives, Mauritius and South Africa had volunteered to benefit from these missions. The budget of the SWIOFish 2 project was reviewed for 2023 and no more missions could be accommodated due to a shortage of finance. It is expected that the remaining assistance will be conducted under alternative finance.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

Flag State performance assistance shall continue with the assistance of the EU funded Ecofish Project. Mauritius and South Africa have volunteered to benefit from this activity in the 2024/2025 intersessional period.

9. Infraction guide for fisheries inspectors.

To strengthen the enforcement level of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures, an infraction guide for fisheries inspectors has been produced to assist them in the completion of inspection reports while implementing PSM or

conducting at sea inspection, in order to identify actions that needs to be taken by the inspecting authority. The guide is available on the IOTC web site: *Inspection of vessels guide for fisheries inspectors to contraventions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Resolutions*.

10. Manual evidence gathering

In November 2020 a contract was signed with a consultancy firm to conduct a training needs assessment, a manual on evidence gathering and training at both national and regional levels. Staff from both the inspectorates and legal departments of beneficiary countries of the SWIOFISH 2 Project have been consulted and a training needs analysis completed. A manual on evidence gathering was drafted and tested during a regional evidence-gathering course held in September 2022 in Mauritius, and attended by seven CPCs.

The manual is available on the IOTC web site: *Evidence in fisheries offences: effective collection and use - Laws, procedures, prosecutions, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessel listing* .

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE:

Assistance to CPCs shall continue with the assistance of the EU funded Ecofish Project for this activity, in the 2024/2025 intersessional period.

11. Organisations/donors supporting IOTC capacity building activities

The activities related to sections 2 to 10 above have been financially supported by: the IOTC regular budget and the Second South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish 2 Project - IOTC Component of the World Bank Project) and the current EU grant to the IOTC.

That the CoC21:

1) **NOTE** the information provided in document IOTC–2024–CoC21–10,
2) **NOTE** the continued implementation of capacity building activities by the IOTC Secretariat to improve compliance to CMMs and strengthen the implementation of port State measures,

3) For the e-PSM application:
   a. **NOTE** 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 and flag State CPCs.
   b. **NOTE** the progress of the cooperation between IOTC and FAO to connect the two PSM information systems (e-PSM and GEIS).
   c. **NOTE** that the e-PSM application, being mandatory since 2022, is currently maintained under external funding without guaranty of extension, and **FURTHER NOTE** that to ensure availability and sustainability of the application, a dedicated budget for the operation, maintenance and hosting must be made available under the Commission's budget, and **CONSIDER** making a recommendation to SCAF21 and S28 to consider to allocate a dedicated budget starting from the 2026 financial year.

4) For the e-MARIS and e-RAV applications:
   a. **NOTE,** 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.

   b. **Note** the improvement implemented to facilitate reporting in e-MARIS, on system and procedure, reduction of emails notification, new structure of the catch statistics requirements.

   c. **NOTE** that the e-Maris and the e-RAV applications are currently maintained under external funding without guaranty of extension, and **FURTHER NOTE** that to ensure availability and sustainability of the applications, a dedicated budget for the operation, maintenance and hosting must be made available under the Commission's budget, and **CONSIDER** making a recommendation to SCAF21 and S28 to consider to allocate a dedicated budget for the e-MARIS and the e-RAV applications, starting from the 2026 financial year.

   d. **NOTE** that considering the recommendations of the CoC20, endorsed by S27, e-MARIS was encouraged to be used while continuing to be voluntary for the 2024 campaign leading to CoC21 and that the use of e-MARIS become mandatory henceforth, while recognising that its voluntary nature may be extended if necessary and **CONSIDER** making a recommendation to the S28 on the mandatory use of e-MARIS for the 2025 Campaign – CoC22.

5) **NOTE** that for the operation, maintenance and hosting (including messages) of the three applications (e-MARIS, e-RAV, e-PSM) an estimated budget of USD 40.000 /year is required and that the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF21) and the Commission (S28) should consider to allocate the funds under the IOTC annual operational budget, starting from the 2026 financial year.

Appendix 1: Acronyms

ALB	Albacore tuna
AREP	Advance request of entry into port
BET	Big eye tuna
BUM	Blue marlin
BLM	Black marlin
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CITES	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species
CMMs	Conservation and Management Measures
CSM	Compliance Support Mission
e-MARIS	Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Information System
e-PSM	Electronic port State measures application
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
EMS	Electronic Monitoring Systems
MLS	Striped marlin
NCP	Non Contracting Party
NFV	Notification fishing vessel
PSMR	Port State measures Resolution
PSM	Port State measures
ROS	Regional Observer Scheme
SBT	Southern bluefin tuna
SFA	Indo-pacifique sailfish
SKJ	Skipjack tuna
SPF	Longbill spearfish
SSP	Short-billed spearfish
SWO	Swordfish
SWIOFish	Second South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project
UI	User Interface Design
UX	User Experience Design
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
YFT	Yellowfin tuna