

IOTC Agreement – Article X

Report of Implementation for the year 2023 (CoC21)

Deadline for submission: 14/3/2024

READING NOTES:

- This report is composed of 5 sections reporting on the implementation of IOTC Resolutions.
- Answers provided by CPCs are presented in **blue text**.
- A red dash ("-") indicates that no answer was provided.
- Sections in **light grey** are for requirements that do not apply to your CPC

Reporting CPC: Maldives

Date of submission: 13 March 2024 - 12:51

You can consult your previous Implementation Report by [clicking here](#).

Notes:

- All dates in the Implementation report must be in the following format => dd/mm/yyyy
- All laws, regulations and administrative instructions in force must be uploaded in the requirement 1.5 named "Transposition of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures into national legislation".

PART A – LEGAL OBLIGATION

Articles X & XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement - Legal obligation – Transposition of IOTC CMMs into national legislation

Transposition of IOTC CMMs into national legislation

Reporting obligation CR N°1.5, IR

Legal obligation: Provide information on the status of the transposition of all the CMM obligations/reporting requirements into the national legislation.

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding obligation to transpose IOTC Resolutions in national legislation:

YES - Maldives has system / procedure to implement this binding obligation: transpose IOTC Resolutions

a. System or procedures to implement this binding obligation - transposition of CMM :

Transposition of IOTC CMMs in national law • Transposition of IOTC CMMs in national regulation • Transposition of IOTC CMMs in administrative orders/circulars

Adoption procedures into law and/regulation by the appropriate authority, coordinated by the Ministry.

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding obligation - non transposition of CMMs :

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c. Action taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding obligation - non transposition of a CMM :

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2. All obligations of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) are fully transposed in the national legislation:

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YES – All Resolutions are fully transposed into Maldives legislation

Laws are adopted by the Parliament and signed in by the President.

Regulation are gazette by the Presidents office, once cleared by the Attorney General's Office.

If NO, specify which Resolutions have not yet been transposed in your legislation:

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Attach National Legislation

a. Attach the laws, regulations and administrative instructions in force and ATF T&C with force of law, related to the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures:

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b. Comments/remarks about your submission and the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures:

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Provide additional information on the implementation of this obligation:

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PART B – Actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement CMMs adopted by the Commission

Actions taken to implement Resolution 23/01

1. Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measure "Resolution On Management of Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (AFADs)"

CPC has transposed the CMM 23/01 into domestic legislation ?

YES - The CMM 23/01 has force of law in domestic legislation.

2023 Anchored FADs management plan

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the obligation for vessels implementation of the DFADs management plan:

YES - Maldives has systems & procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure, AND to take action in relation to potential infringements.

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are :

Implementation of AFADs plan monitored and controlled by government fisheries administration with institutional procedures implemented

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b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are :

Established by national regulation implemented by Government

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c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are :

Administrative punitives actions - Fine imposed by administration on beneficial owner/owner/operator

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2. DFADs management plans reported for following year(s):

YES for 2024

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3. Reporting/Updating the 2024 DFADs management plan:

The 2024 Maldives AFADs management plan is uploaded below

AFAD management plan:

[Resolution 23 01 - AFAD Management Plan - Maldives.pdf](#)

4. The 2024 DFADs management plan is prepared in accordance with the Guideline (Annex I or II):

YES – All sections are detailed

Actions taken to implement Resolution 23/03

1. Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measure "" adopted by the Commission at its 27th Session (S27):

Guiding Principles of the Tuna Fishery Management Plan allows to adopt management measures to sustainably develop the tuna fishery, including precautionary measure, if deemed necessary.

Maldives has transposed the CMM 23/03 into domestic legislation ?

YES - The CMM 23/03 has force of law in domestic legislation.

Actions taken to implement Resolution 23/04

1. Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measure "" adopted by the Commission at its 27th Session (S27):

Maldives currently do not have a fishery targeting Bigeye, the Longline fishery has been suspended since 2019. Catches of Bigeye in the Pole and Line and Handline fishery are recorded through logbooks and purchase records of the landing facilities.

Maldives has transposed the CMM 23/04 into domestic legislation ?

YES - The CMM 23/04 has force of law in domestic legislation.

Actions taken to implement Resolution 23/05

1. Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measure "" adopted by the Commission at its 27th Session (S27):

At sea transshipment is prohibited in the Maldives.

Reports of transshipments between Maldivian collector vessels and pole and line fishing for 2022 have been uploaded and sent to the Secretariat with the implementation report.

Maldives has transposed the CMM 23/05 into domestic legislation ?

YES - The CMM 23/05 has force of law in domestic legislation.

At sea transshipments – CPCs reports participating in the ROP

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance of Large Scale Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels (LSTLVs), that are 24 metres length overall and above, with the obligations of the IOTC regional observer programme (ROP) to monitor transshipment at sea:

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - No LSTLVs on the IOTC record of authorized vessel in 2022

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

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b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding measure are:

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c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

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2. I have participated in the IOTC regional observer programme (ROP) to monitor transshipment at sea in 2022:

NO - NIL report - No LSTLVs on the IOTC record of authorized vessel in 2022

3. The report on the list of LSTLVs & the quantities transhipped in 2022, and the report on the assessment of observer reports in 2022, is reported to the IOTC Secretariat:

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4. If YES, provide information on:

Number of LSTLVs having transhipped at sea in 2022: –

Quantities transhipped at sea (kg) in 2022: –

Report on transshipments in foreign ports

1. FOR ALL CPCs:

1.1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance of Tuna Fishing Vessels (LSTVs) with the obligations of the IOTC regional observer programme - transshipments in foreign ports :

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - No LSTV on the RAV in 2023

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding measure are:

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

1. 2. Flag LSTVs have transhipped in foreign ports in 2023:

1.3. The report on the list of LSTVs & the quantities transhipped in foreign ports in 2023, provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Any comments/remarks about your submission and the implementation of this requirement:

Comments/remarks about your submission and the implementation of this requirement:

[This list may be updated later if required, once 2023 data is consolidated and finalized.](#)

2. FOR MALDIVES ONLY:

2.1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance of Flag Pole and line fishing vessel(s) and collector vessel(s) with the obligations of the IOTC regional observer programme - transhipments in port for Maldives:

[YES - Maldives has system & procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure, AND to take action in relation to potential infringements.](#)

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

[Transhipment in port obligations of Flag PoL/Collector vessels, monitored and controlled by government fisheries administration with institutional procedures implemented • Flag State regular inspections are conducted to verify compliance of vessels with the Transhipment in port obligations of Flag PoL/Collector vessels • Registration/licensing procedures - Prior assessment of vessel's history of compliance & ability to comply with national & IOTC obligation and Transhipment in port obligations of Flag PoL/Collector vessels • Registration/licensing procedures - Mandatory information on owners/operators which identifies beneficial owners & operators • Maintain national records of all vessels & current beneficial owners/operators authorized to undertake fishing subject to Maldives jurisdiction](#)

[Only the collector vessels operated by a processing facility is authorised to conduct this operation. Fishing vessels are mandated to acquire a fishing license and must submit the logbook before landing the fish to the collector vessel.](#)

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding measure are:

[Established in national law implemented by Government • Implementation of corrective/preventative actions to prevent recurrence of non-compliance & infringements related to the Transhipment in port obligations of PoL/Collector vessels • Maintain compliance / infringements records, related to the Transhipment in port obligations of PoL/Collector vessels](#)

[Collector vessels can only purchase fish from a vessel that has a valid fishing license.](#)

[Collector vessels can only land fish from fishing vessels while within the designated areas.](#)

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

[Administrative punitives actions - Fine imposed by administration on beneficial owner/owner/operator](#)

2. 2. Flag Pole and line fishing vessel(s) and collector vessel(s) have transhipped in 2023:

[YES](#)

2.3. The reports on the list of Pole and line fishing vessel(s) and collector vessel(s) & the quantities transhipped in 2023, reported to the IOTC Secretariat:

[-- YES - Complete](#)

Actions taken to implement Resolution 23/06

1. Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measure "" adopted by the Commission at its 27th Session (S27):

[All cetaceans are protected in the Maldives by Law.](#)

Maldives has transposed the CMM 23/06 into domestic legislation?

[YES - The CMM 23/06 has force of law in domestic legislation.](#)

Report on Instances of cetaceans encircled, entangled in 2023

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation (Report on Instances of Cetaceans encircled):

YES - Maldives has system / procedure to implement this binding reporting measure

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below

Causing harm or disturbance to a protected species is punishable by a fine and it is required to report any interaction with Whale Sharks in the logbook for each fishing trip.

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below

Causing harm or disturbance to a protected species is punishable by a fine and it is required to report any interaction with Whale Sharks in the logbook for each fishing trip.

c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

YES - Actions are described below

If interaction occurred during fishing trip, the vessel is required to submit this information via the logbook. If logbook is not completed as prescribed, Master or Operator or holder of the license is liable to a fine of MVR 750 for each trip.

REPORT ON INSTANCES FOR THE 3 CATEGORIES OF VESSEL

2. Cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets as reported by Maldives flag vessels in 2023:

a. Purse seine vessels:

NO - NIL Report - No encirclement instance of cetaceans caught by purse seine net reported by Maldives flag purse seine vessels in 2023

b. Reporting instance by purse seine vessel:

For purse seine vessel, report the total number of instance in 2023:

0

Cetaceans species encircled:

None

c. Not applicable:

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3. Cetaceans have been entangled by gillnetters as reported by flag vessels in 2023:

a. Gillnetters vessel:

NO - NIL Report - No entanglement instance of cetaceans caught by gillnet reported by Maldives flag gillnet vessels in 2023

b. Reporting instance by gillnet vessel:

For gillnet vessel, report the total number of instance in 2023:

0

Cetaceans species entangled:

None

c. Not applicable:

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4. Cetaceans have been entangled in Fish Aggregating Devices, DFAD/AFAD, as reported by flag vessels in 2023:

a. Vessel fishing on DFAD or AFAD:

NO - NIL Report - No entanglement instance of cetaceans caught in Fish Aggregating Devices as reported by Maldives flag fishing vessels in 2023

b. Reporting instance by vessel fishing on DFAD

For DFAD, report the total number of instances in 2023:

0

Cetaceans species entangled:

None

c. Reporting instance by vessel fishing on AFAD

For AFAD, report the total number of instances in 2023:

0

Cetaceans species entangled:

None

d. Not applicable: —

5. Reporting of cases:

Maldives has national legislation for protecting cetaceans, the data on instances of cetaceans encircled/entangled have been provided to the IOTC Scientific Committee, Compliance Committee and Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures consideration • Nil Report - No encirclement / entanglement reported by Maldives flag fishing vessels: purse seine, gillnetters, fishing on FAD, in 2023

Comments/remarks about your submission and the implementation of this requirement:

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Actions taken to implement Resolution 23/07

1. Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measure "" adopted by the Commission at its 27th Session (S27):

Maldives do not issue licenses to operate longline fishing vessels.

Maldives has transposed the CMM 23/07 into domestic legislation?

YES - The CMM 23/07 has force of law in domestic legislation.

Longline vessels to use mitigation measures south of 25°S

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the obligation, for all Maldives longline vessels, to use at least two of the three mitigation measures:

YES - Maldives has systems & procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure, AND to take action in relation to potential infringements.

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

Obligation longliner use Seabird mitigation measures, monitored and controlled by government fisheries administration with institutional procedures implemented

Maldives do not issue licenses to operate longline fishing vessels

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding measure are:

Established in national law implemented by Government

Commercial fishing can only be conducted only if the vessels have a valid fishing license issued by the Ministry

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

Administrative punitives actions - Fine imposed by administration on beneficial owner/owner/operator

Fishing without a valid license is liable to a fine up to MVR 400,000.

2. The obligation for all Maldives longline vessels to use at least two of the three mitigation measures:

Is required/implemented by national legislation 1987

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Actions taken to implement Resolution 23/08

1. Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measure "" adopted by the Commission at its 27th Session (S27):

Regulatory framework in place to implement EMS. However, due to the high cost associated with the technology, it has been difficult to establish an EMS in Maldives.

Maldives has transposed the CMM 23/08 into domestic legislation?

YES - The CMM 23/08 has force of law in domestic legislation.

Actions taken to implement Resolution 23/09

1. Describe the actions taken in the previous year to implement conservation and management measure "" adopted by the Commission at its 27th Session (S27):

Maldives participate in the meetings of the WG.

Actions taken to implement Resolution 23/10

1. Describe the actions taken in the previous year to implement conservation and management measure "" adopted by the Commission at its 27th Session (S27):

Maldives will participate and cooperate with the work of the WG.

Maldives has transposed the CMM 23/10 into domestic legislation?

YES - The CMM 23/10 has force of law in domestic legislation.

Part C – Actions taken, under national legislation, to implement CMMs adopted by the Commission in previous Sessions which have not been reported previously

1. Actions taken, under national legislation, to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission in previous Sessions, and which have not been reported previously:

[All action taken to implement CMMs have been reported.](#)

2. We have taken actions, under national legislation, to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission in previous Sessions:

[Yes](#)

Part D – Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report

Resolution 01/03 Establishing a scheme to promote compliance by non-contracting party vessels with resolutions established by IOTC – Observations of non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities indicating fishing contrary to IOTC CMMs

Information required: Observations of non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities indicating fishing contrary to IOTC CMM

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation: *"Report on observations of non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities indicating fishing contrary to IOTC CMM"*

[NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable for 2023 – Maldives has no observation of vessel fishing contrary to IOTC Conservation or Management Measures in the IOTC Area of Competence](#)

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation :

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b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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2. Observation/Sightings report of Non-Contracting Party, Entity or fishing Entity vessels, indicating that there are grounds for believing that these vessels are fishing contrary to IOTC Conservation or Management Measures

[NO - NIL report for 2023 – Maldives has no observation of vessel fishing contrary to IOTC Conservation or Management Measures in the IOTC Area of Competence](#)

Actions taken & additional information to report?

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Information required: information on the results of inspections of vessels of NCPs

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation: *"Prepare and report on information on the results of inspections of vessels of NCPs"*

[NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable for 2023 - no inspection conducted on NCP vessel by Maldives](#)

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

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b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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2. Reporting on inspections in ports of vessels of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or fishing Entities:

[NO - NIL report 2023 - no inspection conducted on NCP vessel by Maldives](#)

Resolution 01/06 Concerning the IOTC bigeye tuna statistical document programme

Information required: Annual report on the IOTC bigeye tuna statistical document programme in 2022

1. A system or procedures to monitor and to ensure compliance with export of frozen bigeye tuna exists:

[YES - Maldives has systems & procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure, AND to take action in relation to potential infringements](#)

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

[Export of frozen bigeye tuna monitored by government fisheries administration with institutional procedures implemented • Export of frozen bigeye tuna monitored by another government administration \(eg. Customs, Maritime authority, police\) with institutional](#)

procedures implemented • Procedures defined under the fisheries MCS scheme implemented by Government Agencies • Control & enforcement regime over vessels includes mandatory requirements regarding fisheries-related data that must be recorded/reported by the vessels (catches/effort, bycatches/discards/landings/transshipments) • Registration/licensing procedures - Mandatory information on owners/operators which identifies beneficial owners & operators

Maldives implements a catch documentation scheme for tuna exports.

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

Established in national law implemented by Government • Implementation of responses to non-compliance & infringements to ensure prompt control and remediation

Customs clearance can only be issued for export if the the tuna consignment is accompanied by a valid catch certificate issued by the Ministry

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

Administrative punitives actions - Fine imposed by administration on beneficial owner/owner/operator

Based on the processing capacity of the facility attempting to export without a valid Catch Certificate, the facility will be subjected to a fine between MVR 5000 to MVR 10,000.

EXPORT:

2. Frozen bigeye tunas were exported in 2022:

YES - Frozen Bigeye tuna were exported

Total quantity of frozen bigeye tunas exported in 2022 (kg):

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Country' vessels from which the bigeye tunas were exported:

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3. If you have exported bigeye tuna in 2022, report the result(s) of the examination between YOUR EXPORT Maldives data and the IMPORT data declared by IMPORTING CPC(s):

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YES - We have examined the 2022 data and NO significant difference was identified between Maldives EXPORT data and the IMPORTING DATA from CPCs -

- - -

When significant difference(s) were identified between Maldives EXPORT data and the IMPORTING DATA from other CPCs, report the results of the examinations below:

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Resolution 07/01 To promote compliance by nationals of CPCs with IOTC conservation and management measures

Information required: reports on actions and measures taken to investigate allegations and/or reports on IUU fishing involving nationals

1 - Reporting on actions and measures taken to investigate allegations and/or reports on IUU fishing involving nationals:

NO - NIL report for 2023 – No Maldives nationals engage in IUU fishing in the IOTC Area of Competence

Resolution 11/02 Prohibition of fishing on data buoys

Information required: Report on observations of damaged data buoys in 2023

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the reporting any data buoys observed to be damaged/inoperable:

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - No report received from flag vessels in 2023

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

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b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

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2. Reporting observations of damaged data buoys in 2023:

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NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - No report received from flag vessels in 2023

Resolution 22/04 On a Regional observer scheme

Information required: description of protocols supporting observer programs (all vessels at sea) and sampling schemes (artisanal vessels landings), the number of fishing vessels & of fishing effort sampled, the coverage achieved by gear type

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation:

i) description of protocols supporting observer programs (all vessels at sea), and

ii) sampling schemes (artisanal vessels landings), number of fishing vessels & of fishing effort sampled, coverage achieved by gear type.

For observer programs at sea:

YES - Maldives has system / procedure to implement this binding reporting measure

For sampling schemes (Artisanal / coastal fisheries):

YES - Maldives has system / procedure to implement this binding reporting measure

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below, for both ROS at sea & coastal Maldives initiated an national observer program in 2015. Challenges in contracting observers and high turnover proved to be challenges. Maldives also initiated an Electronic Monitoring System (EM) in 2019 and EM units were installed in 14 vessels. Maldives is currently working to address the challenges and gaps in EMS program. Maldives also plans to conduct observer trips on handline and pole and line fishery in 2024.

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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2. Maldives is implementing the regional observer scheme (ROS) at national level for:

All fishing vessels of 24 meters length overall and above

3. The description of the protocols supporting observer programs (at sea) and sampling schemes (artisanal vessel landings), reported to the IOTC Scientific Committee:

YES - Partially

4. Describe the protocols supporting observer programs (at sea) and the sampling schemes (artisanal vessel landings):

a. Protocols - Observer programmes at sea: To employ human observers to collect the mandatory information on vessels over 24 m as per the IOTC proposed templates

b. Protocols- Sampling schemes for artisanal vessel landings:

To deploy field samplers to major landing ports to sample catches of licensed vessels, including vessel below 24m in length as per the IOTC proposed templates

5. Complete the below table or upload your report on the coverage achieved by gear type, in the UPLOAD section:

a. At sea - all fishing vessels of 24 meters length overall and above, and fishing vessels under 24 meters operating outside the EEZ:

Type of fishing gear	No of vessels and fishing effort monitored in 2022:	Coverage in 2022 (%)
Purse seine	0	0
Longline	0	0
Gillnet	0	0

Baitboats	0	0
Handline	0	0

Comments/remarks about your submission and the implementation of this requirement:

Maldives faces several challenges regarding the implementation of this requirement, including high turnover of staff and budgetary issues. However, Maldives is working to improve data collection under the ROS.

b. Sampling schemes (artisanal vessel landings):

Type of fishing gear	Total number of vessel trips or total number of active vessels in 2022:	Coverage in 2022 (%)
Coastal Purse seine	0	0
Longline	0	0
Gillnet	0	0
Baitboats	222	>1
Handline	153	>1
Line Trolling	0	0

Other type of fishing gear (Ringnet; Trawl; Beach Seine, etc...):

Type of fishing gear	Total number in 2022:	Coverage in 2022 (%)
-	-	-

-	-	-
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Comments/remarks about your submission and the implementation of this requirement:

Maldives faces several challenges regarding the implementation of this requirement, including high turnover of staff and budgetary issues. However, Maldives is working to improve data collection under the ROS.

Resolution 12/04 On the conservation of marine turtles

Reporting obligation: Report on progress of implementation of Resolution 12/04

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - Maldives has system / procedure to implement this binding reporting measure

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below

All turtle species are protected in the Maldives under the Fisheries Act of the Maldives and the General Fisheries Regulation of the Maldives.

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below

Any interaction with turtles are required to be reported via logbooks.

c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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2. Reporting the progress of implementation of Resolution 12/04:

YES - Reporting progress in section 3 below

3. Report on the requirements of the Resolution 12/04:

a. Collect (through logbooks and observer programs) and provide to the Scientific Committee all data on their vessels interactions with marine turtles,

Furnish information to the Scientific Committee on successful mitigation measures and other impacts on marine turtles (such as the deterioration of nesting sites & swallowing of marine debris):

Yes There is a system to report information on interaction with the turtles through the logbook reporting. This information is reported as the bycatch information reported with the fisheries statistical data.

b. Require fishermen to bring aboard, if practicable, any captured hard shelled turtle that is comatose or inactive as soon as possible and foster its recovery, including aiding in its resuscitation, before safely returning it to the water.

Ensure that fishermen are aware of and use proper mitigation and handling techniques and keep on board all necessary equipment for the release of turtles:

Yes Catching and harming of turtles is prohibited in the Maldives and fishers are required to release any incidental catch immediately under the license condition. This information is relayed to fisher folks through outreach programs and a turtle guide is distributed to fishing vessels to inform the fishers on the best practice. Turtle bycatch has never been recorded in the baitboat or handline fishery and therefore has been assessed as low risk for management purposes.

c. For gillnet vessels: Require vessel to record all incidents involving marine turtles in the logbooks and report incidents to authorities of the CPC:

No Not applicable as gill netting is prohibited in the Maldives by law.

d. For longline vessels

(a) Ensure that longline vessels carry line cutters & de-hookers to facilitate the handling and release of marine turtles caught or entangled

(b) Encourage use of whole finfish bait;

(c) Require vessel to record all incidents involving marine turtles in the logbooks and report incidents to authorities of the CPC.

Yes The requirements to carry and use of de-hookers, line cutters, dip nets and the process of proper release of turtles and other marine mammals that could be caught in Longline fishery is clearly specified in the Tuna Fisheries Management Plan and subsequent regulation. The Management plan also stipulates other bycatch mitigation measures and also encourages fishing vessels to use wholefish bait to minimise turtle bycatch. *Longline log books also allow the reporting of turtle bycatch or interactions to the IOTC standard and are reported to the IOTC on an annual basis. *Maldives has suspended issuing licenses to longline fishing vessels since 2019.

e. For purse seine vessels:

(a) Ensure that vessels:

- (i) Avoid encirclement of marine turtles, if a marine turtle is encircled/ entangled, take measures to safely release the turtle.
 - (ii) Release all marine turtles observed entangled in fish aggregating devices (FADs) or fishing gear.
 - (iii) If a marine turtle is entangled in the net, stop net roll as soon as the turtle comes out of the water; disentangle the turtle without injuring it before resuming the net roll; and assist the recovery of the turtle before returning it to the water.
 - (iv) Carry and employ dip nets to handle turtles.
- (b) Encourage vessel to adopt FAD designs which reduce the incidence of entanglement of turtles;
- (c) Require vessel to record incidents involving marine turtles in the logbooks and report incidents to authorities of the CPC.
- No** Not applicable as purse seining is prohibited in the Maldives by law.

f. CPCs to undertake research trials of circle hooks, use of whole finfish for bait, alternative FAD designs, alternative handling techniques, gillnet design and fishing practices and other mitigation methods which may improve the mitigation of adverse effects on turtles.

Yes Anchored FADs used in the Maldives are non-entangling with only a set of float-buoys with horizontal attachment of netting underneath.

g. CPCs continue to undertake research and development to improve the mitigation of adverse effects on marine turtles & provide research outcomes to the Scientific Committee.

Yes No research on turtle was conducted in the year 2022/2023

h. Collaborate with the IOSEA and take into account the IOSEA MoU

Yes IOSEA MOU Signatory since April 2010.

Resolution 13/05 On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)

Information required: Report on Instances of whale sharks encircled in 2023

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation (Report on Instances of whale sharks encircled):

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - In 2023 , no Maldives purse seine vessel operating in the IOTC Area of Competence

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

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b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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2. Whale sharks have been encircled by the purse seine nets as reported Maldives flagged vessels in 2023:

NO - NIL Report - No encirclement instance of whales shark by purse seine net reported by Maldives purse seine fishing vessels in 2023

3. Report on instances of whale sharks encircled:

For purse seine vessel, total number of instance in 2023:

0

In 2023 , Maldives has no purse seine fishing vessels on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels or no purse seine fishing vessels active/operating in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Resolution 14/05 Concerning a record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC area of competence and access agreement information

Information required: Access agreements information

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation: To prepare & submit the information on access agreements information

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - Maldives does not have CPC-CPC agreement in 2023

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

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b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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2. A system exist to sign Government to Government access agreement for foreign vessels to operate in your waters, within the IOTC Area:
[NO – A system does NOT exist to sign Government to Government access agreement](#)
3. Foreign vessels were licensed in 2023 under a Government to Government access agreement:
[NO – NIL report - No foreign flag vessels licensed under a Government \(CPC\) to Government \(CPC\) access agreement](#)
4. CPC-to-CPC agreements in 2023 exist and information concerning these agreements submitted to the IOTC Secretariat:
 - -
5. For each CPC/CPC agreement:
 - a. Provide the information: the CPC involved, the start and end dates of the agreement, the number of vessels and the authorised gears in the below table and upload the information about these agreements in the UPLOAD section :

Agreement	CPC/CPC agreement with	Agreement start date	Agreement end date	Number of vessels	Gear authorized
1	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-	-

- b. Provide the information: the quota or catch limit, MCS measures, data reporting obligation concerning these agreements and complete the below table:

No	Stock/species covered	CPC's quota or catch limit:	Data reporting obligations of the agreement:	MCS measures required by the flag CPC & coastal CPC:
1	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-

6. All the mandatory information has been provided to the IOTC Secretariat for all CPC/CPC access agreement:

Specify what mandatory information are not fully provided or missing (tick the appropriate boxes):

Specify the reasons for each not fully provided or missing requirement:

Resolution 16/05 – Sightings of vessels suspected or confirmed of being without nationality

Information required: Sightings of vessels suspected or confirmed of being without nationality

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation:

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable for 2023 – no sighting of vessel without nationality

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

2. Reporting on vessel without nationality that may be fishing in the high seas of the IOTC area of competence:

NO - NIL report for 2023 – no sighting of vessel without nationality

Resolution 16/08 On the prohibition of the use of aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles as fishing aids

Information required: Any occurrence of fishing operation undertaken with the aid of aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicle

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - Maldives has system / procedure to implement this binding reporting measure

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below

This is prohibited by national regulations and compliance with this is a requirement as per the fishing license

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below

c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

YES - Actions are described below If found to be in violation of this measure, the vessel operator/owner/master will be fined

2. Reporting occurrence of a fishing operation undertaken with the aid of aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicle in the IOTC area of competence: Nil report for 2023 – no occurrence of vessel fishing operation with the aid of aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicle

Resolution 17/07 On the prohibition to use large-scale driftnets in the IOTC area

Prohibition from: using large-scale driftnets in the entire IOTC area of competence

1. A system or procedures to monitor and to ensure compliance with the obligation for fishing vessels to not use large scale driftnets in the IOTC area of Competence (High sea and ZEE):

YES - Maldives has systems & procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure, AND to take action in relation to potential infringements.

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

Large scale driftnets use monitored and controlled by government fisheries administration with institutional procedures implemented Maldives do not have a history of using driftnets for tuna fishing and it has been banned by law since 1987.

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

Established by national regulation implemented by Government Ministry conducts random inspection of fishing vessels and check for the any prohibited gear onboard.

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

Administrative punitives actions - Fine imposed by administration on beneficial owner/owner/operator Use of a prohibited gears can be fined to an amount not exceeding MVR 2,000,000.

2. Use of large scale driftnets is banned in the IOTC area of competence (high seas and EEZ):
Is implemented (ban) by national legislation 1987

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Additional information on the implementation of this obligation:

-

Information required: Report on MCS actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing.

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - Maldives has system / procedure to implement this binding reporting measure

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below Use of driftnets are banned by law in the Maldives.

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below Ministry conducts random inspection of fishing vessels at landing ports and at home ports and checks for banned gears onboard.

c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

YES - Actions are described below Use of a prohibited gears can be fined to an amount not exceeding MVR 2,000,000.

Monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) actions:

2. Monitoring, control, and surveillance actions are applicable to:

Flag vessels • Foreign vessels

3. Monitoring, control, and surveillance actions are:

Controlling of flag vessels at licensing • Inspection in port of flag vessels • Actions are included in the National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (NPOA-IUU) • Actions are included in the national legislation

Additional MCS actions in place:

Maldives do not license foreign vessels to fish in Maldivian waters. If any foreign vessel is apprehended while within Maldivian water, they are inspected and fined.

Resolution 18/07 On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC

Information required: Report actions taken to implement reporting obligations & improve data collection of catches

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation:

For industrial fisheries:

-

For artisanal/coastal fisheries:

YES - Maldives has system / procedure to implement this binding reporting measure

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure for artisanal/coastal fisheries are described below All reporting obligations are fulfilled by the Ministry, in collaboration with the Maldives Marine Research Institute

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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2. A system to collect fisheries data exists:

YES - A recording system to collect fisheries data exists

3. Mandatory data/statistics reported:

YES - Mandatory data/statistics reported

For Industrial fisheries:

-

For artisanal/coastal fisheries:

-

4. Action(s) to improve data collection that facilitate improvements in compliance in terms of IOTC mandatory reporting obligations:

a. Development or improvements in the implementation of logbooks:

Yes
Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:

Maldives has taken measures to implement logbook in tuna fishing fleet by strengthening enforcement at the landing centers. Landing centers are now required to collect the log sheet for that trip prior to the offloading process. Vessels cannot unload the catch unless the log sheet for that trip has been submitted. This has significantly increased the coverage of logbooks in past two years.

Maldives is working on full roll-out electronic logbook systems. The data collected will be hosted within the Fisheries Information System.

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

b. Port-based sampling or related fisheries surveys:

Yes
Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:
Port sampling was implemented at the key landing sites.

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

c. National observer scheme:

Yes
Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:
Some of the trips were observed with an observer onboard under the National Observer Scheme

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

d. National Vessel registry:

Yes
Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:
All sea going vessels including fishing vessels are required to register at the Ministry of Transport under the law. This registration is among one of the mandatory prerequisite for issuing a fishing license.

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

e. Electronic data capture, VMS, or on-board electronic monitoring:

Yes
Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:
An electronic catch reporting application has been developed and testing phase completed. Electronic reporting of logbook data is now open on a voluntary basis. Paper based logbook reporting is still mandatory as stated above.
Installation of VMS is mandatory prerequisite for issuing a fishing license.
On-board electronic monitoring was trailed however the implementation of a national EM scheme has been delayed due to the high cost associated with the EM technology.

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

5. Action(s) to improve data processing and reporting systems that facilitate submission of data to the IOTC Secretariat:

a. Development of fisheries databases:

Yes
Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:
Data on fishing license, logbook records, all commercial landings and exports are all recorded electrically and maintained in the Fisheries Information System (FIS) database. Database is developed as web software which enable landing and processing facilities report their mandatory fisheries reporting directly through to the system. The software is developed to provide different level of access in terms of their role in fisheries management and MCS spectrum. Thus, this allows relevant officers from the Ministry and other relevant agencies to generate reports, cross reference and validate information more effectively and in a timely manner.

Application developed for logbook reporting of pole and line and handline fishery is also integrated into the database. To fulfill reporting obligations, particularly to attain timely reporting of catch and effort data concerning of IOTC resolutions 15/01 and 15/02, Maldives continually implements the necessary developments and enhancements to FIS Database.

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

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b. Development of data dissemination systems:

Yes
Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:

Countries importing fish from Maldives can access to catch documentation issued through Fisheries Information System through the FIS exporter portal.

There is an online portal established for electronic data reporting. This portal will be further developed to share information required for fishers, processors and other relevant agencies in a timely manner.

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

c. Frame surveys:

No

Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:

All vessels engaged in commercial tuna fishing is required to obtain a fishing license. The licensing process currently in place captures information of the vessel, gears and other related information. Furthermore the mandatory logbooks also captures details of the fishery.

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

d. Coherence of data with alternative fisheries datasets:

No

Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:

–

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

e. Development of automated routines to process and extract IOTC data submission:

Yes

Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:

Maldives have a full-fledge e-licensing system.

Automation of fisheries data collection require full roll-out of e-logbook. Once the full roll-out work is completed the intention is to make the e-logbook mandatory. This would help to eliminate manual recording of paper based logbook data and would enable to receive logbook catch data near real time.

VMS is a monitoring software is design to record and report data electronically through API for any database permitted to.

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

f. Steps to minimise data entry errors:

Yes

Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:

With the implementation of e-reporting specific validation rules are set to eliminate reporting errors. It is an ongoing process to further study on the potential areas that require improvement particularly on minimizing data reporting issues.

Different level of verifications stages are deployed for vessel license, fish landing and logbook data entry into the system to crosscheck data enter into the Fisheries Information System.

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

6. Action(s) to improve the quality and accuracy of data submitted to the IOTC Secretariat:

a. Steps to improve data validation:

Yes

Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:

All data related to tuna fisheries including fishing license, logbook, landings, and sampling data are electronically logged into Fisheries Information System. Full rollout of electronic logbook reporting will enable automatic data verification across data patches. This would consequently improve quality and accuracy of data and also facilitate the validation process.

Furthermore, the VMS and electronic observer scheme would further assist validating data coming through different sources.

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

b. Improvements in sampling coverage:

No

Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:

Currently sampling program is implemented targeting major landing centers. However, new samplers are deployed in targeting fishing islands to improve sampling coverage.

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

–

c. Frame surveys:

No

Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:

—

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

—

d. Coherence of data with alternative fisheries datasets:

No

Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:

—

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

—

e. Comparability of data from previous years:

No

Measures taken and the implementation progress for artisanal (coastal) IOTC fisheries:

—

Measures taken and the implementation progress for Industrial IOTC fisheries:

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Resolution 19/02 - Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan 19/02

Information required: 2024 DFAD management

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the obligation for vessels implementation of the DFADs management plan:

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - No DFADs fishery, fishing for tuna and tuna like species under the IOTC mandate.

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

—

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

—

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

—

2. DFADs management plans were implemented and reported for following year(s):

No DFADs fishery, fishing for tuna and tuna like species under the IOTC mandate.

Additional information:

—

3. Reporting the 2024 FADs management plan:

—

4. The 2024 FADs management plan has been prepared in accordance with the Guideline (Annex I or II):

—

Information required: Report on progress of implementation of 2023 DFADs management plans

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation:

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - No 2023 DFADs management plan(s) was implemented and submitted by Maldives to the IOTC Secretariat.

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

—

b. Système ou procédures pour répondre au non-respect de cette obligation de déclaration contraignante:

—

c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

—

2. DFADs management plans were implemented and progress reports on the implementation reported for the years:

No DFADs fishery, fishing for tuna and tuna like species under the IOTC mandate.

Additional information:

—

3. Reporting the progress report on implementation of the 2023 DFADs management plan for 2023:

No DFADs management plan was implemented and submitted by Maldives to the IOTC Secretariat.

Resolution 19/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence

Information required: Report on review of Flag State internal actions & measures, punitive actions and sanctions on flag vessels on the RAV

1. A system or procedures exist i) to review flag State internal actions, measures, punitive actions and sanctions, and ii) to monitor and to ensure compliance by vessels & persons with those obligations of Paragraphs 11 (Resolution 19/04):

YES - Maldives has system / procedure to i) review flag State internal actions and ii) to monitor & to ensure compliance by vessels & persons with those obligations of Paragraphs 11, AND action in relation to potential infringements.

a. i) System / procedures to review flag State internal actions are:

Review flag State internal actions monitored/conducted by government fisheries administration Ministry maintains a record of all licensed fishing vessel and Ministry ensures all relevant documentations are provided before the license is issued. Licenses are issued through Ministry's online portal, Fisheries Information System.

a. ii) System / procedures to monitor & to ensure ii) compliance by vessels/persons with the obligations of Paragraphs 11, are: Obligations of paragraph 11, monitored and controlled by government fisheries administration with institutional procedures implemented -

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance with the binding measures of paragraph 11:

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c. Actions in relation to potential infringements of measures of paragraph 11:

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2. Paragraph 11.a):

Fulfil in respect of the vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the IOTC Agreement and its Conservation and Management Measures:

Maldives has conducted a review of the internal actions & measures, punitive actions and sanctions for paragraph 11.a) in 2023 and include in the below table the internal actions, puntives actions and sanctions

If such a review has been conducted, list of measures with, for each the following details:

Measures:

-

Punitive Actions:

-

Sanctions:

-

IOTC CMMs are implemented through national legislations. Current regulatory framework enable implementation of all current IOTC CMMs and bring changes when required under any of the future measure comes into force.

Current government Strategic Action Plan involves specific activities to implement the national Monitoring Compliance and Surveillance plan for fishing and fisheries activities. This involve schedule for random inspection and routing checks by the compliance officers and surveillance activities that would be carried out in coordination of Maldives coast guard are carried out to make sure IOTC conservation and management measures are met by AFVs.

Maldives developed NPOA-IUU in 2019. It mandates Maldives to implement all relevant measures adopted under IOTC resolutions on eliminating IUU fishing.

The Tuna Fishery Regulation (2022/R-139) has a chapter on Licensing of the vessels. Vessels that does not fullfill the requirements of the licensing conditions are not issued fishing licenses. The regulation also includes the penalties specified if these requirements are not met by the vessel.

3. Paragraph 11.b):

Ensure that AFVs comply with all the relevant IOTC Conservation and Management Measures:

Maldives has conducted a review of the internal actions & measures, punitive actions and sanctions for paragraph 11.b) in 2023 and include in the below table the internal actions, puntives actions and sanctions

If such a review has been conducted, list of measures with, for each the following details:

Measures:

-

Punitive Actions:

-

Sanctions:

-

IOTC CMMs are implemented through national legislations. Current regulatory framework enable implementation of all current IOTC CMMs and bring changes when required under any of the future measure comes into force.

Current government Strategic Action Plan involves specific activities to implement the national Monitoring Compliance and Surveillance plan for fishing and fisheries activities. This involve schedule for random inspection and routing checks by the compliance officers and surveillance activities that would be carried out in coordination of Maldives coast guard are carried out to make sure IOTC conservation and management measures are met by AFVs.

Maldives developed NPOA-IUU in 2019. It mandates Maldives to implement all relevant measures adopted under IOTC resolutions on eliminating IUU fishing.

The Tuna Fishery Regulation (2022/R-139) has a chapter on Licensing of the vessels. Vessels that does not fullfill the requirements of the licensing conditions are not issued fishing licenses. The regulation also includes the penalties specified if these requirements are not met by the vessel.

4. Paragraph 11.c):

Ensure AFVs on the IOTC Record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or tranship:

Maldives has conducted a review of the internal actions & measures, punitive actions and sanctions for paragraph 11.c) in 2023 and include in the below table the internal actions, puntives actions and sanctions

If such a review has been conducted, list of measures with, for each the following details:

Measures:

–

Punitive Actions:

–

Sanctions:

–

The Tuna Fishery Regulation (2022/R-139) has a chapter on Licensing of the vessels. Vessels are required to keep a copy of the fishing license on board. The regulation also includes the penalties specified if these requirements are not met by the vessel.

The current Strategic Action Plan involves specific activities to implement the national Monitoring Compliance and Surveillance plan for fishing and fisheries activities. As per this plan enforcement officers conducts random inspection and routing checks to make sure IOTC conservation and management measures are met by AFVs as well as other relevant domestic regulations.

At sea transshipment is prohibited in the Maldives.

5. Paragraph 11.d):

Ensure AFVs on the IOTC Record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that AFVs are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing:

Maldives has conducted a review of the internal actions & measures, punitive actions and sanctions for paragraph 11.d) in 2023 and include in the below table the internal actions, puntives actions and sanctions

If such a review has been conducted, list of measures with, for each the following details:

Measures:

–

Punitive Actions:

–

Sanctions:

–

The Tuna Fishery Regulation (2022/R-139) has a chapter on Licensing of the vessels. Vessels are required to keep a copy of the fishing license on board. The regulation also includes the penalties specified if these requirements are not met by the vessel.

The current Strategic Action Plan involves specific activities to implement the national Monitoring Compliance and Surveillance plan for fishing and fisheries activities. As per this plan enforcement officers conducts random inspection and routing checks to make sure IOTC conservation and management measures are met by AFVs as well as other relevant domestic regulations.

At sea transshipment is prohibited in the Maldives.

6. Paragraph 11.e):

Ensure under domestic law the owners/operators of AFVs on the IOTC Record are not engaged in/associated with tuna fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the IOTC Record in the IOTC area of competence:

Maldives has conducted a review of the internal actions & measures, punitive actions and sanctions for paragraph 11.e) in 2023 and include in the below table the internal actions, puntives actions and sanctions

If such a review has been conducted, list of measures with, for each the following details:

Measures:

–

Punitive Actions:

–

Sanctions:

–

Under the licensing regulation vessels are required to have authorization or fishing license to engage in any form of commercial fishing. Maldives regularly communicate updates AFVs to the IOTC secretariat on a weekly basis.

The Licensing Regulation also mandates fish landing centers and processing facilities to obtain license to operate. These landing centers are also mandated to record and report fish daily fish landing through fisheries information system. Landing to these fish processing centers are only permitted for authorised vessels.

7. Paragraph 11.f):

Ensure under domestic law the owners of the AFVs on the IOTC Record are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them:

Maldives has conducted a review of the internal actions & measures, punitive actions and sanctions for paragraph 11.f) in 2023 and include in the below table the internal actions, punitive actions and sanctions

If such a review has been conducted, list of measures with, for each the following details:

Measures:

–

Punitive Actions:

–

Sanctions:

–

All local seagoing vessels including fishing vessels can be operated in the Maldives after register under the Transport Regulation on vessel registration. Under the licensing regulation all vessels requesting for fishing license are required to have a local vessel registry with applicant be Maldivian nationals or a 100 percent Maldivian legal entity. Regulation on registry of seagoing vessels consists provisions to ensure the verification of vessel characteristics, origin, history and owner(s) of the vessel.

Ministry of Transport communicates vessel registration information with the Ministry of Fisheries regularly to enable validation of information present with the application for fishing license.

Furthermore the recently enacted Fisheries Act of the Maldives also stipulates that a fishing license cannot be granted to a foreign-flagged fishing vessel to fish in Maldives.

Information required: report on vessels engaged in fishing or transshipment and not on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - Maldives has system / procedure to implement this binding reporting reporting measure

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below

All fish landing ports are required to check for a valid fishing license before purchasing fish from that vessel.

The ministry conducts random inspections of fishing vessels at fish landing ports and checks for valid fishing licenses.

If any inconsistency and/or is noticed it will be documented and investigated as per the Regulation on Tuna Fishery Management Plan and the appropriate action will be taken on the vessel.

Ministry communicates to the Secretariat weekly the list of issued licenses in the same week to update to the RAV, now this vessel information is updated to e-RAV by Ministry staff. Similarly, any factual information on the matter will be reported to the Secretariat via email.

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below Fisheries Compliance Section of the Ministry is mandated issue fishing licenses, update the vessel information on the RAV and investigate any information on non-compliance by a vessel. The section head must ensure this responsibility is carried out by the assigned staff and administrative action is taken if not.

c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

YES - Actions are described below The Inspection program at the landing ports and the National Catch Documentation Scheme ensures that all vessel have a valid license and that vessel information is updated on the RAV. Multiple staff are assigned this responsibility to ensure compliance and the administrative action in the form of giving verbal and written warnings will issued to the concerned staff and if not resolved will be transferred or terminated.

2. Reporting factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not on the IOTC Record to be engaged in fishing and/or transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence:

NO - Nil report for 2023 – Maldives has no factual information

Additional information:

–

Resolution 21/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence

Information required: CPCs subject to catch reductions, over-catch, report on corrective actions taken to adhere to prescribed catch levels

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with corrective actions taken by the CPC to adhere to the prescribed catch levels when subject to catch reductions due to over-catch:

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - Maldives is not subject to yellowfin tuna catch reductions in 2022 due to no over-catch in 2021

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

– –

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

--

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

--

2. CPC subject to yellowfin tuna catch reductions in 2022, due to over-catch in 2021:

NO - NOT subject to

If Yes, YFT catch declared and over-catch in 2021:

-- / --

3. Our catch of yellowfin tuna in 2023 was reduced by the following percentage:

--

4. If the CPC is subject to catch reduction due to over-catch, report on corrective actions taken to adhere to prescribed catch levels:

--

Additional information:

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Information required: Report on methods for achieving the YFT catch reductions

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the methods of YFT catch reductions adopted by Maldives:

YES - Maldives has systems & procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure, AND to take action in relation to potential infringements.

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

Methods of YFT catch reductions adopted monitored and controlled by government fisheries administration with institutional procedures implemented Administrative measures in place to limit existing fishing capacity.

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

Established in administrative orders implemented by Government Administrative measures in place to limit existing fishing capacity.

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

NO action is taken in relation to potential infringements As the authority issuing fishing licenses, Ministry has total control over managing fishing capacity.

2. The CPC is subject to yellowfin tuna catch reductions:

NO - NOT subject to

If Yes, overcatch:

--

3. The report on methods for achieving the yellowfin tuna catch reductions has been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes

4. The methods for achieving the yellowfin tuna catch reductions implemented at national level are:

Reduction of fishing capacity

Additional methods:

a) Applying a temporary ban on direct and indirect subsidies that could contribute to additional fishing capacity in the handline and pole and line fishery.

b) By incentivizing and encouraging pole and line fishers to fish from free swimming schools as research has shown free swimming schools of skipjack tuna, yields reduced incidental catches of yellowfin tuna.

c) Catches of yellowfin tuna were also regularly monitored by the Ministry through the Fisheries Information System (FIS – Keyolhu) to ensure that catches remained within the limits and to implement further remedial action should the forecasts indicate a breach of the limits.

Information required: Report on plans/status of reducing the use of supply vessels

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the reduction of supply vessels in purse seine operations (Plan):

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - Maldives has NO purse seiners (PS) and NO supply vessel (SP) on the IOTC Record of authorised vessels

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

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b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

--

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

--

2. CPC has PS/SP vessels on the Record of authorized vessels:

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - No purse seiner (PS) and no supply vessel (SP) on the IOTC Record of authorised vessels

3. The plan for reducing the use of supply vessel was provided for:

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - No plan submitted, No purse seiner (PS) and no supply vessel (SP) on the IOTC Record of authorised vessels

Information required: Gillnet, Report the level of implementation of paragraphs 21-23

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with i) phasing out/convert gillnetters to other gears, ii) set gillnets at 2m depth, iii) increase observer coverage/ field sampling in gillnetters by 10% :

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - Maldives has NO gillnet fishing vessels on the IOTC Record of authorized Vessels

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

--

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

--

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

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2. Maldives has gillnet catch in 2023, has gillnet fishing vessels on the IOTC Record of authorised vessels, the gillnet fleet was active in the IOTC Area of Competence:

NO – NIL Report / Not Applicable - Maldives has NO gillnet fishing vessels on the IOTC Record of authorized Vessels in 2023

3. Report the level of implementation of paragraph 21 - Phasing out or convert gillnet fishing vessels to other gears:

a. Phasing out measures:

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b. Conversion progress:

Number of gillnet vessels converted in 2023:

0

Number of gillnet vessels converted since 2019:

0

Gillnet vessels converted for the following fishing gears:

--

4. Report the level of implementation of paragraph 22 - Set gillnets at 2m depth from the surface in gillnet fisheries:

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5. Report the level of implementation of paragraph 23 - Increase observer coverage or field sampling in gillnet fishing vessels by 10% using alternative data collection methodologies (electronic or human):

-- %

-- %

Report of the previous session of the Commission - Response to letter of feedback on compliances issues

Information required: Response to the letter of feedback from the previous CoC

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - Maldives has system / procedure to implement this binding reporting reporting measure

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

YES - System / procedure are described below Ministry, in cooperation with the Maldives Marine Research Institute, develops a plan to improve the compliance with the relevant Resolutions and drafts the response to the Feedback letter.

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

--

c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

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2. The response to the feedback letter on compliances issues (from the 2023 CoC) has been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

YES - The responses to the feedback letter are uploaded in the section UPLOAD

Date of submission of responses to the feedback letter:

13/03/2024

Number of repeated compliance issues:

3

Number of non repeated compliance issues:

4

Number of compliance issues responded:

-

Part E - Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs that have objected to some Resolutions

Resolution 12/12 To prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC area

Prohibition from: using large-scale driftnets on the high seas.

APPLIES ONLY TO PAKISTAN

1. A system or procedures to monitor and to ensure compliance with the obligation for fishing vessels to not use large scale driftnets in the high sea:

—

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

— —

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

— —

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

— —

2. Actions taken to implement conservation and management measures in "Resolution 12/12 to prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC area" adopted by the Commission:

—

3. Use of large-scale driftnets is banned on the high seas in the IOTC Area of competence:

— —

— —

— —

—

Information required: Report on MCS actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing.

APPLIES ONLY TO PAKISTAN

1. A system or procedures exist to implement this binding reporting obligation:

—

a. System or procedures to implement this binding reporting obligation:

— —

b. System or procedures to respond to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

— —

c. Action to be taken in relation to non-compliance with this binding reporting obligation:

— —

2. Monitoring, control, and surveillance actions are applicable to:

—

3. Monitoring, control, and surveillance actions are:

—

Additional MCS actions in place:

—

Resolution 18/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence

Information required: Report on methods for achieving the YFT catch reductions

APPLIES ONLY TO INDIA

1. Actions taken to implement conservation and management measures in "Resolution 18/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence" adopted by the Commission:

—

2. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the methods of YFT catch reductions adopted by India:

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

3. CPC is subject to yellowfin tuna catch reductions:

If Yes, YFT over-catch:

4. The report on methods for achieving the yellowfin tuna catch reductions has been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

5. The methods for achieving the yellowfin tuna catch reductions implemented at national level are:

Any method implemented and not listed above:



Information required: Report on plans/status of reducing the use of supply vessels

ONLY APPLICABLE TO INDIA

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the reduction of supply vessels in purse seine operations (Plan):

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

2. India has purse seiners (PS) and supply vessels (SP) on the IOTC Record of authorized vessels:

2. The plan for reducing the use of supply vessel was provided for:

Information required: Catch limits – Nominal catch of YFT in 2022

APPLIES ONLY TO INDIA

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the limit of catch of Yellowfin tuna (YFT):

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

2. CPC is subject to yellowfin tuna catch reductions:

3. The catch of yellowfin tuna in 2022 reported to the IOTC Secretariat and the reductions were:

Fishing gear	Baseline year	YFT catch of baseline year	YFT catch in 2022 (T)	Reduction (%)
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Purse seine	-	-	-	-
Longline	-	-	-	-
Gillnet	-	-	-	-
Pole and line	-	-	-	-

Resolution 19/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence

Information required: Report on methods for achieving the YFT catch reductions

APPLIES ONLY TO INDONESIA, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, MADAGASCAR, OMAN AND SOMALIA

1. Actions taken to implement conservation and management measures in "Resolution 19/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence" adopted by the Commission:

-

2. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the methods of YFT catch reductions adopted by Maldives:

-

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

-

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

-

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

-

3. The CPC is subject to yellowfin tuna catch reductions:

-

If Yes, overcatch:

-

4. The report on methods for achieving the yellowfin tuna catch reductions has been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

-

5. The methods for achieving the yellowfin tuna catch reductions implemented at national level are:

-

Additional methods:

-

Information required: Purse seiners served by supply vessels in 2024

APPLIES ONLY TO INDONESIA, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, MADAGASCAR, OMAN AND SOMALIA

1. Actions taken to implement conservation and management measures in "Resolution 19/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence" adopted by the Commission:

-

2. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with operations of purse seiners served by supply vessel:

-

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

-

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

-

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

-

3. CPC has PS/SP vessels on the Record of authorised vessels:

-

4. The information on purse seiners served by each supply vessel in 2024 has been provided to the Secretariat:

-

Information required: Report on plans/status of reducing the use of supply vessels

ONLY APPLICABLE TO INDONESIA, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, MADAGASCAR, OMAN AND SOMALIA

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the reduction of supply vessels in purse seine operations (Plan):

-

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

-

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

-

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

-

2. CPC has PS/SP vessels on the Record of authorised vessels:

-

3. The plan for reducing the use of supply vessel was provided for:

-

Information required: Catch limits – Nominal catch of YFT in 2022

APPLIES ONLY TO INDONESIA, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, MADAGASCAR, OMAN AND SOMALIA

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with the limit of catch of Yellowfin tuna (YFT) :

-

a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:

-

b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:

-

c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:

-

2. CPC is subject to yellowfin tuna catch reductions:

-

3. The catch of yellowfin tuna in 2022 reported to the IOTC Secretariat and the reductions were:

Fishing gear	Baseline year	YFT catch of baseline year	YFT catch in 2022 (T)	Reduction (%)
Purse seine	-	-	-	-
Longline	-	-	-	-
Gillnet	-	-	-	-
Pole and line	-	-	-	-

Information required: Gillnet, Report the level of implementation of paragraphs 20-22

APPLIES ONLY TO INDONESIA, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, MADAGASCAR, OMAN AND SOMALIA

1. A system or procedures exist to monitor and to ensure compliance with i) phasing out/convert gillnetters to other gears, ii) set gillnets at 2m depth, iii) increase observer coverage/ field sampling in gillnetters by 10%:

-
- a. System or procedures to monitor compliance with this binding measure are:
- -
- b. System or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance are:
- -
- c. Actions in relation to potential infringements are:
- -
2. Maldives has gillnet catch in 2023, has gillnet fishing vessels on the Record of authorised vessels, the gillnet fleet was active in the IOTC Area of Competence:
-
3. Level of implementation of paragraph 20 - Phasing out or convert gillnet fishing vessels to other gears:
a. Phasing out measures:
- -
- -
- -
- -
- -
- -
- b. Conversion progress:
Number of gillnet vessels converted in 2023:
0
Number of gillnet vessels converted since 2019:
0
Gillnet vessels converted for the following fishing gears:
-
4. Level of implementation of paragraph 21 - Set gillnets at 2m depth from the surface in gillnet fisheries:
- -
- -
- -
5. Level of implementation of paragraph 22 - Increase observer coverage or field sampling in gillnet fishing vessels by 10% using alternative data collection methodologies (electronic or human):
- %
- %