

# IOTC-2024-CoC21-sCR15-MDV [E]

## 2024 **Summary** Compliance Report for: Maldives

### Report date: 11 April 2024 - 15:43

Note: Acronyms and definitions can be consulted last page of the Compliance Report.

Req. n°	Source (para n°) (year)	Information required	Deadline	Previous timeliness	Previous status	Current timeliness	Current status	Observations	CPC remarks
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## 1. Implementation obligations

## 2. Management Standards

2.6	Res. 19/04 (3.b & c) (2023)	IMO number for eligible vessels	31/12/2023 (Since 01.01.2016)	C	C	C	P/C	<p><b>LEG:</b> Submitted - "Local Vessel Registration Regulation 2016/R-6 – Article 6". Text of the legal document in local language, cannot be verified. <b>Specific text of the provision not provided.</b></p> <p><b>STD:</b> NO – Out of the total number of vessels eligible for an IMO number (11), a couple (2) did not have an IMO number in 2023.</p> <p><b>SP:</b> YES – Provided for a) b) &amp; c).</p>	We have updated the IMO numbers of the 2 vessels identified in the e-RAV, the third vessel (IOTC number: 9084) has a gross tonnage of 40 and is only authorized to operate inside the EEZ, hence it is not eligible for an IMO number.
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2.8	Res. 17/07 (2) (2023)	Ban on large-scale driftnets in IOTC Area (2)	14/3/2024	C	C	C	P/C	<p><b>LEG:</b> Partially provided - Banned by the "<i>Fisheries Act of the Maldives</i>", art.27, on the Maritime Zones of the Maldives. Has not banned the use of large-scale driftnets in the entire IOTC area of competence.</p> <p><b>STD:</b> YES.</p> <p><b>SP:</b> YES – Provided/described for a), b) and c).</p>	<p>Please note that, with reference to Article 27 (specifically under article 27 (d)) of the Fisheries Act of the Maldives, the use of all types of nets is prohibited (except for bait fishing and fishing for personal consumption) in the Maritime Zones of the Maldives, which also includes large-scale driftnets.</p> <p>Please also note that only vessels that were authorized to fish in the high seas were the longline fishing vessels. However, Maldives stopped issuing licenses to these vessels in 2019. Currently, no Maldivian fishing vessel is licensed to fish outside the EEZ. Furthermore, licensed tuna vessels are only authorized to use handline, pole and line and trolling gear.</p>
2.9	Res. 17/07 (6) (2023)	MCS actions related to large-scale driftnets in IOTC Area	14/3/2024	C	C	C	P/C	<p><b>LEG:</b> Partially provided - Banned by the "<i>Fisheries Act of the Maldives</i>", art.27, on the Maritime Zones of the Maldives. Has not banned the use of large-scale driftnets in the entire IOTC area of competence.</p> <p><b>STD:</b> YES.</p> <p><b>SP:</b> NO – The "system or procedures" and "actions to be taken" provided and described do not specifically refer to the obligation of preparing and submitting the annual report on MCS actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing.</p>	<p>Please note that, with reference to Article 27 (specifically under article 27 (d)) of the Fisheries Act of the Maldives, the use of all types of nets is prohibited (except for bait fishing and fishing for personal consumption) in the Maritime Zones of the Maldives, which also includes large-scale driftnets.</p> <p>Please also note that no vessel with a valid authorization period is in the RAV for 2023. The only vessels that were authorized to fish in the high seas were the longline fishing vessels. However, Maldives stopped issuing licenses to these vessels in 2019. Currently, no Maldivian fishing vessel is licensed to fish outside the EEZ. Furthermore, licensed tuna vessels are only authorized to use handline, pole and line and trolling gear.</p>

## 3.Reporting on Vessels

3.6	Res. 19/04 (3) (2023)	List of Authorized vessels 24 metres in length overall or more (3)	11/4/2024 (Since 01.07.2003)	C	P/C	C	N/C2	<p>Vessels ≥ 24m: 392</p> <p><b>Failed to ensure compliance of the same obligation for two or more consecutive years.</b></p> <p><b>LEG:</b> YES – Submitted - "<i>Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act No. 14/2019)</i>"</p> <p><b>STD:</b> NO - Missing information for 63 vessels [63 CCm3, 1 IRCS, 18 vessels with outdated authorisation period. 1 Operator,1 beneficial owner,1 company</p> <p><b>Info. Photographs: 20 starboards,20 portside and 20 bow].</b></p> <p><b>SP:</b> YES – Provided &amp; described for a) b) c).</p>	<p>Any missing information is from the vessels with expired authorization period, these vessels are being delisted automatically 730 days after the expiration of the authorization period from the eRAV.</p>
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3.7	Res. 19/04 (3) (2023)	List of Authorized vessels (less than 24m, operating in waters outside EEZ of the flag state) (3)	11/4/2024 (Since 01.07.2006)	C	P/C	C	N/C2	Vessels <24m: 365 <b>Failed to ensure compliance of the same obligation for two or more consecutive years.</b> <u>LEG:</u> YES – Submitted - " Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act No. 14/2019)" <b>STD:</b> NO - Missing information for 354 vessels [3 IMO number,188 CCm3, 105 vessels with outdated authorisation period. 50 Operator,49 beneficial owner,50 company Info. Photographs: 354 starboards,353 portside and 351 bow]. <u>SP:</u> YES – Provided & described for a) b) c).	Maldives does not authorize licensed fishing vessels of any size to operate outside of the Maldivian EEZ. As had been previously reported to the CoC, these vessels (vessels <24m, operating inside the EEZ) are recorded in the RAV due to the requirements from market states. As of February 2024, Maldives has removed all vessels that are less than 24m, operating in waters inside the EEZ from the RAV.
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## 4.Vessel Monitoring System

## 5.Mandatory statistical requirement – Flag State CPCs

5.1	Res. 15/02 (1 to 7), 18/05 (8), 18/07 (4), 19/02 (4, 22 & 24) (2022)	Nominal Catches – Costal Fisheries	30/6/2023	C	P/C	C	N/C2	<b>Failed to ensure compliance of the same obligation for two or more consecutive years.</b> <u>LEG:</u> YES – Submitted " Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act No. 14/2019) - The mandate of the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture. <b>STD:</b> NO - Data for surface and coastal fisheries aggregated; Billfish catches reported as BIL. <u>SP:</u> YES – Provided & described for a) b) c). <u>Obs:</u> LEG and SP assessments are valid for 5.1 to 5.20.	We have updated section 1 of the 5.0 Mandatory statistics requirement. With current logbook reporting for HL and TLME all Billfish fish species are recorded as a single record. Hence, we do not have species level disaggregated data for Billfish species. However, in the zero catch Matrix we have indicated that all species of Billfish as positive catch. This is based on our sampling data of Billfish landing as we have observed landing of all species of Billfish.
5.2	Res. 15/02 (1 to 7), 18/05 (8), 18/07 (4), 19/02 (4, 22 & 24) (N/A)	Nominal Catch – Surface Fisheries: PS, BB, GN	30/6/2023	C	C	C	P/C	Received: 29.06.2023. <b>Standard:</b> NO - Data for surface and coastal fisheries aggregated; Billfish catches reported as BIL.	We have updated section 1 of the 5.0 Mandatory statistics requirement. With current logbook reporting for HL and TLME all Billfish fish species are recorded as a single record. Hence, we do not have species level disaggregated data for Billfish species. However, in the zero catch Matrix we have indicated that all species of Billfish as positive catch. This is based on our sampling data of Billfish landing as we have observed landing of all species of Billfish.

5.9	Res. 15/02 (1 to 7), 18/05 (8), 18/07 (4), 19/02 (4, 22 & 24) (2022)	Size Frequency – Coastal fisheries	30/6/2023	C	P/C	C	N/C2	Received: 29.06.2023. <b>Failed to ensure compliance of the same obligation for two or more consecutive years.</b> <b>Standard:</b> NO - Less than 1 fish per Mt for some species; SF not available for all species.	Maldives implements a size sampling program at key commercial landing sites that are operated by the major fish processors and exporters in the country. Additionally, scientific observers also contribute data from observer trips and visits to landing sites. Despite these efforts, it is difficult to achieve the required sampling effort of 1 fish/ton and other data stratification that is required by the resolution. Maldives is striving to improve sampling coverage by increasing sampler numbers and sites.
5.10	Res. 15/02 (1 to 7), 18/05 (8), 18/07 (4), 19/02 (4, 22 & 24) (2022)	Size Frequency – Surface fisheries : PS, BB, GN	30/6/2023	C	P/C	C	N/C2	Received: 29.06.2023. <b>Failed to ensure compliance of the same obligation for two or more consecutive years.</b> <b>Standard:</b> NO - Less than 1 fish per Mt for some species; SF not available for all species.	Maldives implements a size sampling program at key commercial landing sites that are operated by the major fish processors and exporters in the country. Additionally, scientific observers also contribute data from observer trips and visits to landing sites. Despite these efforts, it is difficult to achieve the required sampling effort of 1 fish/ton and other data stratification that is required by the resolution. Maldives is striving to improve sampling coverage by increasing sampler numbers and sites.

## 6. Implementation of mitigation measures and bycatch of non-IOTC species

## 7. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Vessels

## 8. Transshipments

## 9. Observers

9.1	Res. 11/04 (9) (2022)	Regional Observer Scheme (2) (No. of vessels monitored and coverage by gear type)	19/11/2023	-/-	-/-	C	N/C1	Received 16.11.2023. <u>ROS sea</u> : Not implemented. <u>ROS coastal</u> : Implemented for PL, HL. <u>LEG</u> : Submitted - <i>Fisheries Act of the Maldives - Article 3 - Mandates of the Ministry</i> . <u>STD</u> : NO – No Protocol ROS Sea/Coastal. <u>SP</u> : YES – Provided & described for i) ii) & iii). <u>Obs</u> : <i>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.</i>	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.
9.2	Res. 11/04 (2) (2022)	5% Mandatory, at sea (All vessels) (2)	19/11/2023 (Since 2013)	-/-	-/-	C	N/C1	Received 16.11.2023. <u>LEG</u> : Submitted - <i>Fisheries Act of the Maldives - Article 3 - Mandates of the Ministry</i> . <u>STD</u> : NO – <b>2022 Coverage NIL</b> . <u>SP</u> : YES – Provided & described for i) ii) & iii).	Maldives initiated a 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.
9.3	Res. 11/04 (4) (2022)	5 % Artisanal landings (2)	19/11/2023 (Since 2013)	-/-	-/-	C	N/C1	Received 19.11.2023. <u>LEG</u> : Submitted - <i>Fisheries Act of the Maldives - Article 3 - Mandates of the Ministry</i> . <u>STD</u> : NO – No sampling programme in place, coverage unknown. Has declared Coverage is < 2 % (for all fishing gear/artisanal fishing vessels) for sampling schemes coastal fisheries. <u>SP</u> : YES – Provided & described for i) ii) & iii).	Maldives initiated a national observer program in 2015 to full-fill the requirement set forth in this resolution. Under this program less 2% of landings were observed in 2022 and the required scientific data has been collected and submitted to the IOTC. Hence, it is incorrect to say that Maldives does not have a sampling program.
9.4	Res. 11/04 (11) (2022)	Observer reports	19/11/2023 (150 days after trip)	-/-	-/-	C	N/C1	Received 26.02.2024 & 09.04.2024. <u>LEG</u> : Submitted - <i>Fisheries Act of the Maldives - Article 3 - Mandates of the Ministry</i> . <u>STD</u> : <b>NO – No information provided, No observer coverage in 2022</b> . <u>SP</u> : YES – Provided & described for i) ii) & iii).	We have updated the required fields and made a new submission.

## 10. Statistical document programme

## 11. Port inspection

11.5	Res. 16/11 (13.1) (2023)	Port inspection reports	31/12/2023 (3 days after inspection)	C	C	C	P/C	<p><b>LEG:</b> NO - Partially. Provided “<i>Regulation on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing</i>” and “<i>Fisheries Act of the Maldives</i>”. Declares it is implemented by art.3 of its Act, which compels Maldives to implement agreements in accordance with their laws. However, articles X and XI, of the IOTC Agreement, require Members to implement CMMs and provide to the Commission copies of laws, regulations and administrative instructions in force. Despite the foregoing, no specific provision on the obligation was observed in the legal reference provided.</p> <p><b>STD:</b> NO – Partially. Has declared for 2023: 16 port calls, no denial of entry in port, no denial of use of port, 13 foreign vessels inspected, all 13 inspection reports submitted by e-PSM, 0 cases of non-compliance observed &amp; reported. e-PSM data: 16 port calls, 13 inspection report submitted by e-PSM, 0 cases of non-compliance observed/reported. Using e-PSM, but not using PIR tablet application for onboard inspection. Submitted 8 out of 13 inspection reports within 3 days after the end of the inspection.</p> <p><b>SP:</b> YES – Provided &amp; described for a), b) &amp; c).</p>	<p>Maldives would like to reiterate that the requirement under this resolution is to inspect 5% of the vessels that call into port. In 2023, 16 vessels called to port, which means we are only required to inspect one vessel and transmit the report within the three-day time period. We note that Maldives had inspected 13 vessels of which eight of the PIRs were completed and submitted within the three days period. This is 50% of all the vessels that called to port in 2023. Hence, we believe that Maldives has met the target stated in the Resolution and is fully compliant with this requirement.</p> <p>The Mandate, as stipulated in the Fisheries Act, empowers and stipulates the Ministry to implement IOTC resolutions as agreed. We believe that the requirement to transmit the inspection reports within 3 working days to the secretariat is ensured by the mandate of the Ministry as it is written in the Fisheries Act of the Ministry.</p>
11.10	Res. 16/11 (15.1) (2023)	Report vessel engaged in IUU fishing following an inspection	31/12/2023 (Depuis 01.03.2011)	C	C	C	P/C	<p><b>LEG:</b> NO – Provided “<i>Fisheries Act of the Maldives</i>”. Declares it is implemented by its art.3, which compels Maldives to implement agreements in accordance with their laws. However, articles X and XI, of the IOTC Agreement, require Members to implement CMMs and provide to the Commission copies of laws, regulations and administrative instructions in force. Despite the foregoing, no specific provision on the obligation was observed in the legal reference provided.</p> <p><b>STD:</b> YES – Nil report.</p> <p><b>SP:</b> YES – Provided &amp; described for a) b) c).</p>	<p>We have updated the legislation section of the requirement. The mandate, as stated in the Fisheries Act, empowers the Ministry to implement the IOTC resolutions. The reporting obligations to the IOTC are covered under Article 3 (e) of the Fisheries Act of the Maldives.</p>

# Current issues on the level of implementation by Maldives of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures identified for discussion in the CoC21 in 2024

Having reviewed the 2024 Draft Compliance Report for Maldives, the Chair of the Compliance Committee has identified the following significant repeated non-compliance issues for discussion.

## Repeated non-compliance issues

Requirement	Observations	Current status (2024)	Previous status (2023)
3.6	<p>Vessels ≥ 24m: 392</p> <p><b>Failed to ensure compliance of the same obligation for two or more consecutive years.</b></p> <p><u>LEG</u>: YES – Submitted - " Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act No. 14/2019)"</p> <p><u>STD</u>: NO - Missing information for 63 vessels [63 CCm3, 1 IRCS, 18 vessels with outdated authorisation period. 1 Operator,1 beneficial owner,1 company</p> <p><b>Info. Photographs: 20 starboards,20 portside and 20 bow].</b></p> <p><u>SP</u>: YES – Provided &amp; described for a) b) c).</p>	N/C2	P/C
3.7	<p>Vessels &lt;24m: 365</p> <p><b>Failed to ensure compliance of the same obligation for two or more consecutive years.</b></p> <p><u>LEG</u>: YES – Submitted - " Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act No. 14/2019)"</p> <p><u>STD</u>: NO - Missing information for 354 vessels [3 IMO number,188 CCm3, 105 vessels with outdated authorisation period. 50 Operator,49 beneficial owner,50 company</p> <p><b>Info. Photographs: 354 starboards,353 portside and 351 bow].</b></p> <p><u>SP</u>: YES – Provided &amp; described for a) b) c).</p>	N/C2	P/C
5.1	<p><b>Failed to ensure compliance of the same obligation for two or more consecutive years.</b></p> <p><u>LEG</u>: YES – Submitted " Fisheries Act of the Maldives (Act No. 14/2019) - The mandate of the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture.</p> <p><u>STD</u>: NO - Data for surface and coastal fisheries aggregated; Billfish catches reported as BIL.</p> <p><u>SP</u>: YES – Provided &amp; described for a) b) c).</p> <p><u>Obs</u>: <u>LEG</u> and <u>SP</u> assessments are valid for 5.1 to 5.20.</p>	N/C2	P/C
5.9	<p>Received: 29.06.2023.</p> <p><b>Failed to ensure compliance of the same obligation for two or more consecutive years.</b></p> <p><b>Standard</b>: NO - Less than 1 fish per Mt for some species; SF not available for all species.</p>	N/C2	P/C

5.10	Received: 29.06.2023. <b>Failed to ensure compliance of the same obligation for two or more consecutive years.</b> <b>Standard:</b> NO - Less than 1 fish per Mt for some species; SF not available for all species.	N/C2	P/C
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*Note: if the table above is empty, it means there were no repeated compliance issues identified this year.*



# Reading instructions

(1) Information is to be provided in the Report of Implementation

(2) 24 meters overall length and over, and under 24 meters if they fished outside their EEZ

(Year) = year reporting on/year assessed.

**LEG:** Legislation - Transposition of Commission decisions, Legislation or administrative orders.

**STD :** Standard - Reporting format, IOTC standard

**SP:** System or procedures - Provision of information on system or procedures a) to monitor and ensure compliance of vessels and persons OR b) to prepare and submit information, data, report to the Commission.

i) ii) iii) = a) b) c)

## Assessment

### Timeliness

- **C:** Compliant
- **L:** Late
- **N/A:** Not applicable
- **N/C:** Non compliant
- **P/C:** Partially compliant

### Compliance

- **C:** Compliant
- **C/B:** Capacity building
- **N/A:** Not applicable
- **N/C1:** Not compliant 1
- **N/C2:** Not compliant 2
- **P/C:** Partially compliant

## CoC/Commission recommendations

- **Additional info or address the issue:** Provide additional information or address the compliance issue within a given period of time, and at the latest before the following annual meeting.
- **Actions proposed by the CPC:** Actions proposed by the CPC and endorsed by the Commission.
- **Investigation by the CPC:** Completion of an investigation by the CPC regarding a compliance issue and reporting back to the Compliance Committee, where required.
- **Enhanced monitoring of fleet:** Enhanced monitoring of the fleet.
- **Amendments to national rules:** Amendments to domestic procedures, legislation or policy including penalties, where required.
- **Detailed plan and timeline:** Submit, within 3 months from the end of the Commission annual session, a detailed plan and timeline on how it intends to address the non-compliance of category 2 identified.
- **Capacity building or assistance:** Provision of capacity building or technical assistance for a specified amount of time.
- **Other remedies:** Other remedies.

## “Missing” values:

- “-/-”: no possible value (e.g.: no previous assessment possible because this is the first campaign in which the requirement is assessed);
- “None”: no value provided by the Secretariat (e.g. requirement assessed as Compliant, no text provided in “Observations”);
- “Not assessed”: for timeliness and compliance when no assessment has been made yet or the requirement is not assessable;
- “-”: no information provided by the CPC for this question (e.g. nothing entered in a text entry field, no boxes checked...);
- “Not Submitted”: the value will only be available after submission of the report (e.g. the “Report date”).