



Report of the First Meeting of the AD HOC Working Group on Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure

Held by video-conference, 21 August 2024

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY

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Acronyms

CMM	conservation and management measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CoC	Compliance Committee
CPCs	Contracting Parties (Members) and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
WGAV	<i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Group on Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

Level 1: *From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:*

RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION: Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

Level 2: *From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a Contracting Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CPC), the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:*

REQUESTED: This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a Committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalize the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

Level 3: *General terms to be used for consistency:*

AGREED: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 or level 2 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be considered/adopted by the next level in the Commission's structure.

NOTED/NOTING: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference.

Any other term: Any other term may be used in addition to the Level 3 terms to highlight to the reader of the IOTC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. However, other terms used are considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3, described above (e.g. **CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED**).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The First Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (WGAV) was held by video-conference on 21 August 2024. A total of 28 participants attended the meeting. The meeting was opened by Mr Indra Jaya (Indonesia), the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee, who welcomed participants to the meeting.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The First Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Appendix V (WGAV) of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission's (IOTC) Rules of Procedure was held by video-conference on 21 August 2024. A total of 28 participants attended the Meeting. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix 1](#). The meeting was opened by Mr Indra Jaya (IDN), the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee, who welcomed participants to the video-conference and thanked them for their presence at the First Meeting of the WGAV.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

2. The WGAV01 **ADOPTED** the agenda provided in [Appendix 2](#).

3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

3. The WGAV01 **ADMITTED** the observers in the list of participants in [Appendix 1](#).

4. OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE INCEPTION MEETING

4. The Chairperson highlighted the objective of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group and thanked participants for their presence, and for progressing the work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group.
5. The WGAV01 **NOTED** that 12 CPCs have nominated participants for the Working Group, plus Invited Experts.

5. PRESENTATION BY THE IOTC SECRETARIAT – IMPLEMENTATION OF APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE

6. The WGAV01 **NOTED** the presentation of the IOTC Secretariat, which described the implementation of Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure and the compliance assessment procedures presented in IOTC [Circular 2023-54](#).
7. The WGAV01 **NOTED** that the majority of non-compliance issues identified in the 2024 compliance assessments could be attributed to:
 - i. lack of familiarity in the use of the electronic reporting application (e-MARIS);
 - ii. incomplete/incorrect reporting (not to IOTC standard);
 - iii. late reporting,
 - iv. non-compliant with the same reporting requirement for two or more consecutive years.

6. PRESENTATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION - IMPLEMENTATION OF APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE

8. The WGAV01 **NOTED** the presentation of the European Union (EU), which describes the philosophy behind the EU's proposal to improve the IOTC compliance process; increasing the scope of compliance assessment categories and plan of action for CPCs to address serious and repeated compliance issues.
9. The WGAV01 **NOTED** that the philosophy is primarily focussed on remedial actions to be implemented by CPCs to address serious and repeated compliance issues.
10. The WGAV01 **NOTED** the clarifications on how the EU had anticipated the assessments of the non-compliant category 2 (N/C2) to be applied. As an example, the EU clarified that a partially compliant (P/C) assessment over two consecutive years should not result in a N/C2 assessment. In the same manner, late reporting over consecutive years should also not result in a N/C2 assessment
11. The WGAV01 **NOTED** that CPCs comments on the Compliance Report are required for the Draft-Compliance Report (DCR) prepared by the IOTC Secretariat and then further comments have to be formulated in advance and provided during the Compliance Committee on the Summary-Compliance Report (SCR).
12. The WGAV01 **NOTED** that the European Union volunteered to make amendment to the texts of the Annex V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure to provide greater clarity on the compliance assessment process.

7. PRESENTATION BY JAPAN – A REFLECTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE AND POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS OF THE PROCESS

13. The WGAV01 **NOTED** the presentation of Japan, which presented four key discussion points for future meetings of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group to improve the IOTC compliance review process.
14. The WGAV01 **AGREED** that the themes to be discussed at future WGAV meetings should be related to:
 - i. the Compliance review process;
 - ii. the format of the Compliance report;
 - iii. the assessment criteria of the Compliance Status, and
 - iv. the technical specifications of the e-MARIS application.

8. WORK PLAN, DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

15. The WGAV01 **AGREED** to conduct the next WGAV meeting virtually during the last week of September 2024. The WGAV01 **FURTHER AGREED** to finalise the work of the WGAV before the end of 2024 to be able to report to the WPICMM and the Compliance Committee in 2025. To this end, conducting one meeting every month may be suitable.
16. The WGAV01 **NOTED** that the date of the meetings will be determined by the Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Appendix V of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission's (IOTC) Rules of Procedure.

9. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON AND A VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE WGAV

17. The WGAV01 elected Mr Kimiyoshi Hiwatari (Japan) as Chair and Ms Laura Marot (European Union) as Vice-Chair of the WGAV.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

18. With no other business to discuss, the Chair of WGAV01 brought the meeting to a close.

11. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT, AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE

19. The report of the First Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (IOTC-2024-WGAV01-R) was **ADOPTED** on 30 August 2024.

APPENDIX 1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES

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APPENDIX 2
AGENDA

IOTC-2024-WGAV01

AGENDA**INCEPTION MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* WORKING GROUP ON APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

21 August 2024

Date: 21 August 2024**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)**Time:** 1100–1300 hrs (Seychelles time)**Chair:** Pro. Dr Indra Jaya (Indonesia)

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (Chair)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chair)
3. **ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS** (Chair)
4. **OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE INCEPTION MEETING** (Chair)
5. **PRESENTATION BY THE IOTC SECRETARIAT – IMPLEMENTATION OF APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE** (IOTC Secretariat)
6. **PRESENTATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION - IMPLEMENTATION OF APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE** (European Union)
7. **PRESENTATION BY JAPAN – A REFLECTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE AND POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS OF THE PROCESS** (Japan)
8. **WORK PLAN AND THE NEXT MEETING(S) OF THE WORKING GROUP** (Chair and participants)
9. **ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON FOR THE WORKING GROUP**(Chair and participants)
10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** (Chair).