

## Amendments to Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure

PREPARED BY THE IOTC SECRETARIAT

1 MARCH 2025

### PURPOSE

To provide participants at the Twenty-second Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC22) with the opportunity to review the proposed amendments to Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.

### BACKGROUND

The CoC21 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission (S28) create an *ad hoc* Working Group to improve the procedures outlined in Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (notably paragraphs 4, 5 and 6), which was adopted in 2023. The recommendation was endorsed by the Commission and the *ad hoc* Working Group was constituted in the second half of 2024.

The *ad hoc* Working Group met, virtually, three times in 2024 and clarified certain procedures, as well as proposed some amendments to paragraphs 4. a) i), iii) and iv) of Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure. The proposed amendments are reproduced below.

#### 4. IOTC Compliance Committee preparatory works:

a) In preparation for the meeting of the IOTC Compliance Committee the IOTC Secretariat shall:

i) Provide each CPC on a secure section of the IOTC website, and notified by email 4 months prior to the annual meeting, a standard questionnaire on compliance with the various binding applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures covering the previous calendar year. Such questionnaire shall also seek information on any follow-up actions by CPCs in response to the previous year's IOTC Final Compliance Report as stipulated in paragraph 6, for receiving comments and answers from the concerned CPCs no later than 80 days before the Commission meeting. **The IOTC standard questionnaire as answered by CPC shall be made available to all CPCs on the IOTC website.**

iii) The draft IOTC Compliance Report shall be provided to the relevant CPC on a secure section of the IOTC website and notified by email no later than ~~750~~ days before the Commission meeting. Upon website posting of the relevant draft report, each CPC may reply to the IOTC Secretariat no later than 30 days before the Commission meeting in order to (where appropriate):

1. provide additional information, clarifications, amendments or corrections to information contained in its draft report;
2. identify any particular difficulties with respect to implementation of any obligations;
3. identify technical assistance or capacity building needed to assist the CPC with implementation of any obligations; and/or
4. propose a change to any suggested compliance status based on justified grounds.

iv) The Secretariat shall then produce the IOTC Summary Compliance Report based on the draft Compliance Report of each CPC. **Upon availability of the IOTC Summary Compliance Report, each CPC may reply to the IOTC Secretariat no later than 10 days before the Commission meeting in order to (where appropriate) provide follow-up/remedial actions to information contained in its IOTC Summary Compliance Report.** The IOTC Summary Compliance Report shall form the basis for the compliance examination process described in paragraphs 5 and 6 and shall include, *inter alia*, a summary of each CPC's compliance with obligations, any compliance issues identified and a suggested preliminary compliance status by the Secretariat in accordance with Annex A.

Based on the recommendation of the Commission (S28), the conclusions of the tasks undertaken by the *ad hoc* Working Group were presented to Eight Session of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM08), in February 2025. The WPICMM08 noted the rationale for the amendments proposed to paragraphs 4. a) i), iii) and iv), and further noted that the European Union has submitted a proposal for the Commission to amend the IOTC Rules of Procedure. The European Union’s proposal is available in the Commission’s meeting webpage as document [IOTC-2025-S29-06](#).

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the CoC22:

- 1) **NOTE** the information provided in document IOTC–2025–CoC22–11\_Add1.
- 2) **CONSIDER** if the proposed amendments have adequately clarified the preparatory works of the IOTC Compliance Committee.
- 3) Based on the conclusion of its deliberations, **RECOMMEND** that the Commission amend Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.