



Report of the Eighth Session of the IOTC Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures

Held by video-conference, 12 to 14 February 2025

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Acronyms

CDS	catch documentation scheme
CMM	conservation and management measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CoC	Compliance Committee
CPCs	Contracting Parties (Members) and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
EU	European Union
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
FAD	fish aggregating device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
LSTLV	large-scale tuna longline vessel
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
TBD	to be determined
VMS	vessel monitoring system
WP	work plan
WPICMM	Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures

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 Eighth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission's (IOTC) Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) was held by video-conference, from 12 to 14 February 2025. A total of 72 participants attended the Session. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Benedict Kiilu (Kenya), who welcomed participants to the Session. The meeting was primarily chaired by Mr. Benedict Kiilu (Kenya), but during his absence, Mr. Kimiyoshi Hiwatari (Japan) assumed the role of chair.

The following is a subset of the recommendations from the WPICMM08, which are provided in full at [Appendix 4](#):

WPICMM08.02 ([Para. 19](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC22) to endorse the work plan of the WPICMM for the next six years.

WPICMM08.03 ([Para. 41](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC22) to encourage fleets to respond and take action with regards to the possible infractions in the shortest possible time to enable timely corrective actions and prevent the recurrence of possible infringements.

WPICMM08.04 ([Para. 79](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the CoC22 to note the changes to the assessment criteria, for the CoC23 – 2026 assessment campaign.

WPICMM08.05 ([Para. 85](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC22) to request the Commission to clarify whether there exists consensus for implementing a regional IOTC VMS and if not, whether the VMSWG should continue with its technical discussions.

WPICMM08.06 ([Para. 101](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee review the modifications to the agreed terms and definitions of the Glossary, as approved by the WPICMM and available as [Appendix 5](#), with a view to endorsing them.

WPICMM08.07 ([Para. 114](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the IOTC Compliance Committee to table the revision of Resolution 24/10, as endorsed by the WPICMM, in order to repeal obsolete CMMs.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Eighth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission’s (IOTC) Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) was held by video-conference, from 12 to 14 February 2025. A total of 72 participants attended the Session. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix 1](#). The meeting was opened by the Chairperson of the WPICMM, Mr Benedict Kiilu (Kenya), who welcomed participants to the video-conference and thanked them for their presence at the Eighth Session of the WPICMM.
2. The Chairperson highlighted some of the achievements by the WPICMM so far and thanked participants for their continued support in progressing the work of the Working Party.
3. The Chairperson recalled participants to the WPICMM08, on the need to elect a new Chairperson for the next biennium.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

4. The WPICMM08 **ADOPTED** the agenda provided in [Appendix 2](#), with no other agenda point proposed.
5. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** with the meeting arrangements.

3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

6. The WPICMM08 **ADMITTED** the observers in the list of participants in [Appendix 1](#).

4. THE WPICMM WORK PLAN

4.1 *New WPICMM work plan 2025-2030 - Review of CPCs proposals and finalisation*

7. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** paper [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-03](#) that present the draft work plan, which incorporates the contributions from three CPCs and one observer, and **FURTHER NOTED** that the WPICMM08 shall:
 - Define the duration of the work plan,
 - Review the themes, components and activities proposed, for each of the thematic area proposed,
 - Define priorities, responsibility, implementation period for each activity.
8. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that during the first phase, which launched the identification of themes – the following CPCs and one observer provided contributions: the European Union, Japan and the Pew Charitable Trusts.
9. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that during the second phase CPCs provided activities for the proposed themes. These were contributed by the European Union, Japan, United Kingdom and the Pew Charitable Trusts.
10. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** to remove the five themes from the previous work plan.
11. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that activities related to capacity building aim to develop a capacity building compendium or repository integrated into the IOTC website, encompassing capacity building initiatives undertaken by CPCs and IOTC Secretariat.
12. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that a dedicated tab containing information on capacity building activities and training materials is already available on the IOTC website.
13. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that the column labelled “Priority” is redundant, as it can be adequately addressed in the column labelled “Timeframe” and **FURTHER NOTED** the challenges associated with reaching a consensus on determining priorities.
14. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** that the column labelled “Priority” be deleted.
15. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** that the Secretariat may inform the Compliance Committee if it finds that the workload specified in the work plan appears to be excessively demanding.
16. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** on the themes, components, activities, responsibilities and timeframes of its work plan.

17. The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee (CoC22) review, among others, component 9.1 and activities 9.1.2 to 9.1.11 of the WPICMM's work plan, presented in document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-03 Rev2](#).
18. The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC22) to endorse the work plan of the WPICMM for the next six years.

4.2 ***Progress report on the recommendations of the WPICMM07***

19. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** paper [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-04](#) that describes the progress on the recommendations of the WPICMM07 endorsed by the Twenty-First Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC21) and approved by the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Commission (S28).
20. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that the three recommendations of WPICMM07 have been fully implemented.

4.3 ***Review the list of Large-scale Tuna Longline Vessels (LSTLVs)/carrier vessels presumed to have committed infractions against IOTC CMMs under the at-sea transshipment programme and recommend actions (component 10, sub-component 17.2 of WP)***

21. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-05 Rev2](#) that provides a review of possible infractions detected under the Regional Observer Programme, in 2024.
22. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that responses were received from China, Korea (Republic of), Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman, Seychelles and Taiwan, Province of China, within the deadline of 15 January 2024 and **FURTHER NOTED** that Japan provided its response after the deadline.
23. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that for the year 2024, a total of 101 possible infractions were reported under the Programme, and **FURTHER NOTED** that 101 (100%) responses were received prior to WPICMM08.
24. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that the most common possible infractions related to LSTLV markings, followed by possible infractions related to authorisation to fish and fishing logbooks, respectively.
25. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that the most recurring cases of possible infractions comprised:
 - Vessel external markings obscured by rust/fouling/algae or not consistent with the information recorded in the e-RAV.
 - The NRN indicated in the ATF was not consistent with the information recorded in the e-RAV or the ATF on board did not match the official ATF template and signatures.
 - Some national fishing logbook were not securely bound or logbook pages not consecutively numbered.
 - The VMS unit onboard was without power at the time of the observer's check.
26. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-05 Add1 Rev1](#) on repeated possible infractions observed under the Regional Observer Programme in 2024.
27. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that four (4) fleets, China, Taiwan, Province of China, Malaysia and Oman have vessels with repeated possible infringements in ROP 2024.
28. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that two (2) fleets, China and Taiwan, Province of China have vessels with a record of repeated possible infringements in 2024 that have one or more records of possible infringements in 2023.
29. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that repeated possible infringements of the same category, may have been reported multiple times for a particular LSTLV during the same, overlapping or consecutive deployments, prior to their communication to the respective fleet.
30. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that it is common for the same possible infringement to be reported multiple times through different observer reports and on various dates to the fleets and **FURTHER NOTED** that despite the foregoing, responses are often received only shortly before the deadline for this requirement.
31. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that delayed responses from the fleets hinder timely corrective actions and contribute to the recurrence of possible infringements.

32. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that LSTLVs with repeated potential infringements in the ROP 2024 and a record of potential violations in the ROP 2023 exhibited the same types of possible infractions in the majority of cases (80%) across both years.
33. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-05_Add2_Rev1](#) on the results of investigations conducted by the fleets in response to the possible infractions reported under the Regional Observer Programme in 2024.
34. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that there are:
- i. 83 responses pre-assessed as “appropriate action taken by the fleet” and no recommendation is required to be made to the Compliance Committee (CoC22).
 - ii. 18 responses that were pre-assessed as “Not considered as a possible infraction” and no recommendation is required to be made to the Compliance Committee (CoC22).
 - iii. No response were pre-assessed as “Fleet requested to provide further evidence for discussion at the next CoC”.
35. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that investigation results demonstrated that:
- The most frequently observed possible infractions related to markings were due vessels staying at sea over a long period of time.
 - Possible infractions related to the authorizations to fish were to a great extent due to language barrier issues.
 - All VMS units were properly functioning.
36. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the following actions taken or planned by fleets with a record of repeated possible infringements:
- China is instructing vessels to replace their authorisation to fish in a timely manner, to ensure it is always available onboard, and to repaint vessel markings immediately upon arrival at their home ports. Additionally, China is considering increasing the level of sanctions to enhance compliance.
 - Taiwan,China is prohibiting all its vessels with possible infractions related to vessel markings from engaging in transshipment activities until the markings are corrected and photographic evidence is provided.
 - Malaysia has indicated that vessel owners typically undertake corrective actions upon vessels returning to port, where they are inspected and instructed to repaint or rectify markings before departure.
 - Oman has reported that port inspections have been conducted by its inspectors in the port of Seychelles, and legal proceedings have been initiated in accordance to their national law.
37. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that Oman has provided to the IOTC Secretariat the new official template and annex of their authorisation to fish on 23 January 2025.
38. The WPICMM08 **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat to change the pre-assessment of Omani LSTLVs with possible infractions on their authorisation to fish from “appropriate action taken by the fleet” to “Fleet requested to provide further evidence for discussion at next CoC”.
39. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** to include the date on which the observer noted the possible infraction in the description of the possible infraction.
40. The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC22) to encourage fleets to respond and take action with regards to the possible infractions in the shortest possible time to enable timely corrective actions and prevent the recurrence of possible infringements.

5. THE COMPLIANCE PROCESS AND THE E-MARIS APPLICATION

5.1 *The 2025 Compliance Reports (CRs) workflow (CoC22) - From the Draft CR to the Final CR (e-MARIS CoC22 – 2025 assessment campaign)*

41. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the meeting document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-06](#), which describes:

- The 2025 Compliance Report's content and structure; and
 - The Compliance Report work-flow during the CoC22, timeframes and the decision making process during the Compliance Committee and the Commission.
42. On the 2025 Compliance Reports' content and structure, the WPICMM08 **NOTED** the CoC22 campaign description and the four-page structure of the Compliance Report.
43. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the work-flow, timeliness and decision-making process for the Compliance Report as outlined below:
- The Draft Compliance Report (dCR) would be available and open in e-MARIS for CPCs to input any remarks, from 22 February 2025 to 13 March 2025;
 - The deadline to submit the dCR would be on 13 March 2025;
 - The dCR will be closed from 14 March 2025 to 18 March 2025;
 - The Summary Compliance Report (sCR) will be available and open in e-MARIS for CPCs to input Follow-up/remedial actions, from 19 March 2025 to 02 April 2025;
 - The deadline to submit the sCR will be on 02 April 2025;
 - The sCR will be closed from 03 April 2025 to 06 April 2025;
 - The Provisional Compliance Report (pCR) will be closed from 10 April 2025 until the end of the Commission.
 - The Final Compliance Report (fCR) will be made available once the pCR is closed, or at the latest, on the final day of the Commission meeting (S29).
44. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** that the compliance assessment will be carried out in the e-MARIS application.
45. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** on the proposed work-flow, timeframes and decision-making process.

5.2 *The e-MARIS CoC23 – 2026 assessment campaign, new requirements, new functionalities*

46. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** meeting documents [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-07](#), [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-07 Add1](#), [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-07 Add2](#), [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-07 Add3](#), [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-07 Add4](#), [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-07 Add5 - VMP EMS reporting template REQ 9.4](#), which describe:
- The e-MARIS campaign named *CoC23 – 2026 assessment campaign*;
 - The new requirements of the *CoC23 – 2026 assessment campaign*; and,
 - The new functionalities available in the *CoC23 – 2026 assessment campaign*.
47. The WPICMM08 **REVIEWED** and **NOTED** the CoC23 campaign and its description.
48. The WPICMM08 **REVIEWED** and **NOTED** the three new requirements (1.4, 2.29 and 9.4) of the *CoC23 – 2026 assessment* campaign and **FURTHER NOTED** that additional requirements may be introduced following the Commission's meeting (S29).
49. On new requirement 1.4, the WPICMM08 **NOTED** that CPCs may have different internal processes for compiling and reporting their Compliance Action Plan and **FURTHER NOTED** that Compliance Action Plans can be completed within e-MARIS or uploaded as a separate document by CPCs.
50. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** that CPCs may submit their Compliance Action Plan in a separate document, instead of completing the dynamic table within e-MARIS.
51. On new requirement 2.29, the WPICMM08 **NOTED** the utility of the table included in section 3 part B to report current catch of bigeye tuna and verify compliance with applicable catch limits.
52. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the difference in structure between the tables used to report catch and verify catch limits for bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna, included within requirements 2.29 and 2.17 respectively.
53. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that the table in requirement 2.17 does not allow to determine whether a CPC has complied with yellowfin tuna catch limits and **FURTHER NOTED** some issues concerning the indication of the average catch for specific baseline years or the over catch over a two-year period.

54. The WPICMM08 **REQUESTED** the modification of the table in Section 3 of Requirement 2.17 to align it with the structure of the table in Requirement 2.29, so that CPCs can check whether they have achieved their catch limits.
55. On new requirement 9.4, the WPICMM08 **NOTED** the significant length of the table included in its section 4 and **FURTHER NOTED** that table “b. Fleet level ROS data collection, supporting observer programs (at sea)” is referred in Resolution 23/08, paragraph 3.
56. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** to remove section “b. Fleet level ROS data collection (table), supporting observer programs (at sea)”.
57. The WPICMM08 **REVIEWED and NOTED** the reporting template “*Vessel Monitoring Plan supporting observer programs (at sea) EMS*” as a non-binding example to facilitate the CPCs’ reporting.
58. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the new functionalities available in the CoC23 – 2026 assessment campaign, including the “Recall” functionality, which allows data/information provided by a CPC in a previous campaign to be automatically imported into the current campaign.
59. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that the “Recall” functionality is available for PART A on system/procedure and PART C on legal obligations.
60. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the integration functionality that enables the automatic import of information from other IOTC applications (currently available for e-RAV and e-PSM) into e-MARIS, with the aim of streamlining and avoiding reporting data/information already submitted by a CPC.
61. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the dynamic table functionality included in PART B of individual requirements, which enables the addition of as many rows as necessary to a table in e-MARIS to address specific section(s)/question(s).
62. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the benefits of integrating information from the Catch Statistical Working System into e-MARIS and **FURTHER NOTED** that this development is ongoing.

5.3 ***Assessment criteria for the CPCs’ compliance report (Appendix V of the IOTC rules of procedure 2023)***

63. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** documents [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-08](#), [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-08 Add1 Rev1](#) which describes the three new requirement and their assessment criteria added to the e-MARIS CoC23 – 2026 assessment campaign.
64. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that the assessment criteria are also available in the e-MARIS application for each individual requirement.
65. The WPICMM08 **REVIEWED and NOTED** the three new requirements and their assessment criteria and standard for the e-MARIS CoC23 – 2026 assessment campaign.
66. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that for the new requirement 1.4, given that no IOTC Standard has been adopted for this requirement, it should not be considered a compliance issue nor included in the assessment criteria and **AGREED** to extend this correction across all requirements, where no standard/format has been agreed.
67. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that for the new requirement 2.29, the assessment criteria do not indicate whether compliance with or non-compliance to bigeye tuna catch limits will impact the compliance assessment.
68. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that the compliance assessment will be carried out in the e-MARIS application.
69. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** to modify the assessment criteria for Requirement 2.29 to include the obligation to comply with catch limits.
70. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** that the IOTC Secretariat compile the Compliance Reports with the assessment criteria and standards provided to the WPICMM08.
71. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that several requirements need to be revised in relation to PART A on system/procedure and PART C on legal obligations.
72. The WPICMM08 **RECALLED** that the CoC21 **AGREED** that, the IOTC Secretariat shall not require CPC to provide national laws & regulations, in accordance with paragraph 5.c)ii)1. of Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of

Procedure and the internal systems and procedures in accordance with paragraph 5.c)ii)2. of Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, to implement reporting obligations that are addressed to CPCs.

73. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** to modify the elements assessed from System or procedures to monitor & ensure compliance of persons and flag vessels (SP) to reporting on System or procedures not required for the following requirements:
 - Req. 2.12 on AFADs management plan;
 - Req. 11.2 on List of designated ports.
74. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** to maintain Requirement 2.19. on Status/Plan reducing the use of supply vessels with the reporting on SP.
75. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** with keeping the requirement in paragraph 11 to request reporting on SP and with removing the one in paragraph 12 from e-MARIS.
76. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that changes on the yellowfin tuna catch limit requirement will be made for the CoC23 (2026) campaign.
77. The WPICMM08 **RECALLED** that proposed changes to the assessment criteria are typically endorsed and applied within the current campaign.
78. The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the CoC22 to note the changes to the assessment criteria, for the CoC23 – 2026 assessment campaign.

6. PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM WORKING GROUP

79. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-09](#) providing the progress of work of the Vessel Monitoring System Working Group (VMSWG).
80. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the progress made by the VMSWG with respect to the IOTC Pilot Project on VMS.
81. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the limited number of CPCs (3) who have volunteered to participate in the IOTC Pilot Project on VMS.
82. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the progress made by the VMS Working Group with respect to its Terms of Reference and other extra tasks added.
83. The WPICMM08 **EXPRESSED CONCERNS** on the slow progress of the VMS Working Group and low participation of CPCs.
84. The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC22) to request the Commission to clarify whether there exists consensus for implementing a regional IOTC VMS and if not, whether the VMSWG should continue with its technical discussions.
85. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that one CPC indicated that, due to legal constraints, it cannot participate in a regional VMS until the IOTC Agreement is amended.
86. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that, even if the Commission determines that there is no consensus, the Commission may not prevent the continuation of the VMSWG's work.

7. PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME WORKING GROUP

87. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-10](#) on the progress of work of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Working Group (WG).
88. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the progress made by the CDS Working Group with respect to the IOTC CDS Concept Note and proposal for an IOTC Resolution on CDS.

8. SUMMARY REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE

89. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-11](#) summary Report of the ad-hoc Working Group on Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (WGAV).
90. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the resulting improvements made to e-MARIS by the IOTC Secretariat and further **NOTED** the summary of deliberations and recommendations of the WGAV.

9. REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR FISHING GEAR AND FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES

91. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** paper [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-12](#) on the Scheme to operationalise the FAO Voluntary Guideline for Fishing Gear and Fish Aggregating Devices in the IOTC Area and document IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-12_Add1 as the draft guideline.
92. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that only one CPC has provided feedback on the draft document of the Scheme to operationalise the FAO Voluntary Guideline for Fishing Gear and Fish Aggregating Devices in the IOTC Area.
93. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the proposal of one CPC to not consider marking for longline, since lost, abandoned or discarded longlines does not pose a significant threat as a ghost fishing gear, in alignment with the ICCAT's and some other RFMO's positions.
94. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that mandatory reporting of lost fishing gear and the mandatory marking of fishing gear are being considered under MARPOL Annex V.
95. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** to publish the draft guideline as a guideline developed by the consultant, without endorsement by IOTC. The WPICMM08 also **AGREED** to give the European Union and any other volunteering CPCs an opportunity to clean and work intersessionally on the Scheme to operationalise the FAO Voluntary Guideline for Fishing Gear and Fish Aggregating Devices in the IOTC Area, allowing for another round of comments to finalise it before publishing.

10. PROGRESS OF WORK ON GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS AND KEY TERMS USED IN IOTC RESOLUTIONS

96. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** paper [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-13](#), [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-13 Add1](#), which present the draft glossary of terms and definitions and **ENCOURAGED** CPCs to use the agreed terms and definitions as a guideline, when drafting proposals for Resolutions for the Commission.
97. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that work on the draft glossary of terms and definitions started in 2018 and has been ongoing since, and **AGREED** upon the need to finalise this work.
98. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that the pending definitions are:
 - Bycatch, fishing, fishing related activities, landing, large-scale tuna vessel, support vessel and vessel monitoring system (VMS),
 - Fish aggregating device (Considered by FAD WG),
 - Limit reference points (Consideration by the Scientific Committee).
99. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** on the following actions to the pending terms and definitions:
 - *Bycatch*: to remove the terminology from the Glossary as the IOTC Scientific Committee already have a definition that might be different to the one of the Compliance Committee, and there are no interpretation issues at the moment.
 - *Fishing*: use the definition already agreed within existing Resolutions R16/11 and 24/03.
 - *Fishing related activities*: use the definition already agreed within existing Resolution 16/11, which is analogue to Resolution 24/03.
 - *Fish aggregating device*: use the definition already agreed within existing Resolution 24/02.

- *Landing*: to use a definition “All transfers of any quantity of fish onboard from a vessel to land, other than transshipment, including transfers of fish to a port facility, transfers of fish from one vessel to another through a port facility or other means of transportation, and transfers of fish from a vessel to a container, truck, train, aircraft, or another means of transportation.” mostly coming from FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment and used in SIOFA.
 - *Large-scale tuna vessel*: to remove this term from the Glossary.
 - *Limit reference points*: use the definition agreed in the Scientific Glossary due to the scientific nature of this term.
 - *Support vessel*: to change the term to supply vessel, and use the following definition “Any vessel used, equipped to be used or intended to be used for purse seine fishing related activities, including any vessel, other than a craft, carried on board a fishing vessel that is not equipped with operational fishing gear and that facilitates, assists or prepares purse seine fishing activities including support vessels.” .
 - *Vessel monitoring system*: to use the following definition “a secure satellite-based monitoring system capable of transmitting the position and identity of vessels to the competent authorities”
100. The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee review the modifications to the agreed terms and definitions of the Glossary, as approved by the WPICMM and available as [Appendix 5](#), with a view to endorsing them.

11. PROPOSAL TO AMEND APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE

101. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-14](#), that present the amendment to the APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE.
102. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that the European Union has already submitted the proposal to the IOTC Secretariat to meet the submission deadlines for amending the IOTC Rules of Procedure and **FURTHER NOTED** that, should there be any comments to it, the European Union would include any changes agreed upon at the WPICMM08 into the proposal.
103. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the following modifications to the Appendix V of the Rules of Procedures, included in the proposal for amendment submitted by the European Union:
- In paragraph 4.a) i) the inclusion of the wording: “The IOTC standard questionnaire as answered by CPC shall be made available to all CPCs on the IOTC website”.
 - The modification of the Draft Compliance Report provision to CPCs timeline from 70 to 50 days before the Commission meeting.
 - The inclusion under paragraph 4.iv) the following text: “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.”
104. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that, similar to the Implementation Report and Compliance Report, and in accordance with established practice, the Compliance Questionnaire has always been available in the CoC meeting webpages and **FURTHER NOTED** that it was not the intention of the proponent to alter the practice.
105. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** with all proposed amendments to Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure provided in document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-14](#).

12. ON OBSOLETE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

106. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-15](#), that identifies obsolete Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and creates a mechanism of systematic review of CMMs in future sessions as part of the work plan of the WPICMM.

107. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the importance of removing outdated or redundant Resolutions in order to simplify the IOTC regulatory framework, improve compliance, and enhance the effectiveness of fisheries management.
108. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that the four Resolutions identified as obsolete were due to their actions being completed, elapsed, duplicated or not appropriately superseded.
109. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the revision of Resolution 24/10 proposed by the European Union to the WPICMM08 only modifies the text referring to the deletion of Resolution 18/09, Resolution 16/03, Resolution 15/09 and Resolution 14/02.
110. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that in accordance with paragraph 4 of Resolution 24/10, the Commission can accept CMM proposals based on recommendations of the IOTC Compliance Committee.
111. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** that WPICMM can draft the necessary amendments to streamline or remove obsolete CMMs.
112. The WPICMM08 **NOTED** the necessity to have regular review of obsolete CMMs and/or provisions and **AGREED** as part of its work plan to adopt a formalised, continuous process for the review, edit and/or repeal of obsolete CMMs to be submitted to the IOTC Compliance Committee.
113. The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the IOTC Compliance Committee to table the proposed revisions of Resolution 24/10, as endorsed by the WPICMM.

13. ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

114. The WPICMM08 **ELECTED** Mr Neil Ansell (European Union), as the Chairperson of the WPICMM for the next biennium.

14. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NINTH SESSIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CMMs

115. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** to conduct the next meeting between the 11 – 13 February 2026.
116. The WPICMM08 **AGREED** to conduct its future meetings virtually.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

117. The WPICMM08 **EXPRESSED** its high appreciation for the excellent work carried out by the outgoing Chairperson, Mr Benedict Kiilu (Kenya), acknowledging his exceptional dedication and leadership as the Vice-Chairperson and then Chairperson of the WPICMM since its inception.
118. The WPICMM08 was closed on the 14th February 2025, with no other business.

16. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT, AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE WPICMM

119. The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPICMM08, provided at [Appendix 4](#).
120. The report of the Eighth Session of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-R) was **ADOPTED** on 04 March 2025.

APPENDIX 1
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AGENDA: EIGHTH MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

14 February 2024

Date: 12–14 February 2025

Location: Hybrid (Platform: Zoom)

Time: 1100–1500 hrs daily (Seychelles time)

Chair: Mr. Benedict Kiilu (Kenya)

Vice chair: Mr Kimiyoshi Hiwatari (Japan)

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (Chair)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chair)
3. **ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS** (Chair)
4. **THE WPICMM WORKPLAN** (Secretariat/Plenary)
 - 4.1 **New WPICM work plan 2025-2027 - Review of CPCs proposals and finalisation** (Secretariat/Plenary)
 - 4.2 **Progress report on the recommendations of the WPICMM07** (Secretariat/Plenary)
 - 4.3 **Review the list of Large-Scale Tuna Longline Vessels (LSTLVs)/carrier vessels presumed to have committed infractions against IOTC CMMs under the at-sea transshipment programme and recommend actions [component 10, sub-component 17.2 of WP 2023-2024]** (Secretariat/Plenary)
5. **THE COMPLIANCE PROCESS AND THE E-MARIS APPLICATION** (Secretariat/Plenary)
 - 5.1 **The 2025 Compliance reports workflow (CoC22) - From the Draft CR to the Final CR (e-MARIS CoC22 – 2025 assessment campaign)** (Secretariat/Plenary)
 - 5.2 **The e-MARIS CoC23 – 2026 assessment campaign, new requirements, new functionalities** (Secretariat/Plenary)
 - 5.3 **Assessment criteria for the CPCs' compliance report (Appendix V of the IOTC rules of procedure 2023),** (Secretariat/Plenary) (Secretariat/Plenary)
6. **PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS) WORKING GROUP** (VMS WG Chair/Plenary),
7. **PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME (CDS) WORKING GROUP** (CDS WG Chair/Plenary),
8. **SUMMARY REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE Ad-Hoc WORKING GROUP ON APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE** (WGAV Chair/Plenary),
9. **REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR FISHING GEAR AND FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES** (Secretariat/Plenary),
10. **PROGRESS OF WORK ON GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS AND KEY TERMS USED IN IOTC RESOLUTIONS** (Japan/Secretariat/Plenary),
11. **PROPOSAL TO AMEND APPENDIX V OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE (2023)** (European Union/Plenary),
12. **ON OBSOLETE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES (CMMs)** (European Union/Plenary),

- 13. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM (Chair/CPCs),**
- 14. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 9TH SESSIONS OF THE WPICMM (Chair/CPCs),**
- 15. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT, AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE EIGHT SESSION OF THE WPICMM (Chair),**
- 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Chair).**

APPENDIX 3
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND COMPLIANCE REPORT TEMPLATE

The assessment criteria endorsed by the WPICMM08 are available [HERE](#).

APPENDIX 4

CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM WPICMM08

- WPICMM08.01 ([Para. 18](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee (CoC22) review component 9.1 and activities 9.1.2 to 9.1.11 of the WPICMM's work plan, presented in document [IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-03_Rev2](#).
- WPICMM08.02 ([Para. 19](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC22) to endorse the work plan of the WPICMM for the next six years.
- WPICMM08.03 ([Para. 41](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC22) to encourage fleets to respond and take action with regards to the possible infractions in the shortest possible time to enable timely corrective actions and prevent the recurrence of possible infringements.
- WPICMM08.04 ([Para. 79](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the CoC22 to endorse the changes to the assessment criteria, for the CoC23 – 2026 assessment campaign.
- WPICMM08.05 ([Para. 85](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC22) to request the Commission to clarify whether there exists consensus for implementing a regional IOTC VMS and if not, whether the VMSWG should continue with its technical discussions.
- WPICMM08.06 ([Para. 101](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee review the modifications to the agreed terms and definitions of the Glossary, as approved by the WPICMM and available as [Appendix 5](#), with a view to endorsing them.
- WPICMM08.07 ([Para. 114](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** the IOTC Compliance Committee to table the revision of Resolution 24/10, as endorsed by the WPICMM, in order to repeal obsolete CMMs.
- WPICMM08.08 ([Para. 120](#)) The WPICMM08 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPICMM08, provided at Appendix 4.

APPENDIX 5
GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS AND KEY TERMS USED IN IOTC RESOLUTIONS

The Glossary of Definitions and key Terms used in IOTC Resolutions endorsed by the WPICMM08 is available [HERE](#).