



02 June 2025

## IOTC CIRCULAR 2025-19

Dear Madam / Sir

### UPDATED OBJECTION FROM SOMALIA TO IOTC RESOLUTIONS 25/03, 25/04, 25/08 AND 25/09

Attached please find an updated communication from Somalia regarding its objections, in accordance with Article IX (5) of the IOTC Agreement, to:

- Resolution 25-03 *On establishing catch limits for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence* [[download here](#)]
- Resolution 25-04 *On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence* [[download here](#)]
- Resolution 25-08 *On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC* [[download here](#)]
- Resolution 25-09 *On the conservation of shortfin and longfin mako sharks caught in association with IOTC fisheries* [[download here](#)]

which were adopted at the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOTC.

This communication is an addendum to [Circular 2025-18](#) sent on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2025

Yours sincerely

Paul de Bruyn  
Executive Secretary

**Attachment:**

- letter from Somalia

**Distribution**

**IOTC Contracting Parties:** Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia, Panama. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** Chairperson IOTC. **Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only



Ref: MFBE/OM/579/25

Date: 31/05/2025

Dr. Paul de Bruyn  
Executive Secretary  
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)  
Le Chantier Mall – PO Box 1011  
Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles

**Clarification and Technical Supplement to Somalia's Formal Objection TO IOTC Resolutions 25/03, 25/04, 25/08 and 25/09**

Dear Executive Secretary,

Following the submission and circulation of Somalia's formal objection dated April 23, 2025, with reference: MFBE/OM/550/04/25, circulated on May 6, 2025, reference: IOTC CIRCULAR 2025-18, concerning Somalia's Objection to Resolutions 25/03, 25/04, 25/08, and 25/09 adopted at the 29th Session of the IOTC Commission, we hereby submit this Supplementary Clarification Note.

This note serves to:

1. Correct the legal reference cited in the original submission;
2. Ensure procedural completeness in accordance with the IOTC Agreement.

The original letter mistakenly cited Articles XXII and XVI. We clarify that Article IX (5) of the IOTC Agreement provides the correct legal basis:

*"Any Member of the Commission may, within 120 days... object to a conservation and management measure... A Member which has objected... shall not be bound thereby."*

Accordingly, Somalia's objections submitted on April 23, 2025, within 120 days of the adoption of the relevant measures in May 2025 are legally valid and consistent with Article IX (5).


Somalia affirms that it shall not be bound by the contested measures in accordance with Article IX(5). While the term "binding application" was previously used, we now clarify that Somalia's objection has the effect of non-application. Somalia also reserves the right to review, withdraw, or amend its objection should revised, equitable proposals be introduced.

Contact: **Tell: +252615584854** Email: [minister@mfmr.gov.so](mailto:minister@mfmr.gov.so) Website: [www.mfmr.gov.so](http://www.mfmr.gov.so)

We respectfully request that this clarification note be:

- Circulated to all CPCs as a supplement to Somalia's formal objection;
- Appended to the original April 23, 2025, communication and circulated on May 6, 2025
- Considered during any future review or implementation discussions.

Somalia remains fully committed to cooperative, science-based, and inclusive fisheries governance. Conservation and equity must go hand in hand.

  
Minister  
H.E. Dr. Ahmed Hassan Adan  
Federal Republic of Somalia



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