

03 September 2025

IOTC CIRCULAR 2025–30

Dear Madam / Sir

DECLARATION OF ALTERNATIVES MEASURES FOR SHARKS LANDED FROZEN IN 2026, 2027 AND 2028 (RESOLUTION 25/08)

Pursuant to paragraph 10 of IOTC Resolution 25/08, please find attached the information submitted by CPCs.

A summary of the declarations is presented in the below table, and the detail of the submissions is presented at Appendix 1 and 2.

| Contracting Parties (Members) and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) | Measure to be implemented under Resolution 25/08 |
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| China, Indonesia, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand | Each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding fins using rope or wire (Para 8.a). |
| Japan | Identical and uniquely numbered tags are attached to each shark carcass and its corresponding fins (Para 8.b). |
| France (OT), Liberia, Panama, Philippines | Not applicable - No vessel authorised to fish for IOTC Species. |
| India, Somalia | Not applicable — Objection to Resolution 25/08 Circular IOTC CIRCULAR 2025-19 ; IOTC CIRCULAR 2025-26 . |
| Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, Korea, Iran, Madagascar, Maldives ¹ , Malaysia, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka ² , United Kingdom | Not implementing the measures of paragraph 8. Implementing shark fins naturally attached to the carcass (Para 6). |
| European Union, Mozambique, Sudan, Yemen | No information provided. |

¹ MDV: Sharks fishing is prohibited; ² LKA: No frozen vessels. No frozen shark landings.

Yours sincerely



Paul De Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Appendix 1 - Summary table of CPCs submission,
- Appendix 2 – Documents transmitted by CPCs.

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, 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. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** Chairperson IOTC. **Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only

Appendix 1

Summary table of CPCs submissions.

Note: Paragraph 8.a: *Shark carcass is bound to the corresponding fins using rope or wire;*

Paragraph 8.b: *Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins.*

| CPC | Submission Date | Measure implemented | | e-MARIS submission <i>In order to implement the obligation in paragraph 5 for sharks landed frozen in 2026, 2027 and 2028, CPCs shall ensure their fleets land or tranship sharks with fins naturally attached to the carcass</i> <i>2. For <u>sharks landed frozen</u>: CPC fleets land/tranship sharks with :</i> e-MARIS - Additional information on how CPCs are implementing the measure. Attachment – document(s) uploaded. |
|------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----|--|
| | | 8.a | 8.b | |
| Australia | 02.09.2025 | NO | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins Attachment: None |
| Bangladesh | 01.09.2025 | NO | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins Sharks must be landed with attaching the fins to carcass. Implemented through the Technical guidelines for Marine Fisheries Management and Harvest, 2023 (Bengali) (article 12(4)). Attachment: Technical Guidelines for Marine Fisheries Management & Harvest 2023 (Bengali).pdf |
| China | 25.08.2025 | YES | NO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins China currently has no updates on the development of NPOA documents for 2025. In February 2006, the State Council of China promulgated the Program of Action on the Conservation of Living Aquatic Resources of China, which treats sharks as protected species for management and conservation. Additionally, China also regulates these matters through the following policies covering shark and seabird conservation: In 2024, the General Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs published "Notification by the General Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Completely Complying with International Tuna Measures" (Nongbanyu, 2024) No. 3. In 2025, the Bureau of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs published "Notification on the Issuance of Indian Ocean Tuna Fisheries Compliance Elements Nongyu Yuanhan (2025) No. 20." According to the newly adopted |

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| | | | | 2025 CMMs, this Compliance Elements document establishes provisions for the conservation and management of bycatch species. <u>Attachment:</u> 2508 Implementation SOP; 2025 Notification on the Issuance of the Elements of Indian Ocean Tuna Fisheries Compliance. |
| Comoros | 01.09.2025 | NO | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins <u>Attachment:</u> None |
| European Union | | | | No information provided |
| France (OT) | N/A | N/A | N/A | NIL Report / Not Applicable - No fishing, AND/OR supply, AND/OR recreational/sport fishing vessel - targeting AND/OR authorised to fish for IOTC Species in the IOTC area of competence. |
| India | Objection to Resolution 25/08 dated 13/08/2025 - IOTC CIRCULAR 2025-26 | | | |
| Indonesia | 29.08.2025 | YES | NO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins The obligation to require all sharks retained on board are fully utilised is regulated under the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Regulation No. 10/2021 concerning the standards of business activities and products in the implementation of risk-based business licenses in the marine and fisheries sector - Chapter 6, point 4 : 1. Any fishing vessel fishing in areas managed by a Regional Fisheries Management Organization is prohibited from catching juvenile and/or pregnant sharks. 2. If a fishing vessel catches a shark that is not a juvenile and/or a pregnant shark, it must be landed intact. <u>Attachment:</u> Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Regulation No.10:2021.pdf |
| Iran | 01.09.2025 | NO | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins According to Iran Environment Organization regulation (competent authority for the species) all Shark species are protected and keeping of sharks or any parts of them in vessels are prohibited. This has been mentioned also in the para.3-2 article 2 of the National regulation. Regarding the prohibition of shark finning, Footnote 1, para. 2-3 of Article 2 of the national regulations explicitly states that the removal of shark fins is prohibited. <u>Attachment:</u> NONE |

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| Japan | 01.08.2025 | NO | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins Japan would appreciate it if the Secretariat could kindly circulate the attached letter. Attachment: Letter from Japan. |
| Kenya | 27.08.2025 | YES | NO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins Through legislation and compliance inspections. The legislation is found in Gazette Notice No. 3409 published in the Kenya Gazette Vol. CXXII—No. 83 NAIROBI of 8th May, 2020 here attached (Page 1859). Attachment: IOTC_Gazette_Notices_Vol.CXXII-No_.83_1.pdf. |
| Korea | 27.08.2025 | NO | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins There is no plan to use alternative measures regarding shark fins during 2025-2028, we will apply the 'fins naturally attached' measure in accordance with paragraph 8 of Conservation Measure 25/08. |
| Liberia | N/A | N/A | N/A | NIL Report / Not Applicable - No fishing, AND/OR supply, AND/OR recreational/sport fishing vessel - targeting AND/OR authorised to fish for IOTC Species in the IOTC area of competence. |
| Madagascar | 01.09.2025 | NO | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins Firstly, there is no fleet in Madagascar, whether industrial or artisanal (coastal fisheries), landing frozen products. In addition, regarding industrial fisheries, even for fresh products, the terms and conditions of licenses in Article 3 (Standard Protocol for Fisheries here attached) already provide for the prohibition regarding the removal of shark fins from the carcass at sea. Attachment: Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Fisheries (the Ministry) and the company xxx (the Company) on the commercial fishery for xxx in the Malagasy EEZ. |
| Malaysia | 01.09.2025 | NO | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins Prohibition of Shark Finning for Malaysian AFV. Attachments: Letter 18 Jun 2014- No Shark Finning.pdf |

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| Maldives | 18.08.2025 | NO | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins As per the General Fisheries Regulation (No: R-75/2020) - and First Amendment to the Regulation (No. R-123/2023) Article 17: Article 17 (a) - Determination of species that are banned from being harvested, killed, exported or imported. Harvesting, killing or retaining onboard any species stipulated in Appendix 2 of this Regulation, within the maritime zones of the Maldives, is prohibited. (b) Determination of species that are banned from being harvested, killed, exported or imported. Harvesting, killing or retaining onboard any species stipulated in Appendix 2 of this Regulation, while outside the maritime zones of the Maldives, is also prohibited. (Appendix 2) 5. Sharks. <u>Attachments:</u> MDV General Fisheries Regulation; MDV Translation 1st amendment General Fisheries Regulation. |
| Mauritius | 28.08.2025 | YES | NO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins |
| Mozambique | | | | No information provided. |
| Oman | 01.09.2025 | YES | NO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins In reference to Resolution 25/08 on the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by the IOTC, the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources of the Sultanate of Oman hereby reports to have authorized all vessels flying the Omani flag to implement the alternative measures outlined in Paragraph 8 for sharks landed frozen in 2026, 2027, and 2028. <u>Attachments:</u> Authorization of Alternative Measures under Paragraph 8 of Resolution 2508.pdf |
| Pakistan | 31.08.2025 | NO | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins The obligation is regulated through the legal instrument i.e. Notification issued under the provision of rule 21 of Exclusive Fishery Zone (Regulation of Fishing) Rules, 1990 clause iv stated that Possession, acquisition, receipt, transport, offering for sale, selling, or purchasing any detached fin or tail of shark or any product or derivative of any fin or tail of a shark, including any export or reexport, is prohibited throughout the year. |

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| | | | | Attachments: Letter F. 7- 435/2025-Estt/ 998-999, dated 18.02.2025, REQUEST FOR ISSUE NOTIFICATION IN THE EXTRAORDINARY GAZETTE OF PAKISTAN (PART-II). |
| Panama | N/A | N/A | N/A | NIL Report / Not Applicable - No fishing, AND/OR supply, AND/OR recreational/sport fishing vessel - targeting AND/OR authorised to fish for IOTC Species in the IOTC area of competence. |
| Philippines | 20.08.2025 | N/A | N/A | NIL Report / Not Applicable - No fishing, AND/OR supply, AND/OR recreational/sport fishing vessel - targeting AND/OR authorised to fish for IOTC Species in the IOTC area of competence. |
| Seychelles | 01.09.2025 | NO | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins <p>The SFA is implementing the measures under the Fisheries (Shark Finning) Regulations, 2006. The Statutory Instrument (S.I.) prohibits any person on board a vessel from removing fins from sharks, except under an authorisation issued by the SFA.</p> <p>Furthermore, point 7 stipulates that the weight of landed fins shall not exceed: 5% of the landed weight of all other parts of sharks after evisceration, or 7% of the landed weight of other parts of sharks after evisceration and beheading.</p> <p>In addition, point 8 (1 and 2) requires: A declaration of the quantities of shark fins and shark products upon arrival at port, and that the master of each fishing vessel records all shark catches in the logbook issued by the SFA.</p> <p>In addition, the Fisheries Act, 2025, under Section 18, provides that: <i>“The operator of a vessel fishing in Seychelles waters, or a Seychelles vessel fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction, shall, unless otherwise provided, comply with such prohibitions on the removal, retention, possession, transshipment, landing, and sale of shark fins as may be prescribed.”</i></p> <p><i>It is to be noted that Seychelles is not issuing any Authorization for removing fins from sharks.</i></p> <p>Attachments: Shark Finning Regulation (2).pdf ; Act 3 - 2025 - Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2025.pdf</p> |
| Somalia | Objection dated 23/04/2025 – Circular IOTC CIRCULAR 2025-19 | | | |
| South Africa | 20.08.2025 | YES | NO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins <p>Permit Conditions: Large Pelagic Longline Fishery. Clause 6.1(h). "Fins may not be removed from the shark trunks (i.e., headed, gutted). Fins are to be kept attached to the specific trunk either through, 1) a partial cut and folded over or, 2) tethered to the trunk via a cord (any loop in the cord shall not exceed approximately 8 cm in diameter and shall follow similar specifications to permit condition 22.1 (b))."</p> |

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| | | | | <p>In the Tuna Pole fishing sector, the fleet are prohibited from retaining any species other than target and bycatch species (Clause 6.1(a&b)). The identified target and bycatch species do not include sharks. Clause 6.2 states "No other species of fish shall be retained by the Permit Holder"</p> <p>Attachments: Large Pelagic Longline permit conditions 2025-2026.pdf</p> |
| Sri Lanka | 01.09.2025 | NO | NO | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins</p> <p>Sri Lanka has implemented the "Shark Fisheries Management Regulations, 2015" and "Shark Fisheries Management (High seas) Regulations, 2015". It says " No person shall , (i) remove on board a local fishing boat the fins of any shark caught by such local fishing boat and discard carcass of such shark of which fins have been removed. (ii) retain on board, transship or land fins of any shark unless such fins are naturally attached to the body of such shark"</p> <p>In the meantime we would like to say the alternative measures for sharks landed frozen is not applicable to Sri Lanka, Because Sri Lanka has no frozen fishing vessels and no frozen sharks landings.</p> <p>Attachment: Shark Fisheries Management Regulations, 2015.pdf</p> |
| Sudan | | | | No information provided. |
| Tanzania | 01.09.2025 | YES | NO | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins</p> <p>Attachments: Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, 2020.pdf Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Regulations, 2021.pdf</p> |
| Thailand | 18.08.2025 | YES | NO | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins</p> <p>Thailand has the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015), Section 49. In cases where the holder of a license for fishing outside Thai waters engages in a fishing operation in an area under the jurisdiction of a coastal state or under the control and responsibility of an international organization, the licensee shall comply not only with this Royal Ordinance but also with the laws, rules, and standards of conservation and fisheries management of such coastal state or international organization.</p> <p>To implement this obligation and ensure compliance with the latest IOTC conservation and management measures, Thailand is currently in the process of reviewing and updating its legislation. The Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirements and Regulations of Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Waters in the IOTC Area of</p> |

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| | | | | <p>Competence B.E. 2567 (2024), Clause 13 Preservation of other sharks not include Clause 12, retain of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing.</p> <p>For shark preservation in the fresh form in according to above mentioned paragraph, whole body of the shark shall be preserved until the vessel arrives the point of first landing.</p> <p>By using frozen method, prohibit to store shark fins more than 5% of the total weight of sharks onboard until the vessel arrives at the point of first landing.</p> <p>In case of juveniles and pregnant sharks that are caught, shall release of its.</p> <p>Accordingly, Thailand has national legislation to ensure that vessels comply with international obligations and is in the process of revising subordinate regulations to fully align with the latest IOTC conservation and management measures.</p> <p><u>Attachments:</u> Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E.2558 (2015)</p> <p>DoF's Noti. on Requirement and Regulations of Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Water in IOTC Area of Competence.</p> |
| United Kingdom | 21.08.2025 | NO | NO | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shark carcass bound to the corresponding fins using rope/wire</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sharks fins identical/uniquely numbered with tags attached to shark carcass and its corresponding fins</p> <p>Message e-MARIS: We don't land frozen shark, they are released if caught and there is no capacity to freeze catches on the vessels.</p> |
| Yemen | | | | No information provided. |

Appendix 2
Documents transmitted by CPCs for circulation.



FISHERIES AGENCY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907, Japan

Friday, 1 August 2025

Dr. Paul de Bruyn,
Executive Secretary,
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission,

Subject: Shark Alternative Measure to be used by Japanese vessels

In accordance with paragraph 9 of Resolution 25/08, Japan hereby notifies the Secretariat that of its decision to use option “(b) Identical and uniquely numbered tags are attached to each shark carcass and its corresponding fins in a manner that inspectors can easily identify the matching of the carcass and fins at any time. Both the carcasses and fins shall be stored on board in the same hold.” – as the alternative measure.

We would greatly appreciate your support in sharing this information with all IOTC members.

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Your Sincerely,



Takaaki Suzuki
Director,
Resources Management Department,
Fisheries Agency of Japan