GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS TO THE IOTC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE IN 2025

The National Report is due to be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the start of the annual regular session of the Scientific Committee.

DEADLINE: 16 NOVEMBER 2025

Purpose: To provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee on research and fishing activities and associated monitoring and research activities of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties operating in the IOTC area of competence. The report should include all fishing activities for species under the IOTC mandate as well as for elasmobranch species and other species taken as bycatch as required by the IOTC Agreement and decisions by the Commission.

NOTE: The submission of a National Report is **Mandatory**, irrespective if a CPC intends on attending the annual meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Explanatory note

This report is intended to provide a summary of the main features of the tuna and tuna-like fisheries for Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. As such, it does not replace the need for submission of data according to Resolution 15/02 *Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)* and other data related CMMs.

Mandatory versus Desirable information

National Reports must include all headings as noted in the template below as [Mandatory]. Where data/information is not available for a given [Mandatory] heading, the reason why it is not available should be clearly stated. These mandatory fields for the *National Reports* were agreed to by the Scientific Committee in 2010.

Where available, CPCs are encouraged to provide additional information under the headings shown as [Desirable].

For clarification on minimum reporting requirements for the National Report, please contact the IOTC Secretariat (IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org).

NOTE

Please use the template below when preparing your National Report. Simply delete this explanatory page and add your own cover page/preliminaries if needed.
Please also delete any text shown in **red** below before submitting your National Report.

Oman National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2025

Al Muatasam Al Habsi - MAFWR
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INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02 (and other data related CMMs as noted below), final scientific data for the previous year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year, **for all fleets other than longline** [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2025, final data for the 2024 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2025)	YES 30/06/2025.
In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, provisional **longline data** for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2025, preliminary data for the 2024 calendar year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2025). **REMINDER:** Final longline data for the previous year are due to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 Dec of the current year [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2025, final data for the 2024 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2025).	YES (*) 30/06/2025
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: (*) following exchanges with IOTC Data officers, mandatory excel tables were submitted again by Oman to IOTC General Secretary on 24 October 2025. A copy of these tables is attached to this report.	

Executive Summary [Mandatory]

The total production of the Omani fishery sector amounted to around 900 thousand tons in 2024, with an increase of 13.3% compared to 2023, with a total value amounting to about 580 million Omani riyals in 2024. Artisanal fishing contributed a percentage 76.9% of this production amounted to approximately 692 thousand tons with a value of 418 million Omani riyals, while the quantities of commercial fishing production amounted to 68,470 tons, forming a contribution rate of 7.6% of the total production, and the coastal fishing contributed by 14.8%, with catch quantities estimated at approximately 133 thousand tons. Tuna species considered as highly valuable products for Omani consumers, have experienced significant increases in the total annual production over years.

The regulatory measures and decisions presented below are derived from the Ministerial Decree on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)."

1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION [MANDATORY]

The coastline of Oman extends to about 3165 km on three different water bodies: Arabian Sea, Sea of Oman and the Arabian Gulf. the main characteristics of this coastline is the rich marine biodiversity and productive ecosystems with valuable fishery stocks. As the total production of the fishery sector in 2024 was around 900,630 tons with a total value of 580 million OMR. This production level showed an increase in the landing by 13.4% and the value increased by 9.3% compared to 2023.
Regarding tuna and tuna-like species, all have shown a significant increase in landings during the period 2019–2024. The highest landings in 2024 were recorded for yellowfin tuna and longtail tuna, reaching 87,560 tons and 26,867 tons, respectively, representing an increase of 136% and 83% compared to their landings in 2019.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE [MANDATORY]

The Omani national fleet consists of three different segments: Artisanal, Costal and Industrial fleets:

- Artisanal fleet: There are two types of fishing units: Dhows (wooden or fiberglass vessels) and Fiberglass boats.
- Coastal fleet: the total number of vessels in 2024 was 528 vessels. Most of these vessels are situated in the Arabian Sea precisely from Ras AL Had in Al Sharqiya to Dhofar.
- Industrial fleet: consists of vessels undertaking small and large pelagic and squid fishing activities.

i)- Artisanal fishery

Table 1a: Number of units in artisanal fleet operation in On- shore from 2020-2024.

Years		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Units	Dhows	688	688	688	688	679
	Fiberglass	25037	26103	26011	26533	27320
Gear Type		LL, HL. N, BSN, GL and T				

ii)- Coastal fishery

Table 1b: Number of costal vessels from 2020-2024.

Years	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Vessels	220	237	264	285	528
Gear Type	LL, HL. N, GL				

iii)- Industrial fishery

Table 1c: Number of vessels operating in IOTC area of competence from 2020-2024.

Years		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Vessels	**Longliners**	3	4	3	3	3
	Purse seiners	0	0	1	2	6
Gear Type		LL, TR , PS				
Size of Vessels		OAL: Above 30 m				

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND FISHERY) [Mandatory]

3.1 Fishing catches:

Table 2a. Artisanal Annual catches (mt) by species from 2020-2024 (*)

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Yellowfin* Tuna	68578	71473	71843	65866	78775
Long tail Tuna	27206	28136	31844	24865	24688
Kawakawa	8128	7335	6676	5784	4302
Striped Bonito	1487	2141	1820	1384	230
Frigate Tuna	2450	6359	5301	4522	5471
Skipjack	90	229	279	166	102
Other Tunas	9083	10438	17845	15040	29409
Sailfish	2647	2868	3565	2997	2347
King fish	5906	7659	5514	12370	8851
Sharks	6068	5290	4774	5268	7602
Total	131643	141928	149461	138262	161777

(*) Please note that as informed by Oman in recent IOTC Annual Meetings, CoC and WPDCS, the Department of Statistics and the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MOAFWR) are undertaken, with expert support of international fisheries data experts, an overall review of the Oman data and statistics system, and also is working in the retrospective analysis of reported catches, in particular of yellowfin, for the period 2014-2024.

Table 2b. Coastal Fleet Catches (mt) by species from 2020- 2024(**)

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Yellowfin Tuna	30	35	41	47	7381
Longtail Tuna	23	28	32	37	2179
Kawakawa	13	16	18	22	0
Striped Bonito	7	8	9	10	261
Frigate Tuna	7	8	12	12	0
Skipjack	346	0	0	0	0
Other Tunas	305	790	930	1131	8520
Sailfish	8	9	11	13	0
Kingfish	7	7	8	9	0
Sharks	245	275	305	342	14
Total	991	1176	1366	1623	18355

Table 2c. (**)

Please note that as informed by Oman in recent IOTC Annual Meetings, CoC and WPDCS, the Department of Statistics an the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MOAFWR) are undertaken, with expert support of international fisheries data experts, an overall review of the Oman data and statistics system, and also is working in the retrospective analysis of reported catches, in particular of yellowfin, for the period 2014-2024.

In 2026 a revised and improved version shall be presented.

Industrial Fleet Annual Catches (mt) By Species from 2020-2024

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024(***)
Yellowfin Tuna	207	168	282	2886	
Longtail Tuna	0	0	0	0	
Kawakawa	0	0	0	196	
Striped Bonito	0	0	0	3	
Frigate Tuna	0	0	0	61	
Skipjack	0	0			
Other Tunas	54	153	97	878	
Sailfish	3	5	14	0	
Kingfish	0	0	0	0	
Sharks	1	0	0	3	
Total	265	326	282	4189	

(***) First purse seiner only started operations in second semester of 2022. Ref to data 2024, please note that following exchanges with IOTC Data officers, mandatory excel tables were submitted again on 24 October 2025 by Oman to IOTC General Secretary with data on catches by type of fleet including industrial fleet. A copy of these tables is attached to this report.

3.2 Estimated Fishing Effort:

Table 3a: Estimated Fishing Effort for Artisanal Fleet During 2024

Boat – Fishing Gear	Parameters	Total
FG (HL + TL)	Number of Boats	50945
	Estimated Effort	709892
	CPUE (Kg)	13579
	Estimated Catch (Ton)	151823
FG (NET)	Number of Boats	52187
	Estimated Effort	736762
	CPUE (Kg)	28030
	Estimated Catch (Ton)	230741
BEACH SEINE NET	Number of Boats	2181
	Estimated Effort	19138
	CPUE (Kg)	474726
	Estimated Catch (Ton)	52781
LAUNCH – FT	Number of Boats	717
	Estimated Effort	7351
	CPUE (Kg)	10543
	Estimated Catch (Ton)	2127
LAUNCH – LINE + TL	Number of Boats	884
	Estimated Effort	7003
	CPUE (Kg)	31478
	Estimated Catch (Ton)	5624

Table 3b: Estimated Effort of Coastal Vessels from 2020-2024 (****)

Years	Landing (mt)	No. of Vessels	Vessel – day number	Season Duration (month)	Catch/ Vessel - Year (mt)	Catch/ Vessel - Day (mt)
2020	4289	131	-	12	33	0.6
2021	4668	190	-	12	25	2.2
2022	5062	264	-	12	19	5.8
2023	5600	285	-	12	20	5.0
2024	133680 (****)	574	-	12	233	0.6

(****)

1. Ref to coastal vessels, the 2024 production was EXTRAPOLATED for the first time on the basis of a few boats submitting data and the total number operating (574). The accuracy of this adjustment is lower than that desired, but in any event this figure is far closer to reality than the total landings declared.

2. In all other years the figures DO NOT reflect the actual productivity per vessel per year. For instance, in 2020 the 4 289 tons ARE NOT the production of all 131 vessels but only of those that declared their landings.

3. The catch per vessel per day is based on 360 days fishing effort per vessel per year. Hence the 2024 CPUE of 0.6 tons per day. However, the estimated effort per vessel for 2024 is 200 days on average, so the CPUE should actually be around 1 ton / day.

4. As stated above, in 2026 a revised and improved version would be presented.

Table 3c: Estimated Effort of Industrial Fishing Activity from 2020-2024 (*****)

Years	Landing (mt)	No. of Vessels	Vessel – day number	Season Duration (month)	Catch/ Vessel - Year (mt)	Catch/ Vessel - Day (mt)
2020	40180	8	366	12	5022	13.70
2021	45744	9	365	12	5083	13.93
2022	51803	7	365	12	7400	20.27
2023	76480	18	365	12	4249	11.64
2024	68470	25	365	12	(****)	

(****) Please note that this includes the industrial pelagic fleet, and not only the longliners and tuna purse seiners. Ref to data 2024, please note that following exchanges with IOTC Data officers, mandatory excel tables were submitted again on 24 October 2025 by Oman to IOTC General Secretary with data on catches by type of fleet including industrial fleet. A copy of these tables is attached to this report.

3.3. Tuna Effort Distribution maps:

Figure 2a and 2b maps of distribution of fishing effort by national fisheries in the IOTC area of competence are NOT AVAILABLE.

3.4. Tuna Catch Distribution maps:

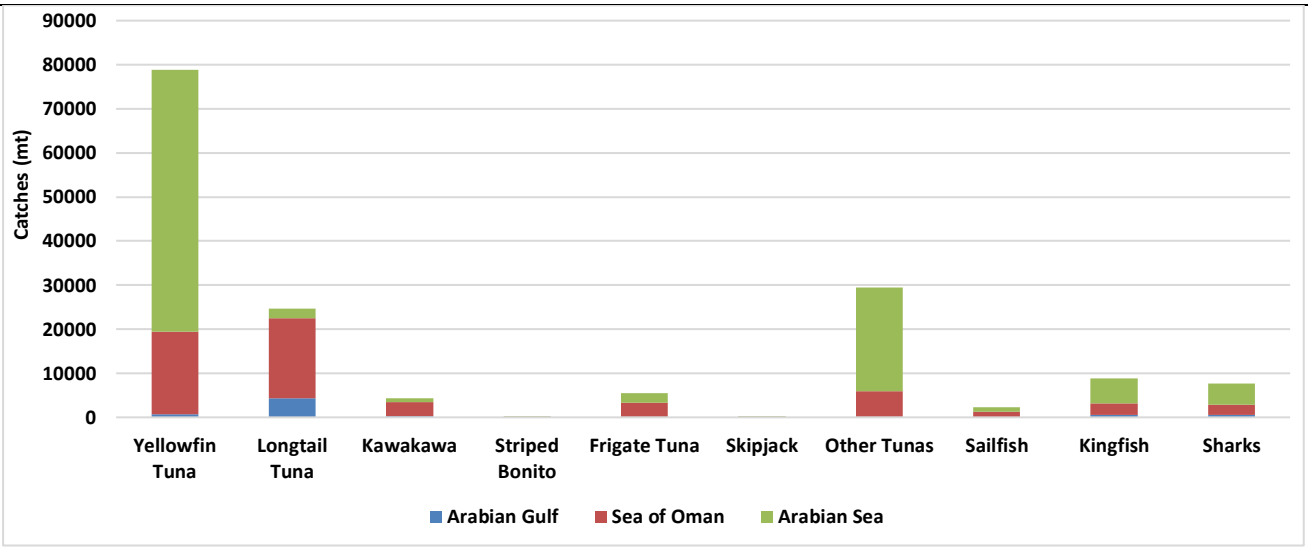

Figure 3a. Map of distribution of fishing catch by species for the artisanal fisheries in the IOTC area of competence in 2024

The figure above shows that the tuna species mostly distributed in Arabian Sea. Yellowfin tuna recorded the highest catches followed by longtail tuna compared with the other tuna species.

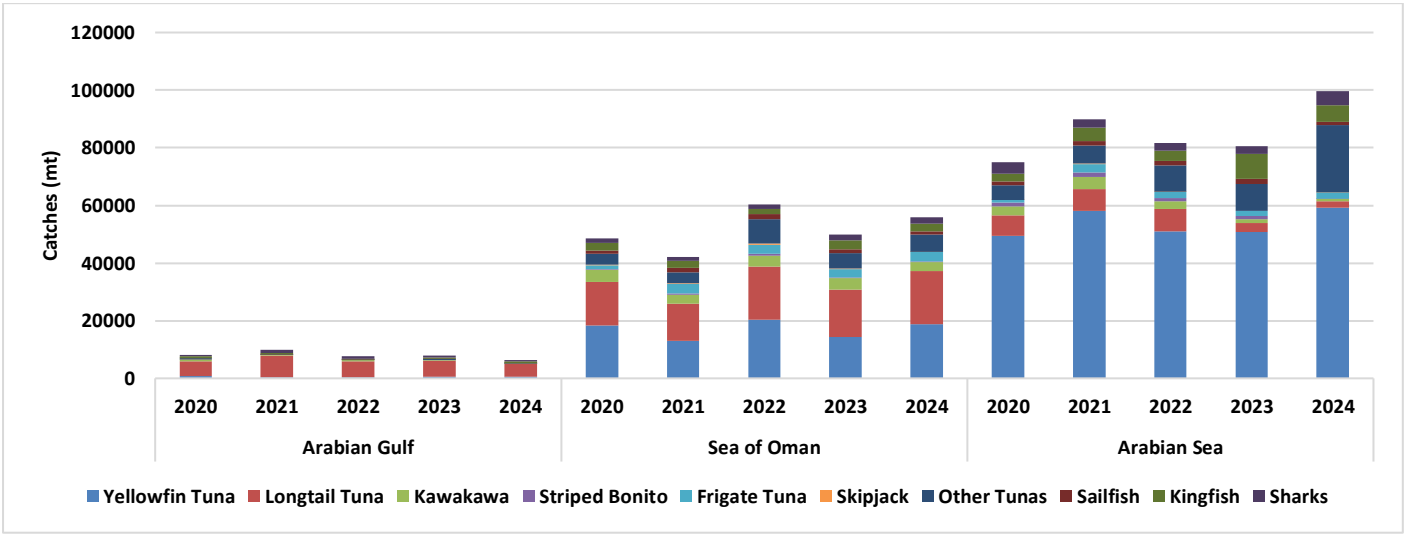

Figure 3b. Map of distribution of fishing catch by species for the artisanal fisheries in the IOTC area of competence in 2020-2024

The figure above shows that the tuna species mostly distributed in Arabian Sea, followed by Oman Sea, and the lowest amount of tuna found in Arabian Gulf. Yellowfin tuna recorded the highest catches followed by longtail tuna compared with the other tuna species.

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY [Mandatory]

There are no data is currently reported on recreational fishing activities for tuna and tuna like species in Oman.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES [Mandatory]

NOTHING TO REPORT.

5.1 Sharks [Mandatory]

5.1.1. NPOA sharks [Desirable]

The Sultanate of Oman is currently in the process of developing an NPOA-sharks, which aims to set a management scheme for these resources, with the perspective to ensure their conservation and sustainable exploitation. Plus, some endangered species were monitored under CITES agreement. Shark fining is banned by the Oman Fishing law.

5.1.2. Blue shark [Mandatory]

Article 43: Prohibition on Practices Affecting the Conservation of Blue Sharks

1. To ensure the conservation of the blue shark (Prionace glauca) stock in the Indian Ocean, it is prohibited to increase the current levels of blue shark catches beyond the average of recent years, pending further scientific assessments.

2. All unreported catches of blue shark are prohibited. Vessels are required to record and report their blue shark catch, effort, size, and discard data accurately, as per established international resolutions.

3. Until further stock assessments are completed, measures such as improving gear selectivity, implementing spatial or temporal closures, and adopting minimum conservation sizes shall be encouraged.

5.2 Seabirds [Mandatory]

Article 45 – Reduction of incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries

1. The operator of any fishing vessel in Omani waters, or of any Omani registered vessel in areas beyond national jurisdiction shall make such reports of incidental bycatch of seabirds as may be required by the relevant Ministry.

2) Where such fishing vessel is in the IOTC Area of Competence and is south of 25 degrees South latitude, the operator shall use and comply mitigation measures.

No Omani vessels were operating south of 25 S

5.3 Marine Turtles [Mandatory]

Environment Society of Oman (ESO) is working in a project in this field. This study will help the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and water Resources incorporate in its legislation sound conservation measures for the protection of these creatures.

Article 44- Conservation and protection of marine turtles

1.The operator of any fishing vessel in Omani waters, or of any Omani registered vessel within areas beyond national jurisdiction shall:

a. ensures that any captured marine turtle that is comatose or inactive is brought aboard, if practicable, as soon as possible and foster its recovery, including aiding in its resuscitation, before safely returning it to the water;

b. where such fishing vessel is equipped with gillnet gear, record or caused to be recorded all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks and report such incidents to the [relevant Official/Authority];

c. where such fishing vessel is equipped with longline gear:

(i) carry line cutters and de-hookers on board the fishing vessel in order to facilitate the appropriate handling and prompt release of marine turtles caught or entangled, which shall be done in accordance with any Guidelines that may be provided by the Ministry

(ii) where appropriate, encourage the use of whole finfish bait;

(iii) record all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks, including the species of the marine turtle(s), and report such incidents to the Ministry;

d. where such fishing vessel is equipped with purse seine gear:
(i) to the extent practicable, avoid encirclement of marine turtles, and if a marine turtle is encircled or entangled, take practicable measures to safely release the turtle in accordance with such guidelines as may be provided by the Ministry;
(ii) to the extent practicable, release all marine turtles observed entangled in fish aggregating devices or other fishing gear;
(iii) if a marine turtle is entangled in the net, stop net roll as soon as the turtle comes out of the water, disentangle the turtle without injuring it before resuming the net roll and, to the extent practicable, assist the recovery of the turtle before returning it to the water;
(iv) carry and employ dip nets, when appropriate, to handle marine turtles;
(v) record all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks and report such incidents to the Ministry.

5.4 Other ecologically related species (e.g., cetaceans, mobulid rays, whale sharks) [Desirable]

Article 36 - Prohibit of intentionally setting purse seine net around a cetacean

1) The operator of an Omani fishing vessel shall not intentionally cause or allow a purse seine net to be set around any cetacean if it is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.
2) Where any cetacean is unintentionally encircled in a purse seine net, the operator referred to in subsection (1) shall:
a. take all reasonable steps to ensure the safe release of any cetacean, while taking into consideration the safety of the crew, in accordance with best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of cetaceans developed by the IOTC Scientific Committee;
b. report the incident to the Ministry with the following information:
i. in respect of a cetacean, the species (if known);
ii. the number of individuals;
iii. a short description of the interaction, including details of how and why the interaction occurred, if possible;
iv. the location of the encirclement;
v. the steps taken to ensure safe release;
vi. an assessment of the life status of the animal on release, including whether the cetacean was released alive but subsequently died.
3) The operator of an Omani fishing vessels using gear types other than purse seiners for fishing tuna and tuna-like species associated with cetaceans shall report all interactions with cetaceans to the Ministry and include all the information required pursuant to subsection 2(b)(i-vi).

Article 37 - prohibit of intentionally setting purse seine net around a whale shark

1) The operator of an Omani fishing vessel, shall not intentionally cause or allow a purse seine net to be set around any whale shark if it is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.
2) Where any whale shark is unintentionally encircled in a purse seine net, the operator referred to in subsection (1) shall:
a. take all reasonable steps to ensure the safe release of any whale shark, while taking into consideration the safety of the crew, in accordance with best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of cetaceans developed by the IOTC Scientific Committee;
b. report the incident to the Ministry with the following information:
i. the number of individuals;
ii. a short description of the interaction, including details of how and why the interaction occurred, if possible; iii. the location of the encirclement;
iv. the steps taken to ensure safe release;
v. an assessment of the life status of the animal on release, including whether the whale shark was released alive but subsequently died.
3) The operator of an Omani fishing vessels using gear types other than purse seiners for fishing tuna and tuna-like species associated with whale sharks shall report all interactions with whale sharks to the Ministry and include all the information required pursuant to subsection 2(b)(i-vi).

Article 38 - prohibit from intentionally setting gear for targeted fishing of mobulid rays or retain carcasses onboard

1) The operator of an Omani fishing vessel that is operating in the IOTC area of competence and the operator of any foreign fishing vessel in areas under Omani jurisdiction, except those that are engaged in subsistence fisheries and do not sell or offer for sale any part or whole carcass of mobulid rays, shall not: a. cause, enable or allow any gear type to be intentionally set for targeted fishing of mobulid rays if the mobulid ray is sighted prior to the commencement of the set; b. retain onboard, tranship, land, store any part or whole carcass of any mobulid ray caught in the IOTC area of competence; 2) The operator of an Omani fishing vessel that is operating in the IOTC area of competence and the operator of any foreign fishing vessel in areas under Omani jurisdiction shall direct and ensure that: a. all mobulid rays are promptly released alive and unharmed, to the extent practicable, as soon as they are seen in the net, on the hook or on the deck in a manner that will result in the least possible harm to the individuals captured; and b. handling procedures adopted by IOTC from time to time are followed.

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS [Mandatory]

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification (including date commenced and status of implementation)

A primary logsheet has been established and is ready for use. This logbook system records daily information for each trip delivering three documents (copies): One goes for the vessel, the second goes for the port authority and the last for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Water Resources.

6.2. Observer scheme (including date commenced and status; number of observer, include percentage of coverage by fishery. Also, a description of the protocols supporting the observer programs and sampling schemes mentioned in paragraphs 3, 4, 6 and 9 of Res [24-04])

The Ministry has initiated an observer scheme to monitor the landings through this program for industrial fishing vessels fishing in the EEZ. It is, however, the objective of this Ministry to make a special focus on the industrial fleet and especially onboard the vessels targeting tuna species within the IOTC convention area. To date, no onboard observer scheme has yet been implemented for industrial vessels fishing in high seas in Oman.

6.3. Port sampling programme [Mandatory]

This program was launched since 1985 through a joint Omani – American committee via a specialized company named Shemonix. This company trained several officers from the statistical fishery section in order to improve the efficiency of the data collectors and sampling programme. The data collected in PSP included artisanal fishery, industrial fishery, fish export & import and companies The data collection system has been reviewed and improved since then, and it is considered that the Ministry has an adequate system for the small-scale fishery while further improvement of the data collection system is still needed for coastal and artisanal (dhows) fleets.

Table 4. Number of vessel trips or vessels active monitored, by species and fishery] **[Mandatory]**
No program

Table 5. Number of fish measured, by species and fishery] **[Mandatory]**
No program

6.4. Actions taken to monitor catches & manage fisheries for Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish [Mandatory]

Article 42 - to prohibit retention on board, transhipment, landing any undersize striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin, indo-pacific sailfish

The operator of an Omani fishing vessel that is operating in the IOTC area of competence and the operator of any foreign fishing vessel in areas under Omani jurisdiction shall:

a. not retain on board, tranship or land, any striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin or Indo-pacific sailfish smaller than 60 cm Lower Jaw Fork Length;

b. where such species smaller than the minimum length described in subsection (a) are brought on board, immediately return them to the sea in a manner that maximizes post-release survival potential without compromising the safety of crew.

6.5. Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring [Desirable]

No project in place

6.6 Sampling plans for mobulid rays [Mandatory]

No project in place

6.7 Electronic Monitoring Standards [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS]

In accordance with **IOTC Resolution 23/08 (Electronic Monitoring Standards)** and **Resolution 22/04 (Regional Observer Scheme)**, Oman has adopted, effective 1st July 2025, a **Ministerial Decision, that is** establishing the National Electronic Monitoring and Vessel Monitoring Program for Tuna Fisheries (publication in Official Gazette is pending)**.** A copy is attached.

The Program applies to all **Omani-flagged purse-seine, longline, gillnet, and pole-and-line vessels** over 24 meters in length operating within the IOTC area of competence, as well as vessels under 24 meters when fishing outside the Omani EEZ, that have implemented on board an EMS.

Each vessel must submit and obtain approval for a **Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP)** before being authorized to fish. The VMP includes:

- Contact details of the owner, operator, and EM service provider.
- Vessel layout and camera coverage areas.
- Configuration of EM equipment (number, placement, and specifications of cameras and sensors).
- Data handling procedures and maintenance protocols.

The **Electronic Monitoring System (EMS)** shall record all fishing operations, including gear deployment, hauling, catch handling, discards, and FAD interactions. The system integrates **video cameras, GPS, and gear sensors**, and ensures data integrity through tamper-proof storage.

Data Requirements:

The EMS records at minimum all data fields required under the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme, including vessel ID, trip details, gear type, effort, catch by species, size categories, bycatch, FAD activities, and discards. Data are stored securely for a minimum of **five years** and reviewed by the Ministry or authorized third parties at an **EM Review Center**.

Observers and Reviewers:

Qualified EM observers/reviewers are trained to identify IOTC species, fishing methods, and mitigation measures, and to produce verified data consistent with IOTC data standards.

Reporting and Audit:
Before **1 July each year**, Oman submits to the IOTC Secretariat:

- A list of vessels equipped with EMS and their approved VMPs.
- The percentage of fleet effort monitored by EMS and/or human observers.
- The mapping of EMS data to the minimum Regional Observer Scheme requirements.

Currently the 6 purse seiners have installed on board an EMS.

The Ministry shall conduct **annual audits** of compliance and system performance.

At present, the implementation phase of the Program is being finalized with the purse seiners.

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS [Desirable]

7.1. National research programs on blue shark
No program

7.2. National research programs on Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish
No program

7.3. National research programs on sharks
No program

7.4. National research programs on oceanic whitetip sharks
No program

7.5. National research programs on marine turtles
1. **Evaluating Hatching Success and Emergence Success in Loggerhead Nests on Masirah Island by Environment Authority:** Quantify hatching success along different sections of the beach, identify and evaluate factors impacting hatchling emergence, and implement appropriate management measures to maximize hatchling production in this declining population.

2. **Sea Turtle Satellite Tracking Project by Environment Authority:** Strengthening the system of protecting and rehabilitating species and restoring habitats, as well as contributing information to studying the nesting conditions and natural habitats of sea turtles, as satellite tracking devices work to know the movement of turtles, their behaviour, nesting and feeding sites, and to track more numbers of green turtles, in addition to building local capacities and unifying local and international efforts to implement best practices for protecting sea turtles.

7.6. National research programs on thresher sharks
No program

Table 6. Summary table of national research programs, including dates.

Project title	Period	Countries involved	Budget total	Funding source	Objectives	Short description
1 . Long term monitoring program of crustacean fisheries	•Shrimp fisheries 1997 -to present	Oman	-	Fisheries research Directorate	review the general status of the lobster and shrimp fishery in Oman	Assessment of biological characteristics (Lc, Lm, mean size) during fishing seasons. The stock

						size and catch by CMSY analysis
2. Long term monitoring program of important commercial pelagic and demersal fisheries	•Lobster fisheries 1987-to present 2005 - to present	Oman and GCC countrie	-	Fisheries research Directorate	review the general status of the stock in Oman	The stock status in the Omani waters was evaluated using the total length to assess biological reference points (growth, recruitment and mortality) and biological characteristics (Lc and Lm). The kingfish fisheries in GCC waters were assessed using length based analysis to estimate the per recruit analysis.
3. Monitoring of oceanography parameters	2001- to present	Oman	-	Fisheries research Directorate	Study marine environmental variability	1. Monthly collection of physics and chemical oceanography parameters 2.Monthly sampling of biological samples such as phytoplankton and zooplankton 3. Monthly sampling for ocean acidification program 4. HABs monitoring
4. Ocean acidification program	2024-Continuous	GCC-Countries	-	Fisheries research Directorate	To study CO2 system of ocean and the acidification	Monthly sampling for ocean acidification program, analyzing the pH and Total Alkalinity of Omani coastal waters
Study of the sustainable	2025-2027	Oman	-	The Agricultural	Studying the possibility of	1- Assessing seaweed

economic aspects of Seaweed stocks in Dhofar and Al-Wusta Governorates				and Fisheries Development Fund	cultivating some commercial species and understanding their environmental conditions at the laboratory level.	stocks in the Arabian sea, identifying commercial species, and studying their biomass and geographical distribution. 2- Producing commercial products from seaweed extracts such as agar, feed, fertilizers and bioplastics. 3- Preparing an economic feasibility study for seaweed industries

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOTC RELEVANT TO THE SC. [Mandatory]

9.

Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2012 and 2024.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	It was included in the Ministerial Decree on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	It was included in the Ministerial Decree on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	Fishing for cetaceans is prohibited according to the Sultanate Law of Marine fishing and living aquatic resources
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)	Paragraphs 7– 9	It was included in the Ministerial Decree on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	Sultanate of Oman is in the process of adopting a NPOA-sharks, which will incorporate the relevant requirements under this Plan. Furthermore, the law prohibits discard of any part of sharks and cutting the fins. Furthermore, the official authorities took the

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			necessary actions to inform the vessels owners about the resolution content and they were instructed to fully comply with.
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	Ongoing, the data gathering system is progressing to accommodate the updated requirements.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	Under implementation, and the statistical data had been reported
17/05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	Under implementation, and the statistical data had been reported
18/02	On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2-5	It was included in the Ministerial Decree on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
18/05	On management measures for the conservation of the Billfishes: Striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7 – 11	It was included in the Ministerial Decree on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
18/07	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraphs 1, 4	Oman is working progressively to enhance the data collecting system.
19/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (*If not provided under Res 21/01 below*)	Paragraph 22	Catch under threshold from industrial fleet.
19/03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 11	It was included in the Ministerial Decree on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
21/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (*If not provided under Res 19/01 above*)	Paragraph 23	Oman is not bound by this decision.
23/07	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	It was included in the Ministerial Decree on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
23/08	On electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 3c	Under implementation, and the statistical data had been reported
24/04	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 12	As expressed above Oman is working to update the Executive Regulation, as well as the new Decision in line with Resolutions 23/08 and

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			this 24/04. The Program applies to all Omani-flagged purse-seine, longline, gillnet, and pole-and-line vessels over 24 meters in length operating within the IOTC area of competence, as well as vessels under 24 meters when fishing outside the Omani EEZ.

10. LITERATURE CITED [Mandatory]

- Ministerial Decree on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
- Fishery Statistical Book (2020,2021,2022,2023,2024). Fisheries Statistic & Information Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and water resources.
- Marine and Fisheries Science Center - Oman
- Project of Vessel Monitoring System in Oman
- Environment Authority - Oman

Annex A:

A fleet level summary of the Vessel Monitoring Plans [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS]

- All the 6 Omani-registered purse seiners (Please see IOTC – Vessels List) – Oman purse seiners, has implemented on board EMS.
All the purse seiners have the obligation to comply with IOTC Resolution on EMS, and to submit mandatory reports to the Omani Fisheries Department.

A.1 The number of CPC flagged vessels implementing EM by gear/fishery type [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS].

Please see Oman National Plan

A.2 The range of EMS configurations implemented within the fleet (including the numbers and placements of cameras for each configuration) [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS].

Please see Oman National Plan

A.3 A general description of EMS requirements placed upon vessel skippers/crews by the CPC government [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS].

Please see Oman National Plan