Report on progress of
IOTC-OFCF Japan Project for JFY2025 activities and planned activities for JFY2026

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Abstract
The IOTC-OFCF Japan Project is conducted by the IOTC Secretariat and OFCF Japan (Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan) and has been implemented since JFY2002. The project is supported by the Fisheries Agency of Japan. The objectives are: (1) to improve the accuracy of tuna and tuna-like fishery statistics and information provided by IOTC coastal States (2) to develop capacity in the collection, management and reporting of tuna fishery statistics by IOTC coastal States.

Summary of IOTC-OFCF Japan Project activities in 2025

In JFY2025, the following activities have been undertaken in line with the agreement with the IOTC Secretariat and OFCF Japan in JFY2024 (work in progress).

(I) Translations, printing of the IOTC Species ID cards

OFCF Japan received additional requests to translate Billfish, Shark & Rays ID cards for Arabic and Tuna & Tuna-like, Billfish, and Shark & Rays ID cards for Dhivehi in late JFY2024. Having this request, OFCF Japan completed the translation by consultants within JFY2024. In JFY2025, verification of translation was made with Arabic and Dhivehi native speakers who have a background in taxonomy. With the completion of this verification process, **OFCF Japan is pleased to announce that the fish species ID cards have now been fully translated into all languages used by the IOTC coastal states, as a result of four years of effort under the IOTC–OFCF Japan Project.**

Table Language used by IOTC coastal states and status of translation of ID cards for Tuna & Tuna-like, Billfish, and Shark & Rays. "○" indicates completed translation. Blue cell indicates translation completed by OFCF Japan. Roughly half of the translation was achieved through four years of dedicated effort under the IOTC–OFCF Japan Project.

Language	Tuna & Tuna like	Billfish	Shark & Rays	Notes
Arabic	○	○ FY2024	○ FY2024	
Bengali	○ FY2023	○ FY2023	○ FY2023	
English	○	○	○	
French	○	○	○	
Hindi	○	○ FY2023	○ FY2023	
Indonesian	○	○	○	Printing & distribution of Tuna &Tuna like, Billfish conducted in FY2014
Malaysian	○	○ FY2023	○ FY2023	
Persian	○	○	○	
Portuguese	○	○	○	Printing & distribution of Tuna &Tuna like, Billfish, Sharks & Rays conducted in FY2021
Sinhalese	○	○ FY2022	○ FY2022	
Swahili	○	○ FY2021	○ FY2023	
Tamil	○ FY2024	○ FY2022	○ FY2022	
Thai	○ FY2021	○ FY2021	○ FY2023	
Urdu	○	○	○	
Dhivehi	○ FY2024	○ FY2024	○ FY2024	Corresponding to the request from Malives in FY2024

(II) Scoping study on Electronic Data Collection Tools (EDCTs)

Information on the status and usage of EDCTs in the IOTC coastal states was continuously collected from JFY2024.

(III) Development of web-based tools which support species identification of IOTC target species

Recognizing the strong need for capacity building in species identification of IOTC target species*, OFCF Japan launched a new project in JFY2024 entitled “Web-based Tool Development for Identification of IOTC Species.” Starting with the production of YouTube videos in JFY2024, OFCF Japan has developed a smartphone-available tool that supports the identification of tuna and tuna-like species. This tool was introduced at WPNT15 and at the “FSI–IOTC Species Identification Workshop” held in India.

OFCF Japan also developed a website, Guide for Identification of IOTC Species, which includes a photo library of IOTC species. The development of this photo library contributes to the Program of Work of WPDCS20 (*2.4 Establish a photo and imagery tool library and archive and develop associated reporting guidelines*). Further details on the web-based tool are available in OFCF Japan’s presentation, *Digital Solutions for IOTC Species Identification*, at WPDCS21.

* Program of work of WPDCS19 noted the needs of regional training on species identification as top priority of the “Coastal data collection” in 2023

- Website: “Guide for identification of IOTC species”

  https://iotcofcf.wixsite.com/speciesid

- Smartphone available tool: “ID tool for IOTC tuna and tuna-like species”

- Photo library: “IOTC species photo library”

Planned IOTC-OFCF Japan Project activities for 2026

The project activities for JFY2026 will be focused on the “Web-based Tool Development for Identification of IOTC Species” project.