

Review compliance with data reporting obligations WP component 6, sub-component 6.2

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT¹ 26 JANUARY 2026

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) with the opportunity to review the level of compliance with data reporting obligations by CPCs in 2025 and to subsequently make recommendations to the next session of the Compliance Committee (CoC23).

BACKGROUND

The component 6, sub-component 6.2 of the Work Plan of the WPICMM comprises the following activities:

6	Follow-up of previous CoC - Compliance action plan								
6.2	<i>Review compliance with data reporting obligations by CPCs and recommend actions for implementation</i>								
6.2.1	Preparation of report by the Secretariat on levels of compliance with data reporting obligations.								
6.2.2	Assessment of the report and provision of recommendations by the WPICMM.								
6.2.3	Submission of the recommendations to the Compliance Committee.								

The Work Plan of the WPICMM, is available [HERE](#).

At its [22nd meeting](#), the Compliance Committee noted the following:

[IOTC-2025-CoC22-R](#) - Paragraph 64. The CoC22 **NOTED** that, while the overall quality of data reporting to the IOTC has improved over the past decade for key datasets, the compliance rate with Resolution 15/02 (Catch statistics, 55%) and Resolution 22/04 (Observer scheme, 32%) remains low.

Paragraph 65. The CoC22 **NOTED** that the significant decline in reporting quality of retained catch for 2023, particularly for neritic and tropical tunas, is due to missing 2023 data.

Paragraph 66. The CoC22 **NOTED** that size frequency data reporting remains below the target of one fish per metric ton for most fisheries and **FURTHER NOTED** that data on discards remain sparse and not compliant with IOTC standards for most fisheries.

Paragraph 67. The CoC22 **NOTED** that overall, in terms of compliance with statistical data reporting requirements, three CPCs were assessed as fully compliant, 23 as partially compliant, three non-compliant and three not applicable.

To facilitate the review of the WPICMM09, the content of the meeting document [IOTC-2025-CoC22-03 Rev2 Summary report on the level of compliance](#) is reproduced below and at Annex 1.

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DISCUSSION

Summary of compliance for the sections of the Compliance Report (CR) 5.1 to 5.11.**Compliance Report section 5:**

The quality of data reporting to the IOTC has significantly improved over the past decade for the main IOTC datasets, namely retained catches, geo-referenced catches and effort, and geo-referenced size frequencies. Both data coverage and submission timeliness have improved, though some variability remains across datasets and species categories. However, the total retained catch data show a substantial decline in reporting quality for 2023, particularly for neritic and tropical tuna species. This decline is primarily due to the unavailability of 2023 catch data from the FAO capture production database, which is used to partially estimate catches for non-reporting CPCs (e.g., Yemen, Somalia, Sudan).

The volume of spatial catch and effort data reported for 2023 has increased for both coastal fisheries and large-scale fisheries operating on the high seas, with the reporting quality score reaching its highest level to date. The volume of size-frequency data remained stable in 2023 but at a generally low level of quality, with very few data reported for billfish, neritic tunas, and seerfish. Size data reporting remains below the target of one fish per metric tonne landed for most species in IOTC coastal fisheries.

Datasets on activities related to the use of drifting fish aggregating devices (DFADs) improved in 2023 with the adoption of a new reporting form for operational DFAD data. Additionally, CPCs with purse seine fisheries consistently reported daily buoy position data in accordance with Resolution 19/02.

Data on discards remain sparse and do not comply with IOTC standards for most fisheries. It is important to note that such data are challenging to collect but are generally considered negligible in most small-scale fisheries.

In terms of compliance with Resolution 15/02 and other reporting obligations across all CPCs, reporting 2023 data in 2024:

- Fifty-five percent (55%) of all the datasets were fully reported by the standard requirements in accordance with Resolution 15/02 and meeting the deadline (44% in 2023),
- Eight percent (8%) of all the datasets were partially reported (3% in 2023),
- Five percent (5%) of the datasets reported were not compliant with reporting standards or submitted late (13% in 2023).
- In several cases, some CPCs have consistently not complied with some of their data reporting obligations, attributed either to partially providing the data or not reporting the data for more than two consecutive years. Thirty-two percent (32%) of the CPCs are consistently not reporting data in accordance with the reporting obligations sets in Resolution 15/02 (39% in 2023).

The assessment of 2024 submission of datasets was made by main datasets:

- Total retained catches: fifty-six percent (56%) of the CPCs fully reported the retained catches across all fisheries categories (54% in 2023). The number of CPCs rated as consistently not providing data according to reporting obligation or not providing data, decreased to thirty-three percent (33%) in 2024 compared to forty-seven percent (47%) in 2023.
- Species presence in the catch: forty-four percent (44%) of all CPCs fully complied with the reporting obligation of Resolution 18/07 (44% in 2023), and fifty-six percent (56%) did not submit any data or only partially complied with the Resolution.
- Discarded catch and fishery interactions: CPCs must report discards as well as interactions with Endangered, Threatened, and Protected species. In 2024, sixty-five percent (65%) of all CPCs fully reported such data to the Secretariat, in which seventy-nine percent (79%) of CPCs with industrial fisheries provided information on interactions with ETP species.
- Catches and efforts: fifty-two percent (52%) of the CPCs fully reported this dataset across all fisheries categories (46% in 2023). The number of CPCs that did not fully met the reporting requirements or failed to

provide data, decreased to forty-eight percent (48%) in 2024 compared to fifty-four percent (54%) in 2023. Whereby, thirty-seven percent (37%) have consistently failed to fully meet the reporting requirements for more than two consecutive years. Fisheries related to fishing with Fish Aggregated Devices (FADs): the number of CPCs with industrial purse seine fisheries increased in statistical year 2023, with more coastal nations flagging purse seine vessels. Out of the six CPCs with purse seine fisheries that utilised FADs, fifty percent (50%) have fully reported data related to fishing with FADs. Of which, eighty-three percent (83%) of CPCs fully reported data related to active instrumented buoys (83% in 2023).

- Size frequencies: Compared to retained catch and catch and effort, size-frequency data remain the least reported data set. Only eleven percent (11%) of the CPCs have fully reported this dataset across all fisheries (10% in 2023). Most coastal CPCs remained unable to comply, and some industrial fleets are not able to meet the reporting requirements, particularly with measuring one fish per metric tonne of catch. CPCs that consistently cannot fully meet this requirement or not providing data, declined to seventy-eight percent (78%) in 2024, compared to eighty-one percent (81%) in 2023.

In terms of compliance with the CMMs at the individual CPC level, in 2024:

- Only three (3) CPCs (China, South Africa, and the United Kingdom) were assessed as fully compliant and reported all datasets in accordance with the IOTC data reporting requirements and to IOTC standards (one CPC in 2023, the United Kingdom).
- Twenty-three (23) CPCs were assessed as partially compliant and reported datasets that were incomplete (twenty-two (22) CPCs in 2023). Further to partially complying with reporting standards in 2024, some CPCs continue to be only partially compliant for more than two consecutive years. In 2024, five (5) CPCs (the European Union, Kenya, Oman, Madagascar and Pakistan), did not fully comply with most of the data reporting requirements for more than two consecutive years.
- Three (3) CPCs (Somalia, Sudan and Yemen) did not submit any datasets to the IOTC Secretariat in 2024 and have not reported any dataset to the IOTC for a period of more than three years.
- Three (3) CPCs, (France (OT), Philippines and Liberia) did not have fishing vessels operating in the IOTC Area of Competence in 2023.

KEY FINDINGS



The Level of compliance by IOTC CPCs – Mandatory statistical requirement – Flag State CPCs (COMPLIANCE REPORT section 5) is presented in the Annex 1.

General compliance trends:

- High compliance is seen for basic catch reporting (nominal/retained catches, discarded catches, effort data).
- Weakest compliance is with geo-referenced size frequency data (CR 5.6) – only 3 CPCs fully compliant while 21 CPCs are not compliant. This reflects a long-standing issue in achieving required data standards.
- FAD-related measures show narrow compliance because many CPCs are not subject to these requirements (no purse seiners/FAD use).

Problematic areas:

- Size frequency data: A major bottleneck across CPCs. Many fail to meet the “1 fish per metric tonne” sampling requirement.
- Timeliness issues: Several coastal States consistently late with their submissions.
- Standards: Several CPCs fail to meet the required standards when submitting mandatory data.
- No submissions: A recurring problem for a minority of CPCs is the consistent lack of reporting over several years.

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES BY THE IOTC SECRETARIAT

In 2025, the IOTC Secretariat continued its efforts to strengthen the timeliness, quality, and standardisation of fisheries data submitted by CPCs. Building on initiatives launched since 2023, the Secretariat further advanced the harmonisation of IOTC reference data with CWP code lists, including for vessel-related applications supporting both the IOTC vessel registries and Port State Measures. Complementary activities included updating the IOTC Data Reporting Guidelines, improving IOTC Reporting Forms and their description for programmatic submissions, and expanding the suite of automated Data Validators to enhance data accuracy at the point of receipt.

Data dissemination efforts focused on improving both accessibility and long-term preservation of IOTC reference materials and datasets. All IOTC code lists are now accessible through the IOTC Reference Data Catalogue, an associated R package (`iotc-data-reference-codelists`), and a versioned Zenodo record (10.5281/zenodo.15743874). Public-domain fisheries datasets have been released through GitHub-based R libraries, with work underway to make them available via Zenodo as well. As part of the ongoing transition to FAO infrastructure, the Secretariat also migrated the online Shiny applications providing interactive access to fishery datasets and catch-limit simulations to the FAO shinyapps.io cloud platform.

The Secretariat also supported updates to the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) with assistance from several consultants (Table 3). This work included updating reporting forms and their description in line with the SC recommendations, revising and improving the ROS database, and aligning data fields with the IOTC Reference Data Catalogue. Documentation, standards, and materials for the scheme are being reorganized and harmonised with further updates planned for different user groups.

The IOTC Secretariat continues to fulfil its mandate by providing direct support to, and facilitating the work of, developing coastal States. This support is delivered primarily through funding from the IOTC Capacity Building Budget and through collaboration with partner agencies, including the European Union, the United Kingdom, and the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF).

In 2025, the Data Section conducted five capacity-development missions, namely in Madagascar, Kenya, India, and including two missions in Indonesia. In addition, two data-focused regional workshops were organised to provide CPCs with updated guidance on IOTC data-reporting requirements. Two further regional workshops, focusing on species identification and data collection, were also delivered to strengthen CPC capacity in these areas.

RECOMMENDATION(s)

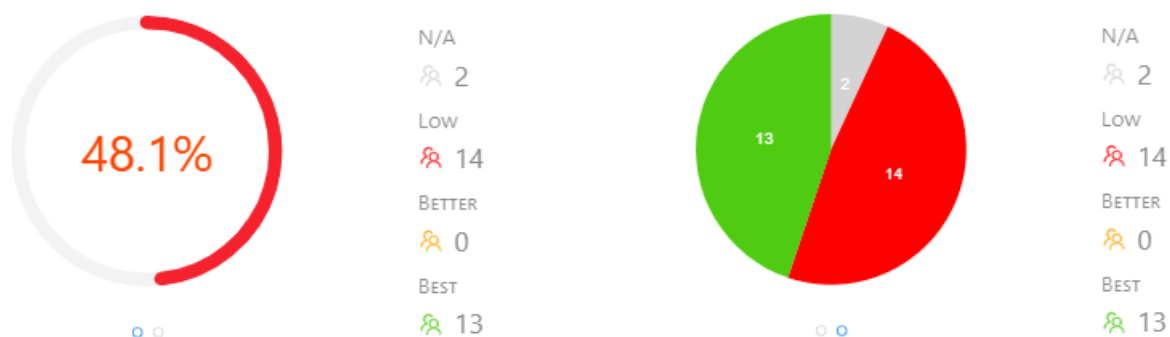
That the WPICMM09:

- 1) **NOTE** the meeting document IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-08, which present the level of compliance with mandatory statistical requirements,
- 2) Make **recommendation(s)** to the next Session of the Compliance Committee in 2026.

**Annex 1 - Level of compliance by IOTC CPCs – Mandatory statistical requirement – Flag State CPCs
(COMPLIANCE REPORT section 5).**

REQ CR 5.1 – NC Matrix (Resolution 18/07)

COMPLIANCE RATE



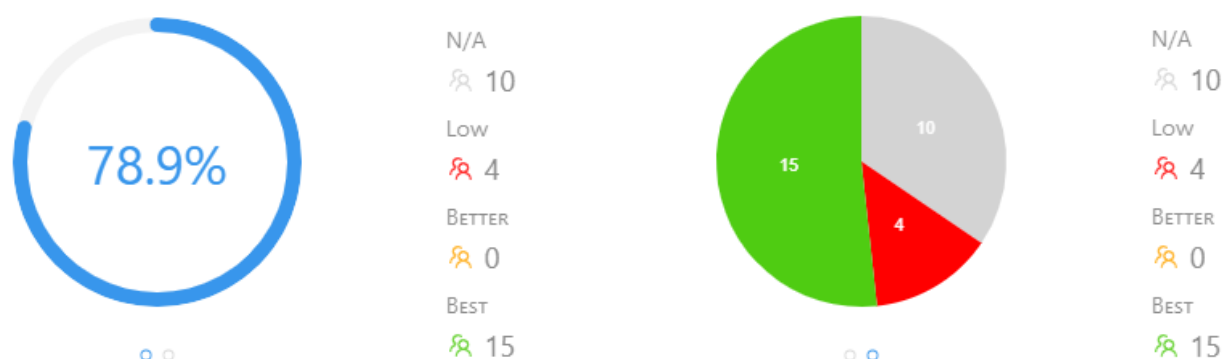
Compliant	13	AUS, BDG, CHN, IDN, IRN, MYS, MDV, MOZ, SYC, ZAF, LKA, THA, GBR
Partially Compliant	3	JPN, KOR, MUS
Not Compliant 1	1	IND
Not Compliant 2	10	COM, EU, KEN, MDG, OMN, PAK, SOM, SDN, TZA, YEM
Not Applicable	2	FRA(OT), PHL
Not applicable by exclusion	1	LBR (No fishing vessels on RAV)

CPCs have been assessed P/C or N/C for the following reasons:

Timeliness	EU
Standard	COM, EU, IND, JPN, KEN, KOR, MDG, MUS, TZA
No submission for	OMN, PAK, SOM, SDN, YEM

REQ CR 5.2 – Interactions with ETP species (Resolutions 12/04 13/05 23/06 23/07)

COMPLIANCE RATE



Compliant	15	AUS, BGD, CHN, IDN, IRN, JPN, KOR, MDG, MYS, MDV, MUS, SYC, ZAF, LKA, TZA
Partially Compliant	0	
Not Compliant 1	2	KEN, MOZ

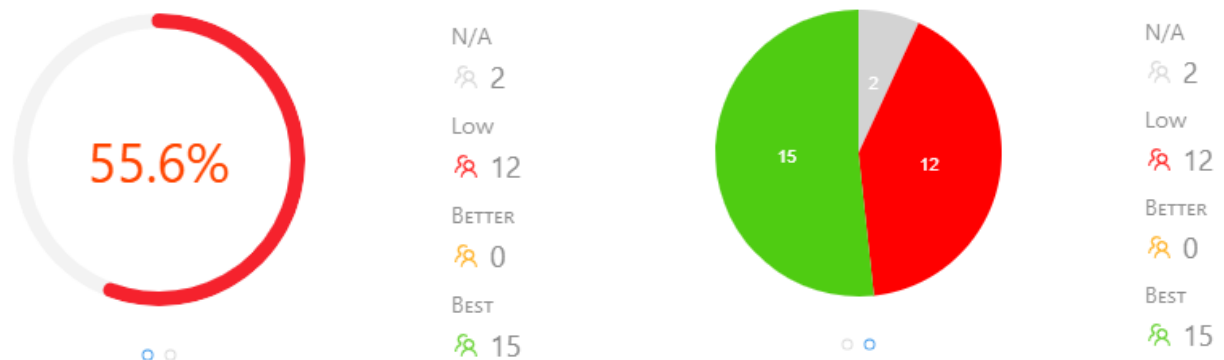
Not Compliant 2	2	EUR, OMN
Not Applicable	10	COM, FRA (OT), IND, LBR, PAK, PHL, SOM, SDN, THA, GBR

CPCs have been assessed P/C or N/C for the following reasons:

Timeliness	EU
Standard	KEN, MOZ, OMN

REQ CR 5.3 – Nominal catches / Retained catches (Resolution 15/02)

COMPLIANCE RATE



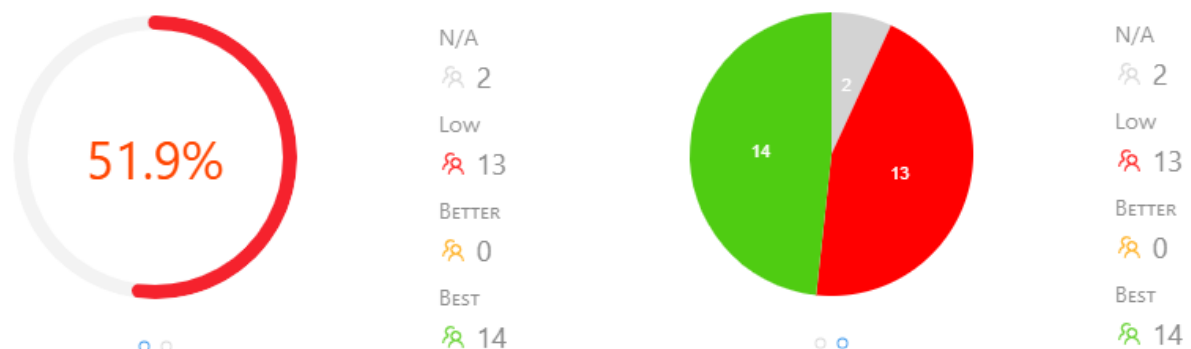
Compliant	15	AUS, BGD, CHN, COM, IDN, IRN, JPN, KOR, MYS, MDV, MOZ, ZAF, LKA, THA, GBR
Partially Compliant	2	MUS, SYC
Not Compliant 1	1	IND
Not Compliant 2	9	EUR, KEN, MDG, OMN, PAK, SOM, SDN, TZA, YEM
Not Applicable	2	FRA (OT), PHL
Not applicable by exclusion	1	LBR

CPCs have been assessed P/C or N/C for the following reasons:

Timeliness	EUR,
Standard	AUS,
No submission for	OMN, PAK, SOM, SDN, YEM

REQ CR 5.4 – Nominal catches / Discarded catches (Resolution 15/02)

COMPLIANCE RATE



Compliant	14	BGD, CHN, COM, IND, IDN, IRN, JPN, KOR, MYS, MDV, ZAF, LKA, THA, GBR
Partially Compliant	2	AUS, MUS

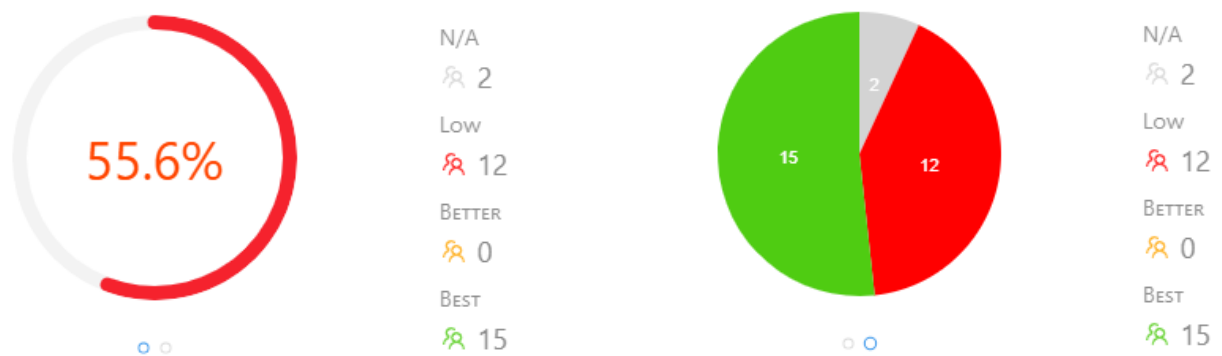
Not Compliant 1	1	MOZ
Not Compliant 2	10	EUR, KEN, MDG, OMN, PAK, SYC, SOM, SDN, TZA, YEM
Not Applicable	2	FRA (OT), PHL
Not applicable by exclusion	1	LBR

CPCs have been assessed P/C or N/C for the following reasons:

Timeliness	EUR
Standard	AUS, MUS, MOZ, KEN, MDG, SYC, TZA
No submission for	OMN, PAK, SOM, SDN, YEM

REQ CR 5.5 – Catch and Effort Geo-referenced – All Fisheries & FAD (Resolution 15/02)

COMPLIANCE RATE



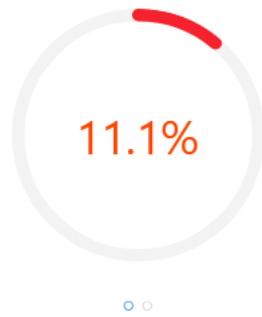
Compliant	15	AUS, BGD, CHN, COM, IRN, JPN, KOR, MYS, MDV, MUS, MOZ, ZAF, LKA, THA, GBR
Partially Compliant	1	IDN
Not Compliant 1	1	IND
Not Compliant 2	10	EUR, KEN, MDG, OMN, PAK, SYC, SOM, SDN, TZA, YEM
Not Applicable	2	FRA (OT), PHL
Not Applicable by exclusion	1	LBR

CPCs have been assessed P/C or N/C for the following reasons:

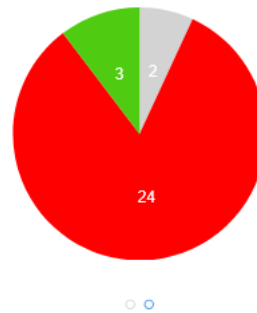
Timeliness	EUR
Standard	IND, IDN, KEN, MDG, SYC, TZA
No submission for	OMN, PAK, SOM, SDN, YEM

REQ CR 5.6 – Geo-referenced size frequencies – Coastal, Surface & Longline fisheries (Res. 15/02)

COMPLIANCE RATE



N/A
2
Low
24
BETTER
0
BEST
3



N/A
2
Low
24
BETTER
0
BEST
3

Compliant	3	CHN, ZAF, GBR
Partially Compliant	2	AUS, IRN
Not Compliant 1	1	IND
Not Compliant 2	21	BDG, COM, EU, IDN, JPN, KEN, KOR, MDG, MYS, MDV, MUS, MOZ, OMN, PAK, SYC, SOM, LKA, SDN, TZA, THA, YEM
Not Applicable	2	FRA(OT), PHL
Not Applicable by exclusion	1	LBR

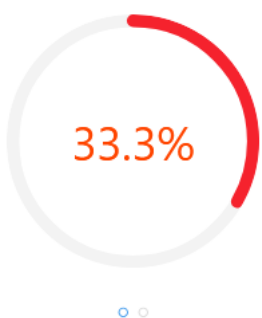
CPCs have been assessed P/C or N/C for the following reasons:

Timeliness	OMN, PAK, SOM, SDN, YEM
Standard	BDG, COM, EU, IDN, JPN, KEN, KOR, MDG, MYS, MDV, MUS, MOZ, SYC, LKA, TZA, THA
No submission for	OMN, PAK, SOM, SDN, YEM

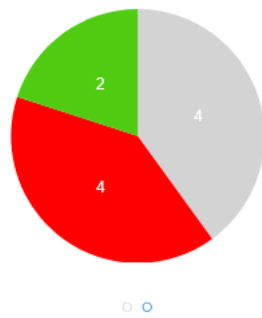
The majority of CPCs have had a long-standing problem in achieving the standard of providing size frequency data of one fish/metric tonne, for their fisheries.

REQ CR 5.7 – Drifting floating objects (DFOB) related activities (Resolution 19/02)

COMPLIANCE RATE



N/A
4
Low
4
BETTER
0
BEST
2



N/A
4
Low
4
BETTER
0
BEST
2

Compliant	2	MUS, SYC
Partially Compliant	1	KOR
Not Compliant 1	2	OMN TZA
Not Compliant 2	2	EU, OMN
Not Applicable	4	AUS, IDN, IRN, JPN
Not Applicable by exclusion	19	BDG, CHN, COM, FRA(OT), IND, KEN, LBR, MDG, MYS, MOZ, PAK, PHL, SOM, ZAF, LKA, SDN, THA, GBR, YEM

CPCs have been assessed P/C or N/C for the following reasons:

Timeliness	EU
Standard	KOR

No submission for	OMN, TZA
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The majority of CPCs do not operate purse seiners or do not utilise drifting FAD in their fisheries, thus they are not subject to this reporting requirement. Of the four CPCs, Australia, Indonesia, Iran and Japan, with purse seiners in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels, they have informed that their purse seine vessels did not utilise drifting FADs or that their purse seiners were not active in the IOTC Area in 2023.

REQ CR 5.8 – FADs supply (Resolution 24/02 - 19/02)

COMPLIANCE RATE



N/A
 5
 LOW
 0
 BETTER
 0
 BEST
 5



N/A
 5
 LOW
 0
 BETTER
 0
 BEST
 5

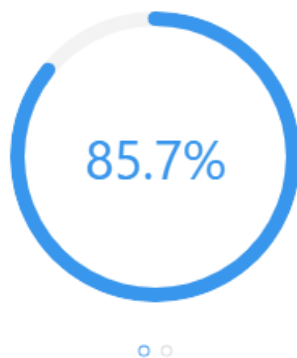
Compliant	5	EU, KOR, MUS, SYC, TZA
Partially Compliant	0	
Not Compliant 1	0	
Not Compliant 2	0	
Not Applicable	5	AUS, IDN, IRN, JPN, OMN
Not Applicable by exclusion	20	BDG, CHN, COM, FRA(OT), IND, KEN, LBR, MDG, MYS, MDV, MOZ, PAK, PHL, SOM, ZAF, LKA, SDN, THA, GBR, YEM

REQ CR 5.9 – AFADs activity (Resolution 23/01)

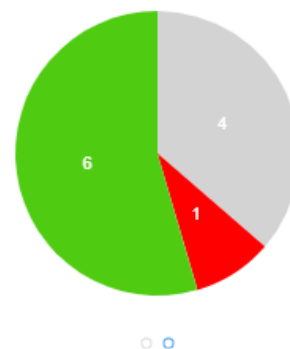
Resolution 23/01 entered in force on 1st January 2024 (Paragraph 3) - Not Applicable for reporting AFAD data for the year 2023.

REQ CR 5.10 – Number of active FADs (Resolution 19/02)

COMPLIANCE RATE



N/A
 4
 LOW
 1
 BETTER
 0
 BEST
 6



N/A
 4
 LOW
 1
 BETTER
 0
 BEST
 6

Compliant	6	EUR, KOR, MUS, OMN, SYC, TZA
Partially Compliant	1	KEN
Not Compliant 1	0	
Not Compliant 2	0	
Not Applicable	4	AUS, IDN, IRN, JPN

Not Applicable by exclusion	19	BGD, CHN, COM, FRA (OT), IND, LBR, MDG, MYS, MDV, MOZ, PAK, PHL, SOM, ZAF, LKA, SDN, THA, GBR, YEM
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CPC has been assessed P/C for the following reasons:

Timeliness	KEN
Standard	KEN