



20 January 2026

## IOTC CIRCULAR

2026-04

Dear Sir/Madam

### A COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION REGARDING IOTC TROPICAL TUNA ALLOCATED CATCH LIMITS FOR 2026 (CIRCULARS 2025-44 AND 2026-01)

Please find attached a communication from the European Union in response to Circulars 2025-44 and 2026-01. The matter will be communicated to the WPICMM as requested and a revised table of skipjack catch will be circulated once guidance has been received by the Secretariat.

Yours sincerely

Paul de Bruyn  
Executive Secretary

#### Attachments:

- Annex1: Communication from the EU

#### 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.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries  
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

Brussels  
MARE.B.2/BM

**Subject: IOTC – 2026 skipjack catch limits**

Dear Paul,

Further to circular 2025-44 on the catch limits for tropical tunas and the communication from Indonesia in circular 2026-01, the EU would like to express its views on the revised catch limits prepared by the Secretariat and attached as Annex 2.

We believe, as it is the case for all IOTC resolutions, that the interpretation and implementation of the provision should be the same for all CPCs. Therefore, we cannot accept a separated interpretation of Resolution 25/03 for one CPC and would request an even and equal application of any identified methodology.

As a way forward, we believe that it is the role of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) to provide guidance to the Compliance Committee and ultimately the Commission on the interpretation of IOTC CMMs. We would therefore suggest that the WPICMM, at its upcoming meeting (11-13 February) discuss Indonesia's suggestion and, if agreed, recommend to the Compliance Committee to extend the interpretation to all CPCs. We would also invite the Secretariat to circulate provisional revised catch limits, once the methodology is discussed and agreed by the WPICMM.

We would kindly ask you to share this letter with heads of delegation.

Yours sincerely,

Marco VALLETTA  
Head of the EU Delegation  
Deputy Head of Unit