



12 February 2026

IOTC CIRCULAR

2026–11

Dear Madam / Sir

COMMUNICATION FROM SRI LANKA REGARDING NOTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION OF SRI LANKA'S FLEET DEVELOPMENT PLAN (FDP) FROM 2025 TO 2030

Please find attached a communication from Sri Lanka regarding notification for Extension of Sri Lanka's Fleet Development Plan (FDP) from 2025 to 2030.

Yours sincerely

Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Request for Extension of Sri Lanka's Fleet Development Plan (FDP) from 2025 to 2030
- Fleet Development Plan Sri Lanka (2025-2030)

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 and Panama. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only



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கடற்றொழில் நீரியல் வளத்துறை திணைக்களம்

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES & AQUATIC RESOURCES

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புதிய செயலகம், மானிகாவத்தை கொழும்பு 10, இலங்கை නව මහ ලේකම් කාර්යාලය, මාලිගාවත්ත, කොළඹ 10, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව New Secretariat, Maligawaththa, Colombo 10

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DFAR/DFO/IOTC GENERAL

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Your Ref



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திகதி
Date



Dr. Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary
IOTC Secretariat
Blend Seychelles Building (2nd floor)
Victoria Mahé – SEYCHELLES
IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org

Date: 30th January 2026

Request for Extension of Sri Lanka's Fleet Development Plan (FDP) from 2025 to 2030

Dear Dr. Paul de Bruyn,

Sri Lanka initially submitted the Fleet Development Plan (FDP) for Tuna and Sward fish fishery, on 18 March 2016 and subsequently updated it on 17 September 2020 for the period 2021–2025. However, Sri Lanka has been unable to fully implement the proposed FDP for the period 2021–2025 due to severe and prolonged economic constraints that have affected the country over the past decade.

Sri Lanka has recently reviewed and amended its current Fleet Development Plan (Annex I). As part of this revision, the proposed number of gillnet longline combination vessels has been reduced, in recognition of their contribution to ecosystem impacts, including potential interactions with non-target and vulnerable species. In the meantime, fleet development is being directed towards Seasonal combinations of longline and pole-and-line fisheries. This adjustment demonstrates Sri Lanka's strong commitment to aligning its fleet development with sustainable fishing practices and ecosystem-based management principles, consistent with IOTC conservation and managements measures.

Given the combined impact of economic constraints and the new sustainability-oriented amendments to the FDP, Sri Lanka extend the implementation period of the Fleet Development Plan by an additional five (05) years, from 2025 to 2030. This extension will allow Sri Lanka to achieve the revised targets while ensuring compliance with all relevant IOTC resolutions and the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources.

Sri Lanka kindly requests the Secretariat to circulate this letter to the Contracting Parties of the IOTC for their information.

Thank You
Yours Sincerely,

Susantha Kahawatta
Director General
Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources



Table 1: Revised Fleet Development Plan (FDP) for Tropical Tuna – Sri Lanka (2026-2030)*Extension of the previous submission dated 17 September 2020, with amendments.*

Category of the vessel			BaseYear (2025)	Achievement Anticipated				
Type	Mean GT	Length		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Long Line and gill net(combination) vessels	19.03	Less than 15m	1996	0	0	0	0	0
Long Line and Pole& Line (Seasonal combination)	19.03	Less than 15m	34	5	5	5	5	5
Long Line and gill net(combination) vessels	52.91	15m-24m	40	15	10	10	05	05
Long Line Vessels	18.28	Less than 15m	1920	30	31	32	32	32
	58.91	15m-24m	247	100	105	110	110	110
	282.54	24m-45m	4	15	10	05	05	02
	1140.82	45m-75m	0	05	02	02	02	02

Table -2 Fleet Development Plan for Sward Fish - Sri Lanka (2026-2030)*Extension of the previous submission dated 17 September 2020. With Amendments .*

Category of the vessel			BaseYear (2025)	Achievement Anticipated				
Type	Mean GT	Length		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Long Line Vessels	52.91	15m-24m	0	01	02	02	02	03
	282.54	24m-45m	01	01	01	01	01	01

Note : The vessels in the FDP will either Sri Lanka built or foreign built purchased and import to Sri Lanka. During the purchase, the criterion such as absence of IUU history, stability, age , State of art to meet international standards will be strictly followed.