

IOTC CIRCULAR 2026–18

Dear Sir/Madam

REGARDING IOTC TROPICAL TUNA ALLOCATED CATCH LIMITS FOR 2026

In compliance with paragraph 13 of IOTC [Resolution 25/03](#), the IOTC Executive Secretary notified CPCs on the catch limits to be applied in 2025 and 2026, for Indian Ocean skipjack tuna, to CPCs listed in paragraph 5 of the same Resolution. This was done through IOTC [Circular 2025-44](#). Subsequently, Indonesia submitted a letter clarifying its new catch limit for the year 2026, based on its recently revised catch data, is 141,387 tonnes, approximately 2.5% above the limit indicated in [Circular 2025-44](#). Indonesia's letter was circulated to CPCs via [Circular 2026-01](#). The European Union subsequently responded to the above two-mentioned Circulars ([Circular 2026-04](#)), but more specifically to [Circular 2026-01](#), indicating that interpretations and implementation of the provisions of IOTC Resolutions should be the same for all CPCs. Consequently, the European Union suggested that the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) discuss at the WPICMM09 the new catch limit that Indonesia had proposed for itself, via its letter in [Circular 2026-01](#). The main issue of discussion was the definition of the term “current catch” in Resolution 25/03.

In the report of the WPICMM ([IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-R](#)) it is stated:

*(Para 120) The WPICMM09 **AGREED** that the term “current catch” in Resolution 25/03 referred to the average catch for the period 2021-2023 and the catch limits for 2026 be calculated on that basis.*

As such, the Secretariat has applied this common understanding of the term to the revised catch table found below¹.

Skipjack Tuna [Resolution 25/03](#)

Resolution [25/03](#) *On establishing catch limits for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence* came into force 21 October 2025 and applies to all CPCs except India, Korea and Somalia. Resolutions [25/03](#) established a TAC of 628,606 t for skipjack tuna for the period in 2025 and 2026. Paragraph 13 of Resolution 25/03 requires the IOTC Secretariat to prepare and circulate the below table (**Table 1**) of allocated catch limits disaggregated as per the requirements set out in paragraphs 5 – 12.

Table 1: Catch limits (t) that shall be applied in 2026 for the main fleets targeting Indian Ocean Skipjack tuna

Fleet code	Fleet	Catch limit 2026
EUR	European Union	129,124
IDN	Indonesia	141,387
IRN	I.R. Iran	71,419
LKA	Sri Lanka	38,000
MDV	Maldives	123,504
SYC	Seychelles	78,856

¹ It should be noted that Mauritius was erroneously included in the Tables for bigeye and skipjack tuna in Circulars 2025-44 and 2026-01. The catch limits only apply to Mauritius in 2028.

Yours sincerely



Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

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