



April 29, 2026

ATTN: Heads of Delegation to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

19 Environmental Organizations & NGOs Call on the IOTC to Adopt Robust Management Measures That Implement & Fully Allocate Catch Limits Set for Yellowfin, Blue Sharks; & Fully Allocate Adopted Swordfish Catch Limits

The 30th session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) on 11-15 May 2026 brings an important opportunity to enhance conservation of key species. Specifically, we urge the Commission to **adopt robust management measures that implement and fully allocate a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) across all CPCs for yellowfin tuna and blue sharks that is consistent with scientific advice, and fully allocate the adopted swordfish TAC.**

We also urge the Commission to address several additional issues in 2026 that impact the health of all tuna stocks and the ecosystems in the Indian Ocean, including:

- Advance the **Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process for yellowfin tuna, albacore tuna and blue sharks** in order to adopt management procedures in 2027.
- To improve vessel transparency, data collection and monitoring, **immediately increase observer coverage rates (human and/or electronic) and adopt a timeline to reach 100% coverage**, and establish a regional, centralized Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).
- Adopt scientific advice related to Resolution 25/08 to **improve shark data and reduce incidental mortality.**

We the undersigned agree that these critical issues can and must be addressed during the Commission's annual meeting.

As a delegate to the IOTC, we urge your government to support efforts to adopt proposals or take other actions to address the important issues noted above this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

