

Report of the 23rd Session of the Compliance Committee

In person & by videoconference, 4 to 6 May and 8 May 2026

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ACRONYMS

CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CDS	catch documentation scheme
CMM	conservation and management measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CoC	Compliance Committee of the IOTC
CPC	Contracting Party (or “Member”) and cooperating non-Contracting Party
DFAD	drifting fish aggregation device
EMS	electronic monitoring system
FAD	fish aggregation device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIES	FAO’s Global Information Exchange System
ICCAT	International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU	illegal, unreported and unregulated
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
OT	Overseas Territory
RAV	IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels
ROP	Regional Observer Programme to monitor transshipments at sea
ROS	Regional Observer Scheme
SCAF	Standing Committee on Administration and Finance of the IOTC
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
VMS	vessel monitoring system
WGEMS	Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards
WPICMM	Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

The report of the CoC has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

Level 1: *From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:*

RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION: Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

Level 2: *From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a CPC, the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:*

REQUESTED: This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a Committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalise the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

Level 3: *General terms to be used for consistency:*

AGREED: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 or level 2 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be considered/adopted by the next level in the Commission's structure.

NOTED/NOTING: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference.

Any other term: Any other term may be used in addition to the Level 3 terms to highlight to the reader of and IOTC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. However, other terms used are considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3, described above (e.g. **CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED**).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Opening of the Session

The Twenty-third Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC23) of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held in person and by videoconference on 4 to 6 May and 8 May 2026.

Attendees comprised delegates of 26 Contracting Parties (Members), two Cooperating non-Contracting Party, and 12 Observers, including Invited Experts. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix 1](#). The meeting was chaired by Mr Indra Jaya (IDN), the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee.

The following is a subset of the complete set of recommendations from the CoC23 to the Commission, which are provided at [Appendix 11](#).

CoC23.01 (Para. 21) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to endorse the consolidated set of recommendations adopted by the WPICMM09 ([Appendix 7](#)).

CoC23.05 (Para. 25) On the Resolution 01/06, paragraph 6, the CoC23 **REFERRED** the discussion to the WPICMM10 and **RECOMMENDED** the Commission task the Secretariat to prepare a meeting document on compliance with Resolution 01/06, paragraph 6, for the next WPICMM meeting.

CoC23.07 (Para. 32) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that future meetings of the WPICMM are held in person/hybrid format, subject to availability of extra-budgetary funds.

CoC23.11 (Para 45) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Executive Secretary of the IOTC engage with the Permanent Representative of Sudan to the FAO, to understand the constraints of Sudan to participate in the work of the Commission.

CoC23.14 (Para 56) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that Indonesia continue to work with the IOTC Secretariat over the coming days to resolve the uncertainties over applicable catch limits and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider a payback mechanism for the overcatch, if an overcatch is confirmed.

CoC23.16 (Para 64) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to consider establishing binding catch limits of bigeye tuna for Somalia, which remains bound by Resolution 23/04 due to its objection to Resolution 25/04, without prejudice of the rights of developing coastal States.

CoC23.25 (Para 89) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to agree on the following process for the submission of information papers related to compliance by observers to sessions of the CoC: Observers shall submit their information papers to the IOTC Executive Secretary at least 15 days prior to the commencement of the respective session of the CoC. The Secretariat shall publish the information papers on the IOTC meeting website without delay to enable the CPCs to review the information papers and respond, if they so choose, to allegations of non-compliance with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures contained in one or more information papers. The Secretariat shall publish the corresponding responses by CPCs, if any, on the IOTC website.

CoC23.30 (Para 127) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the vessel, KEBA, be added into the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List, with “Unknown” flag.

CoC23.37 (Para 149) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission approve Liberia’s request to renew its Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status.

CoC23.38 (Para 150) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission approve Panama’s request to renew its Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Twenty-third Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC) of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held with in person attendance, and by video-conference, from 4 to 6 May and 8 May 2026.
2. Attendees comprised delegates of 26 Contracting Parties (Members), two Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, and 12 Observers, including Invited Experts. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix 1](#). The meeting was chaired by Mr Indra Jaya (IDN), the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee.

2. LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS

3. The CoC23 **NOTED** that letters of credentials had been received from 28 CPCs: Australia, Bangladesh, China, European Union, France (OT), India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Panama and Liberia.
4. The CoC23 **NOTED** that three (3) CPCs, Comoros, Sudan and Yemen have not provided credentials.

3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

5. The CoC23 **NOTED** that letters of Credentials have been received from 12 Observers, including Invited Experts.
6. Pursuant to Article VII of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, and under Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2025), the CoC23 admitted the following observers,:

Members or Associate Members of the FAO

- i. United States of America

Intergovernmental Organisations

- ii. The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission.

- iii. Bloom
- iv. Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Association (BMFA)
- v. Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz (DSM)
- vi. International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF)
- vii. International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)
- viii. Maldives Seafood Processors & Exporters Association (MSPEA)
- ix. The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew)
- x. Shark trust
- xi. Sustainable Fisheries and Communities Trust (SFACT)

Invited Experts

- xii. Taiwan, Province of China.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

7. The CoC23 **REQUESTED** that the agenda includes under AOB discussions on the topic of the special session of the CoC proposed to be held during the 2nd semester of 2026.
8. The CoC23 **ADOPTED** the amended Agenda provided at [Appendix 2](#). The documents presented to the CoC23 are listed at [Appendix 3](#).

5. REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES (WPICMM09)

9. The CoC23 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-13](#), presenting the progress of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures and **FURTHER NOTED**:
 - a. The recommendations related to the work of the Commission to improve its MCS scheme.
 - b. The recommendations related to possible infractions under the ROP and PSM implementation.
 - c. The recommendations related to tasks assigned to the Secretariat.

Work to improve IOTC MCS scheme - IOTC VMS pilot project

10. The CoC23 **NOTED** support from some CPCs to launch the voluntary IOTC VMS pilot project. The CoC23 **FURTHER NOTED** concerns expressed by some CPCs on how the IOTC VMS pilot project would be funded wanting to avoid an impact on the 2027 budget.
11. The CoC23 **REFERRED** the discussion on the budget for the IOTC VMS pilot project and the proposal to adopt a budget to the SCAF23.

Possible infractions detected under the implementation of the ROP and PSM

12. The CoC23 **NOTED** that Korea had provided its response to the possible infraction under the ROP on 23 March 2026 in the e-MARIS application.
13. The CoC23 **NOTED** that China had provided its response to the possible infraction under PSM on 10 January 2026, by e-mail, to the Port State Control Unit Mauritius.

Tasks assigned to the Secretariat

14. The CoC23 **NOTED** the tasks assigned to the Secretariat to improve reporting via the e-MARIS application to support the work of the WPICMM.

Vessels included in the Record of Authorised Vessels with retrospective authorisation period

15. The CoC23 **NOTED** that some CPCs often include vessels in the Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV) with retroactive authorisation period and **FURTHER NOTED** that this practice affects the effectiveness of the RAV as an MCS tool.
16. The CoC23 **REITERATED** that, if a vessel is included in the RAV without a valid authorisation period, this vessel should not be considered as authorised.
17. The CoC23 **NOTED** that, for some CPCs, there is a delay between when they issue licenses for vessels and when these licenses are included into the RAV, . Those delays of a few days are often linked to administrative procedures due to a large number of vessels.
18. The CoC23 **NOTED** the draft recommendation proposed by the EU and Maldives to address this situation and **AGREED** that the texts proposed by the Maldives ([Appendix 4](#)) should be discussed

in the context of amendments proposed to Resolution 19/04 ([IOTC-2026-S30-PropD](#)), to be considered by the Commission (S30).

Consolidated set of WPICMM09 recommendations

19. The CoC23 **NOTED** [IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-R](#) with a consolidated set of recommendations in its Appendix 4, presented in [Appendix 7](#) of this report.
20. The CoC23 **NOTED** that para 24 of resolution 24/02 mandates the VMS Working Group, supported by the Compliance Committee, to work on developing Rules of Procedure for the DFAD monitoring system. The CoC 23 **NOTED** that, if the VMS Working Group's work is paused, then this role should come back to the CoC.

Recommendation/s

21. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to endorse the consolidated set of recommendations adopted by the WPICMM09 ([Appendix 7](#)).
22. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to endorse the changes to the assessment criteria, for the CoC24 – 2027 assessment campaign.
23. On the work to improve the IOTC MCS scheme, the CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission consider to endorse the launch of a voluntary IOTC VMS pilot project for interested CPCs, subject to the discussion on funding by the SCAF23. The CoC23 **REQUESTED** the SCAF23 to discuss the funding of the IOTC VMS pilot project and associated budget.
24. On the future date of the 2027 WPICMM, the CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the SCAF23 to determine the date when discussing the 2026 - 2027 calendar of IOTC meetings.
25. On the Resolution 01/06, paragraph 6, the CoC23 **REFERRED** the discussion to the WPICMM10 and **RECOMMENDED** the Commission task the Secretariat to prepare a meeting document on compliance with Resolution 01/06, paragraph 6, for the next WPICMM meeting.

5.1. PROPOSED REVISION OF RESOLUTIONS 19/03, 25/08 AND 25/12.

26. The CoC23 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-14_Rev2](#), presenting amendments of three Resolutions by the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM09):
 - a. 19/03 *On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence,*
 - b. 25/08 *On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC,*
 - c. 25/12 *On the promotion of the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.*
27. The CoC23 **NOTED** that:
 - a. two CMM proposals to S30, [IOTC-2026-S30-PropC](#), [IOTC-2026-S30-PropK](#), were submitted in relation to the Resolution 19/03,
 - b. one CMM proposal to S30, [IOTC-2026-S30-PropN](#), was submitted in relation to the Resolution 25/08,
 - c. one CMM proposal to S30, [IOTC-2026-S30-PropA](#), was submitted in relation to the Resolution 25/12.
28. The CoC **NOTED** that the suggested amendments to Resolutions 19/03 and 25/08 are beyond the mandate of the WPICMM and **FURTHER NOTED** that the Maldives will present a discussion paper to the next WPICMM to evaluate the ToR of the WPICMM.

29. The CoC **NOTED** that the WPICMM is tasked with reviewing and assessing some of the compliance processes, including responses to possible infractions detected under the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) and in the implementation of port State measures by CPCs and **FURTHER NOTED** that the timing of the WPICMM in relation to the meeting of the Compliance Committee is of crucial importance to ensure the smooth flow of information between these two subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
30. The CoC **NOTED** that the complexity of some of the work required to be undertaken by the WPICMM cannot be effectively addressed through online meetings and **FURTHER NOTED** that extrabudgetary funds may be available through the EU-sponsored Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP) to fund for a presential meeting in one of the Project's recipient countries in 2027.

Recommendation/s

31. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that SCAF23 discuss and agree on dates for the next WPICMM meeting, when it considers the calendar of upcoming IOTC meetings.
32. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that future meetings of the WPICMM are held in person/hybrid format, subject to availability of extra-budgetary funds.

5.2. PROPOSAL FOR A SYSTEM OF FISHING GEAR MARKING

33. The CoC23 **NOTED** reference document, [IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-17](#), on a proposal of Conservation and Management Measures for a system of fishing gear marking.
34. The CoC23 **NOTED** the support of CPCs for addressing the issue of lost gears.
35. The CoC23 **NOTED** the concerns expressed by some CPCs regarding the practicability of having markings on some fishing gears, such as drifting longlines and hooks, and reporting obligations, and **ENCOURAGED** additional discussions on this topic to define a practical framework for implementation.
36. The CoC23 **REITERATED** that markings are required under Resolutions 19/04, 23/01 and 24/02.
37. The CoC23 **NOTED** that the European Union, in collaboration with other CPCs, has volunteered to facilitate the work intersessionally on the Scheme to operationalise the FAO Voluntary Guideline for Fishing Gear in the IOTC Area, allowing for another round of comments to further improve a framework on IOTC fishing gear marking.

Recommendation/s

38. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs continue to engage with the European Union in the intersessional period, leading up to the next annual session of the CoC, to provide feedback on a framework for IOTC fishing gear marking.

6. REVIEW OF THE GENERAL LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE TO REPORTING AND GAPS IN IMPLEMENTATION

6.1. CHALLENGES BEING ENCOUNTERED BY CPCs

39. The CoC23 **NOTED** meeting document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-03](#), prepared by the IOTC Secretariat, which provided the Compliance Committee with a summary of compliance to reporting obligations for a selection of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) that seems to present more challenge for some CPCs to comply with the reporting deadlines, and **FURTHER NOTED**:
- a. The uncharacteristic reporting delays by China and Korea,
 - b. Chronic non-reporting from Sudan and recurring gaps from Yemen.
40. The CoC23 **NOTED** the exceptional circumstances that gave rise to delays for China and Korea to meet their reporting obligations in a timely manner, for the CoC23 campaign.

41. The CoC23 **REITERATED** the importance for CPCs to ensure the timely fulfilment of their reporting obligations.
42. The CoC23 **ENCOURAGED** Yemen to continue its efforts to meet its IOTC reporting obligations.

Recommendation/s

43. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat to apply the correct deadline time settings for reporting requirements, for future compliance campaigns.
44. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Yemen optimise further its efforts to meet its reporting obligations.
45. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Executive Secretary of the IOTC engage with the Permanent Representative of Sudan to the FAO, to understand the constraints of Sudan to participate in the work of the Commission.
46. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Secretariat continues to assist CPCs to meet their reporting obligations through targeted compliance capacity building activities.

6.2. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION RESOLUTIONS 21/01, 19/01 AND 18/01 ON AN INTERIM PLAN FOR REBUILDING THE INDIAN OCEAN YELLOWFIN TUNA STOCK IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE.

47. The CoC23 **NOTED** meeting document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-06](#), prepared by the IOTC Secretariat, which provided information on the level of compliance with Resolutions [18/01](#), [19/01](#) and [21/01](#) *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence*, and **FURTHER NOTED** the meeting document consider whether the CPCs that are bound to these Resolutions have assured compliance with the measures.
48. The CoC23 **NOTED** that, for the requirement of yellowfin tuna catch limit, 21 CPCs have been assessed as “Compliant or Not Applicable” as they did not exceed their quantitative limit set by the Commission for 2024 or were not bound by catch limits.
49. The CoC23 **NOTED** that two CPCs (Sri Lanka and Sudan) have been assessed as “Non-compliant 1””; Sri Lanka for exceeding the quantitative limit set by the Commission for 2024 and Sudan for not providing a response to this requirement.
50. The CoC23 **NOTED** that there are currently 15 supply vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV), flagged to seven CPCs and **FURTHER NOTED** that:
 - a. Information on purse seiner/supply vessel association has been submitted by the European Union (for France-EU and Spain-EU), Korea (Republic of), Mauritius, Oman and Seychelles.
 - b. Tanzania has reported the association period between its purse seiner and supply vessel up to the end of the first quarter of 2026, in spite of the authorisation period having been updated recently.
 - c. Kenya has not reported any association between its purse seiner and supply vessel for 2026.
51. On actions related to gillnet vessels, the CoC23 **NOTED** that:
 - a. Iran has, (i) encouraged gillnet vessel owners to transition to more selective fishing methods. A number of traditional gillnet (dhows) have continued seasonal and temporary operations using longline fishing during the past year, (ii) issued a guideline specifying that gillnets must be set at least 2 meters below the water surface, and (iii) field sampling rate for 2025 of 12%.

- b. Sri Lanka, (i) between 2019 – 2025, 161 gillnet vessels have been converted to handline and pole-and-line vessels, (ii) the majority of fishermen (65%) lay their gillnets about 3m below the surface to avoid nets from washing away from the target fishing grounds, (iii) laying of gillnets below 2m depth is incorporated in the draft regulation. Prohibition of large-scale gillnets (larger than 2.5km) in the IOTC Area of Competence has been published, (iv) data collection in the small landing sites is by increasing the field samplers with a view to increase the data collection from 5% to 10% for the gillnet operating artisanal vessels.
- c. Pakistan has reported a list of 124 gillnet vessels that have fished for yellowfin tuna in 2025, but have not fulfilled the reporting obligation of paragraph 24, of Resolution 21/01.
- d. The information provided by Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia, who in the past have operated vessels that used gillnets or on the type of gillnet fisheries operating in the IOTC Area. Australia noted it does not authorise the use of driftnets or authorise the targeting of IOTC species using demersal set gillnets. Australia **FURTHER NOTED** the assessment criteria for paragraphs 21-24 of Resolution 21/01 has been endorsed by the WPICMM, CoC and Commission each year since 2022. Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia reported that they do not have gillnet fisheries operating in the high seas, only inside of the EEZ, and the size of the vessels are less than 24m.

52. The CoC23 **AGREED** to discuss the interpretation of paragraph 11 on the applicable reduction to the threshold limits in paragraphs 5 to 10 of Resolution 19/01, at the next meeting of the WPICMM.

Recommendation/s

53. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Kenya and Tanzania provide information, for the remainder of 2026, on the association of their supply vessels and purse seiners, for inclusion in the IOTC website.

6.3. PAYBACK MECHANISM FOR YELLOWFIN OVERCATCH MADE UNDER RESOLUTION 19/01 BY INDONESIA.

54. The CoC **NOTED** that Indonesia had accumulated yellowfin overcatch when it was bound by Resolution 19/01. Indonesia withdrew its objection to Resolution 21/01 in early 2025 and became bound to the Resolution. However, uncertainty over the catch limit figures for Indonesia over the last few years, due to a combination of factors, complicated the agreement of what amount of yellowfin that Indonesia is bound to repay.

55. The CoC **NOTED** the presentation made by the Secretariat on the historical catches and corresponding over-catches made by Indonesia during the period 2014 -2024.

Recommendation/s

56. The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that Indonesia continue to work with the IOTC Secretariat over the coming days to resolve the uncertainties over applicable catch limits and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider a payback mechanism for the overcatch, if an overcatch is confirmed.

6.4. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS 23/04 AND 25/04 ON ESTABLISHING CATCH LIMITS FOR BIGEYE TUNA IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE.

57. The CoC23 **NOTED** meeting document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-07](#), prepared by the IOTC Secretariat, which provided information on the level of compliance with Resolution 25/04 *On Establishing Catch Limits for Bigeye Tuna in the IOTC Area Of Competence*.

58. The CoC23 **NOTED** that of the eight major harvesters, all but two have remained below their specified catch limits for the year 2024.

59. The CoC23 **NOTED** that China exceeded its catch limit of 3,785 t by 510 t and Sri Lanka exceeded its catch limit of 4,772 t by 576 t. However, the CoC23 **FURTHER NOTED** that without the 2025 catch figures, it would be premature to conclude that China and Sri Lanka are non-compliant with respect to their specified catch limits over the management cycle of 2024 – 2025.
60. The CoC23 **NOTED** that three CPCs which were considered as small harvesters, by virtue of not being listed in the table in paragraph 2 of Resolution 23/04, have made catches in excess of 2,000 t, in 2024.
61. The CoC23 **AGREED** that China will, exceptionally, submit a late notification that it will implement a three-year management of its bigeye tuna catch limit, under Resolution 25/04.
62. The CoC23 **NOTED** that CPCs with overcatch of bigeye tuna in the 2024-2025 management cycle and who implement a three-year management cycle of its bigeye tuna catch limit for the 2026-2028 management cycle, have the options of implementing payback of overcatch over the three year cycle.

Recommendation/s

63. The CoC23 **NOTED** that Somalia have not reported catch figures previously and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission task the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS) to discuss the reported catch figure of Somalia.
64. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to consider establishing binding catch limits of bigeye tuna for Somalia, which remains bound by Resolution 23/04 due to its objection to Resolution 25/04, without prejudice of the rights of developing coastal States.
65. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat to identify any major harvesters that have made catches over their catch limits for the 2024-2025 management period and quantities to be deducted from their 2027 catch limits.
66. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat to identify any small harvesters that have made catches over the 2,000 t threshold in 2025.

6.5. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 19/04 CONCERNING THE IOTC RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO OPERATE IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE.

67. The CoC23 **NOTED** meeting document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-05](#), prepared by the IOTC Secretariat, which provided information to the Compliance Committee on the status of the numbers, types and completeness of records of vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.
68. The CoC23 **EXPRESSED** serious concerns that the entirety of Iran's fleet had not been authorised in the RAV since April 2025 and that Iran had not updated the RAV for multiple years.
69. The CoC23 **NOTED** the request from Iran (Appendix 6) for the CoC to allow the Secretariat to update their list of vessels included in the RAV, based on their submission of February 2026.
70. Mindful of the present difficulties being experienced by Iran due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, the CoC **AGREED** to grant Iran an exceptional extension until February 2028 to provide the missing information of their vessels in the RAV. The CoC also **AGREED** for the Secretariat to update the list of authorised vessels of Iran with authorisation periods covering February 2026 to February 2028.

Recommendation/s

71. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the concerned CPCs work with the Secretariat to identify the concerned vessels whose records are incomplete.
72. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Iran report back to the CoC24, in 2027, on the progress made to provide the missing information.

73. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs with vessels identified as ineligible for an IMO number provide clarifications as to the reasons of why these vessels are not eligible for an IMO number, and their area of operation.

6.6. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 19/07 ON VESSEL CHARTERING IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE.

74. The CoC23 **NOTED** meeting document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-08](#), prepared by the IOTC Secretariat, which summarises the information received from IOTC CPCs in accordance with Resolution 19/07 *On Vessel Chartering in the IOTC Area Of Competence*, during 2025.

75. The CoC23 **NOTED** that four CPCs (the European Union, Kenya, Oman and Tanzania) entered into Chartering Agreements, either as the Chartering Party or the flag State Party, notified to CPCs by the Executive Secretary of the IOTC through [IOTC CIRCULAR 2025-31](#), [IOTC CIRCULAR 2025-36](#) and [IOTC CIRCULAR 2025-38](#).

76. The CoC23 **NOTED** that, in some Chartering Agreements, there is lack of consistency between the Chartering Parties of when fishing operations starts under their 2025 Charter Agreements.

77. The CoC23 **NOTED** that there has been an increase in Chartering Agreements and **URGED** the concerned CPCs to ensure coordination in communicating information relating to the Chartering Agreements on the start of fishing operations under the agreements. One chartering CP informed that the inconsistency related to the difference between the date of signature of those agreements and the effective date of the fishing operations, and that it has provided clarifications to the IOTC Secretariat before the CoC23, and also on the total catches. In that particular case, it is **ALSO NOTED** that the fishing operations benefitted from 100% observer at sea coverage.

78. The CoC23 **NOTED** that Resolution 19/07 presents some challenges due to the lack of clarity for implementation purposes. The proponents of [IOTC-2026-S30-PropE](#) noted that this proposal addresses these issues.

79. The CoC23 **INVITED** CPCs to consult the proponent and provide comments and feedback on it to the proponent, before or during discussions in the Commissions.

80. The CoC23 **NOTED** that some CPCs noted that Chartering Agreements present the possibility for CPCs to undermine management measures adopted by the Commission, for Chartering Agreements conducted to avoid catch limits.

81. The COC23 **NOTED** the highlight from one CPC of the wording of Resolution 19/07 that also states the important contribution of chartering agreements to cover the needs and interests of all States to develop their fishing fleets to enable them to fully utilise the fishing opportunities available to them under the relevant IOTC CMMs.

Recommendation/s

82. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Kenya submit the missing information required under paragraph 6 of Resolution 19/07, as soon as possible.

83. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Kenya submit any missing information required by paragraph 8, of Resolution 19/07, as soon as possible.

84. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs should endeavour not to use Chartering Agreements as a means for undermining catch limits agreed for some of the IOTC species.

7. REVIEW OF INFORMATION RELATED TO PRESUMED IUU FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

Information received by the IOTC Secretariat from observers and third parties in relation to possible IUU fishing activities.

85. The CoC23 **NOTED** that the Secretariat has received and published two documents in the CoC23 meeting page from one IOTC observer (Blue Marine Foundation) and one from a non-IOTC observer (Environmental Justice Foundation), containing alleged specific references to two CPCs.
86. The CoC23 **NOTED** that both documents were received and published by the IOTC Secretariat without giving the opportunity to the concerned Contracting Parties to consider the contents and to provide their eventual comments and feedback.
87. The CoC23 **NOTED** that the IOTC Secretariat advised that, as the documents were submitted as information papers, they were automatically tabled for the meeting, and **FURTHER NOTED** that this present difficulties if the information relates to compliance allegations.
88. The CoC **NOTED** that both documents were subsequently removed from the CoC23 meeting webpage following the urgent request made by the concerned Contracting Parties, due to the fact that these documents contained specific allegations against two CPCs that did not have material time to present their views in advance of CoC23.

Recommendation/s

89. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to agree on the following process for the submission of information papers related to compliance by observers to sessions of the CoC: Observers shall submit their information papers to the IOTC Executive Secretary at least 15 days prior to the commencement of the respective session of the CoC. The Secretariat shall publish the information papers on the IOTC meeting website without delay to enable the CPCs to review the information papers and respond, if they so choose, to allegations of non-compliance with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures contained in one or more information papers. The Secretariat shall publish the corresponding responses by CPCs, if any, on the IOTC website.
90. The CoC23 **REITERATED** its **RECOMMENDATION** that the treatment of submissions containing allegations of suspected IUU activities from any third party should follow the process outlined in paragraph 7, of Resolution 24/03.

Information received against five vessels for notification of illegal fishing activities to IOTC Secretariat.

91. The CoC23 **NOTED** meeting document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-11](#), which provide information received from Madagascar, the United Kingdom and the Non-Governmental Organisation, Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), regarding five fishing vessels; four vessel registered to Sri Lanka and one vessel registered to Indonesia, and **FURTHER NOTED** that:
 - a. The notification to Sri Lanka of the presumed illegal activities of the fishing vessels, IMUL-A-0899-CHW, IMUL-A-0923-CHW, IMUL-A-1578-MTR and IMUL-A-0627-NBO, registered to Sri Lanka,
 - b. The notification to Indonesia for the presumed illegal activities of the fishing vessel, BANDAR NELAYAN 16, registered to Indonesia.
92. The CoC23 **NOTED** the background information provided by Madagascar in relation to the arrest and actions taken against the Sri Lankan vessel, IMUL-A-0899-CHW.
93. The CoC23 **NOTED** the background information provided by United Kingdom in relation to the Sri Lankan vessels IMUL-A-0923-CHW, IMUL-A-1578-MTR and IMUL-A-0627-NBO.
94. The CoC23 **NOTED** that Sri Lanka has undertaken actions against the Sri Lankan vessels identified in document IOTC-2026-CoC23-11, which includes suspension of the vessel licenses, detention of the vessels, legal actions and imposition sanctions where appropriate and where sufficient evidence were available.

95. The CoC23 **NOTED** the information submitted by the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), which documents possible activities that undermines IOTC CMMs relating to sharks finning and the harvest of prohibited species.
96. The CoC23 **NOTED** the treatment of the submission from EJF in relation to the BANDAR NELAYAN 16, and that it should have followed the process outlined in paragraph 7, of Resolution 24/03.

Recommendation/s

97. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Sri Lanka provide the next Compliance Committee with information on any additional actions that it has taken to exercise flag State controls over the vessels listed in document IOTC-2026-CoC23-11.
98. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the EJF document relating to the Indonesian vessel, BANDAR NELAYAN 16, be circulated after this meeting to Indonesia and other CPCs, in accordance to paragraph 7, of Resolution 24/03. Any CPC may then request Indonesia to undertake an investigation and report back on any actions taken intersessionally at the next session of the Compliance Committee (CoC24).
99. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs continue to provide the Compliance Committee with information on actions they undertake to combat fishing practices that undermines the effectiveness of conservation and management measures adopted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

8. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT 2026 ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED VESSEL LIST – RESOLUTION 24/03

100. The CoC23 **NOTED** documents [IOTC-2026-CoC23-12](#), [IOTC-2026-CoC23-12_Add1](#) and [IOTC-2026-CoC23-12_Add2](#), which will assist it in its deliberations for recommending a Provisional IUU Vessels List and any other changes to the IOTC IUU Vessels List, for the consideration of the Commission (S30).

Review of the Draft IUU Vessel List

101. The CoC23 **NOTED** the information provided in meeting documents [IOTC-2026-CoC23-12](#) and [IOTC-2026-CoC23-12_Add1](#), containing the Draft IUU Vessels List, which the CoC23 should consider for recommending a Provisional IUU Vessels List for the consideration of the Commission (S30).
102. The CoC23 **NOTED** that information and evidence were received for five fishing vessels flagged to Indonesia, one supply vessel flagged to Oman and one fishing vessel flagged to Sri Lanka.

Five fishing vessels flagged to Indonesia: BERKAH F G, KEBA, KESEJAHTERAAN BERSAMA, NAGA MAS PERKASA III and ROYCO

103. The CoC23 **NOTED** Indonesia's cooperation and constructive engagement with Australia, and **FURTHER NOTED** that two of the five vessels involved, KESEJAHTERAAN BERSAMA and the ROYCO, were investigated and sanctioned.
104. The CoC23 **AGREED** to not include the KESEJAHTERAAN BERSAMA and the ROYCO on the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List.
105. The CoC23 **NOTED** Indonesia's commitment to complete the investigations of the BERKAH FG and the NAGA MAS PERKASA III, noting that both vessels were actively fishing in Australia's EEZ without authorisation. Indonesia committed to take responsible flag State action against the BERKAH FG and the NAGA MAS PERKASA III and communicate the results of the investigations to Australia.

106. The CoC23 **NOTED** Indonesia's investigation found the BERKAH FG and the NAGA MAS PERKASA III were not targeting IOTC species and **AGREED** to not include the BERKAH FG and the NAGA MAS PERKASA III on the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List.
107. The CoC23 **NOTED** Indonesia's commitment to prioritise the installation of VMS on these vessels to ensure the vessels are appropriately monitored in the future.
108. The CoC23 **NOTED** the uncertainty over the nationality of the vessel KEBA, due to the undiscerning vessel markings, although the physical structure and gear of the vessel resembling that of Indonesian vessels, and **FURTHER NOTED** that Indonesia had no record of this vessel in its national or provincial vessel databases.
109. The CoC23 **AGREED** to include the KEBA in the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List, with "Unknown" flag.

Supply vessel flagged to Oman: AL MALAH

110. The CoC23 **NOTED** the information presented by both the nominating CP and the flag CP, and the diverging interpretations on paragraph 16, of Resolution 19/01.
111. The CoC23 **NOTED** that the Secretariat had in 2022 informed the Sultanate of Oman that it will not be in a position to comply to a future request to include a supply vessel in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels, if the supply vessel was not already operating in the IOTC Area, when Resolution 19/01 came into force. This was the interpretation agreed by CoC19, and CoC22, i.e. that Paragraph 16.c prohibits the registration of a supply vessel on the RAV after 31 December 2017, if the supply vessel was not already registered on the RAV before this time.
112. The flag CP **ADDED** that this request related to a different supply vessel and that the letter of the Secretariat expressly referred to supply vessels that were operating in the IOTC Area when Resolution 19/01 entered into force, and that there are case precedents of a supply vessel that stopped operations in the IOTC Area in 2019, and was delisted to be registered in the ICCAT vessel list to operate in the ICCAT regulatory area, and only 5 years later neither the Secretariat nor the CoC raised any concern and accepted the registration in the RAV of this vessel by another CP.
113. The CoC23 **NOTED** the general principle of law that one cannot claim equality in illegality, meaning that even if the case had qualified as a breach of Resolution 21/01 by another CP, which the CoC23 disagreed to the characterisation, another CP cannot claim the same treatment. To this respect, Oman has provided a wide list of arguments in favor of a different interpretation.
114. The CoC23 **NOTED** the statement made by Oman on the vessel AL MALAH, including the delisting of the registration of this vessel, provided in [Appendix 10](#).
115. The CoC23 **NOTED** the diverging views expressed by some CPCs on paragraph 16, of Resolution 19/01 (and Resolutions 21/01 and 24/04, containing similar provisions) and invited CPCs to continue consultations on further clarifications of the applicable rules and/or their future revision and to refer this matter to S30 and to the next WPICMM.
116. The CoC23 **AGREED** that the vessel AL MALAH not be included in the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List, since it was delisted from the RAV by Oman.

Fishing vessel flagged to Sri Lanka: IMULA2264MTR

117. The CoC23 **NOTED** the flag State response provided by Sri Lanka in document IOTC-2026-CoC23-12_Add1, which included, suspension of operation license of the vessel, skipper license and issuance of administrative penalty of LKR 500,000, which the owner has already paid.
118. The CoC23 **AGREED** that Sri Lanka had taken prompt and adequate actions in the case of IMULA2264MTR and **FURTHER AGREED** that vessel IMULA2264MTR not be included in the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List.

Request to delete 26 Indian vessels from the IUU Vessels List

119. The CoC23 **NOTED** the information provided by India for 26 vessels included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List and **FURTHER NOTED** that:
- a. India has requested the removal of 26 vessels from the IUU Vessels List.
 - b. 16 of the vessels that had been relicensed at the State level after being placed on the IUU vessels list had had their licenses revoked again and were impounded.
 - c. Claimed effective enforcement actions have been taken in all cases.
 - d. Fines to the various vessels ranged from INR 25,000 to 250,000.
 - e. The vessel, EMMANUEL, has been scrapped.
 - f. All other vessels have been fitted with VMS transponders.
 - g. Additional evidence provided by India include receipts for payment of fines and letter to confirm the EMMANUEL had been sold on with a view to it being scrapped.
120. The CoC23 **EXPRESSED** concerns on the actions reported by India on some of the 26 Indian vessels, and fundamental questions were raised in relation to the information provided by India, in particular:
- a. The vessel BENEDICTA had its fishing license renewed while being listed on the IOTC IUU Vessels List and the vessel BENEDICTA has not paid in full the fine imposed by the United Kingdom.
 - b. The lack of evidence showing that ownership had defaulted to the Crown (UK) for the two vessels AVE MARIA (IND-TN-15-MM-9070) and MANJUMATHA (IND-TN-15-MM-4683).
 - c. No scrapping report was provided for the vessel EMMANUEL (IND-TN-15-MM-322).
121. The CoC23 **NOTED** that India had not met in full its obligations outlined in paragraph 126 of CoC21 and **REITERATED** its request that they undertake them.
122. The CoC23 **AGREED** to **DEFER** to the Commission the delisting of the three vessels, BENEDICTA, AVE MARIA (IND-TN-15-MM-9070) and MANJUMATHA (IND-TN-15-MM-4683), from the IUU Vessels List.
123. The CoC23 **AGREED** that if India provides the missing information (e.g. details on the suspension of the licenses), the Commission should consider delisting 23 of the 26 vessels.

Request to delete one Sri Lankan vessel from the IUU Vessels List

124. The CoC23 **NOTED** document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-12_Add2](#), the request of Sri Lanka to delete the vessel, IMULA0168PTM, from the IOTC IUU Vessels List.
125. The CoC23 **EXPRESSED** concerns that Sri Lanka had authorised the vessel after it was included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List. The CoC23 **NOTED** that the issue happened due to an administrative oversight and that corrective actions have been taken.
126. The CoC23 **NOTED** the divergent view on whether Sri Lanka had followed the procedure under Resolution 24/03 to request the deletion of the vessel and **AGREED** to **REFER** the request to the Commission.

Recommendation/s

127. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the vessel, KEBA, be added into the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List, with “Unknown” flag.

128. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the four Indonesian vessels (BERKAH F G, KESEJAHTERAAN BERSAMA, NAGA MAS PERKASA III AND ROYCO), not be added to the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List.
129. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission discuss the delisting of the 26 Indian vessels and of the Sri Lankan vessel IMULA0168PTM.
130. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission approve that the vessel included in the Provisional IUU Vessels List ([Appendix 6](#)) be included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List.
131. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission agree that, once a vessel is listed on the IOTC IUU Vessel List in accordance with the procedures set out in Resolution 24/03, such vessel shall be automatically removed from the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels. The CoC23 **FURTHER RECOMMENDED** that, following the delisting of a vessel from the IOTC IUU Vessels List in accordance with the requirements and procedures outlined in paragraph 22 of Resolution 24/03, the flag State may request that the vessel be re-listed on the RAV.

Presentation by INTERPOL

132. The CoC23 **NOTED** the presentation of INTERPOL's Fisheries Unit on Combating IUU Fishing - An International Operational Approach, the international cooperation cycle and **FURTHER NOTED** that INTERPOL:
- a. Cover the entire fisheries sector and supply chain.
 - b. Operates on a global level.
 - c. Identifies and track HRVs.
 - d. Disrupt the trade of marine protected species.
 - e. Support cooperation between port States, flag States, Coastal States, market States.
 - f. Work on illegal activities in the fisheries supply chain from authorisation, harvest, transport, processing, export, import to internal trade and sale.
 - g. Offer capacity building in: Identifying High Risk Fishing Vessels, Criminal intelligence analysis, Analytical tools, Open Source Intelligence, Interviews, Crime scene processing and Evidence Collection.

9. REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRING INTERSESSIONAL ACTIONS FROM CoC22

133. The CoC23 **NOTED** meeting document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-09](#), prepared by the IOTC Secretariat, on the progress made in relation to the implementation of the requests from CoC22 and **FURTHER NOTED** the CoC22 issued 2 recommendations, 8 requests, and 1 agreed action point requiring Secretariat's follow-up.
134. The CoC23 **NOTED** that the majority of recommendations and requests had been implemented with the exception of five, which are:

Ongoing:

- a. Support for developing coastal States to strengthen data collection systems.
- b. Assistance to CPCs with compliance scores below 50%.
- c. Work with countries to improve vessel record completeness.
- d. Discussions on mechanisms for yellowfin tuna over-catch payback.
- e. Planning of future in-person and virtual compliance missions.

Pending:

- a. Disaggregated presentation of non-compliance issues, scheduled for CoC Special Session in October 2026.

135. The CoC23 **NOTED** that the key activities undertaken by the Secretariat in 2025/2026, are:

- a. In-country missions to Indonesia, Kenya, and India.
- b. Virtual technical meetings with Oman, Mozambique and Indonesia.
- c. Workshops on data reporting and species identification.
- d. Virtual support for Kenya, Liberia, Panama, Pakistan and Somalia.

136. The CoC23 **RECALLED** that Singapore has carrier vessels participating in the Regional Observer Programme to monitor transshipments at sea and registered on the IOTC RAV and **EXPRESSED** concerns that no specific response has been provided by Singapore following the invitation to become a CNCP of the IOTC and regarding the registration of its carrier vessel in the IOTC RAV, and the lack of engagement of Singapore with the IOTC.

137. The CoC23 **NOTED** that the European Union had submitted its revised catch data for 2018 to the IOTC Secretariat, which has since been incorporated into the IOTC datasets, and **FURTHER NOTED** that a methodological description, as advised by CoC22, had also been submitted to the Secretariat. The CoC23 **REQUESTED** the Secretariat to table the methodology for further consideration by the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics.

138. The CoC23 **ACKNOWLEDGED** the efforts made by Oman to improve its catch data and **REMINDED** of its request that Oman receive a mission from the IOTC Secretariat to evaluate the systems in place for data collection and analysis. The CoC23 **NOTED** that, pending reconciliation of the historical catch data work to be presented to the WPDCS, Oman had agreed to receive an IOTC mission prior to the WPDCS.

139. The CoC23 **ACKNOWLEDGED** the efforts made by Oman to improve its fisheries statistical programme and to increase the quality of data submissions to the IOTC. It also **NOTED** that Oman shall welcome a visit of IOTC Secretariat Data Officers with the view of reviewing the ongoing retrospective analysis of fisheries statistics from the artisanal fisheries as well as the statistical improvements that is implementing with respect to the coastal and industrial fisheries. The review will focus on species of IOTC interest and on statistical results that Oman will present to the next WPDCS.

10. REVIEW OF REQUESTS FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE STATUS OF COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY – APPENDIX III OF THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE

Liberia's request for the renewal of its CNCP status

140. The CoC23 **NOTED** meeting document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-CNCP01](#) on Liberia's request for the renewal of its CNCP status and **FURTHER NOTED** that Liberia stated that:

- a. It has no fishing vessels currently operating in the IOTC Area.
- b. It has reefer/carrier vessels that conducts transshipment.
- c. It has previously submitted required data and commits to continue doing so.
- d. It has not conducted research programs in the IOTC Area, but will share results if such activities occur in the future.

141. The CoC23 **RECALLED** Liberia confirmed its commitment to respect the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures.

142. The CoC23 **RECALLED** Liberia's commitment not to engage in harvesting activities but to operate carrier vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence.

143. The CoC23 **AGREED** to support Liberia's application for the renewal of their CNCP Status.

Panama's request for the renewal of its CNCP status

144. The CoC23 **NOTED** meeting document [IOTC-2026-CoC23-CNCP02](#) on Panama's request for the renewal of its CNCP status and **FURTHER NOTED** that Panama stated that:
- a. It has no historical catch or effort data in the IOTC Area.
 - b. It has not conducted research programs in the region.
 - c. All fleet operators have been informed of reporting obligations and compliance requirements.
 - d. Activities are limited to support/transshipment roles.
145. The CoC23 **NOTED** the commitment expressed by Panama to uphold the objectives of the IOTC and respect the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures.
146. The CoC23 **AGREED** to support Panama's renewal application for CNCP Status.

Recommendation/s

147. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that, in a future request of CNCP, Liberia provides detailed information on its historical catches in the IOTC Area of Competence.
148. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that, in a future request of CNCP, Panama provides detailed information on measures taken to comply with IOTC CMMs (e.g. legislation, VMS, MCS).
149. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission approve Liberia's request to renew its Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status.
150. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission approve Panama's request to renew its Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status.

11. ACTIVITIES BY THE IOTC SECRETARIAT IN SUPPORT OF CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DEVELOPING CPCs

151. The CoC23 **NOTED** the continued implementation of capacity building activities by the IOTC Secretariat to assist CPCs to improve their compliance with implementation of CMMs and strengthen the implementation of port State measures and **FURTHER NOTED** the appreciation from CPCs of the IOTC Secretariat's support.
152. The CoC23 **ENCOURAGED** CPCs to get in contact with the Secretariat to increase their capacity and solve any outstanding compliance issues and **NOTED** that some CPCs expressed their willingness to receive capacity building support.

Recommendation/s

153. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat continue to coordinate with CPCs with overall compliance rates below 50%, to conduct compliance support missions.
154. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs engage with the Secretariat to request capacity building missions.

12. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

155. The CoC23 **NOTED** that the CoC is normally held in the week before the meeting of the Commission and **FURTHER NOTED** that the date and venue of the 2027 Commission meeting (S31) will dictate when and where the next Compliance Committee meeting will take place.

13. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE, FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

156. The CoC23 **AGREED** to elect Mr Zahor El Kharousy (Tanzania) as Chairperson of the Compliance Committee, and Mr Patrick Sachs (Australia) as Vice Chairperson of the Compliance Committee for the next biennium.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS***Special Session of the Compliance Committee (2nd Semester 2026)***

157. The CoC23 **AGREED** to limit the Special Session's discussions to CPCs' Compliance Reports and that the date of the meeting be defined taking into consideration the dates of other IOTC meetings and other RFMOs' meetings.

158. The CoC23 **AGREED** that the date of the Special Session of the Compliance Committee be discussed by the SCAF23 and S30.

15. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 23RD SESSION OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

159. The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from CoC23, provided at [Appendix 11](#).

160. The report of the 23rd Session of the Compliance Committee was adopted on 8th May 2026.

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APPENDIX 2
ADOPTED AGENDA

Date: 04 – 06 May and 08 May, 2026

Location: Barceló Nasandhura, Malé, Maldives (Hybrid)

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 hrs

Chairperson: Prof Indra Jaya, **Vice-chairperson:** Mr Zahor El Kharousy

4 -6 May

1. Opening of the Session.
2. Letters of Credentials.
3. Admission of Observers.
4. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session.
5. Report of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM09).
 - 5.1 Proposed revision of Resolutions 19/03, 25/08 and 25/12.
 - 5.2 Proposal for a system of fishing gear marking.
6. Review of the general level of compliance to reporting and gaps in implementation.
 - 6.1 Challenges being encountered by CPCs.
 - 6.2 Review of the implementation Resolutions 21/01, 19/01 and 18/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence.*
 - 6.3 Review of the implementation of Resolutions 23/04 and 25/04 *On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence.*
 - 6.4 Review of the implementation of Resolution 19/04 *Concerning the IOTC Record of Vessels Authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence.*
 - 6.5 Review of the implementation of Resolution 19/07 *On vessel chartering in the IOTC Area of Competence.*
7. Review of information related to presumed IUU fishing activities in the IOTC Area of Competence.
8. Review of the Draft IUU Vessels List – Resolution 24/03.
9. Review of recommendations requiring intersessional actions, from CoC22.
10. Review of requests for the renewal of the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party - Appendix III of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.
11. Activities by the IOTC Secretariat in support of capacity building for CPCs.
12. Date and venue of next meeting.
13. Election of a Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Compliance Committee, for the next biennium.
14. Any Other Business.

8 May

15. Adoption of the Report of the 23rd Session of the Compliance Committee.

APPENDIX 3
FINAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR CoC23

1. Meeting documents	Title
IOTC-2026-CoC23-01a_Rev1	Provisional agenda for the 23rd Session of the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2026-CoC23-01b	Annotated agenda for the 23rd Session of the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2026-CoC23-02	List of documents for the 23rd Session of the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2026-CoC23-03	Summary report on the level of compliance
IOTC-2026-CoC23-04	A Summary of the IOTC Regional Observer Programme during 2025 – Contractor’s Report
IOTC-2026-CoC23-05	Report on information related to vessels in the IOTC Record Of Authorised Vessels - Resolution 19/04
IOTC-2026-CoC23-06	Report on compliance with yellowfin tuna catch limits - Resolutions 18/01,19/01/21/01
IOTC-2026-CoC23-07	Report on compliance with bigeye tuna catch limits - Resolution 25/04
IOTC-2026-CoC23-08	Summary of compliance with Charter Agreements - Resolution 19/07
IOTC-2026-CoC23-09	Implementation of recommendations and requests relevant to the Compliance Committee - from CoC22
IOTC-2026-CoC23-10	Reporting of vessels in transit (United Kingdom)
IOTC-2026-CoC23-11	Information related to other cases of presumed IUU fishing activities in the IOTC area
IOTC-2026-CoC23-12	Review of the Draft IUU Vessels List
IOTC-2026-CoC23-12_Add1	Additional information from Indonesia concerning five vessels in the 2026 Draft IOTC IUU Vessels List
IOTC-2026-CoC23-12_Add2	Information from Sri Lanka concerning one vessel in the IOTC IUU Vessels List for delisting
IOTC-2026-CoC23-13	Progress Reports of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM)
IOTC-2026-CoC23-14_Rev2	Amendments to Resolutions 19/03, 25/08 and 25/12 by the WPICMM09
2. Reference documents	Title
France Statement on sovereignty for CoC23	France Statement on sovereignty for CoC23
IOTC-2026-CoC23-REF01	Annual catch limit tables for yellowfin tuna - Resolutions 19/01 & 21/01
IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-12_Add1	The e-MARIS campaign for the Compliance Committee (CoC24)
IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-13_Add1_Rev1	Assessment criteria table ENDORSED BY WPICMM09

IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-17	On a draft Resolution for a system of fishing gear marking in the IOTC Area of Competence
IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-19_Rev1	WPICMM Work Plan (2025-2030) endorsed by WPICMM
MUS_No. 3/2026 (18570/46/142 V28)	Statements by Mauritius
UK statement on sovereignty for COC23	UK statement on sovereignty for COC23
3. Reports from other meetings	Title
IOTC-2025-S29-R	Report of the 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOTC-2025-CoC22-R	Report of the 22nd session of the IOTC Compliance Committee
IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-R	Report of the 9th Session of the IOTC Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM09)
4. Requests for the Cooperating non-Contracting Party status	Request from
IOTC-2026-CoC23-CNCP01	Liberia CNCP renewal status request
IOTC-2026-CoC23-CNCP02	Panama CNCP renewal status request
5. Information paper	Title
Pew, April 2026	Factsheet on Effective Follow Up Actions
6. NGO Statement	Title
Pew, April 2026	Pew_Statement_to_CoC23
7. Publication	Title
ISSF 2026 02	Benchmarking Tuna RFMO at Sea Transshipment Measures Against 2022 FAO Voluntary Guidelines

APPENDIX 4
RECOMMENDATION ON VESSELS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RAV

The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission **AGREE**, in relations to paragraphs 2 and 3 of Resolution 19/04, that for vessels authorised to operate beyond areas under national jurisdiction of the flag State, the authorisation period shall commence only when the vessel is included in the RAV by the flag State. For vessel authorised only to operate within areas under national jurisdiction of the flag State, the vessel shall be included in the RAV within 5 days of the issuance of the fishing license by the flag State. Any delay in processing the inclusion by the IOTC Secretariat shall not be treated as non-compliance by the CPC. In cases of technical difficulties with the e-RAV portal, an immediate notification and transmission of vessel details to the IOTC Secretariat by alternative means shall be accepted as valid evidence of compliance until the vessel is formally included in the RAV.

APPENDIX 5
STATEMENTS ON SOVEREIGNTY



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REGIONAL INTEGRATION
AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

No. 3/2026 (18570/46/142 V28)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and has the honour to refer to the 23rd Session of IOTC Compliance Committee scheduled from 4 to 6 and 8 May 2026 in Malé, Maldives.

The Ministry has the further honour to enclose herewith four Statements by the Republic of Mauritius under the following Agenda Items:

- (i) Agenda Item 2: Letters of Credentials
- (ii) Agenda Item 4: Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the session
- (iii) Agenda Item 7: Review of information related to presumed IUU fishing activities in the IOTC Area of Competence
- (iv) Agenda Item 8: Review of the Draft IUU Vessels List – Res. 24/03

The Ministry would be grateful to the esteemed Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to kindly annex the Statements of the Republic of Mauritius to the report of the meeting and same be posted on the IOTC website.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission the assurances of its highest consideration.

Port Louis, 04 May 2026

Secretariat
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Victoria
Seychelles



23rd Session of IOTC Compliance Committee
4-6 and 8 May 2026, Malé, Maldives

Agenda Item 2: Letters of Credentials

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The long-standing position of the Republic of Mauritius as regards the United Kingdom's purported membership of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission as a "coastal State situated wholly or partly within the Area [of competence of the Commission]" remains unchanged.

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.

23rd Session of IOTC Compliance Committee
4-6 and 8 May 2026, Malé, Maldives

Agenda Item 4: Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the session

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius reiterates the statements which it had made with regard to the Chagos Archipelago and the Island of Tromelin at the 19th Session of the Compliance Committee held from 8-10 and 12 May 2022 in Seychelles and which are annexed to the report of that meeting (Document IOTC-2022-CoC19-R[E], Appendix 4).

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.

23rd Session of IOTC Compliance Committee
4-6 and 8 May 2026, Malé, Maldives

Agenda Item 7: Review of information related to presumed IUU fishing activities
in the IOTC Area of Competence

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius strongly objects to the disclaimer which the IOTC Secretariat has added to the document entitled “Reporting of vessels in transit through BIOT/Chagos archipelago waters for potential breach of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures” (IOTC-2026-CoC23-10) as it is inconsistent with UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 and the legal advice provided by the FAO Legal Counsel on 6 May 2022 in relation to Agenda item 4 of the 26th Session of the Commission.

In Resolution 73/295, the UN General Assembly has recognized, in accordance with the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 25 February 2019, that as a matter of international law, the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius. It has also called upon the United Nations and all its specialized agencies as well as all other international, regional and intergovernmental organizations to recognize that the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius, to support the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius as rapidly as possible, and to refrain from impeding that process by recognizing, or giving effect to any measure taken by or on behalf of, the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory”.

In her legal advice, the FAO Legal Counsel stated that “the FAO and the Depositary recognize that *“the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius.”*” She also made it clear that the United Kingdom is not entitled to be a member of the IOTC as a coastal State.

Since the United Kingdom is not the coastal State in relation to the Chagos Archipelago and cannot lawfully take any action in respect of the Chagos Archipelago, including reporting on vessels in transit through the waters of the Chagos Archipelago, it would not be appropriate for

the Committee to consider the above-mentioned document purportedly submitted by the United Kingdom and for the United Kingdom to be requested to present the document.

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.

23rd Session of IOTC Compliance Committee
4-6 and 8 May 2026, Malé, Maldives

Agenda Item 8: Review of the Draft IUU Vessels List – Res. 24/03

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius reiterates that it does not condone IUU fishing and that it is not opposed to the adoption and implementation of any measure against IUU fishing provided that any such measure is taken or implemented in conformity with international law, including the rights of the Republic of Mauritius under such law.

However, since the Republic of Mauritius is the only State which is lawfully entitled to exercise sovereignty and sovereign rights over the Chagos Archipelago and its maritime zones, it cannot endorse any recommendation for the inclusion on the IOTC IUU Vessels List of vessels reported by the United Kingdom purporting to act as the coastal State in relation to the Chagos Archipelago.

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.

Statement by the French Republic in response to the statement by the Republic of Mauritius

In response to the statements by the Republic of Mauritius, the French Republic reiterates the statements which it made with regard to the Island of Tromelin at the 19th Session of the Compliance Committee held from 8-10 and 12 May 2022 in Seychelles and which are annexed to the report of that meeting (Document IOTC-2022-CoC19-R[E], Appendix 4). The French Republic requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/defra

6th May 2026

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE 23RD SESSION OF THE IOTC COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

The United Kingdom reiterates that the exercise of sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) / Chagos archipelago is a bilateral matter, and this is not the appropriate forum for a discussion about the United Kingdom's coastal State status in the IOTC.

APPENDIX 6
PROVISIONAL IUU VESSELS LIST 8 MAY 2026

The complete details of vessels listed are available at the following link:

[Provisional IUU Vessels List for 2026](#)

APPENDIX 7
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WPICMM09

- WPICMM09.01 (Para. 15) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the SCAF23 to discuss and consider the allocation of a budget for the IOTC VMS pilot project.
- WPICMM09.02 (Para. 16) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the CoC23 to discuss and consider the launch of the IOTC VMS pilot project, and to recommend endorsement by the Commission (S30).
- WPICMM09.03 (Para. 24) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** that CoC23 **REQUEST** the Commission (S30) to **ENCOURAGE** CPCs to participate in future meetings of the WPICMM, for the efficient operation of the Commission's compliance process.
- WPICMM09.04 (Para. 25) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** that China provide its response to the PSM Case number 2, detected in 2025, by submitting its response within 15 days after the WPICMM09 to the Secretariat, which shall be tasked to prepare a meeting document for the next Compliance Committee (CoC23) for discussion. In the absence of any response the case would be deferred to CoC23.
- WPICMM09.05 (Para. 42) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDEDED** CPCs to be present in the WPCIMM meeting and that the Compliance Committee (CoC23) encourage fleets to respond and take actions with regards to the possible infractions in the shortest possible time to enable timely corrective actions and prevent the recurrence of possible infringements.
- WPICMM09.06 (Para. 43) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDEDED** that Korea provides its response to the possible infraction detected in 2025, within 15 days after the WPICMM09 to the Secretariat, which shall be tasked to prepare a meeting document for the next Compliance Committee (CoC23) for discussion. In the absence of any response the case would be deferred to CoC23.
- WPICMM09.07 (Para. 44) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee address the issue of fishing authorisations reported late and not included in the RAV.
- WPICMM09.08 (Para. 53) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) consider encouraging CPCs to contribute actively to the implementation of the WPICMM Work Plan and provide information on the capacity building activities they can offer, for the Secretariat to include them in the IOTC compendium of capacity building activities.
- WPICMM09.09 (Para. 54) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) and Commission (S30) to endorse the IOTC Compendium of capacity building activities available on the IOTC website.
- WPICMM09.10 (Para. 65) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to encourage CPCs, when providing their Compliance Action Plans, to fully address the compliance issues identified (N/C2), the compliance elements leading to the N/C2 assessment (System/procedure, standard, legislation), and to be more descriptive and detailed in terms of the

- corrective actions and its implementation schedule. WPICMM **ALSO RECOMMENDED** that the WPICMM undertake thorough discussions on Compliance Action Plans in future meetings and encouraged participation for all concerned CPCs. A presential meeting of the WPICMM would facilitate further engagement in this regard.
- WPICMM09.11 (Para. 74) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to encourage CPCs to address inconsistencies regarding catch data in the IOTC Resolutions by submitting proposals to amend the inconsistencies.
- WPICMM09.12 (Para. 80) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to task the Secretariat to work inter-sessionally with the concerned CPCs and the developers of the concerned application(s) to address the feedback received and improve the IOTC applications where technically feasible and funds are available.
- WPICMM09.13 (Para. 81) WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to task the Secretariat to assess the feasibility for CPCs to provide feedback in the e-MARIS application, within each reporting requirement.
- WPICMM09.14 (Para. 84) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to endorse the WPICMM Work Plan presented during the meeting of the WPICMM09 (IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-19_Rev1).
- WPICMM09.15 (Para. 104) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** that the Secretariat prepares a meeting document for the next Compliance Committee (CoC23), based on its amendments to Resolutions 19/03, 25/08 and 25/12.
- WPICMM09.16 (Para. 105) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to remind CPCs to propose amendments and drafting suggestions of IOTC Resolutions for the WPICMM meeting intersessionally for discussion at future WPICMM meetings.
- WPICMM09.17 (Para. 106) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to discuss the suggestions of IOTC Resolutions 19/03, 25/08 and 25/12 (Appendix 4), as drafted by WPICMM09 and, if appropriate, to table the proposed revisions of Resolutions 19/03, 25/08 and 25/12 to the Commission.
- WPICMM09.18 (Para. 107) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to task the Secretariat to assess the feasibility for CPCs to report proposals for amending existing CMMs in the e-MARIS application.
- WPICMM09.19 (Para. 110) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) discuss the contingency protocol.
- WPICMM09.20 (Para. 117) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to discuss the proposal for a system of fishing gear marking as a way forward; however, the WPICMM09 **NOTED** that comments provided by some CPCs would need to be duly considered.
- WPICMM09.21 (Para. 122) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) consider recommending the Commission (S30) to amend the

- Resolution 25/03 *On establishing catch limits for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence*, however, there was consensus that the term “current catch” in Resolution 25/03 referred to the average catch for the period 2021-2023.
- WPICMM09.22 (Para. 123) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** that the Secretariat use the average catch levels reported for the years 2021-2023 as the current catch levels together with the guidance in paragraphs 6 and 7 of Resolution 25/03 in order to calculate the necessary reduction to ensure that the catch limits for 2028 meet the revised TAC of 565,745 t with a corresponding reduction in 2027.
- WPICMM09.23 (Para. 129) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to discuss a payback mechanism for the over-catch of yellowfin tuna made under Resolution 19/01, when a CPC had previously objected to Resolution 21/01.
- WPICMM09.24 (Para. 130) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat to make available in the IOTC website a table which documents the yellowfin tuna catch limits, over-catch and applicable payback across the years that yellowfin catch limits have been in force.
- WPICMM09.25 (Para. 131) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to provide further clarifications and guidance to implement paragraph 11 of Resolution 19/01.
- WPICMM09.26 (Para. 144) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to **ENDORSE** the inclusion of requirements 2.27, 5.13 and 8.7 in the *CoC24 – 2027 assessment campaign*.
- WPICMM09.27 (Para. 145) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat to modify the table in Section 3 of Requirement 2.27 to align it with the structure of the table in Requirement 2.26.
- WPICMM09.28 (Para. 146) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat to make the necessary provision to include new reporting requirements in e-MARIS that may arise from new Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its next annual meeting.
- WPICMM09.29 (Para. 151) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the CoC23 to note the changes to the assessment criteria, for the *CoC24 – 2027 assessment campaign*.
- WPICMM09.30 (Para. 159) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to discuss the implementation of paragraph 6 of Resolution 01/06.
- WPICMM09.31 (Para. 160) The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPICMM09, provided at Appendix 5.

APPENDIX 8**REQUEST OF IRAN FOR SECRETARIAT TO UPDATE ITS LIST OF AUTHORISED VESSELS**

From: [Fariborz Rajaei](#)
To: [Indra Jaya](#); [Dominique, Gerard \(NFITD\)](#); [IOTC-Compliance](#)
Cc: [IRAN HOD: Mr Ataollah Raeisi](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: IOTC Compliance Committee (CoC23) Regarding Document IOTC-2026-CoC23-05
Date: 05 May 2026 00:39:13

Dear Professor Indra Jaya,
Distinguished Chair,

Honourable Members of the IOTC Compliance Committee,

At the outset, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to convey its best regards and sincere wishes for the health and well-being of all members of the IOTC.

Regrettably, due to the exceptional circumstances currently affecting our country, the Iranian delegation was unable to participate in this session of the IOTC Compliance Committee in person. We also made efforts to attend the meeting virtually; however, due to technical and access limitations, including restrictions on the Zoom platform, we were unable to join the session online.

With regard to document IOTC-2026-CoC23-05, we would like to express our appreciation to the IOTC Secretariat for its continued efforts and support.

As indicated in the report, the IOTC Secretariat, in coordination with the Iranian Fisheries Organization (IFO), updated the authorisation period of all Iranian vessels for a one-year period, until 2 April 2025. The delegation of Iran would like to sincerely thank the Secretariat for this cooperation.

However, due to the ongoing exceptional circumstances, including the impacts of recent developments, Iran has encountered significant challenges in updating certain mandatory vessel information. As highlighted in previous sessions of the Compliance Committee, limited access to the e-RAV system has constrained our ability to update vessel records and renew authorisation periods in a timely manner.

In addition, recent events have resulted in the loss of a number of fishing vessels. Furthermore, as previously reported, approximately five percent of the Iranian fleet undergoes annual changes due to renewal processes and changes in ownership. The latest available updates in this regard have been duly communicated to the IOTC Secretariat in 2026. Notwithstanding these challenges, we would like to emphasize that substantial progress has been made in completing the required data fields. The majority of the reporting templates have been completed and submitted. Efforts are ongoing to finalize the remaining requirements, in particular the provision of IMO numbers and vessel photographs, some of which have already been collected.

In light of these circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Iran respectfully requests the Compliance Committee to consider allowing the IOTC Secretariat, on behalf of Iran, to:

Update the submitted vessel information; and

Extend the authorisation period of all Iranian vessels for an additional period of two years.

Such facilitation would greatly assist Iran in fulfilling its obligations under the current conditions.

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains fully committed to its cooperation with the IOTC and will continue its efforts to address all outstanding requirements as soon as circumstances permit.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Fariborz Rajaei
Head of the Iranian Delegation
Director General for Fisheries Affairs
Iranian Fisheries Organization (IFO)
Islamic Republic of Iran

APPENDIX 9
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE IOTC TO OMAN



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien

23 September 2022

IOTC REF: IOTC2022-250

Dr Abdulaziz Said Al Marzuqi
Director General of Fisheries Resources Development
Head of Delegation to IOTC
SULTANATE OF OMAN

Registration of a supply vessel for purse seiner in the IOTC Vessels List

Dear Dr Al Marzuqi,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter with reference number 223177200.

I thank you for sharing the information with the IOTC Secretariat regarding the ongoing process of registration formalities of Oman's first supply vessel in the Ship Registry of Oman. I understand that the purpose is for the supply vessels to support the fishing operations of a recently registered and authorised tuna purse seiner in the IOTC Area of competence.

I wish to, however, recall the following paragraph of IOTC Resolution 19/01, to which the Sultanate of Oman is bound:

Paragraph 16. (c). No CPC is allowed to register any new or additional supply vessel on the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels after 31 December 2017.

Therefore, as per paragraph 16 (c), I wish to advise your office that the IOTC Secretariat will not be in a position to comply to a future request from the Sultanate of Oman to include the supply vessel into the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels, if the supply vessel was not already operating in the IOTC Area when Resolution 19/01 came into force.

Thank you for your understanding of the Secretariat's position on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

APPENDIX 10
STATEMENT OF OMAN TO THE 23RD SESSION OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

1. The registration of the Omani-registered supply vessel “AL MALAH” (IMO number 9095266) in the IOTC -Record of Authorised Vessels was processed and validated by the IOTC Secretariat on 28th July 2025, under number IOTC No. IOTC090474). The Secretariat referenced paragraph 16.c of IOTC Resolution 19/01 and informed Oman as follows: *“However, guided by precedents, set on at least two occasions, the Secretariat will process and validate the draft submission to include the new supply vessel in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels. Nonetheless, we wish to inform your office that the addition of this supply vessel, AL MALAH, will be brought to the attention of the next Compliance Committee meeting, as has been done in preceding cases”*.
2. Last December 2025, the Head of EU Delegation to the IOTC sent a letter dated 18 December 2025 to the Executive Secretary of the IOTC concerning this registration, which was transmitted to Oman and circulated to all IOTC Heads of Delegation. In this letter, the EU stated that this registration appeared to be inconsistent with paragraph 16.c of IOTC Resolution 19/01.
3. The EU has claimed that no response to this letter has been received from Oman as flag State, and that in the absence of any corrective action or clarification, on 19 February 2026 decided to notify in accordance with paragraph 5 of IOTC Resolution 24/03, the proposal to include this supply vessel on the IOTC IUU Vessel List.
4. Oman considers in good faith that this matter, in accordance with the notice received from the Secretariat, was to be brought to the attention of the next Compliance Committee meeting (this Coc23), as had been done in preceding cases, and that exchange of views on this matter would take place.
5. On 7th April 2026 Oman provided a response/information consistent with paragraph 10 of IOTC Resolution 24/03. Concurrently, on April 16, 2026, Oman served an official letter to the European Union requesting to withdraw its proposal to include this supply vessel on the IOTC IUU Vessel List’s list. To date, no response to that letter has been received.
6. Following the discussions conducted by the IOTC Compliance Committee (CoC23) in yesterday session, Oman expresses regret over the inability to reach a consensus among the participating CPCs to reject the European Union's request to include the Omani-registered supply vessel AL MALAH on the draft IUU IOTC Vessels List, and that was based on the assertion that this registration does not comply with paragraph 16.c of IOTC Resolution 19/01. We thank you Japan and Korea for their respective interpretation and that Oman expressly requests to be recorded in the Report.
7. In the aftermath of these discussions, the Head of Delegation of the EU only agreed to withdraw its request to include this vessel in the draft IUU List, contingent upon Oman’s acceptance of the suspension of the registration of this supply vessel AL MALAH from the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.
8. With due respect, Oman does not agree with the interpretation made by the majority of this CoC23 on this matter. However, and with a view to reducing damages to Oman, the shipowner and its operator, Oman has no alternative but to suspend the registration of this supply vessel from the

IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels that was made in good faith and processed and validated by the Secretariat.

9. This suspension will be officially implemented and communicated by Oman to the IOTC General Secretariat with immediate effect, prior to the conclusion of this Compliance Committee meeting CoC23, scheduled for May 8, 2026.
10. Based on the above, Oman respectfully requests that this Compliance Committee formally record in its Report of CoC23 the withdrawal of the EU's request to include this supply vessel on the draft IOTC IUU Vessel List, that is to be recommended to the IOTC Commission.
11. Furthermore, Oman respectfully requests that this Compliance Committee urge in accordance with Annex V of Rules of Procedure paragraph 2.b to report directly on the deliberations that have taken place on this case to the IOTC Commission during its 30th Session next week, specifically regarding the interpretation given by some CPCs in this Committee on paragraph 16.c of IOTC Resolution 19/01 in relation to suspension of the registration of the supply vessel AL MALAH in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.

Oman's interpretation will be provided to this Coc23 into a Formal Statement to be attached to the Report.

12. Oman respectfully requests the Chairman to textually record this in the Report of CoC23.

APPENDIX 11
**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 23RD SESSION OF THE
 COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

- CoC23.01 (Para 21) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to endorse the consolidated set of recommendations adopted by the WPICMM09 ([Appendix 5](#)).
- CoC23.02 (Para 22) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to endorse the changes to the assessment criteria, for the CoC24 – 2027 assessment campaign.
- CoC23.03 (Para 23) On the work to improve the IOTC MCS scheme, the CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission consider to endorse the launch of a voluntary IOTC VMS pilot project for interested CPCs, subject to the discussion on funding by the SCAF23. The CoC23 **REQUESTED** the SCAF23 to discuss the funding of the IOTC VMS pilot project and associated budget.
- CoC23.04(Para 24) On the future date of the 2027 WPICMM, the CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the SCAF23 to determine the date when discussing the 2026 - 2027 calendar of IOTC meetings.
- CoC23.05(Para 25) On the Resolution 01/06, paragraph 6, the CoC23 **REFERRED** the discussion to the WPICMM10 and **RECOMMENDED** the Commission task the Secretariat to prepare a meeting document on compliance with Resolution 01/06, paragraph 6, for the next WPICMM meeting.
- CoC23.06 (Para 31) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that SCAF23 discuss and agree on dates for the next WPICMM meeting, when it considers the calendar of upcoming IOTC meetings.
- CoC23.07 (Para 32) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that future meetings of the WPICMM are held in person/hybrid format, subject to availability of extra-budgetary funds.
- CoC23.08 (Para 38) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs continue to engage with the European Union in the intersessional period, leading up to the next annual session of the CoC, to provide feedback on a framework for IOTC fishing gear marking.
- CoC23.09 (Para 43) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat to apply the correct deadline time settings for reporting requirements, for future compliance campaigns.
- CoC23.10 (Para 44) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Yemen optimise further its efforts to meet its reporting obligations.
- CoC23.11 (Para 45) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Executive Secretary of the IOTC engage with the Permanent Representative of Sudan to the FAO, to understand the constraints of Sudan to participate in the work of the Commission.
- CoC23.12 (Para 46) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Secretariat continues to assist CPCs to meet their reporting obligations through targeted compliance capacity building activities.
- CoC23.13 (Para 53) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Kenya and Tanzania provide information, for the remainder of 2026, on the association of their supply vessels and purse seiners, for inclusion in the IOTC website.
- CoC23.14 (Para 56) The CoC **RECOMMENDED** that Indonesia continue to work with the IOTC Secretariat over the coming days to resolve the uncertainties over applicable catch limits and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider a payback mechanism for the overcatch, if an overcatch is confirmed.

- CoC23.15 (Para 63) The CoC23 **NOTED** that Somalia have not reported catch figures previously and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission task the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS) to discuss the reported catch figure of Somalia.
- CoC23.16 (Para 64) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to consider establishing binding catch limits of bigeye tuna for Somalia, which remains bound by Resolution 23/04 due to its objection to Resolution 25/04, without prejudice of the rights of developing coastal States.
- CoC23.17 (Para 65) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat to identify any major harvesters that have made catches over their catch limits for the 2024-2025 management period and quantities to be deducted from their 2027 catch limits.
- CoC23.18 (Para 66) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat to identify any small harvesters that have made catches over the 2,000 t threshold in 2025.
- CoC23.19 (Para 71) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the concerned CPCs work with the Secretariat to identify the concerned vessels whose records are incomplete.
- CoC23.20 (Para 72) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Iran report back to the CoC24, in 2027, on the progress made to provide the missing information.
- CoC23.21 (Para 73) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs with vessels identified as ineligible for an IMO number provide clarifications as to the reasons of why these vessels are not eligible for an IMO number, and their area of operation.
- CoC23.22 (Para 82) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Kenya submit the missing information required under paragraph 6 of Resolution 19/07, as soon as possible.
- CoC23.23 (Para 83) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Kenya submit any missing information required by paragraph 8, of Resolution 19/07, as soon as possible.
- CoC23.24 (Para 84) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs should endeavour not to use Chartering Agreements as a means for undermining catch limits agreed for some of the IOTC species.
- CoC23.25 (Para 89) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to agree on the following process for the submission of information papers related to compliance by observers to sessions of the CoC: Observers shall submit their information papers to the IOTC Executive Secretary at least 15 days prior to the commencement of the respective session of the CoC. The Secretariat shall publish the information papers on the IOTC meeting website without delay to enable the CPCs to review the information papers and respond, if they so choose, to allegations of non-compliance with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures contained in one or more information papers. The Secretariat shall publish the corresponding responses by CPCs, if any, on the IOTC website.
- CoC23.26 (Para 90) The CoC23 **REITERATED** its **RECOMMENDATION** that the treatment of submissions containing allegations of suspected IUU activities from any third party should follow the process outlined in paragraph 7, of Resolution 24/03.
- CoC23.27 (Para 97) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that Sri Lanka provide the next Compliance Committee with information on any additional actions that it has taken to exercise flag State controls over the vessels listed in document IOTC-2026-CoC23-11.
- CoC23.28 (Para 98) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the EJF document relating to the Indonesian vessel, BANDAR NELAYAN 16, be circulated after this meeting to Indonesia and other CPCs, in accordance to paragraph 7, of Resolution 24/03. Any CPC may then request Indonesia to undertake an investigation and report back on any

actions taken intersessionally at the next session of the Compliance Committee (CoC24).

- CoC23.29 (Para 99) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs continue to provide the Compliance Committee with information on actions they undertake to combat fishing practices that undermines the effectiveness of conservation and management measures adopted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.
- CoC23.30 (Para 127) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the vessel, KEBA, be added into the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List, with “Unknown” flag.
- CoC23.31 (Para 128) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the four Indonesian vessels (BERKAH F G, KESEJAHTERAAN BERSAMA, NAGA MAS PERKASA III AND ROYCO), not be added to the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List.
- CoC23.32 (Para 129) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission discuss the delisting of the 26 Indian vessels and of the Sri Lankan vessel IMULA0168PTM.
- CoC23.33 (Para 130) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission approve that the vessel included in the Provisional IUU Vessels List (Appendix 7) be included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List.
- CoC23.34 (Para 131) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission agree that, once a vessel is listed on the IOTC IUU Vessel List in accordance with the procedures set out in Resolution 24/03, such vessel shall be automatically removed from the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels. The CoC23 **FURTHER RECOMMENDED** that, following the delisting of a vessel from the IOTC IUU Vessels List in accordance with the requirements and procedures outlined in paragraph 22 of Resolution 24/03, the flag State may request that the vessel be re-listed on the RAV.
- CoC23.35 (Para 147) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that, in a future request of CNCP, Liberia provides detailed information on its historical catches in the IOTC Area of Competence.
- CoC23.36 (Para 148) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that, in a future request of CNCP, Panama provides detailed information on measures taken to comply with IOTC CMMs (e.g. legislation, VMS, MCS).
- CoC23.37 (Para 149) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission approve Liberia’s request to renew its Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status.
- CoC23.38 (Para 150) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission approve Panama’s request to renew its Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status.
- CoC23.39 (Para 153) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat continue to coordinate with CPCs with overall compliance rates below 50%, to conduct compliance support missions.
- CoC23.40 (Para 154) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs engage with the Secretariat to request capacity building missions.
- CoC23.41 (Para 159) The CoC23 **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from CoC23, provided at [Appendix 11](#).